



**MSS219 David N. Lilley Letters, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters,
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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

5-11-63

Camp near Falmouth Va

May 11th 1863

My Dear Mother

I take this opportunity of
dropping you a few lines to inform you that
that I am well at this time hoping this may
find you all the same. Since I last wrote
to you we have had hard fighting to do
we lost nineteen men out of our company
Lieutenant E Gordan was killed Asbury
McLanahan and Thomas Miller was taken
prisoner by the enemy Amos McNeal and
George was taken by the enemy Henderson
Scott of Turkeytown has his leg broken
and taken off Hester Smith of Cherry
Hill has his leg taken off Robert McCullen
was shot through the face but he will get
well William Forons was wounded badly
Wash Heath was wounded slightly Joel Lacy
was taken by the enemy our loss was
heavy the regiment lost ninety men in all

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and taken off Hester Smith of Cherry Hill had his
leg taken off Robert McCullen was Shot through the
face But he will get well William [Forons??] was
wounded Badly Wash Heath was wounded Slightly
Joel Lacy was taken By the enemy our loss was
heavy the regiment lost ninety men in all

I was in the fight and escaped unhurt
our regiment was in the fight on Saturday
about two hours and we was in the fight
Sunday morning for full three hours that
is the reason we lost so many men each
man fired seventy rounds of Cartridge
that is a thing that is seldom ever done
this is considered the hardest Battle of the
war we was not whipped but we had
to fall back on account of our pontoon
bridges the Rappahannock river was very
high and General Hooker was afraid
they would be washed away and if had
been washed away we could not have
got any thing for the men to eat our army
fought like tigers and they appear ready
for too fight whenever they are called on
the fighting lasted five days and some
times they would fight at night each
man trying to take the advantage of the
other the fighting is now over and we
are back in our old camp

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Days and Some times they would fight at night
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the fighting is now over and we are Back in our old
Camp

this is a verry warm Day the weather
has Been very warm here for too or three
Days past the apple trees and peach
trees are out in full Bloom and By
the time they are Blooming next Spring
I hope I will Be with you all and Be
one Among the family I Dont think
the war will last over this Summer the rebs
Says they have got a new general they call
him General Starvation and you know
if Starvation is about they Cannot
Stand it much longer for you know
hunger will make a man give in when nothing
Else will I would like to tell you all
about the fight But I suppose you
have heard about it Before this time
the Boys of the Company are all well
what is left of them Samuel Biddle
Says he is fat ragged Sacusy and every thing
els president lincoln was Down from
washing last week he came to look at the
army he found them all right

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[Sacusy??] and every thing else president lincoln
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at the army he found them all right

a few more words And I will Close
first I Dont want You to Be uneasy
or Concerned for my Safty remember this
is the Best Government in the known world
that I am fighting for tis that Beautiful
flag why mother I could more see
that good old flag trampled on
not So mother if tis gods will I would
Sooner Drop my Youthful head
that to see our glorious Baner Disounered
So Do not Be uneasy for me

I will Close my letter
From your affectionate Son

David Lilley
Send this letter to Annie
for I have not time to
write to her now

David Lilley
Soon)

a few more words And I will Close first I Dont want
you to Be uneasy or Concerned for my Safty
remember this is the Best Government in the known
world that I am fighting for tis that Beautiful flag
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