

Sturgesborough Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 162

M<sup>rs</sup> L. Russell.

Madam.

I have the painful responsibility of communicating the heartrending account of the death of your brave and affectionate Husband. Sad is the loss to our Country and Company, but doubly heart breaking is it to the Family that loved and cherished his kind voice - and the ~~dear~~ Children that fondled gleefully and affectionately around his paternal knee. M<sup>rs</sup> Russell - The Lieutenant was as brave a Patriot as ever battled for National Liberty - loved and respected by all the officers that knew him; looked upon by the Boys of the Company with that kind respect that a dotting Child looks upon a respected Father. He fell about 120. ~~clock in a very hot charge~~

He was pierced through the left breast by a mine ball passing directly through his body. We had been engaged about 4 hours when he fell. He conducted himself with that heroic chivalry that will ever honor his position on the bright pages of our Country's history.

I saw one brave boy of our Company; (who has his left arm shot off) weep as he fought on and told of the death of his brave Lt. M<sup>rs</sup> Russell, & I cannot express my sadness or the gloomy looks of the Company. Lt. Russell left his money and watch with one of the boys at Camp. M<sup>rs</sup> Beck had better come after his things clothes, money &c. We will keep ~~the~~ all of his things till he comes

Very respectfully Lt. W. L. McLaughly

P. S.

A board with his rank and ~~name~~ address is placed at the head of his resting place. May ever rest in peace and his soul housed above with bright-winged angels. We tried to get a coffin to send him home but failed to do so. Respectfully W. L. McLaughly

Far from Home my Brother, and loved ones dear,  
Pleading for Liberty in deadly strife; <sup>(-ful roar</sup>  
While rushing on to Victory; midst the cannon's dread  
Gave gallantly yielded up your life.

Thy bleeding form a generous comrade bore,  
Tenderly; while friend & foe retreating numbers fly;  
When you softly whispered "lay me down;  
Take care of your selves I am dying-"

"Unbuckle my sword and send it home,"  
Was gently murmured by thy failing tongue;  
Thinking doubtless of our grief,  
As it was kindly done.

Ah! Brothers and Sisters of our Cherished South,  
With us, our beloved Maum;  
Shed, Ah! shed kind Tears of Sympathy; <sup>earn</sup>  
While memory fondly lingers round his mouldering



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July 21, 2000  
M&ACostello.1.21jul

**RE: Lt. RUSSELL and Lt. W.L. McGAUGHY**

Your request and check were received. My current charges are \$40.00 an hour for research and report time, plus copy and postage. I do work from a two hour retainer, \$80.00, but will work to any amount of time you specify. If the times needed for the research is less than the retainer you will either be issued a refund or you can leave it as a credit towards additional research. Because of prior commitments I am taking on a limited number of new clients.

Because Chris recommended me to you I thought I would at least run the initial research. The two soldiers found are good possibilities, but at this point they have not been proven. Additional work would be required in other military correspondence and possibly census records to obtain additional information on them.

**Lt. W. L. McGAUGHEY/McGAUGHY:** This may be William L. McGAUGHEY of Company H of the 16<sup>th</sup> AL Infantry. He was Brevetted as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. He signs a voucher on Oct 21, 1861 as 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. W.L. McGAUGHY. The letter is dated Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>/62. His signature differs in each voucher.

**Lt. RUSSELL:** This may be Lt. Benjamin H. RUSSELL also of Company H of the 16<sup>th</sup> AL Infantry. He was carried as "killed" on a list of men in CLEBURNE's Division, HARDEE's Corps, A.T. in the battle of Murfreesboro, TN, Dec. 31, 1862. This would be consistent with the date of the letter.

Both men enlisted in July 1861, in Tuscumbia, AL. According to the Ancestry.com on line gazetteer:

*TUSCUMBIA 1854 U.S. Gazetteer, T, p.1167* a thriving post-village of Franklin co., Alabama, is situated 1 mile S. from the Tennessee river, and 111 miles N. from Tuscaloosa. Steamboats from the Ohio river can ascend to this place in the higher stages of water. Two newspapers are published here. A railroad about 45 miles long extends eastward to Decatur, and forms part of the route of the Memphis and Charleston railroad, which is here intersected by the New Orleans and Nashville railroad, not yet finished.

The AIS Index to the 1860 Federal Census for AL lists a Benjamin H. RUSSELL in Franklin, AL and 2 McGAUGHEY families. More work needs to be done to determine if these are the men listed in the letter.

If you would like additional research done I would be happy to do that as time allows. If you have a time limit that you would want to spend on the research please let me know. I would also need to know if there is a

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TO: Maurice and Anne Costello  
FROM: Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CGRS, CGL

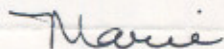
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**RE: RUSSELL and McGHAUGHEY**

a date that you need to have the information by. There are several things in the compiled military service records that can be followed up on.

Sincerely,



Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CGRS, CGL



America Hurrah!

Antiques

July 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Lewis,

We do have the original letter, that was actually delivered to Mrs. Russell. We have had some research done, and enclosed is another copy of the letter, and copy papers of the research. We have other papers from the research, that we will include, if you buy the letter. You may want to continue the research.

We have not offered this important and touching letter for sale. You are the first to be offered... people have told us to put it on E-Bay, but we do not use the internet.

If you are interested in purchasing this letter, the cost is 250<sup>00</sup> ... thanking you for your interest,

sincerely,  
Anne and Maurice Costello