

of good news from you
your
Affectionate
Father

Newport News Va
Augt 25 1862

Dear Boy
I thought
I would write you a few more
lines to let you know my
whereabouts we left our camp
at Harrison's Landing on the
16th and arrived here last Friday
the 22nd marching all the way
a distance of 30 miles we crossed
the Chickahomany River on
a pontoon bridge this seemed like
a slender bridge for such a large ar
my to pass over with all its wagons
and artillery but all got over
safe but one team of mules
they run off and was all around
the driver got out we passed thro
ugh Williamsburg and over the
battle ground of last April and
also through York town where we
rested a part of a day and a night

Father's last letter

Pages 1 & 4

a boat one half of the army take
the boats there but Sumners corps
was sent here to take the boats and
have been getting on board as fast as
they can since Friday we are now
on board a steam ship 3 Regt of us
and are laying at anchor awaiting
further orders we do not know where
we are going but we expect to join
Pope's army this is a very pleasant
place laying on a neck of land
between the James river and the
Chesapeake Bay the water here is
salt and there is plenty of oysters
and a good place for bathing a part
of the masts of the war ships
cumberland and congress that
was sunk by the rebel Merrimack
cp

August 26
we left Newport News this morning
about 3 o'clock and are now crossing
the Chesapeake Bay it looks very
beautiful on the Bay as the sun

rises and we are nearly out sight
of land our ship is steering for
the Potomac river August 27
we have now landed at Aquia
Creek a land 40 miles from
Washington here is the
depot of the Fredricksburg
and Richmond Rail Road
I believe we are going to Fredr
icksburg and I expect we
shall have some fighting
to do before long but I
don't know how long
thing more I should like
to be home now to get
some good molasses and
peaches and tomatoes but
I shall have to do without
them I send you a couple
of little Books which
I want you to read thro
ugh and see what a little
child can do by the Blessing

Pages 2 & 3

Antietam National Cemetery,

Sharpsburg, Md.

September 11-1914.

J. W. Chambers
Harrisburg Pa.

Sir:

Referring to your letter September 10th 1914 asking information of the interment of Augustus Chambers private Co H 57 N.Y. Vols. killed in action during the Battle of Antietam Sept 17-1862.

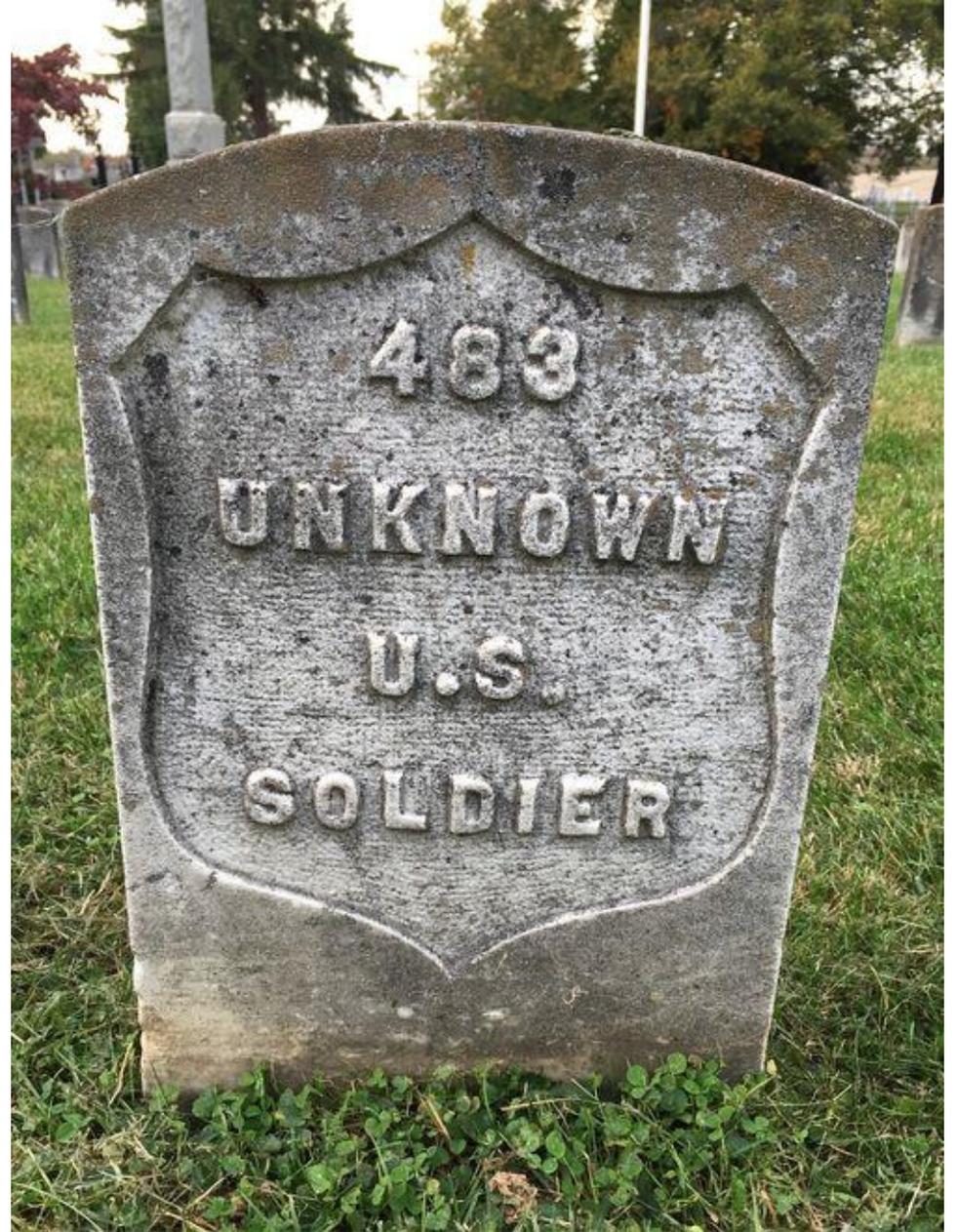
I have carefully gone over the burial Record of this Cemetery and do not find the name of Augustus Chambers 57 N.Y. Vols. and of some 700 or odd N.Y. Soldiers interred here. I find only one 57 body known.

If private soldier is in this Cemetery, he must be an Unknown Soldier, there being 1848 unknown graves here.

Very Respectfully

John S. Cook

Superintendent



Letter from National Cemetery

Headstone of an Unknown soldier at Antietam

Newport News, Virginia

August 25, 1862

Jos., my dear boy,

I thought I would write you a few more lines to let you know my whereabouts. We left our camp at Harrison's Landing on the 16th and arrived here last Friday the 22nd, marching all the way—a distance of 80 miles. We crossed the Chickahominy river on a pontoon bridge. This seemed like a slender bridge for such a large army to pass over with all its wagons and artillery but all got over safe but one team of mules. they run off and was all drowned. The driver got out.

We passed through Williamsburg and over the battleground of last April and also through Yorktown where we rested a part of the day and a night. About one half of the army took the boats there but Sumner's Corps was sent here to take the boats and have been getting on board as fast as they can since Friday.

We are now on board a steamship [the S. R. Spaulding]—three regiments of us—and are laying at anchor waiting for further orders. We do not know where we are going but we expect to join Pope's army. This is a very pleasant place laying on a neck of land between the James river and the Chesapeake Bay. The water here is salt and there is plenty of oysters and a good place for bathing. [You can see] a part of the masts of the warships Cumberland and Congress that was sunk by the rebel Merrimack.

August 27th. We left Newport News this morning about 3 o'clock and are now crossing the Chesapeake Bay. It looks very beautiful on the bay as the sun rises and we are nearly out of sight of land. Our ship is steering for the Potomac river.

August 27. We have now landed at Acquia Creek—about 40 miles from Washington. Here is the depot of the Fredericksburg and Richmond railroad. I believe we are going to Fredericksburg and I expect we shall have some fighting to do before long.

But I haven't time to add only one thing more. I should like to be home now to get some good melons and peaches and tomatoes but I shall have to do without them. I send you a couple of little books which I want you to read through and see what a little child can do by the blessing of God. No more now.

Affectionately, — Father

[docketed by a different hand on back of letter, "Father's last letter."]

Antietam National Cemetery

Sharpsburg, Maryland

September 11, 1914

J. H. Chambers

Harrisburg, PA.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of September 10th 1914 asking information of the interment of Augustus Chambers, private Co. H, 57th N. Y. Vols., killed in action during the Battle of Antietam September 17, 1862. I have carefully gone over the burial record of this cemetery and do not find the name of Augustus Chambers, 57th N. Y. Vols, and of some 700 & odd N. Y. soldiers interred here. I find only one 57th body known. 1 If private soldier is in this cemetery, he must be an unknown soldier, there being 1848 unknown graves here.

Very respectfully, — John S. Cook, Superintendent

Bio of Augustus Chambers

38 years old when he enlisted at New York City on 17 September 1861 to serve three years in Co. H, 57th New York Infantry. One year later to the very day, he was killed in action at the Battle of Antietam. Augustus was the son of Solomon Chambers (1791-1835) and Ann Johnson (1790-1885) of New Jersey.

He was married 23 November 1845 to Elizabeth Hancock (1818-1859) and the couple had at least three children: Joseph Hancock Chambers (1847-1932), Charity H. Chambers (born 20 June 1850), and John R. Chambers (born 7 February, 1857). In the 1850's, Augustus was employed as a "laborer" in Burlington, New Jersey. A widower, in 1860 he was enumerated in Ann Hellina's boarding house in Burlington; his young children being raised by others.

1 The soldier from the 57th New York was probably Private Henry F. Bugbee. See John Banks' Civil War Blog: "Antietam Soldier Snapshot..."

In 1914, Joseph H. Chambers wrote to John S. Cook, the Superintendent of the Antietam National Cemetery looking for information with respect to his father's gravesite. Response received shown above: