

G.C. ABBOTT TO AL AND LYDIA (ABBOTT) HANK

June 7th 1862

Camp Near Corinth Miss

Dear Brother, Sister, and Mother I recd your verry welcom letter yesterday which I am happy to say found me a considerable better than when I last wrote still I am yet troubled with the diarrea some and expect to be as long as I stay in the army or especialy while we stay down in this God forsaken country The report now is that this Division is to go to Kty and I hope it may for to stay here will no doubt kill more men with sickness than will be killed by the bullit the water is so bad sometimes where we get water we have to skim off the green skum be fore we can get any so you need not wonder that we have the diarrea water is verry scarce and very poor I suppose you have heard before this that the great city of corinth was evacuated by the rebles on the 28 of last month & we now have possession of the place I will give you a little history of our movements in takeing the place On the 26th of may our (Rousseau's) brigade was ordered out on a reconaisance to drive in the enemies pickets which was about five miles from where we were en camped we marched out to within about a mile when we were halted took off every thing except our cartrage Boxes & canteens and rested a while when our regt was put in the advance and marched up to within about a half mile of their pickets when we sent our Skermishers in advance holding the rest of the regt back as a reserve The Skermishers had gone but a short distance when they became verry hotly engaged with the enemy & our colonel sent out three more companies to support them when the fight became verry warm the balls flying thick over our heads in a short time our majer who had command of the Skermishers sent in for reinforcements and the col sent out all but our company & one other which he still kept back as a riserve and the fight was kept up nearly all that day I will now tell you how near I came to getting my napper taken (as the boys term it) during the day I had thot there was a mullberry tree out on the road about a 1/4 mile from wher we were laying so I shouldered my canteen as though I was going after water went out to the tree to get some berries I had got up on the tree and was picking berries verry nice when bang went a gun & whiz came a bullet about a foot over my head cutting off the leaves and limbs & you may guess how soon I got down out of there I soon had enough berries well to go back a little our Skermishers finaly drove the rebles back to their entrenchments but could not get them any further and we continued fighting untill the next day in the afternoon when we were releaved by another regt we did not lose any men on our side but Capt Coleman Said he found 7 dead rebles

we were then taken off to the right & kept still in the advance we lay on our arms that night & the next & in the morning we recd orders to move forward and take their brestworks which was about 3/4 of a Mile ahead of us and away we Started our coll leading the way we marched out about half the distance when he sent out the skermishers & formed us in line of battle we followed on about a hundred yards behind them to support them if necessary they went on right up to the works & lo & behold there was no enemy then we then pushed forward & was the first regt on the works when we rested a short time then we were ordered forward to corinth which was about one and 1/2 miles ahead we gave 6 harty cheers & away we went our company in advance on quick time & was the first regt in corinth the rebles had evacuated it but a short time before we entered the town they had burned up narly every thing that would burn there was hundreds of muskets which were still burning when we got there I have since heard from some of the prisoners taken that the reble reserve under Brickenridge saw us enter the town Our cavelry artillery & two divissions of Infantry were immediately sent in pursuit of them and overtook them about five miles out when the artillery commenced playing on them & soon scatteded them when they finely became panic stricken & scattered in every direction There has been a large numbers of prisoners taken & they are still bringing them in it is reported that we have about ten thousand of them Surrounded out about ten miles from here in a large swamp & our forces are waiting for them to come out when they will take them prisoners There is no doubt but their whole army is

so scattered that it will be impossible for them ever to make another stand in the south west & if Genl McClellan whips them at Richmond I think the fighting part of this war is over (& God grant may be) well I have streched this letter out to a pretty good length as I said before it is reported that this divissison or brigade is going to cumberland gap where there is a few more rebles left which I suppose will have to be cleaned out and I think we are just the ones to do it & more than that we will get in a more healthy location and on the rail road where we can get few boxes of good things from home once in a while just for a change Tell Eddy I am glad to hear that he is a good boy tell alvin not to hurt himself working & if I should live to get home I am coming out there certain & I want him to have a little place about 15 or 20 acres of good land picked out for me some where about there No more at presant but remain as ever your Brother G C Abbott write often we recd our pay yesterday and I sent 60 dollars home

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Note: The envelope is addressed to Mr Alvin E Hank/Morganville/Hillsdale Co/Mich. Al was Nan's brother and lived about a mile from Henry's parents. The envelope is stamped "SOLDIERS LETTER" and "Due 3 [cents]."

WKE 110296