Culpepper Court House Virginia
Quarters of 1st Brigade 1st Div Banks Corps
Co K 10th Maine

August 16th 1862

Dear Friend Anna

It is with the deepest thankfulness to the Giver of all good. That I am permitted to write these few lines to you after passing through so much as we have had to Dear Friend since I wrote to you last the 1st Brigade composed of the 10th Maine 5th Conn 28th N-Y- & 46 Penn Regts has been in the most bloody Battle of the war. I will tell you the particulars. Friday the 9th our Regt had orders to march in one hour with nothing but gun and equipments. We got ready and started in that time and marched about 6 miles towards the Rapidan and stopped for the night

so the Rebels had advanced and their Pickets were close to us we remained in the same position until Noon Saturday having nothing to eat. About Noon the Rebel Batteries commenced firing which was replied to by our own Batteries they kept this up until about ½ past four in the afternoon then the Rebel Infantry came up and our Brigade had orders to advance and fire at them. This was a solemn time to many Anna for we knew that some would never leave a line we advanced steadily through the woods the enemy's bullets flying in all directions until we got into a field in sight of them. Then our Regt advanced with loud cheers the Old Stars and Stripes flying in our Center. We kept on close to them their bullets doing fearful work in our ranks Our Regiment stood their ground

and fought bravely while the
Army sent Regiment after Regt
and Brigade after Brigade to fight
us. When I entered the field I
never expected to leave it alive
but I felt willing and ready
if it need be to offer up my
life. Capt Cloudman Company B stood
by my side and was shot down the
first one the fellow that was standing
with me was shot in the face two balls
that wounded him just grazed my
ear causing it to bleed bullet
passed through the top of my cap
a buck shot through my coat sleeve
and still I remained uninjured we
were in the engagement just 30 min=
utes Our Brigade went into action
with just 1,630 men and there was
only 811 come out uninjured being
just ½ lacking four killed and wou=
nded. The 10th Maine went into action
with 430 men and had 176 killed

and wounded. 24 out of the number
killed on the field my company
went into the fight with near 90 men
out of it there was 16 wounded 1 killed
and 1 missing General Pope says that
it was the hardest battle of the war
The Rebels held possession of the Battle
ground that night and robbed our
dead and even robbed the pockets of
the wounded taking of the shoes from
both our dead and wounded also stri-
ping our dead officers of every thing they
had on. Oh Anna the scene is awful
beyond description the enemy retreated the
next day leaving the Battle field in our
possession they did not even stop to
bury their own dead all of them
their loss is far greater than ours
Dr Lincoln of Lewiston was here and has
to work all the time they are engaged
in amputating the legs & arms many
a great many have to loose their legs
or arms. Culpepper is one vast Hospital