

Camp 154th Regt. N.Y. Vols.
Near Savannah Ga. Dec. 20, 64

Dexter Campbell Esqr

Dear Sir:

A painful duty devolves upon me, and while I deplore the sad event I trust that Heaven may give you fortitude to hear the sorrowful news. Your son Jesse D. Campbell is no more. He accidentally shot himself while on the march about two miles north of Springfield in this state.

He had gone a little in advance of the Regt. to get some potatoes in a field by the road-side and was accompanied by Sergt Allen Williams and Oziah F. Adams of his co. They were sitting by the road waiting for the Regt. when Campbell whose gun was leaning against the fence reached out to draw it toward him when the hammer caught upon the ground or in some weeds, and the load was discharged in his right breast killing him instantly. He was buried there by his comrades. This was on the 7th of Dec.

Thus perished one of the noblest and bravest of soldiers, and a virtuous and ever faithful Christian. The moral purity of his character and his ever kind and genial disposition had endeared him to all his comrades in arms, and we mourn the departed as a brother, and will ever cherish his memory as one of the bravest and truest of the many who have fallen in this bitter contest.

May the Good Angels, in mercy sustain you and all the family of our late comrade, to whom the summons "to come up higher" has come, and been obeyed.

I am Dear Sir
Your very obedient Servant
A. W. Benson
Capt. Co. "D" 154" N.Y.V.

[Alfred W. Benson, captain, Co. D, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]