

W. Lead Garrison 3. Brigade
Vermillionville La.

Oct 12th 1863.

My Mother,

dear friend quite unexpectedly
I have an opportunity to write. though but a few days
since I wrote doubtless you will get tired of reading so many
of my uninteresting letters. Especially in evening them. will
keep account and see if you don't play off and not
write half an hour. have not received but one letter from
you. Can't imagine how anxious I am to hear from you.
Seemingly that is the state of mind that I am doomed
to enjoy for some time. Since my last we have advanced
75 miles. The march has been more than pleasant. The
weather cool and pleasant. Roads fine and straight. The
loveliest country ever your placed foot on. for miles are an
broken prairie. on which are droves of cattle grazing. and Mus-
tang horses running. I spent three days cutting them with
lances. That is the most exciting amusement in the world.
They are perfectly wild and hoofs be run down with horses.
have one of the finest that live and if I ever get home
intend making you a present of it. Is the nicest riding
horse I ever saw. And as fast as any Yankee boy - And
equally affectionate. For the last 30 miles we have been
 skirmishing with the enemies Cavalry. at this place they
made quite a stubborn stand in which they lost 1

seven killed and quite a number wounded. our loss was
two wounded. they retreated on the road to Saline City
on the Texas line. which is 160 miles from this point. There
we expect a battle. Some think that the rebels will make
a stand before we reach that point if so it will be a
desperate fight and on an open prairie where there will be
no chance for dodging. Ere this reaches you we will have
our fate decided once more. and doubtless many will be
numbered among the honored dead. fought their last battle
they know about their last sleep. Peace to their ashes.
The only legacy they have left us is their memory. Soldiers will
ever cherish it in their hearts. a grateful ~~Courtesy~~ will
always delight to do them honor. Their heroic deeds will
adorn the brightest pages of our Country's history. Coming ages
will bless the memory of brave men who sacrificed their
lives to preserve their Country's liberty. I shall not these
heroes lie in the greenest of our valleys. I shall not the bright
flowers the cheerful evergreen (emblem of their generosity)
the willow. the cypress and the forest tree shade their resting
places. and screen them from sun and storm. Yes. and more:
let the white marble record their deeds of valor. That the
nation may keep green forever the memory of the fallen
heroes of the present war. The memory of our heroic dead
of the present war can never be forgotten if we would.
Their memory is interwoven with the history of our Country
whether they have been stricken suddenly on the bloody
field or languished for months in hospitals. Their sacrifice
to the great cause was the same. It was the sacrifice of life

more than this could not be given. Let us adorn their graves, and
show that their memory is not forgotten - cannot be

"Their memory is heard upon the mountain

Their memory sparkles in the fountain.

The smallest rill, the mightiest river,

Rolling mingling with their fame forever"

Can't write any thing further, when I lie. No guess not!

tell you must know something of the many beautiful
and sublime features of this portion of the lovely and well remem-
bered Dixie. Occasionally there are some intelligent and good citizens
though the majority of the gallant and patriotic have departed
gone in for ever. Many of the people are very poor and ignorant
seem to have but one object in living that to eat & they are
usually French subjects. Over their miserable huts waves

the British flag. That gives them protection against the
Yankee invaders. They are despised by both parties. if they
want protection under that flag let them take up their
bed and walk across the pond. And enjoy their tyranny.
The majority of the troops in this department are from Texas
and are looked upon by the citizens here as a band of thieves
and not worthy to be soldiers in any army. So you may
see what kind of men we have to deal with they will
doubtless fight in the way of bushwhackers and robbers.
Any thing else is not expected by the citizens

Strange to say there are many persons here who claim
to have always been in favor of the Union And are
now praying for peace. The majority want peace upon
some terms. Knowing they are whipped -