



Willikens Bend Louisiana
July 28th 1863

Hon. Owen Lovejoy.
Sir:

It is my painful duty to inform you of the death of your nephew Edward Willikens, on the morning of the 24th inst. Edward had been unwell for several weeks before he died, but to me he seemed improving slowly, was in good spirits and cheerful. When I spoke to him of getting a leave of absence for a time, he refused saying that "he would remain for the present, that he could not leave his new position yet." (His appointment as Lieutenant in the 1st Wisconsin Infy A.D. had just arrived.)

At the time of his death I was in Natchez, but soon told by those in camp that the day before and in fact until late in the evening he appeared as cheerful and well as usual. He passed away very suddenly at 1 o'clock A.M. without a word to any one around him. He was buried on a side hill under a tree: his grave overlooking the terrible battle field

of December 29th, fit resting place for a soldier.

The burial service was read over his grave - and he was lowered to his place of rest - amid the tears and regret of his comrades.

Had I been here when he died I should have endeavored to have sent his remains home - to his friends - It can however be done at any time - His effects will be attended to to the best of my ability -

I write to you, because I do not know the present address of his Mother and other members of his family.

My warmest sympathy is given to Edwards' friends and relatives; in him I have lost a cherished friend and comrade - one on whose faithfulness and sympathy I could always depend. Any directions which you may wish to give, or information you may wish to obtain, do not hesitate to trouble me for.

Respectfully
Yours

J. Bryant
Maj. R. Miss.
Staff.

Address

Milliken Bend
Louisiana