

While some wounded were removed from the field on the night of December 13, the effort was not systematic and very likely held no benefit for Union wounded lying between the swale and the Sunken Road. The descriptions of wounded on the field the night of December 13-14 are many and vivid. A ten-minute hunt through some of the 14,000 pages of obscure and unpublished material in the park's collection of Bound Volumes turned up several accounts that speak of wounded remaining on the field on December 14. Here are a few of them:

William R. Stillwell, 53d Georgia, Letters at the GDAH. Letter written on December 14 & 17, 1862, published in *"I Know You Must Be Very Uneasy About Me," Civil War Times, vol. 41, no. 6, p. 25; Ms. 05556.*

A soldier in Semmes's brigade, who was on picket on the Sunken Road on the night of December 14 and into December 15, wrote of the Union wounded: "They had been lying on the field since Saturday and many of the wounded had been there all the time and nary side could get them. I could not help feeling sorry for them, though they were our enemy."

"The Fourth Regiment In the Fredericksburg Fight," January 5, 1863, edition of the Adrian (MI) Watchtower; Ms. 06014. Major John Randolph The major of the 4th Michigan wrote of sleeping on the battlefield in front of Marye's Heights the night of December 13-14: "At last, night closed the scene, and the tired hosts of either army laid down and slept almost within hearing distance. The living laid down with the dead, and thus they slept. All night long could the groans of the poor wounded and dying soldiers be heard, as he wore the weary hours away in pain. One poor fellow belonging to 28th New Jersey was shot through both hips, and his groans for help were heart-rending. Our orders were to hold the position at all hazards. We were almost entirely out of ammunition; but about 12 or 1 A.M., that came, and we filled up anew, so as to be ready in the morning to renew the contest."

"Sunday morning at last dawned upon us. The rebels during the night had dug some pits for their sharp-shooters, and if one of our men showed his head a dozen bullets would be after him. And, thus they lay all the Sabbath, targets for each other's sharp-shooters. On that evening the regiment was relieved and fell back to the city, where they remained until about 3 A.M. on Monday, when the Division recrossed the river; being the last of the grand army of the Potomac to leave Fredericksburg."

Isaac Van Houteh, 25th NJ: "The following appears in the New York Press." Location of original unknown. BV 353-12

After the fatal charge at Fredericksburg...it was learned that among the seriously wounded left upon the field within a few feet of the enemy's lines was Francis d. Clinton of Company C... His piteous cries for aid reached the ears of a comrade of his own company. Darkness had enveloped the ghastly scene when eh order to retire had been given, and was being obeyed with alacrity by all save our soldier hero, who, almost under the rebel guns, sought the form of his comrade and remained with him through the night and following day, surrounded by the dead and the dying, not daring to move, but calmly praying for the return of another night,

having resolved to procure assistance and rescue Clinton even at the expense of his own life. When night had again spread his mantle over the bloody field, our hero crept silently down the embankment to the city, thence to his regiment, where, with noble volunteers, he retraced his steps and sought the spot where Clinton lay, bleeding from his wound. Picking him up they wended their way to the city again, on bended knees, over the forms of the dead, reaching our lines in safety with their mission fully discharged. /// The credit for this humane act belongs to Private Hugh Devine of Company C....