

College Hospital
Near Gettysburg Penn
July 15th 1863

Mr P. G. Wilson

My Dear Mother.

It has been now nearly two weeks since I have been stretched out on the bed of suffering. You will doubtless have heard before this reaches you that I was badly wounded and left in the hands of the enemy - My sufferings and hardships during about one week that I was kept out in the field hospital were very great.

I recd a wound through the mouth fracturing the Jaw Bone badly on both sides. The Doctors seem to agree that the danger of losing my life is small. The wound is serious, annoying and will necessarily be a very long time in getting well.

I can assure you that it was the

greatest consolation while lying
on damp and cold ground to
^{look} ~~refer~~ to that God to whom you so
constantly directed my infantile &
juvenile thoughts and feel that I
was his son by adoption, when
friends are far away from you
in sickness and in sorrows. I am
delightful to be able to contemplate
the wonderful salvation unfolded
in the Bible. While I have been
very far from being a consistent Chris-
tian I have never lost my hope
in Jesus and found it ~~in~~ ⁱⁿexpressible
clear now. I write these thoughts
to show you my spiritual condition
and to ask your prayers continually
for me.

I am glad under such adverse
circumstances to be able to write so
cheerfully. I do not feel that I could
do so every day. Sometimes I feel
very badly and very weak. I have
strong hope however that I shall
get well ultimately and be restored

to find embraces of my dear friends
in Virginia. To be at Mr
Gilmer at the Meadows; at Spring
Farm or in Richmond with all
the family around would be the
highest delight I could experience.
I must however put it off for
some time. As soon as I am
able to travel I shall hurry home
ward.

Give my love to all. I write with
some difficulty.

Poor Lewis Williams died a few
days after the battle from the
effects of a wound.

I am very affectionately
Your son
W. Y. Patton