

## M T Cartwright Letter

[written on envelope: Come to Cherry valley get your Sons [sic] things in Willson [sic] County at Sarah Cristman]

[envelope address: Mr [sic] Cartwright Esq Goodlettsville Davidson Co Tenn [sic]]

Lebanon, Ky. Sept. 10th 1862

Mr [sic] Cartwright, Esq

Davidson Co Tenn [sic]

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 day of Sept. (last Sunday) an attack was made upon the Federal Force at Munfordsville [sic], Ky. and Col. Starnes [sic] 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, belonging to my command, and your son, M.T. Cartwright, was paralyzed by the concussion of the shell, and in spite of all our efforts, he only breathed a few minutes after the shock, then went into a better land, into the land, from whose bourne [sic] no traveller [sic] ever returns!

Our retreat from the place being rather hasty. we left his body in the care of some southern men (citizens), who voluntarily offered, to have a coffin made, and give him a decent burial in the graveyard Munfordsville [sic], where an inscription upon the same will show the place, where your son and our beloved comrade rests. His clothing as well, as his shawl and blanket [sic] 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 [sic] W.D. Ervin, a member of my company. I have in my hands a claim on the Commissary of Col. Starnes [sic] Regiment, which I shall collect as soon as possible, together with the (money) wages, coming to your son, and which I shall then forward to you.

His horse is with me, and I offer to buy it for the Government at valuation price, which is 165 Dollars. Please inform me, whether you are willing to have the horse sold or not; if not, what disposition do you wish me to make of it.

Receive my regards, and for your sons [sic] sake, accept the assurance of my friendship from

Yours truly Gust. A. [illegible]

1st Lt. comdg. Starnes [illegible] Batt.