

For my dear Mother  
at your dear home in  
Harrison County at Charlot  
Courtman

My dear Mother  
I have just received  
your kind letter of the  
13th of Sept. 1862

1862  
Sept. 18th  
1862  
Harrison, Ky.  
Dear Sir!

It is with feelings of sorrow  
and pain, that I write these lines  
to you, who is a stranger to me,  
and to whom I am a stranger  
as well. Would to God, that I  
could begin an acquaintance with  
you with less painful tidings,  
than those, I have to bring to  
you. - On the 14th of Sept. / last  
Sunday an attack was made upon  
the Federal Force at Munfordsville,  
Ky. and Col. Starnes Regiment of  
Cavalry, to which my battery of  
Mountain artillery is attached  
was amongst the assailing party.  
Being exposed to a hot fire of  
shells from a fort, one of them



burst amongst the men, belong-  
ing to my command, and your  
son, Mr. G. Cartwright, was para-  
lyzed by the concussion of the  
shell, and in spite of all our ef-  
forts, he only breathed a few  
minutes after the shock, then  
went into a better land, into the  
land, from whose bourne no tra-  
veler ever returns!

Our retreat from the place being  
rather hasty, we left his body in  
the care of some southern men,  
who voluntarily offered, to have  
a coffin made, and give him a  
decent burial in the graveyard  
of Munfordville, where an inscrip-  
tion upon the same will show  
the place, where your son and our  
beloved comrade rests. His clothing  
as well, as his shawl & blanket  
were left with him. Whatever  
effects and money he had with

him, I took charge of, and send  
them to you by the bearer, Sergt.  
W. D. Erwin, a member of my com-  
pany. I have in my hands a  
claim on the Commissary of Col.  
Starnes Regiment, which I shall  
collect as soon as possible, to-  
gether with the money/wages,  
coming to your son, & which I  
shall then forward to you.

His horse is with me, & I offer  
to buy it for the Government at  
valuation price, which is 165<sup>00</sup> Dol-  
lars. Please inform me, whether  
you are willing to have the  
horse sold or not; if not, what  
disposition to you wish me  
to make of it.

Receive my regards, and for  
your sons sake, accept the assu-  
rance of my friendship from

Yours truly  
Gust. S. Howard  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Comdg. Starnes How.  
Batt.