

## Rueben Martin Searcy Letters

Lieutenant, Co. F, 34th Alabama Infantry

Undated Letter

while travelling in Kentucky, and intended to let you have portions of it in each succeeding letter until I had sent it all to you. But I must close as it is about four o'clock and I will have to get ready to start tomorrow morning.

Give my love to all, your son Reuben

Nov 9th 1862

Dear Mother,

Here I am encamped in a dense oak forest about two miles from Tullahoma having marched here from Bridgport [sic] a distance by the road of fifty six miles in three days. We crossed the Cumberland [sic] mountains the second day which makes the third time I have crossed them. We reached this place with about one third of the men we started with, the rest having given out on the way. Most of them have come in since, I commanded Capt [sic] Ashurst company on the move as he had gone home for clothes for his company. The other officers are sick James Maxwell started back to Chattanooga with him last Tuesday to report to the Post Surgeon. I expect that Dr. Stouh has either sent him to an interior hospital or given him furlough to go home. He was not sick much when he left but had suffered from eryocpelius [sic] and diarrhea [sic] and our surgeon recommended change of living for a time and gave his consent for a furlough. If he has not reached home he is at some interior hospital and you will hear from him soon. Please to send what things you think I may need by him, when he returns. I have a bad cold which has settled in my left eye and nearly [illegible] it by swelling my face and affecting the nerve. I am well with this exception. last night was the coldest night I have experienced this winter. There was ice in our water buckets an inch and a half thick.

I started from Chattanooga, [sic] 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 [sic] Col Bennet [sic] of the 24th Ala Regt a very agreeable young man, but an excellent commander, we were ferried over the Tennessee river [sic] at Chattanooga and having past through a fertile and well watered country and crossed the Cumberland, and Walnut ridge, we reached Sparta, a very

pretty village about eighty miles from [illegible] 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[sic], which we reached after several days hard marching - this country was thinly settled and not fertile. We were ferried over the river at Gainesboro a dilapidated looking village on the bank of the river. We continued our march occasionally passing little villages, of not usual note, in one of which, the people told us, Morgan had captured a company of Yankee Cavalry some months since. The third day after we crossed Mt Cumberland, our rations gave out, and we were hastening on to reach Glasgow before night, and were, within four miles of it at four o'clock [sic] in the evening and were whetting [sic] our appetites for the rations we expected to get [illegible] Glasgow, where 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. which place we afterwards called Walnut hill, because our supper was composed principally of the nuts gathered from the trees on the ridge. We remained on the hill till twelve o'clock [sic] that night without water. Then 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 one day. 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 [sic] of every route to our army - (which was at Mumfordsville [sic] about 20 miles distant) except a rough country road which would take us fifteen miles out of the direct route. We marched fifteen miles that [missing part] enemies [sic] 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. Gen'l [sic] Bragg ordered our Col. to have us put upon the wagons, we were so completely worn out. We marched 17 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 and children, But the men looked like cowed dogs. we camped the night after we reached B- in the [illegible] 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 was 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 24 - 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. [illegible] remained till the 4th of October, during which time brother called on me and I called on brother which was the first and last time we saw each other on the route. On the 5th we marched to Perryville. On the 6th we marched through Harrodsburg - and camp 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 [sic] that night and marched 12 miles on the Frankfort road and camped just before day.

Please to send me by James, a pocket knife pencil - and pocket dictionary.

Give my love to all, your so, Reuben

Camp near Tullahoma

Dear Sister Stella,

It is now nearly Fathers [sic] bed time but not feeling sleepy I have concluded to take a chat with you. I wrote to mother soon after we reached here. But I have not heard from home since the first of of [sic] Sept. Our camp is situated on an immense oak forest near a large spring, about a mile and a half from Tullahoma, 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 [illegible] 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 [sic] six and it was then after one o'clock [sic]. 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. Gen'l [sic] Bragg, reached here last night, and I expect we will have stirring times here soon. t 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 wrote 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 cadets at the university getting along? Are our Mobile friends still in Tuscaloosa [sic]? 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 and small

your brother Reuben

Camp near Tullahoma, Nov. 20th 1862

dear Sister Evi,

Here we are still in camp near Tullahoma, but I do not think we will stay here any longer [illegible] till we change our commander in chief. Gen'l [sic] Johnson is expected here to take command every minute and the soldiers hail his coming with joyful hearts. They all hate Gen'l [sic] Braggs tyranny - and have not confidence in him as a general. We get an abundance of the substantials [sic] of life to eat here, But this country is so poor immediately around, that we can procure no delicacies. large quantities of commissary stores, are being transported on this road to Chattanooga. We have been living on flour bread so long, that the other day, we considered some meal mush was issued to us as quite a luxury.

21st 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 Irish cartridges and return all damages [illegible], 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 [illegible] has gotten back again – am sorry to hear of cousin Johns [sic] death. the troops have been moving about here so much that I have not sent brother those letters, for fear that he would not get them. I am expecting James Maxwell back in two or three days as he expected to be absent only 21 days. I [illegible] he has been having a fine time at home. Tell Mother I do not want her to work hard or trouble her her [sic] mind, about, me, for I have learned to take things as they come and am contented with most anything. Tell Stella to tell that young lady who sent her love to me that I can exclaim to her in the Language of Shakespeare "Oh! experience might have told me, "All must love thee – who behold thee." I received the other day a beautiful gilt edge flag (from a young lady in Alabama), accompanied with some very appropriate lines which I have since acknowledged by letter.

Sister I sent home by James Maxwell a pistol I carried through the Kentucky campaign Also a shell from the Cumberland Gap and a breast pin that fell to me it was part of the spoils – taken at Goldsboro I also received some paper and envelopes, some eatables, cheese oysters and pickles I wrote to sister Stella four or five days ago – and sent you all a part of the journal I kept on the Kentucky Campaign I will now copy you a few more lines.

We remained in line of Battle on the eighth of Oct [sic] I was put in a [crossed out] command of a company of skirmishers by Col. J. C. B. Mitchell, and had to remain in an advance position in the sun all 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 [illegible] the camp we left on the seventh. We lost only three men in this skirmish. On the tenth we marched back through Harrodsburg [sic]— in a cold drenching rain and formed in line of battle on salt river [sic], and remained in the rain all night - without covering or provisions. On the eleventh - we went back again through Harrodsburg [sic] and took the Bryantsville [sic] Pike- crossed Dick river [sic], and camped five miles from Camp Dick 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 Bryantsville [sic] and Lancaster and Lancaster [sic], 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 Dick Robinson, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. On the 15th we marched through Crab Orchard- on the 16th through Mount Vernon and camped on [illegible] 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 we 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 and 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

Camp near Murfreesboro, Dec 5th 1862

Dear Mother

Here I am near Murfreesboro on a fork of Stones [sic] river [sic], about three miles from the city. We are now in the midst of a heavy snow storm, which makes me stay within doors, or tent and hug my blankets, to keep warm. I received yours and Sister Evie's letters of the 21st eight 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 15 [illegable] miles south west of here. I reckon brother was mistaken about cousin Thomas being in this Brigade, for the 16th Tennessee Regt is not in this Brigade. You enquire [sic] Mother about my eye. I cannot see with it well enough to read yet. It is only the nerve that is

affected, my eye and 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 Leland the other day he came to see me. He is in good health. Their Regt is camped 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 clothing from the government, except an excellent pair of army shoes. They are the best article that I have seen, I suspect they are some of our Kentucky spoils. I will put this letter in charge of a friend to be mailed at Chattanooga. Give my love to all,  
your son Rueben

Camp near Murfreesboro Dec [sic] 12th 1862

Dear Father,

I received yesterday those letters you sent by Cap Robertson and today the bundle and all its contents. I was in town yesterday evening when Capt [sic] 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 thee bundle and gone to see me. I then returned and found my bundle and did not see him. I am very much obliged to you for those things.

I saw Dr [illegible] Toxey in town the other day and had a sociable chat with him and 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. Toxey 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 [sic] of the nerve. It had got much better, but the other day when it snowed I took fresh cold and [illegible] made it worse. I am in good health. I weigh one hundred and forty pounds, five more than I ever weighed before. We have been having some very cold weather, the ice on the river was thick enough to skate on for three or four days. On the 6th of Dec [sic] I was elected 3rd Lieut [sic] in Capt [sic] Ashursts [sic] company. On the 9th I and another newly elected Lieut [sic], was examined by a Board appointed to relieve the army of incompetent officers. I passed a satisfactory examination and received my commission, while my companion was rejected as incompetent. Lieut [sic] Wright resigned and went home. Capt [sic] 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. A 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 chimney built to my tent, and a very little fire in it makes my tent quite comfortable. The chimney is in the door, so that I pass into the ten by the side of it. I have delayed finishing my letter, Father, because I have been waiting for James Maxwell to come. Please tell him if he dont [sic] [illegible] his lazy bones and come back, I shall be after him. Tell Mother if James has not left yet, to have my dress coat rigged up with Lieut [sic] stripes. And if he had left to send me about a foot of that gold lace on those Chevroons [sic] in my drawer, send it by letter. I have received several letters from home since I wrote last, some of them of late dates and others "back rations". Gen'l [sic] 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 thousand men – fully equipped and in martial array – with their musical bands playing. President Davis was dressed in citizens [sic] clothes and mounted on a fine black charger, and accompanied by most of our Gen'ls [sic], and between seventy five and hundred aids [sic] and his body guard. President Davis passed within ten steps of me and I got a good look at him. Tell Mother that Col [sic] Mitchell brought me two pair of nice woollen [sic] socks from his home, and I have now gotten an abundance of them. Tell cousin [illegible] as soon as I get time I will write to her on the paper she sent me. Give my love to Aunt Paulie. I received a note from Chancellor 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 and with all my clothing. Tell Mother I am more than satisfied with my clothing both in quantity and quality.

Undated Letter

[Missing Text] Tell Pa I had a fine possum for dinner yesterday which one of our men caught and invited me to help eat it. I have not heard from brother since we were at Bardstown, nor from home since the first of Sept [sic], nearly two and half months. Col [sic] Mitchell has not come back yet. I wrote home last Monday from Bridgport [sic]. I will now give you some of the journal kept during our march in Gen'l [sic] Braggs [sic] Kentucky campaign.

I started from Chattanooga, [sic] 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 [sic] Col Bennet [sic] of the 24th Ala Regt a very agreeable young man, but an excellent commander, we were ferried over the Tennessee river[sic] at Chattanooga and having past through a fertile and well watered country and crossed the Cumberland, and Walnut ridge, we reached Sparta, a very pretty village about eighty miles from [illegible] 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[sic], which we reached after several days hard marching - this country was thinly settled and not fertile. We were ferried over the river at Gainesboro a dilapidated looking village on the bank of the river. We continued our march occasionally passing little villages, of not usual note, in one of which, the people told us, Morgan had captured a company of Yankee Cavalry some months since. The third day after we crossed Mt Cumberland, our rations gave out, and we were hastening on to reach Glasgow before night, and were, within four miles of it at four o'clock [sic] in the evening and were whetting [sic] our appetites for the rations we expected to get [illegible] Glasgow, where 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. which place we afterwards called Walnut hill, because our supper was composed principally of the nuts gathered from the trees on the ridge. We remained on the hill till twelve o'clock [sic] that night without water. Then 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 one day. 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 [sic] of every route to our army - (which was at Mumfordsville [sic] about 20 miles distant) except a rough country road which would take us fifteen miles out of the direct route. We marched fifteen miles that [missing part]

Undated Letter

[Missing Text]

Mother I am getting along here very well, and I do not want you or father to give yourselves any trouble about me, for I am getting large enough to take care of myself. You need not think Father, by this expression that I intend to marry and square off, but simply not to give yourselves any uneasiness about me. We hear here that nearly all the young Ladies about Tuscaloosa [sic] are getting married. Tell Sister Stella that she must save one of them for me. For if this 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 [simply a dotted line here]



Tell her that when she finds a beauty like the one I have described to make an engagement whether she is willing or not – and write to me immediately – and I will come home on the strength of it and prove to her that it is a military necessity. This is sufficient about my future love. Tell Father that my eye sight is improving. James Maxwell and servant are well and doing well. Love to all-

Respectfully submitted your son Reuben

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

This was Reubens [sic] last letter.

Reuben's death

he is gone! yes! our dear Reuben has fallen! He is dead! he was mortally wounded on the 30th of Dec [sic] 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 [sic] – 1863- at the house of a Mrs [sic] Thompson in Murfreesboro.

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

A copy of the telegram and letters sent by brother James and his friend J Maxwell in relation to his being wounded suffering- and death.

1st Telegram

Murfreesboro, ~~Jan~~ [sic] Dec 30th 1862 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 [sic] 1st 1863 Thursday

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

J. T. Searcy

3rd Telegram

Murfreesboro, Jan. [sic] 8th – 1863, Saturday

Reuben is doing as well as possible. Dr [sic] Leland attend [sic] him.

J. R. Maxwell

Dr [sic] Searcy and Mr [illegible] started in two hours after the reception of the first telegram to go to the dear suffering child. But the Confederate army fell back, giving up Murfreesboro to the Federals – on the night of the third Jan [sic] – And his Father after getting within twenty five miles of him, had to turn back – He saw Dr [sic] Eustis who dressed poor Reubens wound, and learned that there was no hope of his recovery. Dr [sic] Searcy left Mr [illegible] at Chattanooga – Mr T. went to the army to visit Charley in [illegible] Battery – and Dr. Searcy reached home Sunday- Jan [sic] 12th with a very sad heart.

Murfreesboro Jan [sic] 1st/63 Thursday

Dear Father,

I have telegraphed to you twice or rather James Maxwell and 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 [sic] Thompsons – near Gen'l [sic] Braggs [sic] head quarters [sic]. I shall stay with him at all hazzards [sic]. 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 Reuben. Dr's Caleb and William Toxey call to see him frequently – as well as Dr [sic] Eustis, from Mobile – Breckenrige [sic] 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 [sic] 1st 1863

Dear Father,

I have the sad intelligence to write you that Reuben was severely wounded last tuesday [sic] evening by a piece of shell in both thighs lacerating one very much – exposing the arteries. I heard it this morning while out in line. I am now with him. the surgeons pronounce them dangerous wounds. I shall stay with him at all hazzards [sic]. God be with him. He is perfectly rational, talks with me as well as ever. He is at a private house – Mrs [sic] Thompsons, near Gen'l [sic] Braggs [sic] head quarters [sic]. he has every attention. Dr [sic] Eustis Chief Surgeon of Breckenrige [sic] Division, attends him- James Maxwell is here with me. The boys of our Battery are well- none hurt. Pray God for Reuben- God be with and defend our cause. Reuben has no bones broken. I dont [sic] know how to send this – but will try every means to get it off.

James Searcy

Murfreesboro, Jan [sic] 2nd 1863 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 [sic] Eustis and Dr [sic] Leland attend him, have just finished dressing his wounds. Dr [sic] Eustis says they look much better this morning. Dr [sic] Leland first found it out yesterday evening and came to see him. He says Reubens [sic] 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 and Dr [sic] William Cunningham came to see him last night. Caleb and William Toxey call when they can. Mrs [sic] 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 and can get money in plenty.

The boys of our Battery are well so far.

James

Murfreesboro, Jan [sic] 3rd 1863 Saturday

Dear Mother,

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 wound. 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 doing so, to avoid the shells. Col [sic] Mitchell came in from the front lines, last night, to see him. The whole regt [sic] are very much concerned for his welfare, Even the negroes [sic] from the wagons, below town – have been up to see him. I have every thing that can be obtained by the surgeons either, from his Division Hospital or Dr [sic] Lelands [sic] Hospital. Dr [sic] Leland comes to see him as often as he can. Reuben is perfectly in his senses, and bears it heroically. Dr [sic] [illegible] a celebrated surgeon (perhaps you may have heard of him) attends and dresses his wounds every morning. I shall expect father now – in a day or two- if he received 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

Murfreesboro, Jan 30/63 Saturday

My dearest 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. Mr. Eustis came in to see him. He is very kind to us, to attend Reuben. A Doctor from the southern part of [illegible] has volunteered to take this letter, and mail it some where in Ga [sic] – so I feel more sure of you getting it than any of the other four letters I have sent you. Mr. Reuben rested tolerably well last night. I at his request, have been reading to him in the bible [sic] this morning. I shall stay with him at all hazard [sic] so know that I am with him, no matter what happens. Dr [sic] Leland has not been here yet, this morning. Willie has just left tho' [sic] 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 dont [sic] fear any thing.

Dr [sic] Pitts came in to see Reuben this morning. He is the surgeon of the 34th Ala. There is another Alabamian – a Capt [sic]- 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 beset us.

Mr [sic] Spence, who was in Tuskaloose [sic] 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 [sic] Lurnsden 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.

James

James Maxwell is still with me.

Murfreesboro, Tenn [sic], Jan 9th 1863 Friday

My dear Mother,

I do not know now how I can a letter to you through the lines but I must write. probably I can get some of our paroled soldiers to carry it through across the lines. There was a Dr [sic] Hindon 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 wednesay [sic] 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 [sic], I at his own request read the bible [sic] 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, and head stone with his name deeply cut in it. Mrs [sic] Thompson and Mrs [sic] Wendel her sister were very kind to us. Mr [sic] Wendel is related to the Searcy's. He says – that Mrs. Turner of Huntsville was his cousin. James Maxwell a noble boy, staid [sic] with Reuben and me. We are still at the house of Mrs [sic] 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 Fanny. Reuben

while wounded Friday, Jan. [sic] 2nd received a letter from you. it comforted him very much. I read it to him- two or three times. There are now at Mrs [sic] Thompsons – some of our wounded, among them – Capt. Bickerstaff and Mr [sic] Miller of the 34th Ala. Reuben was beloved by his company and regt. mother do not grieve for him. He died for his country. He died not fearing- but welcoming death, a christian [sic] and was as well attended in his sufferings a great deal better than most soldiers are. Receiving a decent burial. God I pray, may support you and Father. We will come home some day I presume before long. James and I are of great value here, even our inexperienced services. Nurses are scarce, hardly enough to bury the dead. So do not be concerned for us. The enemy have treated us well so far. We have friends here. The ladies are untiring, in their exertions for our wounded. James Maxwell and I are hereafter firm friends. May God support and comfort you in the prayer of your son

James T. Searcy

Shelbyville Jan [sic] 19th/63

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 [sic] in the morning. Sir it makes my heart [illegible], 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 [sic] night and on tuesday [sic] became heavily engaged in skirmishing with the enemy, bearing himself gallantly. and holding the enemy in check – untill [sic] 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 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 [sic] the night before our army fell back. I found him cheerfull [sic] which made me hopeful of his recovery. Mrs [sic] 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. Dr [sic] I can well appreciate the heavy blow inflicted upon parents in the fall of such a noble and gallant son. True to his country – to the cause- at all times ready to perform his whole duty as a soldier. had the affections of the entire Reg't [sic] who feel deeply sad for his fate. yes! they mourn his fall. In him the country has lost a true and gallant soldier and his parents a worthy and noble son. And our command deeply sympathise [sic] with them in their bereavement.

Information also received, that James Searcy and Maxwell and doing well- Maxwell was left to wait on, and nurse Lieut [sic] Searcy

Respectfully yours

J.C.B. Mitchell

Col. commanding 34th Ala.

Shelbyville, Jan [sic] 22nd 1863

Mr Thos [sic] Maxwell

Dear Sir,

I received yours of Jan [sic] 13th. You ask if your son was left in Murfreesboro, after our army fell back- after the 31st Dec. He was left as the devoted friend of Lieut [sic] 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 [sic] Searcy. On the 19th of Jan [sic], I think it was – I received information that Lieut [sic] Searcy died on the 7th of said month- and that James Searcy and James Maxwell were doing well – yet they must be prisoners in the hands of the enemy. When Lieut [sic] 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. My best respects to Dr [sic] Searcy and Lady, and the most heart felt grief for their loss, in the death of their son Lieut [sic] Searcy.

yours respectfully

J.C.B. Mitchell

Clayton, ALA. [sic] Jan 14th 1863.

Dear Sir

On Saturday night (12 oclock [sic]) after the battle of Murfreesboro I parted with your two sons- Reuben and J.T. Searcy. Reuben, you know was badly wounded – yet he seemed cheerful and hopeful. They were unaware, that they were to be left untill [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] Thompson lives in a two story brick house on the corner of a block- about half way between the – C- H- and the Baptist female college.

I shall return to the army very soon, as my wound is now healing finely, and the Dr [sic] thinks 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 [sic] J.C. Clayton whom I was compelled to leave badly wounded in Murfreesboro, and in doing so I shall also enquire [sic] for your sons. If I succeed I will communicate with you again - On my return I shall go by my Fathers [sic], Mr [sic] Nelson Clayton near Opelika, Ala. [sic] if you will send a letter or any thing, you desire for your son I will try to have it delivered.

very respectfully yours

Obt [sic] servant,

H.L. Clayton 39th Reg't [sic] Ala [sic] 1st Brigade Withers Division

Tullahoma, Feb [sic] 1st 1863

Dear James

James T. Searcy is now a nurse in the hospital at Murfreesboro. Our Surgeon who has just returned from M- says James looked to be in fine health. he says that Reuben had every attention. In the notice of Reuben, in the Observer, I was surprised to see no mention was made of Dr. Caleb Toxey, who was the first of his friends, who found him. He was then in a crowded room- with wounded men all around him. Caleb recognized him, and had him removed to a private house and got his Col. – to detail James Maxwell to nurse him. The next day J [illegible] 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 and told James- and sent him to Lieut. Cribbs, to get permission to go to him, which he willingly granted. Caleb said he never saw so sweet a smile, on a human face, as was Reubens [sic], 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 he never felt so sorry for any one in his life. Caleb thought he might live about eight or nine days, and such proved to be the case. Reuben and Ben [illegible] were my favorites, of all the Tuscaloosa [sic] boys. There was something so manly- honest- and 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'ts [sic] broken and driven back by then 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 fields. 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 cannister 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 shell exploding around them, and whizzing through the air. The beautiful Flag which was presented to us at Tus- 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 [illegible] and the Capt. horse wh[sic] he was riding – to one of the men to hold, and took his place at the guns, as a cannoneer. John is as cool in times of danger, as he is sober sided at home. James Searcy was chief of one of the Caisons [sic], which I had charge of – and not only attended to his own work, but that of the other chief of Caison [sic], who was sick, Gen'l [sic] Bragg and Pol were stationed near us some time, But the Yankees saw these escorts of cavalry- and directed a battery on them so that they thought it prudent to change their position but we had to stand, and take it till the Yankees turned their fire on some other point. we were not exposed half as much as at Perryville. The Infantry did the heavy hard fighting- but our men, did their duty obeying orders – and executing them well. The fighting on Friday Jan [sic] 2nd was desperate in the extreme.

your brother

George Little

Camp near Murfreesboro, Dec [sic] 26th 1862

Dear Mother,

Christmas has come and gone, But how differently did I celebrate its coming this year. 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 whiskey 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. Reg't. [sic], 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 [sic] camp is about a mile and 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 28<sup>th</sup> Ala. Regt – being shot. Today we had to witness two more from the same regiment. Our Brigade has marched out fully accoutred [sic] – in the midst of a heavy rain to witness their execution. It was hard to witness it. Scarcely a day passes- but we hear the booming of cannon. A 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 I heard several guns boom forth. I expect Mother that you have heard- of the orders 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 informed by Gen'l [sic] 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 placed in command. I will also state that Gen'l [sic] 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 and one to cousin Sue [missing text]

Murfreesboro, Tenn [sic] Jan [sic] 9th 1863

Dear Father

By the courtesy of Mr [sic] Hindon of Green County, I am enabled to write to you. He has been to the Asylum at Nashville to get his daughter and carry her home, and will be permitted to pass the lines to his own state. James Searcy and myself watched by the bedside of poor Reuben till his death which occurred on the 7th in the morning. Poor boy he suffered greatly, all the while, but passed away from earth quite easily. let us hope to a better land. He was in so much pain that it was found necessary to keep him under the influence of Morphine all the time. It was our intention to get our Paroles and start for home immediately, But the surgeons of our Brigade, have prevailed on us to stay and assist them in dressing the wounds of our men. We shall be of great service [crossed out] here in this way and do much good. I do not suppose we can be able 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 situated. We are boarding at the house of Mrs [sic] Thompson, just opposite to the Head Quarters of the Yankee Gen'l [sic] 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 soldiery -nor they with us. Our business is to make the rounds of the hospital daily, dressing the wounded and then return home. So you see we are better off in respect to board and lodging – than if were in camps, though of course we are not so well satisfied. the night our army retreated I sent Jim off with the army in charge of Dr [sic] Leland – who was kind enough to promise, to take care of him until he could get to our Reg't. [sic] 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 Reuben and myself all the time. Now I have a chance I intend to write some good long letters to [illegible] to those who will rejoice to hear from me and to know that I am well. And besides I can give them tolerably late news form 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.

I know that you think I did exactly right, in staying with Poor Reuben Searcy. I would not – I could not have left him – who had been my friend from childhood, under the circumstances. It was impossible for James Searcy to sit up night after night, without help – and of course it was my place to stay – and help to keep the poor boy as comfortable as possible. The Lady of the house is a true Southern Woman – (Mrs [sic] Thompson- as are many of the Ladies about here and the wounded 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 and sympathy to the Searcy family, and love to all- Good bye-

your affec [sic] son

James R Maxwell

Murfreesboro Jan 3rd 63

Dear Father

I am still at the house of Mrs [sic] 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 open again soon. I dont [sic] 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 [illegible] 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 before. May God spare his life is the prayer of your son James.

Murfreesboro, Jan. 3rd midnight

Dear Father

I write hurriedly to let you that I am well, But have to stay with poor Reuben, by advice of Dr [sic] Leland, and my duty is to do so. Dont [sic] give yourself any uneasiness about me. Give my love to all. Good bye – your affec [sic] son

James R. Maxwell

Murfreesboro Jan [sic] 1st 63

Dear Father

[illegible] so I can now say that the battle of Murfreesboro, is [illegible] well at an end, although we can still hear firing at a distance. Last Sunday morning we marched out from camp to about two miles from town and were formed in line of battle. Here we remained without hearing or seeing Yankees, untill [sic] monday [sic] morning when the first firing commenced in our front. We, our Reg't [sic] were in sight of the Nashville Pike, to the left of it. Monday night Reubens [sic] 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 lost only one or two who were slightly wounded until the last shell that evening which burst above the Reg't [sic] and caused the wounding of poor Reuben. From James Searcys [sic] letter and two [illegible] 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 hurt 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 scoundrells [sic] have been beaten and are now on the retreat. So James Searcy has come to attend to Reuben. I will have to go to my Reg't [sic] this evening- It is after the Yankees somewhere. I dont [sic] know where I will find it. Give my love to all. Good bye.

your affec [sic] son

James R Maxwell

Camp near Shelbyville Mar [sic] 2nd/63

Mrs Searcy

Dear Friend

I received a letter from 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 though tit 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 one that he knew. He then told me that he was wounded and asked me to examine his wounds, which I found had been partially 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. I then fixed his pallet 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 morning. 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 and had him detailed as a nurse for Reuben. I also told him where he might find a private house to carry Reuben to 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.

Brother and myself visited him every day until the army fell back. In our visits we never heard him complain of much pain. But always appeared to be in good spirits and would frequently ask "What is the news from the Front". I cannot say more than that he bore his sufferings like a soldier, and seemed to 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 [crossed out that we illegible 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 Toxey

Near Shelbyville Tenn [sic] Mar. [sic] 18th 1863

Dr Reuben Searcy

Dear Sir,

Your letter to Capt [sic] J.L. Ashurst came to hand yesterday, It having been sixteen days on the way. Capt [sic] R. G. Welch the successor of Capt [sic] Ashurst, he having resigned and gone home some two months ago, on account 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 messed together and slept side by side for many months. It must embrace all when I tell you that I loved him [cross out like] a brother. He was my dear friend, both, mutually, having been [illegible], at honorable promotions. We naturally sympathised [sic] with each other, and he being of a turn of mind exactly suited to my fancy. Throughout the long and tedious Kentucky Campaign, we walked near each other. Often have I heard it remembered, that his powers of endurance, on the march, exceeded those of his comrades. Going often 25 [illegible] miles a day- often without nourishment, except, muddy water while many poor fellows would give out and say hard words, he was always ready with a [illegible] smile to "[illegible] 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, presume Capt [sic] Ashurst can inform you.

I slept with him on a pile of corn stalks, the cold night, before he was shot. We talked untill [sic] a late hour. He spoke of the probable results of the morrow to our cause, and seemed buoyant. On monday [sic] evening his company was ordered out on Picket, he being at the time the only commissioned officer in it – They went out with a company of the 10th South Carolina Rt. [sic], under Lieut. CC White, now Capt [sic] White, commanding Co. A of that Reg't [sic] a brave and noble man. The Yankee cavalry charged them. Killed one of the S.C. privates, and took the Capt [sic] prisoner. By an adroit and dexterous movement on the part of Searcy, and the tremendous power of the fists of Capt [sic] W. the Yankee Major [side note says Rosengarten of Philadelphia] (commanding) was unhorsed and killed – together with six others, and soon three or four taken prisoners. It was all the work of five minutes. The Yankees ran, the Major's horse (a fine one) – saddle- sword- and pistol all fell into the hands of Lieut [sic] White. he gave your son the pistol should you wish to address him address to this officer care of Col. Manigault. The letter you wrote I will immediately enclose to Capt [sic] Ashurst.

Please remember me to your family, and blieve [sic] me on account of your son, truly yours, G.S. Reeves, ast [sic] surgeon 34th Ala Regt

Reuben Searcy Newspaper Article

## 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. [sic], on the 7th inst. [sic], 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. Doct'rs [sic] 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 bed-side. His older brother, himself being hotly engaged, in the combat, night and day, in Capt. Lumsden's Battery, did not hear 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 the household, beloved by all his acquaintances, both at home and in the

army. He was frank, cheerful, generous, energetic, confiding, 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 [sic], and in the hope of eternal salvation.

Newspaper Article

Tribute of Respect

Head Quarters 34th Alabama Regiment

SHELBYVILLE TENN. [sic] Jan. [sic] 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 of Murfreesboro', the company has lost two of our very best soldiers.

Resolved, That is 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, loose [sic] 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. [sic]

Dr. C. S. REEVES, Sec'y. [sic]

