

Title: Frederick Steffan to John Steffan, July 2, 1863
Source: Abraham Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia
Transcribed by: Ashley Miller, PSU 7-2015
Gett Library #

Phil^a July 2. 63

Dear John,

You must excuse
one for not writing sooner but
we have been in such a fever of
excitement for the last two weeks
that I can scarcely find the time to
answer your ever welcome letters
when the news first came that the
enemy had invaded Penna. the
majority of the people thought it
was a hoax, in fact a trick of the
Government to get men to enlist for
six months and thus evade the ^{enforcement} con=
scription, it however only proved too
true word since then the excitement
has been on the increase everyday
The question is no longer the line of
the Rappahannock, but our own Sus-
quehanna, entrenchments are no lon-
ger being thrown up at Falmouth

and Fredericksburgh for that has changed to Harrisburg, and the other side of the Schuylkill, at our own doors in West Philadelphia. I think it was indeed time that Hooker was relieved from command but I doubt whether they have put the right man in his place. Genl Meade may be a good Corps Commander but he has yet to prove whether he can handle a larger Army successfully, and whether he can inspire that confidence ^{into} it which is necessary to defeat the enemy, Why did the Government at Washington not restore Genl McClellan to command and thus give the Army and the people a man they have confidence in, why is it that an untried Genl is given the command when the whole state of Penna is at stake. Penna has sent 200,000 of her sons to the

field to defend the General Government she can no longer spare her sons for that purpose, she needs those that remain for her own defence, for the Government can no longer protect her from the foe. The factories in the city here are generally closed at noon, and the stores at 3 o'clock P.M. so as to give employees a chance to drill and be of some use in the entrenchments if things should turn out so bad that the enemy would move on Phila. which I very much doubt. we have raised a company in the shop and drill every afternoon for 2 hours – Today we have rec'd news that a battle was fought between the advance of the Army of the Potomac and the Rebels the 1st, 3^d + 11 Corps are said to have been engaged, The losses are said to be severe on both sides Genl Reynolds of the 1st Army Corps was killed also Brig. Gnl. Paul Col. Wister of the Bucktails is wounded and a

prisoner, the latest is that the rest
of the army has come up and that
the battle will be renewed this morning
God grant the we may prove victorious
we rec'd a letter from Ed. this morning
it was dated the 28 June. Jeffersonville
Md. he was well and hearty at the time
The Young (_____) had a Pic Nic
last week, father took the family out and
while there ^{our Sallie} ~~she~~ fell down an embankment
she bruised her arm a little also her head
and slightly dislocated her shoulder,
she is running about again now but will
be obliged to carry her arm in a sling
for some days yet, until the shoulder
blade gets well (___) into its place again.
otherwise we are all well and in good
health. Father Guss and all of them
send their regards to you, hoping to
hear from you soon and that this ay
reach you in good health and spirits I
remain your addect. brother

Fred Steffan

P.S. I suppose Guss wrote you
that it was little Charlie that fell
from the horse and broke his arm whilst out riding
with Clark. it is the 3^d or 4 time that he broke it he
(___) (___) all right again.

Title: Edward Steffan to Guss Steffan, July 21, 1863
Source: Abraham Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia
Transcribed by: Ashley Miller, PSU 7-2015
Gett Library #

Head Quarters 1st Army Corps
near Middleburg Va July the 21st /63

Dear Guss

I received your (____) welcome letter yesterday while on the march to this place. I see that our dear John is now in his final resting place. A happy meeting it must have been, between him and our dear sainted Mother in heaven. where all trouble and trials cease. I saw the funeral notice in the inquirer, and felt sorry indeed that I was denied paying a last tribute to his dear remains. Col. Biddle pointed it out to me in the paper, he knew John by having heard other Officers speak of him, he also sympathized with me in my sorrow. John was known more extensively in the Army than I was actually aware of. But how could it be otherwise, so noble, good, generous, and brave, I do not care who the man is, (if he be a soldier) must have loved John with the intensity of a brother. The men of his Regt. often told me of his

to do good without making it public,
the last day that I paid him a visit
at Falmouth, the men whom I knew in his
Regt and Baxters, told me that he would
be made Mayor of the Regt. before long, and
they were all eager to see him receive it. But
little did I think at that time, that I
should stand by his grave, on the battle field
I will never forget it as I stood there and
read the inscription on the head board through
through scalding tears. how long I remained
this I know not, but it seems to me that
I experienced a whole life time, (in a few
moments,) when he and I spend so many
happy days together in our good and pleasant
home, but now all is glooms and darkness
we have lost one of the best Brothers that
God ever gave to man, While I was at
his grave I took a rough sketch of it
bad as I felt, I intend to finish it
when I receive the Paper and pencils from
our Fred. I will keep it as a mem-
ento, even without this will his memory be
always fresh and green in my mind.

but it is no easy matter. I will at least try and hold out with the help of God it may be that it will soon come to a close, at least so far as to allow our Corps to go to the rear for the rest of their time, of which there has already been considerable talk. There is only me wish I have in reference to the draft, and that is, I do not want to hear of you nor Fred. being included in it. I know you can both avoid it, and I wish you to do so. for should either of you be drafted I do not know what I would be tempted to do. This War has already cost us misery enough never to repaid. Dear Guss I must now close, as I have little time to write a present, we have not had me whole days rest, since we left Gettysburg Our next stopping place I suppose will be Warrenton, we are taking exactly the same route that we went last fall. when our John had sprained his ankle & I was in the Ambulance,

Hoping you are all in the best health I remain ever Your most Affectionate Brother

Title: Resolutions of Philadelphia Glee Association - August 14, 1863

Source: Abraham Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia

Transcribed by: Ashley Miller, PSU 7-2015

Gett Library #

Head Quarters Philadelphia Brigade
Near Morrisville Va
August 14th 1863

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Glee Association the following
Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted –

Whereas

It has pleased God in his divine Providence to remove from our
midst by death our beloved member and fellow soldier Captain
John M. Steffan of Company “A.” Seventy first Regiment Pennsylvania
Volunteers who fell while manfully sustaining the Government
in repelling the invaders from the soil of his native State at
Gettysburg Pa and while humbly submitting to the will of the
“Almighty” we cannot but deplore the loss of such a firm Friend and
true Patriot; therefore be it

Resolved – that by his death we have lost a brave Companion
our Country a gallent Soldier and Pennsylvania a noble Son
ever ready at his country’s call in the hour of her peril

Resolved – that we hereby tender the family of the deceased our
heartfelt sympathies in their sorrowful and afflicting bereavment

Resolved – that a copy of the above resolution be signed by the
members of the “Philadelphia Glee Association” and be transmitted
to his family

Signed William M. Mehl

President

William H. Meyers

William Watson

John S. Turner

Lewis Rohell,

Secretary

Title: Lewis Rhell to Dear Friends, August 15, 1863
Source: Abraham Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia
Transcribed by: Ashley Miller, PSU 7-2015
Gett Library #

Camp near Bealton Station Va.
August 15th/63

My Dear Friends,

Having received a letter from my mother stating that you wished one to write = I have now an opportunity and must beg leave to be excused for not doing so sooner, I was glad to learn that you were all in the enjoyment of good health and I hope you all may continue so, with all my best wishes for your welfare, = The Death of the Loved one of your Circle Grives all who knew him, and as for myself I have lost a Dear Friend and Companion, We were attached to each other like tow Brothers, but God in heaven has seen it fit to take him from our midst to his divine abode and therefore we should not morn, as his Soul is resting in heaven. When ever the Glee Club assembles we try a song, and have to stop, having no bass, which was John's part; to tell the truth we dont care about singing any more, as it brings our Companion fresh into our minds, at a meeting last night it was Resolved that we should write a pamphlet of Resolutions and send them to you, not having any opportunity we could not do it sooner but we beg to be excused,

Dear Friends, the following is all the peticulars I can give you as regards to John's Clothing and Money. On the 3rd of July about one or two oclock PM. John was wounded, (at that time the heavy shelling was going on) he laid on the field about one hour when he was carried off the field, (by whom I do not ^{know} as I was at the Corps Hospital at the time with the other Musicians of our Brigade) he was taken to the Stone Hospital out near the field of Battle or on the Battle field is more proper; about half past one or two in the

afternoon an Ambulance came into the Hospital from the stone house or Hospital, and being acquainted with the Driver, I asked whether John was hurt, he said yes and was at the stone house, I immediately went to Doctor Aitken and told him, He sent the Ambulance back again for John's body, but John could not be fumbled about as he was in so much pain, and there he laid, a large crowd of friends were around him, (wounded,) and I could only see him by looking in through their legs, I seen two Doctors at him dressing his wound, I was there about 10 minutes when the storming rain of shells came and then I with doctors and all were obliged to leave, and protect ourselves behind some stone wall, I however managed to reach the Corps hospital again, and stayed there until the Rebs were done shelling, when I again went out, and beheld him lying Dead, several were looking ^{on} when I came up, but soon went away, his pockets were turned inside out, and I went into the house and inquired who had taken the things, the hospital Steward said he had his watch and Doctor Aitken had all the other effects, which he was going to deliver to Col: Kockesberger, I thought that was all right and did not ask for any of his things, Lieut P. Greer said he would attend to John's things, and so you see I had nothing to do with the matter at all, as regards to the money, I did not know John had money to the amount of 260 Dollars, but I judged he had about 50 or 60 by the way he spoke before going into the Battle, John's and my own business was known pretty much together, but he would never mention any thing about money or such like, In fact I did not know he had any money on his person when going into battle, and if he would of taken my advice, the money would have been saved, On the

second of July I saw him last, before we advanced to the front, we had a small conversation (while resting) in which I asked him if he had any effects that I could keep for him till after the battle. his reply was: Lew dont talk so foolish and make such big calculations you dont think I'm going to get killed do you? Well John, I said, something tells me you are, (Just then the order was given to Foward) Well Lew good bye, off he went, I ran after him and asked if I could do anything if he should fall and his reply was Nothing Lew, Good bye, I with the rest of Drummers & Fifers was ordered to the Hospital attending to the wounded men; I learned from the Steward of the 71st that John was carefully attended to, but this I can hardly believe, If he would of had a good skilfull Doctor he might have recoverd, and still live with us, but it was Gods Will and we should all join in saying So be it, As regards to his Valiece I knew not. that they were going to Express it at Frederick City, When we got to Williamsport, I visited Col: Kockesberger, he told me he had expressed Johns valiece at Frederick, and the next morning his Hospital Steward was going home, and would take the Swords and Effects to your house, Yesterday afternoon I was over to see the Col. and he told me he would write you a letter and send you the Express receipt for the Valiece, he says it was directed in this way, Captain John M Steffan, Philada Pa, Now if I had of known it, I would of had it directed to the house; and there would of, been no difficulty, I learned from Johns Ser-vant that when he came up after the shelling was over, he seen John lying dead and his pockets had been gone through but he did know not who by, he went over to the house and got a

large quilt, we wrapped him in it just as he was, as we could do no better, he had on him a pair of pants, Drawers, shirt part of his Coat and Vest, also his Socks, when buried, I am sorry I did not take from his pockets his effects when I first seen him after he got wounded, but I have a dumb head for presence of mind anyhow, I am in John's debt - \$5 which I borrowed from him while we were at Falmouth, I will send it as soon as I get paid, I did offer it to him last pay day, but he would not take it as he said he was in no hurry and when he asked for it, it was time enough, Having given you all the Information I possibly can, I will Close, hoping these will find you all in good health as this leaves me at present, Accept my best Respects and
Oblige your Obedient Servant
Lewis Rhell

PS You will oblige me with an answer as I wish to hear from you
Directed

Lewis Rhell
Co F, 72nd Reg^t P.V.
Baxters Fire Zouaves
Camp near Bealeton Station Va
(or please forward)

Title: John Taylor to Martin Steffan, August 25, 1863
Source: Abraham Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia
Transcribed by: Ashley Miller, PSU 7-2015
Gett Library #

Camp Near Morris Ville Va

Aug. 25th 1863.

To Mr. Martin Seffan. N^o 942.
front St Phil^a

Sir. – you would oblige me
very much by looking among
Capt Seffan goods that were
sent home. and see if there is
~~and~~ an old descriptive list
of John Taylor among as it was
in his (____) when sent
and as I had just returned
to my Reg and not recived
any pay yet. it as caused
some trouble to me and it
is not settled, but if I could
get it – it would make
things right again.
if I don't get it I shall lose
some six month pay wich
is now past due me. –

if you can find it send it
to John Taylor

Company A. 71st Reg. Penn. Vols.

2^d Brig. 2^d Div. 2.A. Corps.

Army of the Potomac

Yours + C. John Taylor

Title: Martin Laudemberger to Leonard Meyers, August 28, 1863
Source: Abraham Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia
Transcribed by: Ashley Miller, PSU 7-2015
Gett Library #

28 Aug 1863.

The bearer Frederick Steffan
is my nephew, he has been
drafted, + he is recommended
to obtain signatures to such
a petition as he will hand you.
The statements in this petition
are strictly true, + I am
convinced that he could
never perform the duties of a
soldier; besides this he has
had two brothers in the Army
one of whom was killed at
Gettysburg, consequently this
is no cause of exemption with
the board. You will confer
a favor by signing the
petition on

Truly Yours

To
Leonard Meyers Esq Martin Laudemberger