

Headquarters 1st Brigade
In front of Gettysburg Md. July 12. 63
Miss Willie.
Dear friend.

As I am called
for a few moments, and have the privilege of
sending a letter to Dear Burg. - The few pre-
-ious moments, shall be devoted to my best friend
I trust - Just - at this time ones life is precious -
and hanging by a brittle thread - Though I am
comfortable seated in an excellent Rock or be-
-nch - under the cover of a small building - And
feeling quite well and in excellent spirits - I
have not the least assurance that I will ever
complete this letter - for the rebel bullets are
whizzing around like bees - and an occasion-
-al shell bursting near - quite a number have
been wounded within a few feet of this place -
This is ~~now~~ the third days fighting - We are
constantly gaining ground - and driving
the enemy - or Sharpshooters are in rifle
shot of their fortifications, which seem to
be strong and quite extensive - Have just had
the pleasure taking an observation of the en-
-ire City and its defenses - by going to the advan-
-ce, and climbing a tree, and with my
glasses, could see the entire road to - While
I in that pleasant position a Sharp. Rebel -
-bush me his compliments in the shape of
a few minor balls - Yesterday evening we
had some very hard fighting, the enemy came out
and tried to charge the 119th Ind. But they
were repulsed - then, the boys charged them
and drove them from the position -

At 10 o'clock this morning all our artillery
opened fire upon our lines. They did not reply
but with a few pieces - yesterday - and the day
before their artillery fire was terrific - Had the
pleasure of a shell exploding in a few feet of
me - one piece struck my horse and lifted
him almost to the Heaven - As you may sup-
pose have been some interesting places for
instance riding through an open field and
the balls fall on thick as hail - Just at that
time I thought of your letter in which you said
I was brave - a man. Had you been here - would
have thought Beck looked as brave as a sheep -
and eloquent as a foxy - There is but little
telling - how long this fight will last - we are
now fighting the remainder of their western
Army. And think that we will ever
know the brave men of this Army - They
are brave and fight with desperation -
When I come home you shall hear many nice -
your stories And if I don't get my little
form - on this little piece you shall have
a copy of the report of our Brigade and there
you may expect to see - the entire order of battle
Don't wish you to be in any danger but would
just give any thing if you could only sit here
and hear the bullets whistling round you
could laugh - As you are an excellent
pistol shot, you might go down to the front
and by your skill - we have just heard of
the victory at Wells - in view - the
surrender of Fort Hudson - And now
what cheering cheers the boys are giving
and swearing that our lives are now ready

to be sacrificed for a victory at Juchitán -
I hope that will soon come - I feel ever anyone
was in a situation to suffer from suspense &
anxiety in time of a great battle. Many times I
would have given the world to know that
all was right, and that the expedition would be
successful - The weather is very warm and
no prospect of rain - Have lost quite a num-
ber of men from sunstroke -

Well I must bring this letter to a close -
Enclose please find a small baguit, which I
gathered in the yard - off a bush by which
one man was killed, an arm wounded
a few moments before - Please excuse the
string which ties it - It is all I have - Is
from the horse I ride, and the one that was
shot under me yesterday - So his novel
you see, should you find it - be among
that number that may fall on this field
return it as my last - and fare well to the
of love and respect -

Please write me soon and a good long letter
say - 8 - or 12 pages -

My respects to the family - And say to
Miss Anna that Hank says many nice things
and has abundance of pleasure and fun -

Believe me, Vol. 10, to be yours very truly,
P. S. R.

P. S. As you are a better scholar than your humble
servant - presume you can read this -