



**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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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  
Briges the rappahannock river was very  
high and general Hooker was affraid  
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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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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