

My great, great, great uncle, Kimball Pearsons, a corporal in Co. L, 10th Regiment of Cavalry, New York State Volunteers, was mortally wounded near the Nederland Tavern on June 11, 1864.

The following letters describing his death were subsequently received by his sister and her husband, Harriett and William Press:

Hd Qrts 10th N.Y. Cavalry In Camp Near Wilsons Landing Va June 26th 1864

Mrs. Press

I have sad news for you and yet I know that you will now mourn as one without hope. Your brother Kimball is dead. Was killed in battle the 11th inst at Trevillian Station near Louisa C.H. on the Va Central R.R. I would much rather someone else would have communicated this sad intelligence to you and furthermore for the abrupt manner in which I have done the same. I know he is not dead but only gone before and you will not mourn as one without hope. He met the charge as he has lived truly and nobly and like a man. I was with ... only a few minutes before he left us and was apparently as sound in mind as when he was well in body having complete possession of his Senses to the last. Some of the boys had taken him to the rear unit I had occasion to back soon afterwards. ... who was with him all through, called me to see Kimball as he wished to bid me good bye. I found him very weak. I saw he could not live long and I asked him what worth he had to send home. He said he had made all necessary arrangements with his Lt. Gee and that he had left some things to send home. I remained some time until they called me elsewhere but when I left him he shook hands and he bade me good bye as quietly as though he had been going on a short journey. He suffered a good deal but he bore up with it bravely and met his fate bravely and like a true soldier. He was liked by both Officers and men was respected by all who knew him & his loss is deeply felt and his place cannot be supplied. His things he left to be sent home are in possession of his Capt. and he will send them the first opportunity. He was buried beneath the shade of an Oak tree and the place well marked so that in case you should want to visit it you can do so. I truly sympathize with you in your affliction but I know that we shall meet him and enjoy his society again. I should be pleased to hear from you and Mr. Press if you can find time to write.

Your friend

H.E. Farnsworth

Cortland Village N.Y. Sept 5, 1864

Mrs. H.A.P. Press

Yours of July 21 has just reached me while at home on sick leave where I have been since Aug. 1st. I was with your brother Kimball Pearsons, cared for him in his last moments as best I could and heard his last words. Although cheerful he said but little after he was wounded. The articles you received of Sgt. N. Washburn he handed to me and it was his request that they be sent to you as to what money he had some \$65.00 which has no doubt reached you as this from Capt. Vanderbilt. I asked him what I could tell his friends he said "You know I have done my duty but know what to say to them." "Tell my comrades" said he "to do their duty as I have done mine." "I am glad I enlisted, hope our cause may succeed and" "firmly believe it will and that slavery will be done" "away with and that the old flag will again float" "over an undivided country and that the result of" "the war will be to make us a more free and prosperous" "nation." In speaking of death he said "Were it not for this terrible pain it would be pleasant to die." In speaking of the future he said "I think different from many but believe that my Spirit will live on and that I shall be happy." He requested me to remember the place where he fell and also where he was buried which, no doubt have already been described to you by Sgt. Washburn. He died two hours after he was wounded and died at 4 P.M. was perfectly conscious to the last moment, knew and said he knew he could not live and expressed no regrets whatever and no man was ever more reconciled to his fate or more composed than he. For the first hour he suffered much pain. I sent for morphine and gave him and he had no more pain. In one hour his feet were cold, which soon extended to his body, he breathed shorter and shorter, said "I am dying, every thing looks dim to my eyes" and without a struggle breathed his last neath a large oak where he was buried. I sat by him until he was dead, closed his eyes, folded his arms across his breast, wrapped his blanket around him saw him buried and a board placed at his head inscribed "Corporal Kimball Pearsons Co. L 10th N.Y. Cavalry" killed June 11, 1864" and joined my company with tearful eyes and a sorrowing heart.

To do justice to his conduct and example while among us, more especially to do justice to his manly courage, character and qualifications as a soldier requires a more able pen than mine. He knew for what he fought and such men fight the best. He feared no ... when duty called. Was quick to perceive and prompt to obey and carry out orders and was always in the thickest of the fight, full of courage, the noble courage too which encouraged those about him. We shall see him among us no more he is dead, but died in a glorious cause. You may well be proud of such a brother and in the eloquent and patriotic letter you have written me I judge you worthy of one such brother. So few sisters who have lost an only brother killed in battle can say, "I will not worry you with my personal grief, though I am greatly bereaved." I have written all the particulars I can remember. if you are not fully satisfied and wish to make any further inquiry it will ever be a pleasure to me to respond & give you any information I have or can obtain.

I am Madam

Very Respectfully
Your most Obt. servant
Fred A. Gee 1st Lieut.
Co. L. 10th N.Y. Cav.

After the War Kimball's remains were moved from Trevilian Station to the National Cemetery at Culpeper, Virginia, which was established in 1867. His marker is located at Section A1 Site 394.

Kimball's 1862, and 1863 diary entries, approximately 100 letters that he wrote to his sister and her husband, and accompanying photographs, commentary, and related information have been published by Heritage Press ("Tough & Hearty, Kimball Pearsons, Civil War Cavalryman, Co. L, 10th Regiment of Cavalry, New York State Volunteers" (2012)).

