

Camp on the Battle Field at Queen's Creek
Before Williamsburg in the rear of Fort Magruda captured
May 3rd 1862.

Friends at Home.

You in all probability will have heard before this reaches you about the great fight at Fort Magruda and all the little forts around it. Well I will give you a little sketch of our time since we left Warrenton C. Va. so here goes. We left our camp Sunday about 7^{1/2} past three and made a forced march to Lebanon Church where we slept on our arms under a drizzling rain having passed through the first line of Rebel Fortification and they was strong looking thing I tell you. all of them was placed upon hills that robed the swamps & creeks so that if they had been properly armed they might have held their position for a long time but they shewed their backs and left but before doing so they lined the streets with percussion shells in purpose to kill the advance who happened to slip ^{on one of them} & slip

well in the morn at day light we was
ordered to move forward upon a quick
time so on we went through the mud &
rain some of the time at a double quick
over marshes and through creeks and the
hardest looking set you ever saw was the
advance of the Potomac army. for the last
three miles we heard Cannon & Musketry in
fast succession and Gen Sumner came back
and ordered us along double quick so on we
went and soon the field of Battle was before
us and amid showers of shell we was drawn
up in line for the purpose of supporting the
55 & 62 R.S. but the enemy attempted to cut the
right to pieces so we was ordered to the
right to support the Wisconsin & Kennedys Battery
who was hard pressed by some three Regts from
Louisiana & Carolina and they was just upon the
point of falling back when we came up and they
took new life and fought like Devils driving the
Rebels across an open field under our deathlike
fire in hasty retreat then the Battery opened and
by thunder they made the ground shake.

all night we was upon picket across the
field nearly under the guns of the fort. and oh
my god such a sight I never see before the field
was lined with dead & dying in all shapes &
forms. and shot in all parts some in the head
some through the body & the most of them in
the neck & shoulders. we was about yelock called
in and again we had to pass over the field of
the dead which they had already commenced to
bury the Wisconsin Reg^t lost nine killed & 40 wounded
and up to tonight they have buried upon the
right field of action over 125 & have got over 200 in
the barns & houses wounded and of all the noise
that I ever heard was the groans of the wounded
& dying. today I have been down on to the
left & center and here too layed our boys in
large numbers also dead loads of Secesh our
wounded are mostly taken in and under care
tonight but many of the dead still lay where
they fell. one little incident I will relate
that of a strong man from New England with
six dead Secesh laying around him & he with
his bayonet grasp in the death struggle his victim
having a large knife they both being cut and slashed
all to pieces.

and both dead. it is a tough scene to go around
and see the wounded and hear them groan &
take on. but all is in getting used to a thing so
they say. our troops are already some three miles
in advance of Lewisburg and as our men the
advance in this fight are nearly in the
rear at this time & still waiting for rations
to come having started Sunday with but one
days rations and for the last 48 hours have
had nothing to eat only what we picked up
on the road and we are rather hungry but
I am still well and full of the devil as ever
although I have seen what I have. Lath
about Roanoke Island it dont begin as you will
see by the returns when they come in from
all quarters. I will tell you how we estimate
the loss. ours at about 375 killed and the enemy
near 500 but I guess I have got both low
the wounded are too vast to number as all
the barns & Horses & Barracks are full we have
no chance of seeing half our wounded as they
was carried off the field to the rear as for one I never
was so cool in all my life and the Regt was in high spirit
and full.

Today all the boys have been doing was burying the
dead and moving the wounded. Today I have also
taken a stroll over the City of Williamsburg and
it is a fine place but they are mostly gone I
mean the men the Women are a great many left
and are a fine looking set of young ladies but
they cant stand the prospect of seeing their boys
cut and wounded all to pieces the large buildings
in the city are full of dead and wounded Scotch
and I reckon they have taken 500 prisoners

Today I got some Horsecake & dried Apples and Sugar
to live upon as nothing else is to be had.

I will close for this time & next time I will
give you a more detailed account (if I live)
have to put that in for damned if they dont
fire right at a fellow and mean to kill if they
can (So do we). (Direct to Washington as before)

our turn I will give in my
next if any one asks if I am well tell
them yes and was in the Advance and was
posted on picket on the Battle field the night
following the Battle. (Its length was 14 hours continuous
firing or from early in the forenoon until the grand
repulse of the Scotch at dark. From J. G. Park

Camped on the field of Battle at fort Mearns under
in front of Williamsburg Va May 7th 1862.
From the 10th Reg Mass Vol!



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11



May -

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Mass.

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Couches Brigade Co B - 10 Regt

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Battle of Fort Mifflin
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