

April the 10 1862  
Pittsberg Landing Harding Co  
Tennessee

Dear Sarah I Received your letter  
a few minute ago and was happy to hear  
from you all and to hear that you were all  
well your letter found me well and all the rest  
of the boys dear love I must tell you  
about the desperd battle that we had  
this weake last Sunday morning <sup>the 8<sup>th</sup></sup> they attacked  
us and they rune us all day Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>  
they came in our ~~ten~~ Camps about 7 clock and  
fired on our the grates forse I never seen  
there were one hundred thousand rebels  
we retreated about half mile and then  
formed our self in line of battle and  
we staid there about one hour and the  
rebels still advanced one our and  
we then placed our self in a gully and  
the rebels still ~~thunder~~ shot at us and  
tried to burn shell us the canon balls all  
went over us they came rite one us and our  
cornel give comans to fire we fired on  
them and then fel back and still shot  
and retreated they rune us about 6 or 7 miles  
and still getting closer one us



They had a very large force.  
I tell you dear the bullets wizen  
around our heads and the hums shells  
such a time never was heard of in  
world the grates battle never was half  
as hard as this battle well we fight them  
all day Sunday April the 2 and the  
guns' gunshots still kept them back they  
were still best all day Sunday and at  
about 4 clock general fuel army came  
across the river with a very large force  
and the guns boats fired on the rebels  
all Sunday morn and kept them off of  
us then one morn morning the 7 April  
we then started out to the battle field  
and the grates battle never was heard of  
we fight till 3 clock in the after noon  
and the rebels had to run we  
run them 15 miles and wipt them  
compleat Sarah I cant tell half I  
now the grates side never was seen  
dead men lain ~~there~~ all thru the  
woods and dead horses wound men some  
with there legs shot off and some  
there armes and some there heels I  
cant tell all Sarah some places  
there is 400. hundred dead men lain  
in a pile oh Sarah I cant tell half



The grates site and the hardest  
battle never was half as hard as this  
battle Sarah. I will tell you the  
good news now the Fremonts boys  
are all alive and sound except Frank  
Taylor was captured in the last but he  
will sure get all to sea all right  
Sarah. I cant tell all. I tell you  
some more good news we met  
with your dear brother James Hamilton.  
He is right close where we are camped  
he came in our camp yesterday and  
the day before he is well ~~and~~ and  
happy. I tell you he was glad to see  
us boys and John was glad to see  
his dear brother dear Sarah it was true  
the mercy of god that we all met  
together Sarah. I cant tell half of this  
grate battle James looks hard  
I tell you Sarah it is enough to make  
us all look harder to see in a grate  
battle like this battle and fight two  
days and night after night in the mud  
and rain Sarah. I cant give you half  
of the more but fear by good luck  
us boys all got through safe except one  
of our men in our company got killed  
and too got wounded we got through safe



I think the 81 regiment did not  
lose many men in this desperd fight  
I thank the lord that he spared  
so many of our men Sarah I think  
that we will be at home before long  
now send this hard battle Sarah tell  
all the folks that we are all well  
and sound tell my folks that I  
am well and alive but it was thine  
the mercy of god that I am alive  
dear I think that we have seen  
as much of more as any man ever did  
Sarah I must tell you we killed  
genral Johnson the rebels cant genral  
we beared him in our camp Secesh laid  
all thine our camp and I guess we killed  
genral pengarde and I now we got  
genral bag he is one the best with his arms  
shot off we killed three rebels to our  
one but there is a good many of our men  
lain dead but not half as many as there  
is secesh Sarah I must close this ltr. I  
cant tell all I would like to tell you  
but I must close and bid you good by  
tell all the folks that we are all safe  
yet and hope that we may get home safe  
I must close yours truly Sarah Hamilton  
from your dear lover John M. Giles

Direct to Paducah and it will  
come safe good by



Walter  
L. Shulz

Miss Sarah E. Hamilton  
Freemont  
Montgomery  
County  
Pa



11