

Great Valley July 24 1863

Mr. Reynolds

My dear sir

I reached Gettysburg on Wednesday the 8th inst. & found your son that day at the 11th corps Hospital 2 1/2 miles from town in a tent with seven other Cattaraugus men, badly wounded. I was personally acquainted with but one of them

I had a conversation with your son that afternoon. He knew himself to be dangerously wounded but did not suffer much, considering the extent of his wounds. He rec'd his wound on Friday I think while in the cemetery lying on his left side with the left hand and arm under him holding the horse of the officer he was with (the name I have forgotten) The injury to the hip was very great, although he got back some distance without assistance. yet Dr. Day (of this Co.) told me he was surprised he could have lived so long as 3 or 4 days. A part of the left hand was amputated when I saw him first. Thursday & Friday he was quiet & slept some, Saturday Lockjaw showed itself, but when I left him Saturday eve, he was quite comfortable Sunday morning at 6 o'clock I was on the ground & found him much worse. his wounds pained him very much & the Dr. directed he should be kept under the influence of Chloroform, which was done until he died at about 5 P.M.

I gave some money to a Gent. connected with the Christian Com. to purchase and send up a coffin or [the previous two words were crossed out] box even. none but the cheapest can be obtained and very few of them. I cannot say now whether it was sent up in time as I left on Monday morning. but his grave, as were others, has a board with his name &c. plainly painted & Substantially set in the ground, you would have no difficulty in identifying the body from certain peculiarities, if you should wish to go for his body. He had before I saw him given to Mr. Butler whose family is now at Cattaraugus Station, the articles I sent you yesterday. when I first saw him he wished me to write to John Manual (his uncle I think) with Gen. Rozecrans army. I have not done it but leave it for you. He said he prayed that God would spare his life, but if not His will that he might be resigned to leave this world

on Saturday he spoke particularly of you, your situation, your poor health & he said that he "feared his death would kill his Father."

I can assure you that Dr. Day and the nurse Richard Kerr of Franklinville, as well as others did all that could be done for his comfort

John Bush of Machias badly wounded in the arm lying next to him although helpless himself watched him & called attention to him when he required during the last two days especially

If you could come down on a Saturday P.M. & remain until Sunday noon, I will then be found at home

The following are the names &c of those I found in his tent when I reached Gettysburg

Jas. Chase	of	Ischua
Gilbert Rykirt	"	Hinsdale
F. Strickland	"	Salamanca
John Paugh	"	Hinsdale (Died)
L. Bishop	"	Olean
A Miracle	"	Randolph (Died)
John Bush	"	Machias

Respectfully Yours

Ja. W. Phelps

Surgeon Spooner of Republic Seneca Co Ohio was very attentive and kind to your son although he was not immediately under his care Mr Freeman a son of Mr Freeman Blacksmith of your place was in frequently to see him & assist

Please say to Mr Freeman his son was well.