

Some two days after the battle of Gettysburg 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1865 Capt Charles McAnally wrote to Mrs Jane Hand describing what had happened at Gettysburg: Sergt. Hand was a close friend of McAnallys. Here is a transcript of the original four page letter images of which follow..

*Camp of 69th Regt P.V.  
Near Gettysburg Pa  
July 5th 1863*

*Mrs Jane Hand,*

*It is a painfull task for me to communicate the sad fate of your husband (my own comrade). He was killed on the 3rd inst he received a ball through the breast & one through the heart & never spoke after. I was in command of the skirmishers about one mile to the front & every inch of the ground was well contested untill I reached our Regt. The Rebels made the attack in 3 lines of Battle, as soon as I reached our line I met James he ran & met me with a canteen of watter. I was near palayed [played] he said I was foolish [I] didnt let them come at once that the 'ol 69th was waiting for them. I threw off my coat & in 2 minuets we were at it hand to hand. They charged on us twice & we repulsed them they then tryed the Regt on our right & drove them, which caused us to swing back our right, then we charged them on their left flank & in the charge James fell may the Lord have mercy on his soul. He never flinched from his post & was loved by all who knew him. He is intered along side of Sergt James McCabe, Sergt Jeremiah Gallagher of our Co & 5 others of our Co that you are not acquainted with. Our Co lost in killed wounded & missing twenty as follows: Killed 8, Wounded 10 & Missing 2. Although we fought the Rebels 10 to one on the 2nd & killed or captured a whol Corps our Co had only one man wounded that day. The loss in the battle of the 3rd was heavy but all did not discourage the boys, we were determined that as long as a man lived he would stand to be killed too rather than have it said that we left on the battle field in Pennsylvania the laurels that we so dearly won in strange states. The loss in the Regt killed, wounded & missing was one hundred & fifty eight & our Colnell & Lieut Colnell & 2 Cpts Duffy & Thompson killed & Lieut Kelly & 6 officers wounded. We killed 6 Rebel Generals & nearly all the line officers & killed or captured every man that attacked us & [on] both days fighting. There never a battle fought with more determination, in the first days fight the Rebels had our battery on the first charge & we retook it again. Mrs Hand please excuse this letter as I am confused & I hope you will take your trouble with patience, you know that God is mercifull & good to his own. No one living this day was more attached than Jas & my self, when I was engaged in front he wanted to get out to my assistance. I lost a loyal comrade in him. No more at present from your Sorrowing friend,*

*Chas McAnally  
Lieut Co "D" 69th  
Regt P.V.*

*P.S. this letter will answer for Sergt McCabe he was shot through the head he died in 2 minutes after. McCabe had 35 cents of money & \$20 he lent to Lieut Fav or our Co.  
C. Mc. A.*

(1)

Camp of 49<sup>th</sup> Regt P. V.  
near Gettysburg Pa.

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

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(4)

we got no mail since the 19th with the rest, school last

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Chas. M. Mally  
Lieut. Co. D. 69th  
Regt. P. V.

P.S. this letter will amount for  
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