

A.A.G. Office 1st Brigade 1st Div
Near New Iberia La
December 1/63

Dear Sir

I rec'd your note of this 13th ultimo a few moments since. I was very glad to hear that Henry Friday, late Capt 6th N.Y.V. had come to the conclusion that he was mistaken in thinking he had given the am't to Dr Lynch instead of myself.

I related to your Bro Theodore the case and told him that I had been up to see the Col and had requested him if he heard of the man to send him to your store as he might then hear of my whereabouts. The gist of the case is—about a year ago while I was visiting the [] at Pensacola Friday spoke to me and wished me to take charge \$100 as he was sick and liable to lose it. I did so as I was in the habit of taking charge of such money as the men were likely to lose. When he [] I spoke to him but he did not want it then and said he wished me to keep it “some time yet.” I left the Reg't then and heard no more of the matter until Dr Lynch was saying that he had rec'd 2 letters from a N.Y. lawyer in which Friday stated that he gave \$100 to Dr Lynch and that the Dr might have forgotten it as he was slightly oblivious at the time. Col Wilson thought the case clear until Lynch one day came to me and related his troubles. I told him that he should write back immediately that if he would think a little he would recollect that it was given to me and not to the Dr, but Friday would not believe this, he still insisted that he gave it to the Dr. When North I called on the Col and requested that if he could hear of Friday that I should like to see him, and gave the Col your address.

As near as I can recollect Henry Friday is of the medium height, brown hair, light grey eyes. He wears a beard and has a very high forehead and bald head, speaks English with a German (or Dutch) accent. He served in the Mexican and acted as Company Barber. He also followed this business while with the Reg't. In fact I think he was a barber by trade. He is also troubled to some extent with rheumatism in both legs.

I think that there will be no doubt but he is the man who is entitled to the money. I have thus been cautious or rather particular as I have reasons to know that there are others (his friends (?)) who will try to get it, if they do he will never see it. I was told in N.Y. that he had reenlisted but I do not think that he would [] as he must be over 42 yrs old.

If you will be kind enough to pay him the amount I will send it by first opportunity. Thank you for the trouble you have taken in this matter, as I was very anxious to have it settled, both for Friday's and the Dr's sake.

I remain as ever
Sincerely yours
Oliver Matthews
A.A. Gen

P.S. I will send you any news that I may have by next mail. In haste. OM