

26d. Box 47<sup>th</sup> - All Day  
7<sup>th</sup> July 1863

Camp near Hagerstown Md

My Dear Wife

Providence has been kind enough to take me once more through the dangers of a battle field. I am now with the army at Hagerstown seven miles from the Potomac. We have had one of the bloodiest battles of the war without an favourable result for us. We met the enemy near Gadsburg Pennsylvania he had entrenched himself on a mountain ridge & extended his line about seven miles. Gen Lee contrary to the opinion of every one attacked him in his strong position. I will give you an idea of the part of the field I fought on & you can get an idea of the whole. For our part was a small part of the whole. It was about three o'clock in the evening of the second of July that we approached the mountain. I saw at once that the position was a very strong one & concluded the enemy would have to leave his position before he could get a fight out of us. But contrary to my expectations & the advice of his Generals as I am told. Gen Lee ordered us to advance. The distance we had to charge was at least a mile & a half without a shrub to protect us in our advance

I drew the men in line & ordered them to advance  
It would have done you good to see the brave  
fellows answer the order with a shout & clash  
of bayonets. The charge began very precipitate and  
the line at the distance of fifty to a hundred yards.  
The enemy seeing the determination of my men began  
to throw grape & shell into us thick  
as you ever saw hail stones. But it would all  
do no good the men would advance. The Regiments  
continued to advance though not all at the same  
rate. For before half the distance was cleared my  
Regiment was in advance of the line (which was six  
miles long) at least a hundred & fifty yards. My men being  
very much fatigued we stopped for a moment behind  
a bare fence the only covering from the place we  
had started to the foot of the mountain. I gave them  
only a moment to rest & gave the order to advance.  
Then the slaughter commenced in earnest we  
were in good range of their sharpshooters; but  
we could get no credit at them; from the fact that  
they were untroubled behind stone fences. We got in  
about a hundred yards of the first line when the men gave  
a shout & charged it at double quick. The Yankees  
routed until we came in party or fifty paces & gave  
way & fled. we pursued & they fled, making a stand behind  
any rock on the mountain which were as thick as they  
could be. We followed them to the very top which was  
the distance of one mile from the foot. By the time

we reached the top we had but about half of  
our men. When the enemy arrived on the top they  
made a stand we reformed our line to charge them  
We approached in a fine pass of it & found it almost  
perpendicular with a great work of rock on the top  
that reached to the skulls of the enemy. being it  
we were ordered to take it & our gallant boys went up to  
the very top, but as fast as they did so they were surprised  
One man had marched that day a distance of thirty miles  
& were completely exhausted before they began their  
charge & they scattered on the field by hundreds  
We made four efforts to take the top but failed  
we then fell back about three hundred yards & threw  
up a great work of rock. We used every effort to get the  
enemy to follow but he was not inclined to do so  
we therefore waited until next day when the fight  
was resumed with similar success. We lost a great many  
in killed & wounded, Col Harris of Greenville was  
killed while charging gallantly in front of his Regiment  
Mr Muses oldest son Howard Muse was killed  
Bledsars brother Frank had his leg shot off I lost several  
Officers among. Col Bulger. he was shot in the first  
charge & fell into the hands of the Yankees. I think he  
was killed dead from what I learned from those that rescued  
him after he fell. Give my love to Mother & Pa. I have  
resigned & I will come home as soon as I can get off  
& think there is some chance of an other fight before we reach the  
Atlantic. They thank you, Yours affectionately. John C. Brown

Mrs Jennie F. Jackson

Care of Greenville  
H. N. Jackson Geo

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I drew the men in line & ordered them to advance. It would have done you good to see the brave fellows answer the order with a shout & clash of bayonets. The charge begun my Regiment had the line at the distance of fifty to a hundred yards. The enemy seeing the determination of my men began to throw grape canister & shell into us thick as you ever saw hail stones. But it would all do no good the men would advance. The Regiments continued to advance, though not all at the same rate. For before half the distance was cleared my Regiment was in advance of the line (which was six miles long) at least a hundred & fifty yards. My men being very much fatigued we halted for a moment behind a stone fence the only covering from the place we had started to the foot of the mountain. I gave them only a moment to rest & gave the order to advance. Then the slaughter commenced in earnest we were in good range of their sharp shooters; but we could get no crack at them; from the fact that

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we reached the top we had but about half of our men. When the army arrived on the top they made a stand we reformed our line to charge them. We approached in a five paces of it & found it almost perpendicular with a brest work of rock at the top that reached to the shoulders of the enemy behind it. We were ordered to take it & our gallant boys walked up to the very top, but as fast as they did so they were sacrificed. Our men had marched that day a distance of thirty miles & were completely exhausted before they began this charge & they fainted on the field by hundreds. We made four efforts to take the top but failed We then fell back about three hundred yards & then up a brest work of rock. We used every effort to get the enemy to follow but he was not inclined to do so. we therefore waited until next day when the fight was resumed with similar success. We lost a great many in killed & wounded. Col Harris of Greenville was killed while charging gallantly in front of his Regiment. Mr. Muses oldest son Howard Muse was killed. Bledsoes brother Frank had his leg shot off. I lost several officers among. Col Bulger. he was shot in the first charge & fell into the hands of the Yankies. I think he was killed dead from what I learned from those that noticed him after he fell. Give my love to Mother & Pa. I have resigned & I will come home as soon as I can get off. I think there is some chance of another fight before we cross the Potomac. Though I hope not. Yours affecly. J. W. Jackson