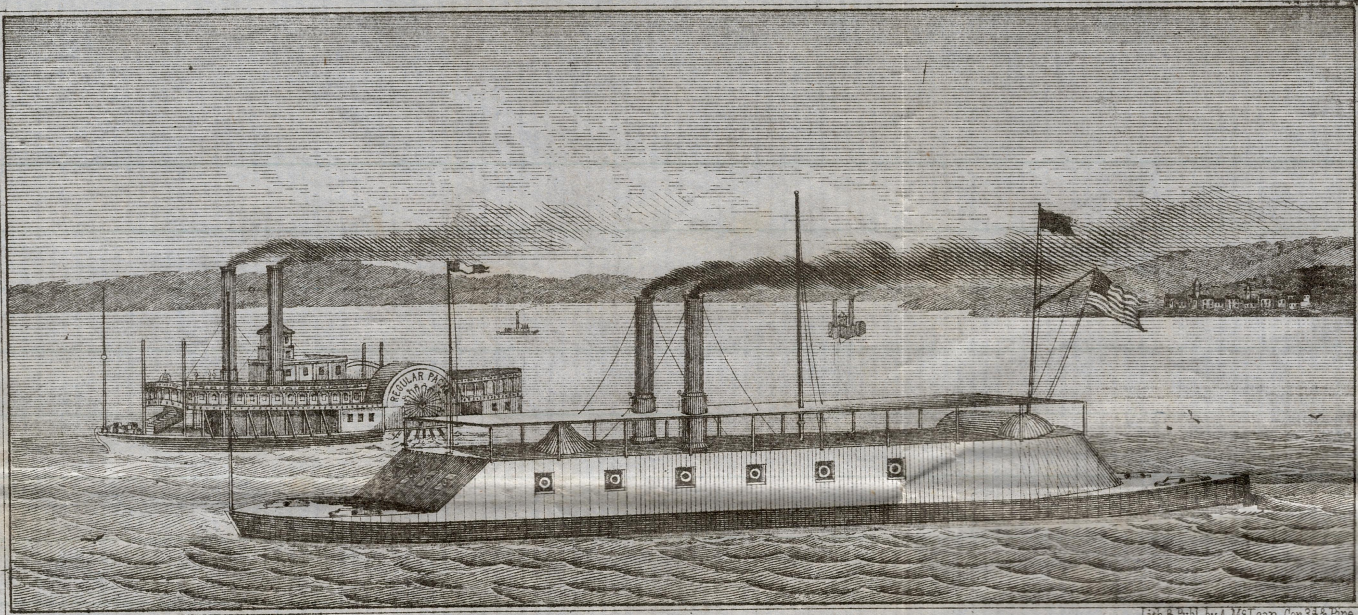




GUN BOAT BENTON.

Built at St Louis 1861.

Lith & Publ. by A. M. Lean, Cor 3rd & Pine

Camp Benton St Louis Mo
Sunday April 13th /62

Miss Abba L. Fowler

I now grab my pen in hand to write you a few lines in Answer to yours that I received the 11th. I was very glad to hear from you once more it does me a grate deal of good to hear from ^{from home} Brother town we dont hear so often as we did while in Camp Washburn and it makes us bound with joy when we do hear from friends at home. The Boys are all well and in good spirits except a few that has a bad cold. I'm the same old noisy Chap as ever and jest a handsome and dont you tell me I lie neather for I dont allow folks.

Wal the Soldiers has kept leaving hear untill there's none but the three Wisconsin Cavalry Regts E and one Company of sharp Shooters hear now but there is Batters on each side of our Camp and they have quite a number of Soldiers there so we would have help if the Rebels should attack this place but then no danger of that

We dont know nothing bout how long we'll stay here
nor where we will go when we do leave. They are gaining. We try
so fast some thinks we will not go any further. I think
there has been dreadful hard fighting for the last week
passed and our Soldiers gained they day in all the Battles
they are gaining ground so fast that some thinks that
they wount take any more Soldiers into the field
but then they dont know hear what will be done there is
so many stores told in camp that I've got so I dont put
much Confidence in what I hear. it will take some time
fore we'll be ready to go into the field of battle for we have no
horses yet to Drill with and no Carbine. That's a small
Gun what all the Cavalry has its bout three feet long
and they have two Revolvers besides a Sabor and the first
Regt. has to be equipped fore the 2^d and they haint got
any more of thare equipments then we have.

The weather today is very pleasant but the past week has
has been very bad its rained most of the time and
its been very Cool to I thought. There was one man
Shoot through the hand last week while on Guard
he was a private in Company B in our Regt. They could
Shoot the rebel but if they had had a Gun since
then they have gin the Guards Guns and they will
give the Gentleman his due if he comes again.

I think you will have to wait untill next winter
fore you will take another Sleigh ride and then I
think they will low folks. If I can acrofs some good
Music I'll jist send the verses along as you wished
yes the Oysters I've not seen any since I left Milwaukee

I've jist com from meeting Thare is meeting hear ~~at~~
every Sunday and two or three night in the week to boot
its a joke on the meeting and I know it
Thare is a grate many sick hear now I gefs in a
welk or to Thare wout be more then 3 or 400 in a Company
that will be able to go on duty.

Billy is our Cook & day he got us a very good dinner
perhaps you would like to know what we have so good
wout we have potatoes beef bacon beans rice homeny tea.
Coffee sugar bakers bread and eggs & milk we furnish
that our selves we dont begin to eat our rations.
Thare aint as good apples hear as Thare is in Wis they
are very cheap hear I dont wish to brag up this place
at all and you must not think so for you know
what I told you before. how tired my penis geting
and I cant hardly navigate with it
and I gefs it will be hard for you to find this all out
wal I must hurry for its geting bout supper time and
I expect billy is geting a good one to

I've written all I Can think of this
time and I must bring these broken remarks
to a close with my respect to you and inquiring
friends if Thare be such
from Orland Dick

Direct as before