

of nature this was part of the order of the day

Head Quarters 3^d Brigade
pt Div. 5 Army Corps
approximate Court House
April 13th 1865.

My dear father,

I am glad I was not
tempted to leave the camp this Spring.
I would not for a moment have
missed the experiences of the last
two weeks. It seems like two years,
so many, & such important
events have taken place, within
that time. Father said in his last
letter to me that "the glory of
battles was over". But if he had
been some of these we have had
of late, in which we captured the
enemy by thousands & carried
their positions by a dash, and at
last at approximate Court House
received the surrender of Genl
Lee & his whole army he would
think differently.

For my personal part I have
had the advance every day there
was any fighting - have been in
five battles - two of them being
entirely under my own direction
and brilliantly successful - twice
wounded myself - my horse
shot - in the front line when
the flag of truce came through
from Lee - had the last shot
& the last man killed, in this
campaign; & yesterday was des-
ignated to receive the surrender
of the arms of Lee's army of
Northern Virginia. The bare
mention of these facts seems
like boasting, but I assure
you I do not feel any of that
spirit. I only regret that I was
here & bore my part in the
crowning triumphs of the war.

It was a scene worthy of a pilgrim-
age, yesterday, when the old third

Majade" of the 1st Div. was drawn
up to receive the surrender of the
Rebel arms. My Majade you know
consists of 9 Regts. the remnant
of the old 5th Corps. veterans of
thirty battles. They number about
six thousand men all told - on
the right was old Massachusetts
with the remnants of her 9th, 18th, 22^d &
32^d. then Maine her 1st, 2^d & 20th -
Michigan 1st, 4th & 16th - Pennsylv-
vania - with the sturdy relics of her
62^d, 83^d, 91st, 118th & 155th - with my
staff & the old flag - the red Maltese
cross on a white field with blue bor-
der - I took post on the right at
5 a.m., & received first Maj. Gen
Gordon with his Corps. Stone-
wall Jackson's - then Smyth's Corps. with
Hood Anderson's & Pickett's old Div-
isions - men we had faced a score of
times & almost recognized by face -
Pickett's splendid Div. only stacked 53

muskets + not a single stand of
colors - we had so completely used
them up at 5 p.m. Last came
Hill's corp. by divisions - Hill himself
being killed. we received them with the
honors due to troops - at a shoulder
in silence. They came to a shoulder
on passing my flag + preserved perfect
order. When the head of their column
reached our left, they halted faced toward
our line + close to it - say 4 or 5 yards -
+ stacked their arms + piled their colors.
Poor fellows. I pitied them from the bottom
of my heart. Their arms had been well
handled + the flags bravely borne.

15000 stands of arms + 72 flags
were stacked before my line. I saw
+ conversed with nearly all the Rebel
Generals, + shall have some thing
to tell you of by & by.

Your letter has just come. The first
mail for two weeks. I thank you much.
With great love to you all your aff. Lewis

File
COPY

Head Quarters 3^d Brigade
1st Div. 5 Army Corp
Appomattay Court House
April 13th 1865

My dear Sae -

I am glad I was not tempted to leave the army this spring. I would not for a fortune have missed the experiences of the last two weeks. It seems like two years, so many, & ~~such~~^{so} important events have taken place within that time.

Father said in his last letter to me that "the glory of battles was over." But if he had seen some of these we have had of late, in which we captured the enemy by thousands & carried ~~they~~ their positions by a dash, and at last at Appomattay Court House secured the surrender of Gen. Lee & his whole army he would think differently.

For my personal part I have had the advance every day there was any fighting - have been in five battles - two of them being entirely under my own direction and brilliantly successful - twice wounded myself

- 2 -

my horse shot - in the front line when the flag of truce came through from ~~the~~ ^{had} Lee - (3) the last shot & the last man killed, in this campaign & yesterday was designated to receive the surrender of the arms of Lee's Army of Southern Virginia. The bare mention of these facts seems like boasting, but I assure you I do not feel any of that spirit. I only rejoice that I was here & had my part in the crowning triumph of the war. It was a scene worthy of a pilgrimage, yesterday, when the old "Third Brigade" of the 1st Div. was drawn up to receive the surrender of the Rebel Arms. My Brigade you know consists of 9 Regts. the remnant of the old 5th corp. Veterans of thirty battles. They number about six thousand men all told - on the right was old Massachusetts

with the remnants of her 9th, 18th, 22nd + 32 -
Then Maine, her 1st, 2^d + 20th - Michigan
1st, 4th + 10th - Pennsylvania with ^{strong} (?) relics
of her 62^d, 83^d, 91st, 118th + 155th - With my
staff + the old flag - the red ~~Mat~~ ^{Mat} Cross
on a white field with blue border -
I took post on the night at 5 A.M.
+ received first Maj. Genl. Gordon
with his corps - Stonewall Jackson's -
Then ^(change of units) corps with Hood, Anderson
+ Pickett's old divisions divisions - men
we had faced a score of times +
almost recognized by face. Pickett's
splendid div. only stacked 53 muskets
+ not a single stand of colors, we
had so completely used them up at
5 forks. Last came Hill's Corp - by
divisions - Hill himself being killed.
He received them with
the honors due to troops - at a
shoulder + in silence. They came to a
shoulder on passing my flag and
preserved perfect order. I knew the

head of their column reached our
 left, they halted faced toward our
 line & I^(?) drew out. say 4 or 5 yards &
 stacked their arms & piled their colors.
 Poor fellows. I pitied them from the
 bottom of my heart. These arms had
 been well handled & the flags bravely
 borne. 15000 stand of arms & 12
 flags were stacked before my line.
 I saw & conversed with nearly all
 the Rebel Generals & shall have some-
 thing to tell you of (??) by & by
 Your letter has just come - the
 first mail for two weeks - I thank
 you much - with great love to you
 all your aff Laurence —