

Murfreesboro Tenn
December 8th 1864

Mrs Payton

I seat myself this evening to perform a sad and mournful duty. gladly would I write differently, and change the facts that exist if possible, but the truth must be told, and I must pen the sad tidings which perhaps you are least expecting. but still such are the casualties of war. Your Dear Husband was killed yesterday about 4 past 5 o'clock by a cannon ball passing through the center of my company, killing one man besides Mr. Payton. Mr. S. H. Higgins, and wounding four other men, one severely, the others, slightly. The battle was a very severe one, in which

many a brave man falls to
rise no more on earth, but will
meet their dear loved ones in
that upper and better world
where sorrow, sighing and those
parting scenes can never enter.
Your dear husband has only
gone home, a little before you
He cannot come back to you,
but you will soon be called
to go and meet him, it is only
a question of time, a very short
time, at the longest. Company
F, all deeply mourn his loss and
deeply sympathetic with you,
in this, your great bereavement.
Since he has been a member of
our company, he has always
been a true friend, an upright
man, and a faithful soldier,
commanding the highest respect
of his officers and fellow soldiers.
His effects I will send to.

you the first opportunity. He
had but little besides his
clothes, he was not paid since
the thirty first of August. /
Three months and seven days
pay due him, seventy five
Dollars bounty. My questions

that you may wish to ask in
regard to his death, or any
thing that would be of interest
to you, I shall willingly
answer.

With a great deal of sympathy
for you in your deep affliction
I subscribe myself your Ob^d Serv^t

Edward Aldrick
Cap^t Co^y I 8th Reg^t Me^v

STOP #7
F-2365

PAYTON DEATH LETTER

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
December 8, 1864

Mrs. Payton,

I seat myself this evening to perform a sad and mournful duty. Gladly would I write differently and change the facts that exist if possible, but the truth must be told and I must bear the sad tidings you are least expecting. But still such are the casualties of war. Your great husband was killed yesterday about 1/2 past 2 o'clock by a cannon ball through the center of my company killing one man besides Mr. Payton, Mr S. W. Higgins, and wounding four other men, one severely, the others, slightly. The battle was a very severe one in which many a brave man fell to rise no more on this earth, but will meet their dear loved ones in that upper and better world, where sorrow, sighing, and those parting scenes can never enter. Your dear husband has only gone home a little before you. He cannot come back to you, but you will soon be called to go and meet him: it is only a question of time, a very short time at the longest. Company F all ddeply mourn his death and deeply sympathize with in this your great bereavement. Since he has been a member of our company he has always been a true friend, an upright man, and a faithful soldier, commanding the highest respect of his officers and fellow soldiers. His effects I will send to you the first opportunity. He had but little besides his clothes. He was not paid since the thirty-first of August. Three months and seven days pay are due him--seventy five dollars bounty.

Any questions you may wish to ask in regard to his death or anything that would be of interest to you I shall willingly answer.

With a great deal of sympathy for you in your deep affliction, I subscribe myself your obedient servant,

Leonard Aldridge

Captain, Co, F, 8th Regiment Minnesota



JAMES HARVEY PAYTON

Company F, 8th Minnesota Volunteers

Killed in The Battle Of The Cedars
December 7th, 1864