

Grandeco near Vatchitochas, L.A.  
Quarters of 29<sup>th</sup> Maine Regt  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Dear Anna,

It is with feelings of the deepest thankfulness to the Giver of all good that I am permitted to write to you once more. After passing through what I have. Anna since I wrote to you last we have been in two as hard fought battles as ever I was in and I escaped uninjured. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> we left Vatchitochas and ~~and~~ marched about 18 miles toward the Rebels. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> we marched about 20 miles and halted at Phasant Hill. The Cavalry was fighting about 2 miles from us. On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> we marched about 8 miles and went into camp ~~staid~~ there about 1 hour had orders to go to the front as they were fighting furiously

We started for the Battle  
field and marched very fast  
about 7 miles came out to the  
field near Mansfield about 6:00 PM  
Found our army badly whipped  
We marched right up to the front  
and then the Rebels charged  
upon us and we drove them  
back again they charged  
upon us and again we drove  
them back and still the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
time they charged up to us and  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we drove them  
back then it was so dark  
that the fighting ceased. The bullets  
flew like hail stones they struck  
one of the rails in front of us  
and some of the shivers struck  
my left hand but did not hurt  
it very bad. The cries of the wound-  
ed was dreadful to hear their  
cry was water water but they  
could not be helped so they  
were between the 2 lines. The  
company next to me had 2 corpo-  
rals killed and several wounded.

We Laid on The Battle Field  
till 12 at night. Then our Army  
had all fell back to Pleasant  
Hill as The Rebels had a force of  
40,000 and we had only about  
20,000. Our Reg: had to act as  
rear Guard and started at 12  
at night. We got near to Pleasant  
Hill at Sun Rise Saturday Morn and  
just before we got there They came  
upon us we formed a line until  
fresh troops came and we fell  
back. They commenced skirmish-  
ing and kept it up all day  
My Company was sent out  
as Picket and we staid out  
until 2 P.M. when The Rebels  
shelled us out of the woods  
we went back to the Reg: as  
by that time The Infantry coman-  
enced fighting furiously. We went  
out on to The Battle Field and  
then a Corporal in My Company  
got wounded and Taken prisoner  
We Laid down behind a log  
The balls coming just over our

heads. and the dead and  
wounded on both sides laid  
all around us we laid there until  
dark but did not fire any. Strange  
to say our killed and wounded  
will not exceed 40. That is the 29<sup>th</sup>  
at 12 at night we again left the  
Battle Field Retreating back and  
Sunday we marched about 20 miles  
having had no sleep and but few  
rations for the last 2 days & nights  
we were completely tired out. Monday  
we marched back to this place  
on Red River the whole army is  
back here. It is said that the Rebels  
will follow us up there. but we  
are going to have some more  
new troops right away then I  
suppose that we shall try again  
yesterday there was a mail came  
for us but I got no letter from  
you was sorry for it but I got  
a letter from my sister which  
did me heaps of good. Oh  
Anna I am so tired & weary  
Thank God you do not know the  
trials of the Battle Field the hard  
marches and all the trials of