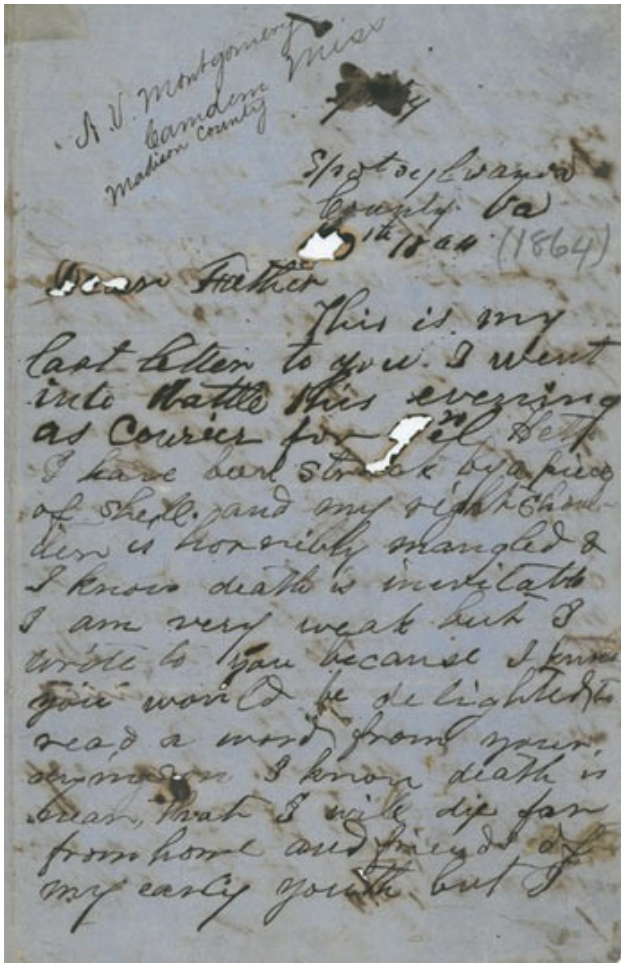




May 2012 Document of the Month

May 10"
Dear Father



This is my last letter to you. I went into battle this evening as courier for Genl. Heth. I have been struck by a piece of shell and my right shoulder is horribly mangled & I know death is inevitable. I am very weak but I write to you because I know you would be delighted to read a word from your dying son. I know death is near, that I will die far from home and friends of my early youth but I have friends here too who are kind to me. My friend Fairfax will write you at my request and give you the particulars of my death. My grave will be marked so that you may visit it if you desire to do so, but it is optionary with you whether you let my remains rest here or in Miss. I would like to rest in the grave yard with my dear mother and brothers but it's a matter of minor importance. Let us all try to reunite in heaven. I pray my God to forgive my sins and I feel that his promises are true that he will forgive me and save me. Give my love to all my friends. My strength fails me. My horse and my equipments will be left for you. Again, a long farewell to you. May we meet in heaven. Your dying son,

J.R. Montgomery"



Flag of the 11th Mississippi

James Robert Montgomery Co. A, 11th Mississippi Infantry, and later detailed to the Signal Corps, serving with Major General Henry Heth: Written May 10, 1864 this blood stained letter from Montgomery in Spotsylvania County, Virginia to his Father Allen V. Montgomery informing that he has been mortally wounded and expressing his desire to be re-interred in his home state of Mississippi.



Sketch of Spotsylvania Court House by A. Waud