

Near Chattanooga Oct 13th 1863

My Dear Sir.

I write to inform you of the death of Maj. Thomas J. Celay Inspector General on the Staff of Maj Gen Buckner. He died in Atlanta Ga. at 7 o'clock yesterday evening as we have just learned by a telegraphic dispatch. He had passed safely through the battle of Chickamauga and up to a week or ten days, was in his usual health. About the 7th Inst. he complained of slight fever and on the 9th went off on leave with the intention of going to Virginia for a short time in order to recruit his health. After reaching Atlanta he was still apparently well and was not confined to his room. On the 11th however he was taken with high fever which terminated in his death. I have learned these facts from a friend who saw him yesterday afternoon. His friend Capt Galliker has gone to Atlanta to see to the burial of his body which will be interred in a metallic case. His sudden death ^{has} brought sorrow to a large circle of friends. He was an excellent officer and very dearly beloved by all of us.

I have written you this to go by Flag of Juice through our lines as the surest means of communicating the intelligence to Mrs McDowell his family & friends. They may rest assured that everything which kindness & affection could do was done, as he was surrounded by friends, and that every attention and respect will be paid his remains in their interment. The family have my warmest sympathy.

Very Truly Yours &c

Richard Johnston

Judge Bland Ballard
Louisville
Ky