

Headqtrs 159<sup>th</sup> Regt. NYS Vols  
Bayou Boeuf, La. Apr 7<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Dear Father,

It is some time since I have written to you for we have been constantly on the move for the last two weeks.

We left Baton Rouge Sat. Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> at 4 O'clock P.M. and arrived at Donaldsonville 50 miles below B.R. [Baton Rouge] at 9 P.M. the same night. This place is on the junction of the Mississippi river and the Bayou La Fourche. It was shelled last summer by our forces as the Guerillas fired upon boats passing up and down the river. The town was nearly all destroyed, but the people are still as secesh as ever. We lay here till Tuesday morning 31<sup>st</sup> March when our reg't. by particular favor of Gen'l. [Guvier] Grover embarked on the steamer Empire Parish and started for Thibodaux, 30 miles up the Bayou La Fourche. We arrived safely at 2 P.M., unloaded the boat and went into quarters. Here I met Joe Stephenson. His reg't. is at Terrebonne 3 miles from Thibodaux, one company doing provost duty at Thibodaux. I was heartily glad to meet him. The provost marshal of the place found quarters for all our officers and we took our meals at the house of Capt. Howe. It seemed strange for us to eat off of china in a house furnished in the highest style. We had beds to sleep in and everything to make us at home. Here we stayed 'till Friday morning when we were started off to Terrebonne. We took the cars at Terrebonne for this place Friday night but did not start 'till 9 O'clock next morning. We arrived here at 2 P.M. & immediately went into camp. We have had orders to prepare to take the field for sixty days and do not know what minute we may move.

The sail up the Bayou La Fourche was splendid. On each side are magnificent plantations nearly all of them being in a state of cultivation. Thibodaux is a small place but very pretty. The inhabitants are mostly creoles and here I saw some of the most beautiful women that I ever saw. They are all secesh, but say they would sooner have our army in occupation than their own. If you pass a lady in the street she immediately drops her veil or brings their parasols down so as to cover their faces. They all dress elegantly and in extreme taste. Everything is cheaper here than at Baton Rouge. The slaves are paid for their work and consequently there are not so many run away. The house we staid in belonged to Brig. Gen'l. Bush of the rebel army. It is beautifully furnished throughout and there is a splendid library attached which I was wishing I could transfer to N.Y. We enjoyed our stay exceedingly and wished that it had been prolonged.

Terrebonne is on the New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western RR. Joe's regt. is here to guard the railroad. They have only been at this place for three weeks. The place itself is nothing more than a railroad station, but there are several fine plantations in the vicinity, several of them under cultivation. Joe likes the life very well, but with others thinks he would not mind going home.

This place (Bayou Boeuf) is 73 miles from New Orleans on the line of the rail road. It is also nothing more than a RR'd station with a few plantations about, mostly deserted. Here our whole division is encamped, waiting for orders to move. [Gen. Godfrey] Weitzel's division is 9 miles in advance of us at Brashear city, and can see the rebels on the other side the bay (Berwick's) drilling, watering their horses, &c &c. The rebs. took one of our gun boats last week as it was going up the bay on the reconnaissance. Several of our side were killed. The rest were paroled & allowed to

return. There are not more than 12,000 of them, and it is the opinion here that they will not show fight.

Harry [Tiemann] has gone down to New Orleans, so I have not seen him for nearly two weeks. They expect him up today.

We have had splendid weather for a long time back; it has not rained for nearly a month, and from present appearances, does not look like it for some time to come.

We have not had a mail for some 10 or 12 days, as the steamer has not arrived at New Orleans from New York in 10 days. We are anxiously expecting news from N.Y. in consequence.

Since we left Baton Rouge the rebels have been quite bold. Three of our pickets have been shot and it is feared that they will attack the place in force, although no doubts as to the result are anticipated. The place has been strongly fortified and is calculated to resist any attack that the rebels in that vicinity can make.

I forgot to say that on this past march I had quite a misfortune befall me. My knapsack containing all my worldly effects was stolen, and I now have nothing except what is in my sack.

Your letters you will now have to direct as follows 159<sup>th</sup> Regt. NYS Vols 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Grover's Division, New Orleans or elsewhere or we run a chance of never receiving them. Hoping soon to hear from you & with love to all, I remain

Your affectionate son,  
Frank.

Edward [Leslie Molineux] desires to be remembered.