

London Valley, Va.

July 19th 1863

Dear Wife

Not having heard from you in a great while. I did not know but what you would like to hear whether I am dead or alive I am enjoying good health at present we have had an awful march and a terrible battle a great many of our boys were killed or wounded but I escaped without a scratch. it is a miracle that we were not all killed or wounded we were in the thickest of the fight making a charge on the Rebels a 1/2 a mile through a fire of grape and Cannon. our Regt lost a 100 men in 10 minutes. our Co lost 3 killed and 14 wounded Stephen Hunt was all the one that you are acquainted with he was wounded in the hip. I

98
have not seen him since he fell as there
was no chance he was carried off
to the hospital but I have understood
from those that saw him that it was
not a dangerous wound. Stephen was
a good soldier full of his fun we miss
him. This has been the hardest Campaign
the army of the Potomac ever had
we have in 21 days marched considerable
over 200 miles fought a 2 days battle
dug rifle pits & so forth and withal
the boys feel bully. We did just clean
them out nicely their loss from the time
they crossed the Potomac until they decamped
was 42,000 our loss will not exceed 12,000
The 3^d in the afternoon was the bloodiest
part of the battle. At 2 P. M. they opened
on us. (on the center where we were standing)
with over a 100 Cannon we lay flat
on our faces for 2 hours, the air was filled
with shell bursting in every direction.
The Battery that lay in front of us had
53 horses and 30 men killed

At 4 P.M. The infantry charged on us
with 3 lines of battle. we were formed
in line under a heavy fire and took
our position behind a slight breastwork
of stones and rails. (It seemed as they
advanced on us that it would be impossible
to stop them) As soon as they got within
range we poured into them and the Cannon
opened with grape and Cannister we
mowed them down in heaps. What
was left broke and run, some of them
raised a white flag and come into
our lines. That night and the next
day they retreated leaving their dead
and wounded on the field. I went
over the field such a sight I never
wish to see again, every conceivable
wound that can be thought of was there
There was so many wounded that it
was impossible to attend to all of them
some of them lying 48 hours in a drenching
rain. it is beyond the power of man
to describe a battle field

The way we have given it to them the
month will soon end the rebellion
if the Damnable Copperheads of New York
City would do as they ought to. How
soon it will be before we have another
battle is impossible to tell. I cant say
as I ever want to see another but if
I am called upon I shall try and do
my duty. It may be my term next if it
should take good care of little Ella for
me. We are encamped about 3 miles
South of Harpers Ferry we arrived here
at 3 P.M. yesterday it is now 8 A.M. and
no signs of moving. We have had a good
time picking Mountain Vene berries there
was about 30 acres covered with them
we have all had our fill.
I have not had a letter from anyone
in almost 2 weeks. I will now close
hoping you will answer soon and
much oblige
O. O. Haynes

Kiss little Ella for me and tell
her she must be a good girl and
I will come home by and by