

Some two days after the battle of Gettysburg 3rd 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 49th 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 road inst he received a ball
through the breast & one through the
Heart & never Spoke after. I
was in Command of the Skenesher,
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
water I was near played
he said I was foolish didnt
let them come at once that the
ol 49th was waiting for them

I threw off my Coat & in 2 minutes
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 interred along
side of Sergt James M. Cabb
Sergt Jeremiah Ballagher of our Co
& 5 others of our Co that ^{are} your ^{not}
acquainted with our Co lost in
killed wounded & missing was
Twenty as follows Killed & Wounded
10 & missing 2 although we fought
the Rebels 10 to one on the 2nd &
killed & captured a whole Corps
our Co had only one man wounded
that day the loss in the battle

of the od 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
Colonel & Lieut Colonel & 2 Capt-
Suffy & 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 & both days fighting
there never was a battle fought
with more determination in the
first days fight the Rebels
had our battery on the first

(4)

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

P.S. this letter will amount for
Serg. M. C. C. he was shot
through the head he died in 2
minutes after M. C. C. had
25 cents of money & \$20 he lent to
Lieut. Day of our Co. A. N. A.

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