

Letter from Captain Williams from a Newspaper Article

LETTER FROM CAPT. WILLIAMS

CAME 2 MILES SOUTH OF

Murfreesboro, Jan. 9, 1863.

COL. DANFORTH, Dear Sir: - On the morning of the 26th of December, our wing of the Cumberland army (the right) advanced along the Nolansville [sic] Pike, (it being understood the centre [sic] and left were advancing on the Murfreesboro Pike) skirmishing with the enemy, until we arrived at Nolansville [sic], 14 miles, where we encamped for the night. The next morning we advanced to Tryune [sic], 6 miles, and encamped. The next morning, took a cross road towards Murfreesboro Pike and took a position about three miles to the right of Murfreesboro.

At daylight we were attacked by a heavy force of the enemy, and were driven back about 1½ miles. During this retreat we lost the most of our men. This was the 31st. The whole right wing was driven back. Our regiment lost 149 men, in killed, wounded and missing.

My company (F) lost:

Killed – Privates, Moses S. Beaver, of Zuma; and Elijah Youlin, of Hampton.

Wounded. – Ord'ly [sic] Serg't [sic] James F. Copp, of Rock Island, in the arm; Serg't [sic] Jessie S. Prescott, of Rock Island, shoulder; Privates, Joseph Goyer, of Hampton, shoulder; H.S. Fitch, of Hampton, leg; Ira Bridgeford, of Coal valley, leg.

Missing – Ser't [sic] Jos. Cushman, Corp. Jason Wallace, Musician Walter Huff, Privates Jos. Babbitt, James Perkins, Russell Huntly, Wash. Cox, Curtis B. Knox, William Chamberlain, Addison Weaver, Reuben L. Kelly, Henry Couch, Wm. Golden.

Total – 2 killed, 5 wounded, 13 missing.

Wm. Golden has been heard from, in Nashville, unhurt, - a cowardly skedaddler [sic]. The balance are undoubtedly prisoners.

The letter carrier has called for this letter and I must close.

I am unhurt.

I consider this battle a hard one, but the result indecisive. We must fight again to make it tell with effect.

We captured nothing worth mentioning. My opinion is we lost more killed, wounded and prisoners, than the enemy. They captured the most artillery.

I will write again more at my leisure.

Yours truly, W.D. WILLIAMS.

P.S. – I have been in command of the regiment since Jan. 1st, L't. [sic] Col. Hotchkiss having been sick. He has recovered and will resume command to morrow [sic]. Our major, W.J. Hall, is a prisoner, and I am acting lieutenant colonel.

In haste,

W.D.W.