

9 September 1863

Letter From Captain Fay

A private letter written by Captain J. B. Fay, of the 154th Regt., to his wife in Portland, has been placed in our possession, from which we make the following extract:

Libby Prison, Richmond, August 15

"I write at this time to inform you that I am still alive and in comfortable health. I was taken prisoner at Gettysburg on the 1st of July, with both Lieutenants and the most of my company. We arrived here on the 18th of July, and put up at this hotel until further orders. How long we shall remain here we know not. I regret to inform you that Lieut. Jenkins died July 27th, at 8 A.M. of Typhoid fever. He was taken suddenly sick the 15th, but came in an ambulance and on the cars to this place. He was deranged all the time ^{after} he came here. I have made application to recover his effects through the kindness of Col. Tilden, consisting of money, watch and chain, memoranda &c. He was buried and a head board placed at his grave, so that I think his remains may be found at some future time."

Frederic Censor

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Mr. Joseph Fay was born in Brocton, N.Y., on May 17, 1817, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Elijah Fay. He enlisted as a private and was then commissioned captain of Company "E" of the 154th Regiment of N.Y. Vols. Captain Fay, the two lieutenants and most of the company were captured at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He spent ten months in Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. Upon his release he returned to active service, but the weakness caused by his confinement led to his resignation and his return home on July 16, 1864. Fay was elected supervisor of the town of Portland for 1865-1866 and member of the New York Assembly for 1866-1867. Fay was interested in the development of grapes and grape products prior to his moving to Topeka, Kansas, in 1872. Later he was involved in mining in Colorado. He moved to Chicago in 1886 and died in January of that year. His funeral was held from the Baptist Church, Brocton.