

Mary,

This is MY transcription of the letter. Much of it is hard to read, but years of teaching give me a real advantage.

Omaha Hospital
Walker Plantation
January 13th 1863

Father Gillaspie Dear Sir

I sit Me down tonight with a sorrowing heart to write you of the death of Brother John C. Woods who died last Saturday evening the 10th last at 4 O'clock of Chronic Diarhea He had been sick since the first of Nov but I could never persuade Him to come to the Hospital till the day our army started to Nebraska He was too weak to follow them and I took Him to Fayatville with the sick and wounded but could not put Him under treatment until We arrived on the Plantation which was the last day of Dec. I thought for a few days He might recover but disease of His since had advanced so far that He gradually sunk into the cold embrace of death He talked a great deal about Melvina and His children until the last 36 hours when He became unconcious We buried Him today at 2 O'clock we had a nice coffin made for Him and laid Him in it with his every day clothes on should have buried Him in His uniform but it was not here. We sent to Fayatville and got a minister by the name of Newell a Unitarian, who read sang and prayed at the grave. I selected the spot a beautiful little mound in a white oak grove on the east bank of the White River lest he sleep not alone we laid Him side by side in the same grave

with a Mr. Meyers from Iowa a good and true Christian soldier who died last night. Myself and brother John Pinkerton was all of His acquaintences present Charles Stewart is here but is very sick with Typhoid Pneumonia He is out of his mind for the last three days I think He may possibly get well You will wonder where the rest of the friends were but we are not with our own Reg-- and don't know where they are I have not seen John McCormac for three weeks nor any of the rest except the sick that I have with me He was fat and healthy then except a very lame back. I think John has gone to Ft. Scott on account of His health. I have Brother Woods clothes and blankets and will send them to Capt. Allen as soon as I learn where he is. There is but little prospect of our getting home soon for I must confess that I can't see the end of this war. Ruin and Desolation marks the track of the armies and starvation stares the citizen in the face. I feel that I owe you an apology for not writing to my old friend but mine is an unceasing round of toil I am 4 miles from the city where I get my supplies and have ever since I came here from 92 to 118 patients 6 nurses a clerk and Headmaster with 19 negroes to look after so you see I have but little time to write to any one I did not feel as if I could make known this sad news to Melvina so I have written to you but will answer with pleasure any thing that she may desire to know Please answer this direct to me via Springfield Mo. to follow Reg. I shall write brother Grant in a few days and will tell you how Charles Stewart is

For I think I know how Manda must
feel Brothers John William Davis and
Mack was well the last I saw of them
My own health is not very good the
winter has been to warm and open
to be healthy for northern men then our
diet is not such as we have been used
to. We occupy a very large two story Brick
house with out houses and negro cabins
The owner, a secesh has fled across the
Arkansas River Brother Pinkerton wishes
you to say to His family that he is well
He is one of my nurses I expect he will
stay with me as long as I keep a Hospital
here That may be all winter and it may
not be two days. Now Cate, Milda, and
Maria I want you to join in a good
long letter to me. Remember me
in Your prayers. Also to tell enquiring friends

affectionately yours

In the Bosom of Christian Love

J. D. Adams Asst surg...

11 Reg Kansas Vols__

A note... The three girls he mentions are Amanda
Melvina's sisters and The John McCormac he mentioned
married one.

MIKE