

Camp Holmes Landing

Sunday Aug 23<sup>d</sup> 1873

Dear Father

I would have written  
you some time ago, but have been  
on picket for the last week, and  
had no writing materials, all of  
them being at Camp. Before this  
morn'g you, you will doubtless  
have heard of the affair last  
night. I will tell you all of  
it that I know. I was not  
then hung down at the Station  
and when I arrived at the  
Camp all was over. A steamer  
came up the beach yesterday  
evening about sunset and anch-  
ored about opposite to where the  
schooner lay in the sound,  
and it being such a common  
occurrence no one anticipated any

danger from her, and all on  
board went to sleep as usual  
except of course the sentinel  
on deck. We had down there  
the 1<sup>st</sup> detachment 17 men Cravely  
Said Gage Adams and Lt Latham.  
The Yankies had three barges  
and about fifty men they  
hauled them across the beach  
and came up on the left  
of the Schooner, and glan-  
ked them on land and were  
taking them all by surprise  
the first they knew of this  
approach was their shooting  
at the sentinel on deck. They  
took Cravely and Lt Latham but  
they escaped from them. They  
burned McWilliams Ball masts,  
stills, and all the houses  
around there. We had three  
houses burned to a cinder, and  
five or six others burned

Very badly. Cut up our har-  
ness, and spiked the gun, and  
carried off three of our men  
and succeeded in burning  
the Schooner. I never heard  
before in my life of pulling  
an Artillery Company on Dickel  
without arms" this is the result  
of it. Goldsmith and his vessel  
turned out to be more hard  
than gold, this was the third  
attempt to burn her, I shall  
return to the States to day,  
love to all at home when you  
write;

Your Affectionate Son  
George W. Sparrow

Genl

Aug. 23. '63

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