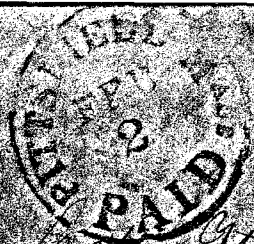


Tuesday.

Pittsfield Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864 2-45 P.M.

Dear Billy

I write those few lines to announce to you the sad intelligence of your father's death he died about half an hour ago. He got worse last Sunday and failed rapidly he was entirely unconscious since eight (8) o'clock this morning and died in that condition he had every thing that he desired and that could in any way alleviate his suffering and better than all that he had the consolation of having the Priest several times before he died and of receiving the last Rites of our Holy Religion Annie wrote to Sophie yesterday but she has not come yet I sent a Telegram after



Mr. William W. Kerma

Fort Pike

Louisiana

her this afternoon and expect  
her on the 6 o'clock train I wish  
you was here but of course you  
cant be I sympathize with you in  
your heavy loss but it is well for  
him that he is dead. Rather than  
live as he has lived for the last  
two months for since that time I  
have not had the least hope of  
his recovery. let us hope and  
pray that he is in a happier  
world where care and toil enter not  
and he weary rest from their labors.  
of course it is unnecessary for me  
to tell you that your mother and  
the children will be well cared for.  
they shall want for nothing as long  
as Father and she can procure it  
for them I will not say any more  
at present I suppose Annie will  
write you as soon as she has time  
Believe me always your loving Cousin  
James McKenna