

Ward E.
Satterlee Hospital
West Phila. Pa.
Monday morning 7 o'clock
Aug. 15th 1864

To Mrs. E. D. Towne.
Dear Madam

Having already had the pleasure of writing you twice for your brother Wm A. Burgess, a patient in this ward and one whom I had learned to love as a fellow soldier from his fortitude and heroism in bearing without a murmur that deadly wound. On Friday morning the 12th inst. he requested me to write you a few lines, which I gladly did. He was then feeling pretty miserable. On Saturday morning he felt and looked much better, and

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Belfast Historical Society
MMN # 98588

Date: August 15, 1864

Description: Sgt. Peter P. Hazen wrote to Mrs. Harriet Burgess Towne to describe the details of her brother William A. Burgess' death earlier that day.

appeared much more cheerful.
It is my painful duty now to
inform you that his sufferings
are over. He expired yesterday
forenoon about 11. o'clock; In
the afternoon I sent you a telegraph
dispatch announcing the melan-
choly fact. —

I sat up with him on Saturday
^{night} ~~evening~~ until 12 1/2 o'clock. He had
quite a severe attack of coughing
and his wound bled considerably.
About 12 o'clock his coughing ceased
and he fell into an easy slumber.
Yesterday morning his coughing
commenced again and his
wound began to bleed. ~~and~~
All that human aid could
do was done for him, but it
was beyond the power of man
to extend the brittle thread of life
which God had deemed
proper to rend asunder.

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proper to rend asunder.

He never complained and
seemed perfectly willing to
meet his fate. - He talked very
little. - I do not think that he
thought his end was so near.

But his soul is at rest where
wars and fighting are no
more.

The Sisters of Charity here
done all for him that a Mother, wife,
or Sister could have done.

We mourn with you in the deep
loss which you must sustain.

Thousands and tens of thousands of
brave fellows, have already
yielded of their lives on the
Altar of their Country, as he
has done, and thousands more,
I fear must meet the same
sad fate.

His remains will be interred to-
day as it will be impossible to
preserve them from mortification.

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day as it will be impossible to
preserve them from mortification.

He had \$8.30 in money
remaining in his Pocket Book.

I paid for sending you
the telegraph dispatch \$2.40.
 $\$8.30 - \$2.40 = \$5.90$ remaining
which I herein enclose to
you. I will also send
you his Pocket Book by mail
and his letters which he has
received from you and
friends.

That God will aid you in
bearing this burden of grief
is my earnest prayer.

I have the honor
to be, Truly your friend
and humble servant

Serg.t. Peter P. Hazen

P.S.

$\$5.90 - 14^c$ for postage stamps
leaves \$5.76.

Cash enclosed \$5.75.

Please acknowledge to me the receipt of
this. P.P.H.

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