

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society MMN # 89917

Date: August 8th, 1865

Description: Rebecca Usher of Hollis, who had been a nurse during the Civil War, wrote to her sister, Martha Usher Osgood, describing her visit to Portland where she saw and shook hands with Gen. U.S. Grant.

Bar Mills, Aug 8th, -65.

Dear Mat,

We were delighted to receive your letter but have had stirring times since you left & could not answer before. We all went into Portland to see Gen. Grant. & shook hands with him at City Hall. Ellen urged me to go to Brunswick with May, but Mother would not consent on account of Mr Murry's contemplated visit so May went off alone Wednesday morning. About nine o'clock that same morning Sarah Vose reca telegram from some Bath friends asking her to meet them in Brunswick that afternoon. So I persuaded the Consul to defer his visit till Thursday & decided to go. At one P.M. we were in the Cars & soon on our way. I went directly

to Gen. Chamberlain & ad Gen. bay to be a Icseen before the the are depths beyond but you cannot see expression, Jendermold, punot, Gen. Geants is a study, a closed look. all the excarlises were in teresting including the leception at Thes. woods: I had the pleasure of

to Gen. Chamberlains, & as Gen.
Grant & his party were guests of
Gen C – I had a fine opportunity
to see them. The party consisted of
Gen Grant, lady, four children, & staff
Gov Washburn & wife Gen Ayrs & wife
& Judge Rice Pres. of the R. Road.
Gen. Grant is a silent man, talks
very little & never because he is expected to say something. His face
is as remarkable for what it his
conceales

^ feelings & emotions as Mr Lincoln's what it

was for ^ revealed. his There seems always to be a screen before the the windows of his soul. You know there are depths beyond, but you cannot see the longing of the billows. Mr Lincoln's face was filled with varying expression. Tenderness, humor, pathos, dignity, & firmness. But Gen. Grant's is a study, a closed book. All the exercises were interesting including the reception at Pres. Wood's. I had the pleasure of

meeting bapt. May & leol. Starbird. the latter called on me at gen. lo's I faid he should come to Holis Som. We had speched from Peley Chandler, Prof. Packerd, Prof Hurris of Bangon - Bens. Howard & Chamberlain Peled Chandles laid Gen Grant, had the treeteys of habolean, the Caring of marlborough the prindence of Willing ton of the Valor of Trederick the Great. & Gen beam berlin spoke of him as the foremost man in all the world. Fanny teased hie to spend the night, but I had promised to go home in the first train in the morning to meet Mr Musy, Ir came in the Gont. Spee ial Cer. Louis Pierce offered me a leat by him I made himself exceedingly agreeable. I arrived at Judge ware's at half past twelve V.M. I never enjoyed anything to much in my life. I was in a high

meeting Capt. Mayo & Col. Starbird the latter called on me at Gen. C's & said he should come to Hollis soon. We had speeches from Peleg Chandler, Prof. Packard, Prof. Harris of Bangor – Gens. Howard & Chamberlain. Peleg Chandler said Gen Grant had the strategy of Napoleon, the daring of Marlborough, the prudence of Welington & the valor of Frederick the Great. & Gen. Chamberlain spoke of him as the foremost man in all the world. Fanny teased me to spend the night but I had promised to go home in the first train in the morning to meet Mr Murry, so came in the Gens. spec ial car. Louis Pierce offered me a seat by him & made himself exceedingly agreeable. I arrived at Judge Ware's at half past twelve P.M. I never enjoyed anything so much in my life. I was in a high

State of excitement. Importunetely Sonis was very house & ought with talk. but I could not keep my longue Itill to lave me, I he had to lespons occasionally, however painful it might be. I did not know but I should be the death of the four fellow - but take I must. I laid miss the train & came out with a pic nie of Colored people. Found In & Mr Frost here. They came the May before & finding ho one at home bent to Salmon Falls till Another & Jenny. Mr Marry & linine Shaw came at 12 - & they all left Friday morning. I was very long the Firsts could not have Trunk Bucon Came over & he & Jen & I went to Salmon Talks Desemading. Souise fent her head out of the window exclaiming

state of excitement. Unfortunately Louis was very hoarse & ought not to talk – but I could not keep my tongue still to save me, & he had to respond occasionally, however painful it might be. I did not know but I should be the death of the poor fellow – but talk I must. I laid awake all night for fear I should miss the train & came out with a picnic of colored people. Found Mr & Ms Frost here. They came the day before & finding no one at home went to Salmon Falls till evening when they returned & found Mother & Jenny. Mr Murry & Annie Shaw came at 12 - & they all left Friday morning. I was very sorry the Frosts could not have remained longer. Friday evening Frank Bacon came over & he & Jen & I went to Salmon Falls seranading. Louise put her head out of the window exclaiming

Gracions he! They threw ws a bean tiful bouquet at the basel's & Em white gave we some le fresh mento out the window - dropped them into our laps. Mrs Probert Boyd & her mother from fortsmouth are of al In builds how. Sat eve - Mark Came & I went to Salmen Tralls with him heart fre woon instead of going to meeting. They are all going to the Beach to-morrow excepting annie & I who commet get a horse. In Bartlett hought me last evening lome Istenberry plants of I have been at book all day trans planting them - I put the Scot in the lover part of the beck by the aston - of the Bartlette down by the shed. I am intending to garden this fine look beather. Laturday Charles got Thom Guilfied to help him Clean out the Cisteen & just at they had foth gone down into

Gracious Me! They threw us a beau tiful bouquet at the Carll's & Em White gave us some refreshments out the window – dropped them into our laps. Mrs Robert Boyd & her mother from Portsmouth are att at Mr Carlls now. Sat eve – Mark came & I went to Salmon Falls with him next fore noon instead of going to meeting. They are all going to the Beach to-morrow excepting Annie & I who cannot get a horse. Mr Bartlett brought me last evening some strawberry plants & I have been at work all day trans planting them – I put the Scot in the lower part of the bed by the arbor − & the Bartlett down by the shed. I am intending to garden this fine cool weather. Saturday Charles got Thom Guilford to help him clean out the cistern & just as they had both gone down into it to wash it out, there came

a tremendows thower, & Fannie & I were obliged to hold pails meder the spout & emply them; & occasionally mother was pressed into the Service The lain came down in torsents but we succeeded in getting it very micely hashed out & how it is full of Incet water. I enry you the day at Swamps cot with the Jewells & much more these hworlight night. Charles is getting the oats. will get them in to morrow. with love to all the Jewells Affec your Sister Bep.

a tremendous shower. & Fannie & I were obliged to hold pails under the spout & empty them; & occasionally Mother was pressed into the service. The rain came down in torrents but we succeeded in getting it very nicely washed out & now it is full of sweet water. I envy you the days at Swampscot with the Jewells & much more these moonlight nights. Charles is getting the oats. Will get them in to-morrow.

With love to all the Jewells
Affec your Sister
Bep.