

and one Surgeon for a while
come you will perceive by
what I have written that they were
very strict many of our wounded
came to the Hospital in very
bad shape their wounds being
filled with worms and many
have died since arriving
as I can write nothing which
can bring you consolation (and
as there is but one that can
give consolation in such
cases you will of course
look to that source for the
same and as I have performed
my task I will bring my letter
to a close by subscribing myself
your friend and most obedient
servant

L. C. Rugg } Surgeon
154 Regt
N. Y. S. Vol

Mrs. B. Merrill

[Courtesy of Louise Koenig, Olean, NY]

Second Division Hospital
near Brooks Station Va May 30th 1863

Mrs. B. Merrill

Kind madam

Your letter of May 24th is at hand
contents noted and in reply will
say that I avail myself of this
opportunity though a painful
one it is to me to comply with
your request painful only because
I am compelled to furnish you
with the sad and to you
painful knowledge of the
death of both your Husband
and Son your Husband fell
on Saturday just before sundown
He was wounded slightly in one
of his shoulders and was afterwards
shot in the head From all that
I can learn from your sons he did
not fall until Monday Their

remains cannot be obtained we were not allowed the privilege of burying our dead. It would be more difficult to find your son than your husband and you might as well look for a gold dollar in the sea as to try to find either of them. Your husband fell with those of his own Regt., but our Regt. being scattered on Saturday they did not all get (those that were living) together again until after the fight and consequently all that were found who were not with their Regt. were put into the ranks among strangers and were compelled to fight Sunday and perhaps Monday too when if they had have been with their own Regt. they might not have been in the fight either of those days. One adjutant fell mortally wounded and lived

one or two days and his body can never be recovered for he with others were thrown together in piles and covered up. If there had have been any such thing as to have recovered the bodies of Friends from the battle field his would have been obtained for W. G. Rice was here from Elizabethtown and would have been glad to make any sacrifice to have obtained his body for his Friends. But it (as in all other cases in this battle or rather series of battles) is an utter impossibility. We had the privilege of crossing the river with our ambulances for the purpose of bringing off our wounded and not this even until several days after the battle and then none could go with them save the driver and

Second Division Hospital
Near Brooks Station Va May 30th/63

Mrs. B. Merrill

Kind madam your letter of May 24th is at hand contents noted and in reply will say that I avail myself of this opportunity though a painful one it is to me to comply with your request painful only because I am compelled to furnish you with the sad and to you painful knowledge of the death of both your Husband and Son Your Husband fell on Saturday just before sundown He was wounded slightly in one of his shoulders and was afterwards shot in the head From all that I can learn from your son he did not fall until Monday Their remains cannot be obtained We were not allowed the privilege of burying our dead It would be more difficult to find your Son than your Husband and you might as well look for a gold dollar in the sea as to try to find either of them Your husband fell with those of his own Regt., But our Regt. being scattered on Saturday they did not all get (those that were living) together again until after the fight and consequently all that were found who were not with their Regts. were put into the ranks among strangers and were compelled to fight Sunday and perhaps Monday too when if they had been with their own Regt. they might not have been in the fight either of those days Our adjutant fell mortally wounded and lived one or two days and his body can never be recovered for he with others were thrown together in piles and covered up If there had have been any such thing as to have recovered the bodies of Friends from the battle field his would have been obtained for A.G. Rice was here from Ellicottville and would have been glad to make any sacrifice to have obtained his body for his Friends But it (as in all other cases in this battle or rather series of battles) is an utter impossibility We had the privilege of crossing the river with our ambulances for the purpose of bringing off our wounded and not this even until several days after the battle and then none could go with them save the Driver and and one Surgeon for a whole core You will perceive by what I have written that they were very strict many of our wounded came to the Hospitals in very bad shape their wounds being filled with worms and many have Died since arriving as I can write nothing which can bring you consolation (and as there is but one that can give consolation in such cases you will of course look to that source for the same and as I have performed my task I will bring my letter to a close by subscribing myself your friend and most obedient servant

C. C. Rugg
Asst Surgeon
154 Regt N.Y.S. Vol

Mrs. B. Merrill

(Courtesy of Louise Koenig, Olean, N.Y.)