

Alexandria Va. Sept 25th, 1863

Mrs. Emeline Moore:

Madam:

The body of your son, Wilber Moore, I have seen embalmed and directed to you at Steamburg. He died last eve. at eleven o'clk P.M. in the division Hospital, of Typhoid Fever

Up to the 23d Wilber did not seem to be very dangerous, but of the morning of the 23d he began to grow weak, & fears were entertained for his safety. On the evening of the 24th at 5 P.M. they informed me that he was failing; I went to the Hosptl. to see him; He did not seem to think then that he was going to die, but told me if he did not get better in a week, to send his money home to you. This I promised to do; but I then feared could not be the case; Again at 8 o'clk I went to see him. He was then asleep but they told me he was not much worse. At 11 O'clock they came after me saying that he wanted to see me. That he was dieing. I immediately went to see him, & found him very weak & pale. I saw that he was dieing. He was perfectly sensible, and told me that he was going to die. He told me to send him home, to his mother. This I promised to do. He then told me to take hold of his hand which I did. He said no more, but died, in about half an hour. He died very easily; without a struggle. I then saw his body taken care of, and to day it has been embalmed & to morrow will go by express to Steamburg Station. If you wish to take the corpse from the coffin that it is in, you can do so with safety.

There was no ceremonies on the occasion; as his body had to be sent off hurriedly.

In regard to the expenses; You will see by the enclosed receipts that the embalming was \$25.00 The Express \$25.00 total \$50.00 I sent you a Telegram to day \$3.50 Total \$53.50

Wilber's wages, aside from his check which I sent you on the 22nd of 60.00 dollars & his Sutlers ticket of Two dollars, was \$16.00. \$16 from 53.50 leaves \$37.50 Which I have borrowed to send him home; If the company was large, I would not ask you to return this bill. but there is but a very few men in the company, and there wages is small. If you can send the money, you may do so, to my address. I will try and send you his pocket book & handkerchiefs. The rest of his clothing I shall have credited to his acct. on the books.

Mrs. Moore, concerning the character and private conduct of your son I might indeed say much, and everything to his praise and credit. He was always a noble boy with a true manly soul. Kind generous and affectionate. Strictly moral & upright in all his dealings. He was highly beloved and respected by all, He drew around him warm friends, and good associates. And his memory shall ever remain as a brilliant jewel at the bottom of every heart in his company. You may well feel proud of your son, & know that his memory is cherished here in the army where his noble & brave deeds have become familiar to all who knew him.

[James M. Gallagher, corporal, Co. H, *National Archives*.]