

Knowville Dec 17 1863

Dear father and

Brothers and sisters It is with  
 with pleasure and satisfaction  
 that I seat my self down  
 this beautiful morning to drop  
 you a few lines to let you  
 know that I am well at this  
 time I have had a spell of the  
 yellow janders but I have fortunally  
 recovered I can inform you  
 that I expernaced the 21 days  
 seige at Knowvill of which  
 V P Young can tell nor heart  
 can think how I felt at  
 this place the rebels had  
 us surrounded 21 days it  
 was a terrible seige you  
 must know I was not  
 immediately in the fight I  
 was on the right wing  
 but I saw a many flying bomb  
 bi go whirring through the air

It was on Sunday morning  
The Fuzgai made a charge  
on Collage hill we killed  
a great many of them. We  
was ordered not to fire until  
they had come up close  
to our works when all at  
once a thousand triggers was  
touched then it was that the  
whole regiment fell nearly  
all four other regiments  
come up likewise and was  
cut down they come who  
and yelling like a host  
of tigers let loose the Co.  
of the 8th Georgia get so  
in to fragments the re  
flag bearer planted in  
Calours on top of our  
Breast works but the minute  
he done that he fell  
lifeless to the ground

The roaring of our cannons  
made the earth tremble  
beneath our feet but  
Thank God our bloodstain  
Banner waves over the night  
of Knoxville The Rebel loss  
was supposed to be 1500 killed  
and wounded I know you  
have heard a great many tales  
told about this fight by  
different persons some would  
tell one tale and some another  
but as to my part I will  
state the truth as near as  
I can the rebels got badly  
shipped at this place and  
was glad to sneak off in  
the night after 21 days  
siege at Knoxville had to  
go off with a heavy loss  
on their side killed wounded  
and captured amounted to  
2800 in all

W. B. Chapman  
our loss was killed wounded  
and captured 1000, in all  
I would be very glad to see you  
all but time will not permit  
me to come home at present  
I want you to write to me  
as soon as possible and let  
me know how you all are  
doing I want you all to write  
to me ever and I hope  
the Rebels wont interrupt  
you until our force can  
get good in possession  
of Tennessee and then we  
will show them how to  
live at home in peace  
where Cannons will cease  
to roar and troubles will have  
to end then and then we  
will be enjoying the same old  
Union that our poor fathers  
fought } so no more at present but  
Remains your Dear Son until death W. B.