

Fort Donelson Tenn

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Father

Our

Forces are now occupying Fort Donelson. But our loss is very heavy. Alas for the Eleventh Regiment and more especially Company I. We had 3 killed and all that went into Action wounded but 2 privates 1 corporal and our first Lieut. But the worst news of all poor Jerry was killed and Billy was shot through the left wrist and one bone broken. All our Lacon Boys were wounded. Albert Bone Andrew wife a nephew of Capt Meyers John Larr Frank Frasier Jim Venney. Mr Ellsbury's son was killed Jerry and Capt Meyers

Nephew, We have one corporal  
missing and 3 privates. There were  
fifty men killed out of the Eleventh  
Regiment - on the ~~the~~ field a great many  
of the wounded will die some have  
died already. Supt. Blackstone was  
hit with three spent balls neither  
doing him any serious injury I was  
not in the fight myself on account  
of my being in the hospital and not  
getting here in time for the fight  
& I was however in hearing of the  
gunst and arrived just as  
our regiment was retreating John  
Larr was in the first one I met going  
to the Hospital which was established  
a mile or two from the scene of  
action our regiment was the last  
one to leave the field they had  
Texans on both sides of them  
on one side were Cavalry in front  
were the Texans and they were  
bushwhacking and our boys were

Taking it standing in line and as cool as though they were going to dinner. Billy killed three men after his arm was broken and used Bayoneting one and shooting the other two Jerry never flinched ~~but~~ stood up to them when a man he was shot through the breast-

they robbed him of every thing he had even his Boots he had a little money and all his clothes they took all even his ~~hat~~ cap which was a nice cap. Our ~~capt~~ cried over his Regt and in fact we all cried over our ~~capt~~ Capt. Shaw was killed on the field Plummer has died of his wounds I was detailed to take care of the wounded and dead and it was an awful sight our poor boys lying on the ground in piles and in a place where we could not get to them for the enemy's grape and shell and the poor boys was laid

out all night one of the coldest  
nights we have had here and it was  
very cold I tell you.

some of them have only just been  
brought in and ~~two~~ have been out  
~~two~~ ~~with~~ three nights,

Reg. Rep. has only 130 effective  
men in it at this time,

I am well with the exceptions of  
being nearly worn out with hard  
work. I thank you that I was out  
in the Fight I am your most  
Obedient son

C. R. McKinney