



I let William have 30 dollars
and he let the 1st Lieutenant have
the next time they are paid off he will
send it home

ction
Camp near Warrenton Jun
June 10th 1863

My Dear Father
Never did a
son more gladly take the
pen to write his father than
do I this present you will
no doubt hear of the great
cavalry fight and our charge
Oh father it was the most
horrid thing that I ever saw
dead horses and men lay
strewn all over the field
and the air was filled
with our iron hail we charge
upon a battery behind which
there was more than two
regiments of cavalry just
as we charge upon the
battery they opened upon

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society
(Local code: Coll. 184 Box 1-4)
Date: June 10, 1863
Description: Letter from John Parris Sheahan to his father concerning the horrors of battle
in the Civil War, and sorrow about the death of his friend Charlotte Hill.

us with grape and
canister the 10th NY. Cavalry
and Harris Light Cavalry could
not stand it so they broke
and retreat and then the
Gen hollard for us to charge
and I am proud to say that
the gallant 1st Maine did
what neither the two other
regiments in our brigade could
do. Oh it was a sad sight
to see our boys falling on
all sides but not one
of them flinched we lost
8 out of our company
when I turned to come
off the field of battle I
was sickened at the sight
one of our boys wounded
a rebel and he fell from
his saddle but his left
foot caught in the stirrup
and his horse started on

us with grape and
canister the 10th NY. Cavalry
and Harris Light Cavalry could
not stand it so they broke
and retreat and then the
Gen hollard for us to charge
and I am proud to say that
the gallant 1st Maine did
what neither the two other
regiments in our brigade could
do. oh it was a sad sight
to see our boys falling on
all sides but not one
of them flinched we lost
8 out of our company
when I turned to come
off the field of battle I
was sickened at the sights
one of our boys wounded
a rebel and he fell from
his saddle but his left
foot caught in the stirrup
and his horse started on

the gallop every time
the horses heels came up
they hit his head untill he
was all mashed up and
then the saddle girt broke
and the saddle and man
rolled up into one ball
and rolled over two or
three times in the dusty
road, such sights would
make your blood run cold,

My Dear Father

I saw William to
day and he told me sad
yes very sad news, that
Charlotte Hill was dead oh
father you cannot imagine
how sad it made me feel
I shed tears I could not
help it to think what a
dear and near friend I had
lost she was a true friend
to me yes and a very
dear friend to me

the gallop every time
the horses heels came up
they hit his head untill he
was all mashed up and
then the saddle girt broke
and the saddle and man
rolled up into one ball
and rolled over two or
three times in the dusty
road. such sights would
make your blood run cold,
My Dear Father

I saw William to
day and he told me sad
yes very sad news, that
Charlotte Hill was dead oh
father you cannot imagine
how sad it made me feel
I shed tears I could not
help it to think what a
dear and near friend I had
lost she was a true friend
to me yes and a very
dear friend to me

she wrote me a letter
last fall just after I
came out here and she
said, "I am confident that
you will make a brave and
noble soldier" yesterday when
we were in the charge I heard
her say as plain a day, I am
confident that you will make
a brave and noble soldier,
I know that I am brave and
she has made me so but
now she is no more, that
once so dearly prized friend you
may feel assured that when
she died I lost a faithful and
true friend I have five letters
that she has written me
since I have been in the
army read them and then
put them with the ones that
I have at home which I do
not want anyone to read

John

She wrote me a letter
last fall just after I
came out here and she
said, "I am confident that
you will make a brave and
noble soldier" yesterday when
we were in the charge I heard
her say as plain a day, I am
confident that you will make
a brave and noble soldier.
I know that I am brave and
she has made me so but
now she is no more, that
once so dearly prized friend you
may feel assured that when
she died I lost a faithful and
true friend I have five letters
that she has written me
since I have been in the
army read them and then
put them with the ones that
I have at home which I do
not want anyone to read

John