

Gallatin Tennessee

July the 20th 1864

Mr. John Chapman Sir

I with some men have to inform you that I witness the death of your affectionate son William H. Chapm this morning one hour before day light I have been waiting on him for better than two weeks he died with the chronic diarrhea he has been lingering with that disease a long time the capt sent up application for a furlough for him some five or six weeks ago it was such disapproval I tryd to get him to go to a house over a month before he could go he fell away & got so weak he could scarcely walk when he went out to the house of a clever old man by the name of George A. Wiley they treated him well we don't all we could to stop his troubles but it took like it was impavel I tryd every thing that we could see of but alas I had to mourn the loss of a kind friend & brother soldier he was the only soldier that has been sent to a house all of the rest went to the hospital after he got helpless they was two of us stayd with him William parles

I tryed to get him to send for you but
he would not tel last week then it was
too late he was asked by all of the boys
of our company & all that got acquainted
with him he died very easy he got very
weak a few days before he died he wish
to be there to get some of that good water
he did not seem to be troubled with a fault
any thing I hop he is better off than he was
in this troublesome world I tract his money
and things I put them in the hands of
Capt & Supt. Bratches they will fix
them up right and I sapor they will
send his things to Knoxville they express
we are water marching orders made
I think we will leave in a few days
we will bury him to day I will
take the number of his grave it is hard
to die so far from home but we all
are subject to the same fait, so he died
with friends & round his bed side
so I must being my letter to close
The boys is all well. hop you will
write to me yours with respect
Wiley B. Smith
To John Chapman