

Baltimore July 24th

Genl Patton Esq
My dear Sir

It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of Col W. S. Patton of the 4th Pa Infantry. He died at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 21st instant, at the College Hospital near Gettysburg. On the 17th I first heard that he was wounded and was with him on the 18th and until his death. I have written fully twice of what occurred on the 18th and 19th and being limited in space cannot now repeat. He was aware of the approach of death and met it as becomes a soldier and a Christian. He repeated often the words "In Christ Alone," "Perfectly resigned," "Perfectly rearranged."

He spoke with great difficulty, but I could understand him as repeating the first line of the hymn, "Rock of ages cliff for me." I read the hymn

to him, and he repeated it after me.
He was attended by Mr. Morrison, Chaplain
of the 23^d Va and called for the 14
chapter of Saint John, which was read
to him.

From loss of blood, he was very weak
but his sufferings were comparatively
light. During the last twelve hours
of his life he was nearly unconscious,
but I observed his hands often clasped as if
in prayer.

From Miss McRea and Mr. Grayson
of Baltimore, who were nurses in the
hospital, as well as from Lieut. Bailey
of the 4th of Orange Co. He recd. every
kindness the most devoted attention
and much kindness from several
Federal officers who were stationed
near the Hospital.

He often requested that his body might
be sent home. I had it embalmed
and deposited in the John J. Gettings
vault in Green Mount Cemetery.

Under the circumstances it was deemed
best not to allow the numerous friends

of his family to be present at the fune-
ral, my uncle, aunt and two cousins
were present. The burial service was
read by the Rev. Mr. Simpson.

Chaplain Morrison of the 23^d Va will
pass through within two weeks and
will endeavor to carry the body through
I will make every endeavor to get a
permit.

He was clothed in his uniform. I
have his two rings, pipe & and a lock
of his hair for his mother. Doctor
Oliver of the 4th has his watch, which
is for Eliza, after paying his just debts
he wishes all else to go to his mother.

Yours sincerely
Franc. W. Smith