

7-5-1863

Letter, [1863] July 5, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Battle Field

Gettisbury Pa.

July 5th

Dear Mother & Sisters

No doubt you

will be anxious to hear
from me after such severe
fighting as we have had.
Our Div was engaged on the
first day July 1st and we
lost very heavy. Since
then we have been under
fire all the time until to
yesterday afternoon July
2nd our Brig had an other
hot time Gen Carleys Div
10000 strong charged on
our position in order to
take the Batteries that we
were supporting. They came

on us about darks yelling
like demons with fixed
bayonets. We opened on them
when they were about
500 yard off but still they
came their officers & colors
in a drain. we lay behind
a stem wall and received
them with our bayonets.
I was standing behind the
wall wall when they came
over a Rebel Officer made
at me with a revolver
with his colors by his side
& had no pistol nothing
but my sword. Just as
I was getting ready to strike
him one of our boys run
him through the body
or saved me. There was

from mountains
one left: then killed & wounded
into the night in the 75th there only
out of Johnston's army
a good many killed in
that way. They had driven
back the Dutch Brig on
our right and had
got behind us, and
rebels & Yankees were
mixed up generally. But
we finally drove them
back. I never saw such
fighting in my life it
was a regular hand to
hand fight. Our Brig. (Ohio)
had sworn never to run
so they stood but it was
a dear stand. To some
of them. I have 6 men
left the Regt has 60 the
Brig. has 300 out of
1500. On July 4th at
5 am. our Brig was ordered

to advance into town, we
did so, charged right
through on a run and
drove the rebels out and
captured about 300
prisoners.

I do not expect we
will get the credit for
it as Schurty is in
command of the corps or
was on that morning.

But we have the satisfaction
of knowing that we did
it.

This may not reach
you as the mail is
rather irregular.

Hoping you are well I
am affectionately

Oscar