



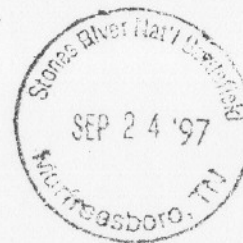
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18 September 1997

HISTORIAN
STONES RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
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MURFREESBORO TN 37130

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Dear sir:

As was promised when I came by in July, I am enclosing copies of the letters of Reuben Martin Searcy, Lieutenant in Co. F, 34th Alabama Infantry. The ones enclosed contain information about the Murfreesboro area and the events surrounding his wounding in the battle and his death in January in the town. I also found his grave in the old Presbyterian Cemetery and enclose a photo for your file. I can't wait to come back this winter and do more research. I only hope that the development won't have ruined views across the battlefield by then. I expressed my outrage in a kind way to the editor of the Murfreesboro paper about all the water and sewer lines that crossed the battlefield and the development signs that have cropped up. Will I ever see the cedar woods and moss covered ground again? Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

Ken Tilley
Ken Tilley
Reference Archivist

10. July 6 near Tupelo Unit moved out
 11. July 9 near Saltillo Difficult march on dusty roads
 12. July 18 near Saltillo sick, Bragg reviewed division
 13. July 24 near Saltillo men in high spirits, expect move to Tenn.
 14. July 30 near Saltillo prepares to leave
 15. July 31 near Saltillo 34th departs for Chattanooga by train
 Reuben leaves for Rome by wagon
 (Reuben arrived home in Tuscaloosa Aug. 7 and left on Aug. 12)
 16. Aug. 18 Talladega, Ala. With wagon train
 17. Aug. 26 LaFayette, Ga. Tells about trip across Alabama
 18. Aug. 27 LaFayette Left behind because of illness
 19. Aug. 31 LaFayette Prepares to leave to find regt.
 20. Sep. 5 Chattanooga Leaves to join regt. 70 miles away
 21. Sep. 5 Chattanooga (same info sent to sister Stella)
 22. Sep. 12 below Sparta, Tenn. Long marching to join regt.
 23. Sep. 13 2 mi. n. of Sparta mentions bushwackers attacking cavalry
 24. Sep. 28 near Bardstown, Ky. rich country, Gen. Duncan commanding division
 25. Sep. 29 near Bardstown in "one of the richest portions of the Confed."
 26. Oct. 10 mi. fr. Knoxville mentions hardships of campaign and snow storm
 27. Nov. 3 Bridgeport, Ala. Col. Mitchell left for hospital. Lt. Col Echols
 now commands regt. Leaves for Tullahoma, Tenn.
 28. Nov. 9 2 mi. fr. Tullahoma writes journal of previous campaign
 29. Nov near Tullahoma in "immense oak forest near a large spring"
 30. Nov. 20 near Tullahoma expects Johnson to take cmd. "the soldiers
 hail his coming with joyful hearts. They all
 hate Gen'l Braggs." Continues journal.
 31. Dec. 5 near Murfreesboro Heavy snow. Col. Mitchell returned Dec. 3
 "We were all glad to see him."
 32. Dec. 12 near Murfreesboro Very cold weather. River can be skated on.
 Searcy elected 3rd Lieut. in Co. F on Dec. 6.
 Examined by a board which was set up to
 get rid of incompetent officers. Capt. Ashurst
 and Lieut. Wright resigned, leaving Lieut. Rix
 in command of Co. F. Describes tent life.
 Glad of Johnson's arrival to "take command"
 Details Pres. Davis' review of troops.
 33. Dec. 18 near Murfreesboro Visited 41st Ala. regt.
 34. Dec. 26 near Murfreesboro Strongest "bully" contest won by 34th
 Had to witness execution of two from 28th Ala.
 Regts. consolidated but 34th remains as one
 because it has nearly 900 men
 (R. M. Searcy died from wounds on Jan. 7, 1863 at 18 yrs., 9 mo., & 18 days old)

Copies Donated to: Stones River National Battlefield
 September 18, 1997

Ken Tilley

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the whole muscular part of the thigh is torn away by a shell, leaving the artery bare."

2. Telegram from brother James T. Searcy, Murfreesboro, Thur. Jan. 1, 1863.
"Reuben dangerously wounded."
3. Telegram from James R. Maxwell, Murfreesboro, Sat. Jan 3.
"Reuben is doing as well as possible." Dr. DeLaland attended him.
4. Jan. 1, from J.T. ~~Murfree~~.
Searcy The shell that burst near him killed four.
Reuben at home of Mrs. Thompson attended
by Drs. Calih, William Taxey, & Eustis
5. Jan. 1 " " "I shall stay with him at all hazards."
6. Jan. 2 " " Wounds look much better, more hopeful
7. Jan. 3 " " The shell burst over him while he was lying
on his face. Col. Mitchell visited, the
whole regt. is concerned. The negro drivers
have visited. Expecting father to arrive.
8. Jan. 3 " " The army looks as if it will fall back
Dr. Pitts, 34th Ala. surgeon looked at him
9. Jan. 9 " " "Our dear Reuben died last Wednesday morning
after a week and a night of intense
suffering...We buried him yesterday morning
in the church yard of the old school
Presbyterian church. I have the spot well
marked, A head stone with his name deeply
cut in it." Capt. Bickerstaff and Mr. Miller
wounded in Mrs. Thompson's house.
"The enemy have treated us well so far."
10. Jan. 14, fr. Col. H.D. Clayton, 39th Ala. Inf.
They were at the house of Mrs. Catherine B.
Thompson, "a two story brick house on the
corner of a block -about half way between the
C(ourt) H(ouse) and the Baptist female
college."
11. Jan. 19, fr. Col. J.C.B. Mitchell, 34th Ala. Inf. at Shelbyville
"In him the country has lost a true & gallant
soldier."
12. Jan. 22 " " letter to Mr. Maxwell telling him his son
and James Searcy are prisoners

I started from Chattanooga, on the 4th of Sept in company with about three hundred soldiers, who had collected from the different hospitals, to overtake the army, which was then distant about seventy five miles, and still marching in the direction of Bowling Green. We were commanded by Lieut Col Bennett of the 24th Ala. Regt a very agreeable young man, and an excellent commander, we were ferried over the Tennessee river at Chattanooga and having ^{passed} through a fertile and well watered country - and crossed the Cumberland, & Walnut ridges, we reached Sparta, a very pretty village about eight miles from Chattanooga - we accomplished this march in seven days and rested a part of the next day. We then took up our line of march for the Cumberland river, which we reached after several days hard marching - the country was then settled and not fertile. We were ferried over the river at Gainsboro a dilapidated boathouse village on the bank of the river. We continued our march occasionally passing little villages, of not much note, one of which, the people told us, Morgan had captured a company of Yankee Cavalry some months since. The third day after we crossed the Cumberland, our rations gave out, & we were hastening on to reach Glasgow before night, and were within four miles of it at four o'clock in the evening and were whetting our appetites for the rations we expected to get at Glasgow, when we were suddenly stopped by the announcement, to us, by citizens and Confederate officers, that a squad of Federals, both cavalry and infantry had taken Glasgow, and that they had to run to save themselves; expecting an attack we fortified ourselves as well as we could on the top of the hill, where we were halted. This place we afterwards called Walnut Hill, because our scupper was composed principally of the nuts gathered from the trees on the ridge. We remained on the hill till twelve o'clock that night without water. When having learned that the Federals were still at Glasgow we fell back nine miles to a strong position on a creek, where we remained till twelve o'clock next day. In the mean time we procured from the surrounding country - provisions enough for many days having learned that the Federals had left Glasgow early in the morning - we started and made a rapid march and reached Glasgow about five in the evening. And there we heard that the Federals had possession of every route to our army - (which was at Mumfordsville about 50 miles distant) except a rough country road which would take us fifteen miles out of the direct route. We marched fifteen miles that

enemies cavalry who were pursuing us, came up to the lines. We had only rested two hours, when the whole army started on the Pike towards Louisville. Genl Beagg ordered our Col. to have us put upon the wagons, we were so completely worn out. We marched 44 miles that night and then rested till eight o'clock next morning. When we started again and in two days more reached Bardstown. Having passed through on the morning of the second day a very pretty village called New Haven. Bardstown is a very pretty inland town, situated about thirty miles from Louisville in the midst of a fertile, wealthy and beautiful country. All along the road we were greeted by the cheers of the women & children, but the men looked like cowed dogs. We camped the night after we reached Bo in the fair grounds, about a quarter from the city, in the midst of a beautiful grove. The next morning I went six miles and overtook my regiment, which had camped on Cox's Creek, surrounded by as pretty and fertile country as I ever saw. We remained in the above mentioned camp from the 24th to the 27th enjoying the productions of the country at very low prices. On the 28th we marched back through Bardstown and camped three miles from there on the Springfield Pike. Here we remained till the 4th of October during which time brother called on me & I called on brother, which was the first and last time we saw each other on the route. On the 5th we marched to Paragville. On the 6th we marched through Harodstuck and camped five miles from there on the Salt River, the famous stream on which Daniel Boone settled. On the seventh we marched four miles and camped, we started at eleven o'clock that night and marched 12 miles on the Frankfort road and camped just before day.

Please to send some by James, a Pocket knife pencil and pocket Dictionary.
Give my love to all. Your Son, Ruben.

chat with you. I write to mother soon after we reached here. But I have not heard from home since the first of Sept. Our camp is situated in an immense oak forest near a large spring, about a mile and a half from Tallahoma, we were camped about two miles from the city, but we moved the other day in the midst of a heavy shower of rain completely drenching us and our effects. I have ridden to day about thirty miles to see brother, but failed to find the company, I heard that the Division had reached here and encamped ~~at the~~ river, about eleven miles from us. I rode to that point and there learned from some of the men that the Artillery was camped about three miles further up the river - I concluded to return - because I only had permission to be absent from camp until six and it was then after one o'clock. So I returned without seeing brother. I expect that James Maxwell is enjoying the sweets of home. He left here about ten days ago either to go home, or to an interior hospital. I am sitting at such a distance from the light I can scarcely see the lines. So excuse the writing. Genl. Bragg, reached here last night, and I expect we will have stirring times here soon. It is the opinion of nearly every one that we will not winter here, we get a plenty to eat here of the best kind, but the weather is very cool for our half clad army. Sister my face is getting as round and plump as ever, and I am in splendid health with a big appetite. I can scarcely see out of my left eye. The sight of it does not improve as fast as I wish it would. I write in my last letter a portion of my Journal, I will let you have the rest at some future time. How are the young ladies? and how are the eadels at the university getting along? Are our Mobile friends still in Tuskalbosa? Remember in your letter if you see fit to answer this? That I have not heard from home in nearly three months, and that any thing will be news.

Give my love to all, both great & small,
your brother Richard.

home, but I do not think we will stay here any longer than
till we change our commander in chief. Genl Johnson
is expected here to take command every regiment of the
soldiers hail his coming with joyful hearts. They all
hate Genl Briggs & Perry - and have not confidence
in him as a General. We get an abundance of the sub-
stantials of life to eat here, But the country is so poor
immediably around, that we can procure no delicacies.
Large quantities of commissary stores, are being transported
on this road to Chatternope. We have been living on flour
bread so long, that the other day, we considered some meal
that was issued to us as quite a luxury.

I commenced writing to you yesterday, but did
not finish it because, we received orders to cook up three
days rations and be ready to start this morning.
We did not start this morning, the reason why
I do not know, But they have put all our sick on the
cars and sent them away, and have ordered us to get
such cartridges and return all damaged pieces. I expect
we will start in the morning, towards Murfreesboro. I was
delighted last Tuesday with the reception of two letters from
home, one mailed on the third and the other of the 8th
of Nov. the first time I had heard from home since the
first of Sept. I learned from them a good deal of news
but I expect I have lost some by not receiving your
other letters. I am glad that Fieds has gotten back
again - and sorry to hear of cousin Johns death.
The troops have been moving about here so much that I have
not sent both those letters, for fear that he would not
get them. I am expecting James may well back in two
or three days, as he expected to be absent only 20 days.
I presume he has been having a fine time at home.
Tell Mother I do not want her to work hard or trouble her
her mind, about me, for I have learned to take things
as they come, and am contented with most any thing
ill stews to thee that young lady who sent her love to me
that I can exclaim to her in the language of Shakespear
"Oh! experience might have told me,
All must love thee - who behold thee."
I received this other day a beautiful gilt edged flag,
(for a young lady in Alabama) accompanied with
some very appropriate lines, which I have since acknowledged
by a letter.

We remained in line of battle on the eighth of Oct
I was put in a command of a company of Skirmishes
by Col. S. C. W. Mitchell, and had to remain in an advance
position in the day, on the 9th we marched
in the direction of Lawrenceburg and captured 840 prisoners
and a train of wagons, and then went back and reoccupied
the camp we left on the seventh. We lost only three men
in this Skirmish. On the tenth we marched back through Flarod
burg - in a cold drenching rain, and formed in line of battle on
Salt river, and remained in the rain, all night - without covering or
provisions, on the eleventh - we went back again through Flarodburg
and took the Bryantoville Pkwa - crossed Salt river, and camped
five miles from Camp Rich Robinson. We remained in this camp on
the 12th and cooked rations, the first we had eaten in two days.
On the 13th we marched through Bryantoville and Lancaster,
Lancaster, both dilapidated looking villages. This was the first
day we did not hear the cannon of the enemy for a week. We
destroyed an immense amount of provisions at Camp Rich
Robinson, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy.
On the 15th we marched through Capt Richard - on the 16th through
Mount Vernon and camped on Rock and Lee river. On the 17th
we crossed the river, and passed the Wild Cat fortification
and camped five miles from where we started, this day we
were without provisions. On the 18th we marched five miles
when we were ordered back, to the creek where we encamped
the night before, and drawn up in line of battle. The
28th Ala. Regt, was thrown forward, and had a heavy
skirmish with the enemy. The other regiments of our Brigade
supported our battery - which was playing on the enemy
with shells. There was a continual rattle of small arms
in our rear all day. We remained in line of battle
till dark - then fell back two miles & camped.
Orders have just come to cook three days rations
and be ready to start at day break.
I will have this mailed at Chattanooga by a man
who is going there tomorrow.
Give my love to all.
your brother, Reuben.

on a fork of some river, across
the city. We are now in the midst of a heavy snow
storm, which makes me stay within doors, or tent &
bring my blanket, to keep warm. I received yours &
Sister Eric's letters of the 2nd & 8th days after date,
which was the second letter I have received from
home since Sept. It was directed to Tullahoma, but
was sent to this place. Where is James Maxwell I
have been looking for him every day since I
received your letter, notifying me, that he would
start in a few days. I received a letter from brother
the other day. He is at Shelbyville in splendid
health. Shelbyville is about ²⁰ fifteen miles south
west of here. I reckon brother was mistaken about
~~brother~~ ^{cousin} Thomas being in this Brigade, for the 6th
Tennessee Regt is not in this Brigade. you enquire
Mother about my eye. I cannot see with it well
enough to read yet. It is only the nerve that is
affected, my eye & face look perfectly natural,
I do not know what gave me the neuralgia unless
it was the excessive exposure. I have two teeth that
need filling badly -- though they do not ache
Col. Mitchell returned, to his regiment day before
yesterday. We were all glad to see him. He brought
his family as far as Chattanooga and left them
there. I saw John Deland the other day he came
to see me. He is in good health. Their Regt is com-
-ed about half a mile from Murfreesboro.
Mother I will be very well satisfied with the clothes
you speak of sending by James. In the two last letters
I have written home I have sent portions of the
journal I kept during the Kentucky Campaign
I will let you have another portion as soon as
the weather gets warmer, so that I can write with
more ease. Present to Miss Alice for that nice
head comforter. I have not drawn any article of

Camp near Murfreesboro, Dec 12th 1862

Dear Father,

I received yesterday those letters you sent by Capt Robertson, and today after perusing all its contents I was in town yesterday evening when Capt Robertson called and left the letters, and also left word that he had a bundle for me at his camp. This morning I rode to his camp to see him, and found when I reached there that he had taken the bundle, & gone to see me. I then returned & found my bundle used. I did not see him. I am very much obliged to you for these things.

I saw Dr Calhoun Joyce in town the other day & had a sociable chat with him. From what he says I expect you are more troubled about my eye than I am. I have gotten so used to seeing with one eye, it scarcely bothers me now, Dr Joyce said he could not discover what was the matter with it, but would come to camp in a few days and examine it. I am pretty certain that it is an affection of the nerve. It had got much better, but the other day when it snowed & took fresh cold wind made it worse. I am in good health, I weigh one hundred & forty pounds, finer now than I ever weighed before. We have been having some very cold weather, the ice on the river has thick enough to skate on for three or four days. On the 6th of Dec I was elected 2^d Lieut in Capt Ashurst's company. On the 9th I and another newly elected Lieut, was examined by a Board appointed to relieve the army of incompetent officers. I passed a satisfactory examination & received my commission, while my companion was rejected as incompetent. Lieut Knight resigned & went home. Capt Ashurst has sent in his resignation. I do not have as much leisure time now as before. I have been busy all day in paying of the men four months wages, & nice Sunday employment, but yet a military necessity.

I began writing this letter two nights ago, but had to desist because my fire did not give light enough for me to see the lines. Mother I have a nice rock

my dress coat rigged up with fiver stripes, and if
he has left to send me about a foot of that. Gold lace
on those Chevroons in my drawers, send it by letter.
I have received several letters from home since I wrote
last, some of them of late date, & others "back nations".
Genl Johnson has arrived, and taken command,
and the army are all glad of it too.

Yesterday evening the whole army was reviewed by
President Davis. We were reviewed in divisions,
in a large level field. The sight was grand and imposing
so many thousands men - fully equipped & in martial
array - with their musical bands playing.

President Davis was dressed in citizens clothes, & mounted
on a fine black charger, and accompanied
by most of our Genls, and between seventy five ~~hundred~~
hundred aids & his body guard. President Davis
passed within ten steps of me & I got a good look
at him. Tell Mother that Col Mitchell brought me
two nice ^{pair of} wollen socks from his home, and I have now
gotten an abundance of them. Tell cousin Lee as soon as I
get time I will write to her on the paper she sent me.

Give my love to Aunt Julia & enclose a note from Chan-
cellor yesterday, with my letter enclosed. He said he would
send the bundle the first opportunity. I will write to him
to keep it till James Maxwell comes. Give my love to all
your son Reuben

P.S. James Maxwell has come, he came bolting into
my tent just as I was sealing my letter, in good health
^{not only} all my clothing.
I tell Mother I am more than satisfied with my
clothing both in quantity and quality.

now differently and certainly
The only thing that impressed me with the fact that it was
Christmas - was that we did not have drills, and a drink
of some fourteen year old ~~whisky~~ that was given to me
by a friend. It was also decided on that day that the
strongest man in this Brigade, was in the 34th Ala.
Regiment. All the bullies in the different regiments
collected near the 34th Ala. Regt., and there wrestled to
see who was the best man. And the Bully of the 34th
gained the day. The contest was witnessed both by officers
and men. I expect mother, that Brother has written
you about our meeting, as he said he would, suffice
it to say - that Brothers camp is about a mile & a half
from here, and that we have seen each other several
times. I gave Brother a pair of socks - the only thing
that he stood in need of. I wrote to cousin Sue a week
ago - in which I spoke of a deserter from the 28th Ala.
Regt - being shot. Today we had to witness two more
from the same regiment. Our Brigade has marched out
fully accoutred - in the midst of a heavy rain to wit-
ness their execution. It was hard to witness it.
Scarcely a day passed - but we hear the booming of cannon
& cannonade began this morning about ten o'clock,
and the firing was very rapid till dark, a few
guns were fired after dark, just as I began this letter
heard several guns from forth. I expect Mother
that you have heard - of the order for consolidating
the regiments, it is ordered that two or more regiments
from the same state, and in the same Brigade shall be
united to form one ^{full} regiment. Col. Mitchell was in-
formed by Genl Polk, that the officers who were
thus deprived of their commands - by consolidation
would be sent off to perform different duties, and
held in reserve till vacancies occurred - when they
would again be placed in command, I will also state
that Genl Withers has ordered - that the 34th should
remain a separate regiment. I expect this is because
we have nearly nine hundred men.
I have not received any letters from home since
James Maxwell arrived on the 10th. Since then I
have written three letters, home & next cousin Sue

are getting married. Tell sister Stella that she must save one of them for me. For if the war keeps on I will want to get a furlough on the strength of it, some day to come home on. The style of beauty that I like is

Tell her that when she finds a beauty like the one I have described - to make an engagement whether she is killing or not - and write to me immediately - & I will come home on the strength of it & strive to see that it is a "military necessity." This is sufficient about my future love. Tell father that my eye sight is improving. James May well & servant are well & doing well. Love to all -
Respectfully Submitted
your son Reuben.

P.S. Tell father that brother Wade & gave me a set of Chess men, another man made a board, so that I have fine times playing Chess now.

This was Reuben's last letter.

He is gone! yes! our dear Reuben has fallen! he is dead! He was mortally wounded on the 30th of Dec 1862. By a shell from the enemy, in the terrible battle at Murfreesboro. Tennessee. He suffered intensely for a week and one night, and died on the 4th of Jan - 1863 - at the house of a Mrs Thompson in Murfreesboro.

He has fallen soon, having been in the army only eight months. He has fallen young, being eighteen years - some months - and 18 day old. He was buried in the church yard of the Old School Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro Tenn.

Murfreesboro, ~~Jan~~ 30th Tuesday
Reuben was wounded to day - it is feared
mortally - the whole muscular part of the
thigh is torn away by a shell, leaving the
artery bare.

James R. Maxwell,

2nd Telegram, Murfreesboro, Jan 1st 1863, ^{Thursday}

Reuben dangerously wounded in
thighs, by a shell, Maxwell and others
well -

L. T. Searcy,

3rd Telegram, Murfreesboro, Jan 3rd 1863, Saturday

Reuben is doing as well as possible,
Dr Leland attend, him.

L. R. Maxwell.

Dr Searcy and Mr Fiqueth started in two hours
after the reception of the first Telegram to
go to the dear suffering child. But the Con-
federate army fell back, giving up Men-
freesboro to the Federals - on the night of the
third Jan - And his father after getting
within twenty five miles of him, had
to turn back - He saw Dr Gustis who dressed
poor Reubens wounds, and learned that there
was no hope of his recovery. Dr Searcy left
the Fiqueth at Chattanooga - Mr F went to the army to
visit Charley in Ludlows Battery - & Dr Searcy
reached home Sunday - Jan 12th with a very sad heart.

or rather James Maywell & I have. That Reuben
was dangerously wounded - last Tuesday evening
by a shell - which burst near him - ~~killing four~~
I heard of it this morning - while out in front
with the Battery - and got permission to come in
and see him. He is at a private house, Mrs.
Thompson's - near Genl Bragg's head quarters.
I shall stay with him at all hazards. He is pretty
comfortable - and talks about every thing as
well as ever. He has eaten today - for the first
time - a little soup. The boys of our Battery
are safe and well so far. Pray God - all of
you - for Members. Dr. Calih & William Jopey
call to see him frequently - as well as Dr. Eustis,
from Mobile - Beckenridge, Division surgeon.

May Heaven be with you all.

James.

P.S.

I shall get this carried in some way to
Chattanooga, Mrs. Thompson is very kind and
attentive, I shall write every time I can.
I write you two letters this evening, hoping one may
reach you
James.

Murfreesboro, Jan 1st 1868.

Dear Father,

I have the sad intelligence to write
you, that Reuben was severely wounded last
Tuesday evening. by a piece of shell, in both thighs,
lacerating one very much - exposing the arteries.
I heard of it this morning while out in line, I am
now with him, the surgeons pronounce them dan-
gerous wounds. I shall stay with him at all
hazards. God be with him. He is perfectly

Reuben has no bones broken, I don't know
how to send this - but will try every means
to get it off.
James Deary.

Murfreeboro, Jan 2nd 1853
Friday

My dear Mother,

I write to you this morning
from beside the couch of our dear Reuben.
I sat up with him all night last night. He slept
most of the time, quietly, talked a little in his sleep.
Dr. Gustis and Dr. Leland attend him, have just
finished dressing his wounds. Dr. Gustis says they
look much better this morning. Dr. Leland
first found it out yesterday evening and
came to see him. He says Reubens constitution
is strong, and therefore there is more hope in his
case - May God preserve my brother.

James Maxwell is here with me, His boy
Jim, is here to wait on us. Paul Jones & Dr
William Cunningham came to see him last
night. Caleb & William Foxey call when they come,
Mr Thompson is kind to us, we have Jim
to make beef tea for him, and we give him
Whiskey occasionally, and keep him under
the influence of morphine, whenever he is
restless. All will be done for him - till
Father arrives. - I will spare no expense,
I have & can get money in plenty.

The boys of our Battery are well so far.

James.

I have been up most of the night with Reuben, James Maxwell relieving me. He rested most of the time, pretty well. He is doing very well considering the terrible nature of his wounds. The shell - it seems must have burst over him, pieces striking his thighs from above. He at the time was lying on his face - The whole regiment owing so, to avoid the shells. Col Mitchell came in from the front lines, last night, to see him. The whole regiment are very much concerned for his welfare, even the negroes from the wagons, below town - have been up to see him & have every thing that can be obtained, by the surgeons either, from his Division Hospital or Dr Leland's Hospital, Dr Leland comes to see him as often as he can. Reuben is perfectly in his senses, and bears it heroically, (Dr Leland a celebrated surgeon, I perhaps you may have heard of him) attends and dresses his wounds every morning. I shall expect to see him now - in a day or two - if he receives the first telegram - that J. Maxwell sent on the 30th Dec.

I sent another Thursday. I have sent two letters, James got two men who were wounded - to take them and mail them at Chattanooga. The office here - having been closed since the fight. We expect every day to have the battle resumed, God defend our cause, Pray heaven for Reuben - I shall telegraph today if I can.

Horace Martin reached our company Wednesday night.
James.

2nd letter same date, Murfreesboro, Jan 30/63.

My dearest

Saturday

Mother,

I have just been to the depot, and got the conductor, to take a letter for you, down to Chattanooga, to mail it there, and James Maxwell has gone with another. Reuben rested tolerably well last night, and is quiet at present. His wounds are doing as well as can be expected. I have just finished dressing them. Dr. Easton, came in to see him, He is very kind to us, to attend Reuben. A doctor from the southern part of Ala has volunteered to take this letter, and mail it somewhere in Ga - So I feel more sure of your getting it than any of the other four letters I have sent you. Dear Reuben rested tolerably well last night, I at

Willie has just left thro' and says his Father will come as soon as he can. O God! Grant that my brother may recover, and Mother you and all the others know where to look for consolation. May God strengthen you in this affliction. If our army falls back from here — and it looks something like it at present — I shall stay with dear Reuben and nurse him as well as I can. He said yesterday he would like very much, to have you here with him, but said he did not see how any one could attend him better than I have done. The people about here are kind — and most of them true Southerners. I would not care much, what might happen to me — but it is my brother I have to look after and care for. O God when shall these things cease? When shall our cup be full? For me never fear at all. — If I die — my hope in heaven is strong and I don't fear any thing.

Dr. Pitts came in to see Reuben this morning. He is the surgeon of the 34th Ala. There is another Alabamian — a Capt — with us in this room — wounded so that he cannot be moved. We will be together if it comes to the worst. Jack Braddock just called upon us — he looks well — All is well with our Battery — so far — I have heard.

Dearest Mother, this blow! will fall hard on you I know, but bear up — we will all be at rest in heaven — one of these days, and there no such afflictions — will beat us.

Mr Spence, who was in Tuscaloosa last summer lives here — I shall go to him if we need anything. I know where he lives — a little distance out of town. Capt Lumsden was sick at his house for a time. Good bye, Dearest Mother — God will surely be with us. I trust him, It will all be well with us in another world — and Reuben too — I believe he has hopes — indeed I know he has,
Lumsden,
James
Lumsden's Maypole is still with me.

Probably I can get some of our paroled soldiers to carry it
through across the lines. There was a La Hendon of
Green Co - who was going to the Lunatic Asylum at
Nashville for his daughter, and offered - when he returned
if possible - to take a letter to you. Our dear Reuben
died last Wednesday morning after a week and night
of intense suffering. Death came as a relief to him. He
asked to die, He said he feared it not, that he had
strong hopes of being a Christian, I at his own request
read the bible to him, several times, and prayed with
him, He prayed himself - for himself and for you.
He was as well attended as human efforts could do.
We buried him yesterday morning, in the Church yard
of the old School Presbyterian Church, I have the spot
well marked, I had stone with his name deeply cut
in it. Mrs. Thompson & Mrs. Wendel her sister were very
kind to us. Mrs. Wendel is related to the Searcy's. He
says - that Mrs. Turner of Huntsville was his cousin.
James Maxwell a noble boy, staid with Reuben
and me. We are still at the house of Mrs. Thompson
doing very well. As nurses, we are not troubled
by the enemy. We were left behind as nurses for
our wounded soldiers - So will have to stay here for
some time, at least two weeks. We dress the wounds
with our surgeons. I have written two letters to Aunt
Lanny. Reuben while wounded - Friday Jan 2nd received
a letter from you. It comforted him very much.
~~He~~ read it to him - two or three times. There are now
at Mrs. Thompsons - some of our wounded, among
them - Capt. Bickerstaff and Mr. Miller of the
34th Ala. Reuben was beloved by his company & Regt.
Mother do not grieve for him. He died for his country.
He died not fearing - but welcoming death, a Christian
and was as well attended in his sufferings a great
deal better than most soldiers are. Receiving a
decent burial. God & pray. may support, you
and Father. We will come home some day &
presume before long. James and I are of great
value here, even our inexperienced services.
Nurses are scarce, hardly enough to bury the dead.

James J. Searcy,

From Col. Mitchel, of the 34th Ala. To Dr. Searcy
Shelbyville, Jan 19th 1863.

Dr R Searcy,

My dear Sir,

I have the painful task to disclose by this note, the death of your gallant Son, Lieut. Searcy. He died Wednesday the 7th of Jan, at five o'clock in the evening. Six it makes my heart sore, to be compelled by the state of facts - to send this sad intelligence. On Monday evening he was in command of a company - placed on Picket, remained on all Monday night, and on Tuesday became heavily engaged in skirmishing with the enemy, bearing himself gallantly, and holding the enemy in check - until late Tuesday evening, against heavy odds, of infantry and cavalry. After falling back and joining his Regt, while he was resting with his company in line of the unfortunate blow was received, - by the falling of a shell, which killed one, and wounded three others of his company. I visited the Lieut. the night before our army fell back. I found him cheerful which made me hopeful of his recovery. Mrs Thompson - at whose house he was taken - nursed him with the kindness of a Mother, you may rest assured that he had all the attention that friends could give. So, I can well appreciate the

gallant Soldier - his parents a worthy and noble
sons. And our command deeply sympathize with
them in their bereavement.

Information also received, that James Searcy
and Maxwell are doing well - Maxwell was
left to wait on, and nurse Lieut Searcy.

Respectfully yours
L. C. B. Mitchell
Col., commanding 34th Ala.

Letter from Col. Mitchell, to Mr. Thomas Maxwell
St. Bryson, Jan: 22nd 1862.

Mr. Thos Maxwell.

Dear Sir

I received yours of Jan 18th. You
ask if your son was left in Murfreesboro after our
army fell back - after the 8th Dec. He was left
as the devoted friend of Lieut Searcy
and must be in the hands of the enemy.
His mission was a noble one - in being left
to contribute to the comfort of so noble a youth
as Lieut Searcy. On the 19th of Jan, I think it
was - I received information that Lieut Searcy
died on the 4th of said month - and that
James Searcy & James Maxwell were doing
well - yet they must be prisoners in the hands
of the enemy. When Lieut Searcy fell the country
lost a gallant young officer - in whom my
whole command took and felt great interest
and his immediate command great pride.
He led them with noble bearing on every field
before his fall. I deplore the death of the
noble youth, yes! every inch a man. May
God receive him - as his gain - for the great
loss sustained by his parents - friends, and country.

From Col. H. D. Clayton, to Gen Searcy.

Clayton, Ala. Jan 14th 1863.

Dear Sir

On Saturday night (12. or 13.) after the battle of Murfreesboro I parted with you two sons - Reuben & J. T. Searcy. Reuben, you know was badly wounded - yet he seemed cheerful & hopeful. They were unaware, that they were to be left - until I told them, when your son J. T. promptly made up his mind to remain with his brother, to whom he seemed very attentive and affectionate. They were at the house of Mrs Catharine B. Thompson, a very nice place - and most excellent Lady. I promised your sons to write to you as they had not time to do so. But my wound became very much inflamed, so that I had a high fever in Macon - and suffered a great deal for several days.

Mrs Thompson lives in a two story brick house on the corner of a block - about half way between the - C - St - and the Baptist female college. I shall return to the army very soon, as my wound is now healing finely, and the Dr Munks will admit of my returning in two weeks, so soon as I get back I shall adopt some means, to communicate with my brother, Capt J. C. Clayton whom I was compelled to leave badly wounded in Murfreesboro, and in doing so I shall also enquire for your sons. If I succeed I will communicate with you again - On my return I shall

Capt. servant,

H. S. Clayton 39th Regt. ^{1st} Brigade 4th Div. -
C. S. in.

Some extracts from a letter written by Sargent Little
of Lewisden's Battery, to his brother James Little of Tuska-

Tallahassee, Feb. 15th 1863.

Dear James,

James T. Searcy is now a nurse in the hospital at Murfreesboro. Our Surgeon who has just returned from M. S. says Reuben looked to be in fine health. He says that Reuben had every attention, but the notice of Reuben, in the Observer, I was surprised to see no mention ^{was} made of Dr. Caleb Doyce, who was the first of his friends, who found him. He was then in a crowded room - with wounded men all around him, Caleb recognised him, and had him removed to a private house & got his Col. - to detail James Mayhall to nurse him. The next day I met him - he told me of R's situation - and said he had been trying to find our Battery - to let James know it. I returned to camp & told James - and sent him to Lieut. Britton, to get permission to go to him, which he willingly granted. Caleb said he never saw so sweet a smile, on human face, as was Reuben's, on recognizing him. Reuben held his hand a long time in his, and Caleb said he looked more like a girl, than a boy. He told me

Something so manly — honest — & noble about them that I thought them the most promising young men of my acquaintance. but alas! their career was short still they were, no doubt both prepared for the great event, which — we must all come to, sooner or later. They have fallen in a noble cause, one worthy even of such a sacrifice.

During the terrible fighting, on the last day of '62, when I saw our Reg't broken and driven back by the terrible fire of the enemy, and others sent in to support them, compelled to fall back behind the point where our Battery's guns, and two other Batteries were stationed, I expected every moment to see the enemy following them over the open field, I felt that every one of us, should die in his place, rather than yield an inch of his ground — but they dared not follow and it was well for them, that they did not, for our men were ready, with charges of canister to sweep them from the field. During that remarkable afternoon, you may imagine my anxiety as I saw John galloping, in front of the Battery — from one point to another, of the field, and could see the shells exploding around them, and whizzing through the air. The beautiful flag which was presented to us at Tex — unfurled for the first time on the battle field — in his hand. formed a conspicuous object — and no doubt excited the wonder of the Yankees. When they commenced firing John gave his flag, & the Capt, raised it up he was riding — to one of the men to hold, and took his place at the guns, as a common soldier. John is as

to start for home in less than a month or six weeks
meanwhile you can comfort yourselves with the
thought, that we are both well and comfortably sit-
-uated. We are boarding at the house of Mr Thomp-
-son, just opposite to the Head Quarters of the
Yankee Genl Thomas. There is no guard kept
over us - and on the street we are not interfered
with, as we wear the white badge of nurses.
We have nothing to do with the Soldiers - nor they
with us. Our business is to make the rounds of
the hospital daily, dressing the wounded & then
return home. So you see we are better off in
respect to board & lodging - than if we were in
camps, though of course we are not so well sat-
-isfied, The night our army retreated I sent Jim
off with the army in charge of S. Deland -
who was kind enough to promise, to take care of him
until he could get to our Regt. I gave him about
eighty dollars in our money, and two Pistols to take
care of, Poor fellow! he actually cried, because
he had to leave me, but it was of course
necessary. He has been faithful both to Rebecca
and myself all the time. Now I have a chance
I intend to write some good long letters to Constance
to those who will rejoice to hear from me, to
know that I am well. And besides I can give
them tolerably late news from home. Perhaps
too I may write to our relations in Chelsea
though I hardly know how to address them
differing as I do from them in opinion of the
causes of this war.

of course. it was my place, to stay
the poor boy as comfortable as possible. The Lady of
the house is a true Southern woman. (Mrs Thompson —
as are many of the Ladies about here, and the
would receive all possible attention, although there
is a great scarcity of nice things in this part of the country.
I do not give any news in regard to the movement of
the enemy — if I knew what they were about, the
gentleman, who carries this letter is under oath not to
convey any intelligence to the South. Give my kind
regards & sympathy to the Searcy family, and love to
all — Good bye — your affec Son.

James R Maxwell.

rest in the night since.

Murfreesboro, Jan. 3^d 68.

Dear Father,

I am still at the house of Mrs. Thompson
waiting on poor Reuben. He is doing very well, and rests quite
easily — under the influence of Morphine. There was very heavy
cannonading in our front yesterday evening, and I suppose it will
pen again soon. I don't know why it is that we receive no letters
from home, but I expect they are all stopped below here.
I can only send this by persons going to Chattanooga, where it
can be mailed. Reuben bears his frightful wounds, with
most heroism, and is in tolerable spirits. We try to keep him
in good heart. The surgeon said yesterday, that his wounds
looked better than it had some before. May God spare his life is
the prayer of your Son James.

Murfreesboro, Jan. 3^d midnight.

Dear Father, I write hurriedly, to let you that I am well. But
have to stay with poor Reuben, by advice of Dr. Leland, and my
duty is to do so. Don't give yourself any uneasiness about me.
Give my love to all. Good bye — your affec Son
James R. Maxwell.

we marched out from camp to about two miles from town
and were formed in line of battle. Here we remained
without hearing a single Yankee, until Monday morning, when
the first firing commenced in our front. We, our Right were
in sight of the Nashville Pike, to the left of it. Monday night
Reubens and another company, were sent to the front as Pickets
and we saw no more of them till they were driven in, the next day
(Tuesday) All that day we were skirmishing and a heavy
Artillery duel was kept up. The trees about us were perfectly
riddled, with shot and shell. But we took only one or two, who
were slightly wounded) until the last shell that evening
which burst above the Regt. and caused the wounding of
poor Reuben. From James Searcy's letter and two (despatches)
which I have sent, you can be informed of his condition.
I did not know that he was wounded, until night, when Col
Mitchell sent to the front for me telling me that he was here
and had sent for me. I got on my horse and galloped to
town. Yesterday morning I moved him to this house where
he is as comfortable as could be expected. Yesterday was a
terrible day, but the scoundrels have been beaten and
are now on the retreat. As James Searcy has come
to attend to Reuben, I will have to go to my Regt this
evening - It is after the Yankees somewhere, I don't know
where I will find it. Give my love to all.

Good bye,

Your affec^d Son,

James R. Caldwell.

you yesterday morning. Making some inquiries
about your son Reuben, knowing that you are very
anxious to hear all about him, I will answer immediately.
I found Reuben about 8 or 9 o'clock at night, (he
having been wounded late in the afternoon of Tuesday)
in the Division Hospital, at Murfreesboro. When I
first saw him he was asleep and I thought it
best, not to disturb him. But I went back to
his pallet in about an hour, and found him
awake. He recognized me instantly, and was very
glad to see ~~some~~ that he knew. He then told me
that he was wounded and asked me to exam-
-ine his wounds, which I found had been partial-
-ly dressed by his Regimental Surgeon. - He then
asked me my opinion of it - I candidly told him
that I thought he was mortally wounded, and he
seemed to expect such an answer, & then fixed his
pallet so as to make him as comfortable as possible
for the night, and told him that I would have
him removed to a private house the next morn-
-ing. He being at that time under the influence
of Morphine, soon went to sleep, and I left him.
A short time after that I saw James Maxwell &
had him detailed as a nurse for Reuben, & also
told him where he might find a private house to
carry Reuben too - in case that I should not be
able to return next morning, which he did.
I saw George Little the next day, and told him
to tell James to come to town as soon as possible
and see his brother. James having not yet heard
that Reuben had been wounded.

be prepared for the worst. If there are any other
questions you would like to have answered about Reuben
I assure you that I will answer them with pleasure
- I am very sorry that ~~we could not~~ indeed, that
it was not in my power to do more for Reuben
than I did, But as I was compelled to visit so many
I could spend but a short time with any one.

your friend
Caleb Joye

Letter of Dr. G. S. Reeves, to Dr. R. Searcy

Dear Shelbyville Tenn

Dr Reuben Searcy

Mar. 18th 1868.

Dear Sir,

Your letter to Capt. J. L. Ashurst
came to hand yesterday, It having been sixteen days on the
way. Capt. R. G. Welch the successor of Capt Ashurst,
he having resigned of your home some two months ago, on ac-
count of ill health) placed the letter in my hands, supposing
that I was the most suitable person to answer it. I was
long and intimately acquainted with Reuben, we met
together and slept side by side for many months. It must
embrace all when I tell you that I loved him like a brother
He was my dear friend, Both, mutually, having been joined
in our first attempts, at honorable profession, we naturally
sympathized with each other, and he being of a turn of
mind exactly suited to my family. Throughout the long

with a benign smile to "pick them up," and really I do assure you, that he never on any occasion was heard to utter a murmur, at his lot however hard. It was so up to the time of his death.

We both kept a journal of the campaign. I do not know what became of his, perhaps Capt Ashurst can inform you, I have -

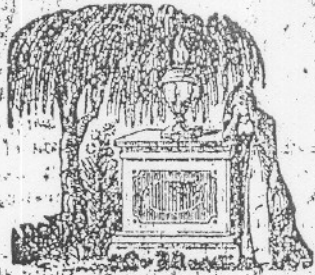
I slept with him on a pile of corn stalks, the cold night, before he was shot, we talked until a late hour - He spoke of the probable results of the morrow to our cause, and seemed buoyant.

On Monday evening his company were ordered out on Pickets, he being at the time the only commissioned officer in it - They went out with a company of the 10th South Carolina Rgt., under Lieut White, now Capt White, commanding Co. A. of that Regt, a brave and noble man, the Yankee cavalry charged them.

Killed one of the S.C. privates, and took the Capt prisoner. By an adroit and dexterous movement on the part of Searcy, and the tremendous power of the fists of Capt W. the Yankee Major* (commanding) was unhorsed and killed - together with six others, & soon three or four taken prisoners, it was all the work of five minutes. The Yankee saw, the Major's horse (a fine one) - saddle - sword - & pistol all fell into the hands of Lieut White. He gave you soon the pistol should you wish to address him a drop to this office care of Col. Manigault. The letter you wrote I will immediately enclose to Capt Ashurst.

Please remember me to your family, and believe me on account of your sons, truly yours, C. S. Reeves, Capt Surgeon
34th Ala. Regt.

* Rosegarten of Philadelphia



REUBEN MARTIN SEARCY,

The Son of Dr. R. Searcy, of Tuscaloosa, and a Lieutenant in Captain Ashurst's Company, in Mitchell's 34th Regiment of Alabama Volunteers, died in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on the 7th inst., in the 19th year of his age, of a wound which he received on the battle-field, from a shell of the enemy, on the 30th of December last.

The best surgical aid of the army was bestowed upon him. Doctors Leland, Eustis, Pitts and others, were very kind and attentive to him. He was conveyed to the house of Mrs. Thompson, and received from that lady, and other citizens of Murfreesboro, every possible kindness and attention. His early and dear friend, James R. Maxwell, was kindly sent by his Colonel from the battle field to attend to him, and was all the time at his bedside. His older brother, himself being hotly engaged in the combat, night and day, in Capt. Lumsden's Battery, did not fear of his brother being wounded, for two days after. He was kindly permitted by Lieut. H. Cribbs, commanding, to go to his brother and remained with him until his death. These two young men are in the hands of the enemy, but acting as nurses to our wounded soldiers left in the Hospital and private houses in Murfreesboro.

The death of young Searcy has excited universal sympathy in this community. He was the delight of his household, beloved by all his acquaintances, both at home and in the army. He was frank, cheerful, generous, energetic, confident, intelligent, honorable, patriotic and brave, of the purest moral principles and habits. He gave promise of becoming a man of distinction and usefulness. His education was military, he having been a Cadet in the University of Alabama, in which institution he maintained a high position. The noble boy has fallen in the great struggle for the independence of his beloved native land. He died in the confidence of being a Christian, and in the hope of eternal salvation.

Tribute of Respect.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 34th Alabama Regiment,
SHELBYVILLE, TENN., Jan. 14, 1863.

At a meeting of the officers and privates of Company F, held this day, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in the loss of LIEUTENANT R. M. SEARCY and CORPORAL A. J. JOHNSY, in the late Battle at Murfreesboro, the company has lost two of our very best soldiers.

Resolved, That in LIEUT. SEARCY, we have lost not only a model officer, whose pride allowed no company in the Regiment to excel his in the drill, but a young man whose social and moral habits had the praise of all his associates, whose straight-forward, upright course, and gentlemanly bearing, had won the admiration of all the field and staff-officers of the Brigade.

Resolved, That on the bloody field of Murfreesboro, no one fell, of equal rank, whose absence will be more sincerely regretted than that of REUBEN M. SEARCY.

Resolved, That "he fell at his post"—that in his early fall, the Confederate service and the community in which he might have moved in future, lose one who bid fair to make one of the most sprightly men of the South.

Resolved, (by the Secretary); That it was with a feeling of mournful regret and deepest sympathy, that I bore his poor little suffering, mangled body, to the ambulance, to be conveyed to the Hospital.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, be forwarded to the Tuscaloosa Observer, with a request, that the Editor publish them and forward a copy of the same to the family of LT. SEARCY. Also, a copy to the Captain (J. T. Ashurst) of this company.

LIEUT. J. L. BAIRD, Ch'm.
DR. C. S. REEVES, Sec'y.