

Crampton Gap

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1862

Page 1

Dear Father

Your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>. I have just received & am glad that you are all well. Well, I have passed through a most terrific battle with the enemy which we that is our Division completely routed.

The enemy were strongly posted in the above named gap. It was assigned to Genl Bartlett to open the engagement with his brigade. what he did in gallant our Regt. was thrown forward as skirmishers. to find the enemy & bring on the engagement. as we went right into the teeth of the rebel batteries. they opened upon us with grape, canister

Pages 2 & 3

of case shot, but still on we went until the left of our Regt commenced firing we fought them thus, picking of the rebel gunners & horses until the rest of our Brigade came up. to your relief, which was just in time as our ammunition was exhausted. Then Genl Bartlett ordered a general charge of the whole line, we carried everything before us, the enemy running like scattered sheep although having been just reinforced by Genl Co's. with his brigade. the dear Gading our living all about. It was a complete victory for us. Stocum having cut their line in two. it was a bold stroke, but a successful one, I hear that yesterday they were defeated everywhere

we are only about 5 <sup>or 6</sup> miles from Harper's ferry, near the town of Jefferson. You will see in any of these maps that are in the N. Y. Herald. probably I shall see Albert in a few days if he is not shot or wounded there has been heavy firing in that direction yesterday

McClellan is in the field & I think all will yet be well. Our Regt. does its duty wherever remember, I expect <sup>we</sup> will move very soon. Ever yours J. P. Co

# Crampton's Gap

September 15, 1862

Dear Father,

Your letter of the 8th I have just received & am glad that you are all well. Well, I have passed through another terrific battle with the enemy which we—that is, our Division—completely routed. The enemy were strongly posted in the above named gap. It was assigned to General Bartlett to open the engagement with his brigade which he did in gallant [style]. Our regiment was thrown forward as skirmishers to find the enemy and bring on the engagement. On we went right into the teeth of the rebel batteries. They opened on us with grape and canister & case shot but still on we went until the left of our regiment commenced firing.

We fought them thus, picking off the rebel gunners and horses until the rest of our brigade came up to our relief which was just in time as our ammunition was just exhausted. Then General Bartlett ordered a general charge of the whole line. We carried everything before us, the rebs running like scattered sheep although having been just reinforced by Gen. [Howell] Cobb with his brigade. The dead and dying are laying all about.

It was a complete victory for us, Slocum having cut their line in two. It was a bold stroke but a successful one. I hear that yesterday they were repulsed everywhere. We are only about 5 or six miles from Harper's Ferry near the town of Jefferson. You will see it on any of them maps that are in the New York Herald. Probably I shall see Albert in a few days if he is not shot or wounded. There has been heavy firing in that direction yesterday.

McClellan is in the field & I think all will yet be well. Our regiment does its duty everywhere. Remember. I expect we will move every moment.

Ever your affectionate son, — J. B. Edson

Dat. Sept 20<sup>th</sup>  
Before sending this, I can tell you that  
I've seen all. His Regt. was on the move & had  
to surprise the rear of his Regt. to the front  
in order to see him. He looks well. I'm  
expecting to see him now every moment  
having sent word to him to come & see me  
write soon

J. Blizy your son  
J. B. Ed

J. B. Ed  
I have been thinking  
of writing to you  
for some time  
but have been so  
busy that I could  
not find time  
to do so. I am  
well & hope these  
few lines will  
find you the same.  
I have not heard  
from you for some  
time & I am  
wondering how  
you are getting  
on. I hope you  
are all well &  
happy. I have  
not much news  
to write at present.  
I am your affectionate  
son  
J. B. Ed

On the Battle field near Sharpsburg  
Maryland Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

Dear Father  
Having a few spare moments  
I will mention in letters you know that  
I am yet in the land of the living  
Our Coops arrived on the field  
just in time to take the post  
& relieve the men who had been  
engaged all day our Division  
was not engaged. we did nothing  
of the offensive yesterday. This last  
night the enemy moved off.  
This morning our light artillery  
went after them. I hear there  
were three pieces in the enemy's  
rear. I read in the clipper an  
account of Albert's Regt. cutting  
their way out of Harpers ferry  
it was a gallant deed I know  
not how Albert is. I hear the Regt.

is about a mile  $\frac{1}{4}$  from here  
near Williamsport. I'm expect-  
ing to see him every ~~moment~~ day  
I want to see him very much, we  
have fought on the battle  
field for two nights, the stand  
is terrible, there was one spot  
near our company where a Miss-  
issippi Georgia Regt. made a  
charge, but just as they were cross-  
ing the fence, a storm of bullets  
met them & some scath'd were  
struck dead upon the field in  
every form which death by the battle  
can cause. The Missouri company  
Regt. 10<sup>th</sup> were in this battle & Genl.  
Rt. Adams is reported to have been  
killed, he was leading on his company  
while on the ground, when a ball  
struck his breast, & he fell, the  
bullet spares none, Capt. Man-  
ger has not returned yet.

When you write let me know  
how is Miriam getting  
I hear nothing from  
her, I suppose she has no  
thought for her long absent  
brother, having two of another  
nature to seek her attendance  
I shall be  
I shall probably  
be another great battle soon  
which will terminate the conflict  
of this fall. I leave you to guess  
as to what you think will be  
the result of our contest.  
All respects to our Young  
Commander  
M. O. Leble  
From your Affectionate Son  
J. B. Ed

Paes 1 & 4

Paes 2 & 3

On the Battlefield near Sharpsburg, Maryland

September 19, 1862

Dear Father,

Having a few spare moments, I will use them in letting you know that I am yet in the land of the living. Our Corps arrived on the field just in time to take the front & relieve the men who had been engaged all day. Our Division were not engaged. We did nothing of the offensive yesterday. Last night the enemy moved off. This morning our light artillery went after them. I hear them now thundering in the enemy's rear. I read in the *Clipper* an account of Albert's regiment cutting their way out of Harper's Ferry. It was a gallant deed. I know not how Albert is. I hear the regiment is about a mile and a quarter from here near Williamsport. I'm expecting to see him every day. I want to see him very much.

We have bivouacked on the battlefield for two nights. The stench is terrible. There was one spot near our company where a Mississippi & Georgia Regiment made a charge, but just as they were crossing the fence, a storm of bullets met them & some sixty were stretched dead upon the field in every form of death by the bullet can cause.

The Monroe County Regiment—108th—were in this battle & young Robert Holmes is reported to have been killed. He was leading on his company while on the charge when a ball went through his breast & he fell. The bullet spares none. Capt. [George G.] Wanzer has not returned yet.

When you write, let me know all the news. How is Miriam getting along? I hear nothing from her. I suppose she has no thought for her long absent brother having [ties?] of another nation to call her attention elsewhere.

There will probably be another great battle soon which will terminate the contest of this fall. I leave you to guess as to what you think will be the result of that contest.

All hail to our young commander, McClellan.

From your affectionate son, — J. B. Edson

Saturday, September 20th—Before ending this, I can tell you that I've seen Albert. His regiment was on the move. I had to run from the rear of his regiment to the front in order to see him. He looked well. I'm expecting to see him now every moment having sent word to him to come & see me. Write soon & oblige your son,  
— J. B. Edson

P. S. Tell Hatt. to write me. Also cousin M. as I did not receive her letter she sent in the box. — J. B. E.

# Bio of John Boultwood Edson

Born in 1839, the son of Elijah Edson (1812-1878) and Achsah Edna Wright (1818-1905) of Rochester, New York. John enlisted as a private on 7 May 1861 to serve two years in Co. E, 27th New York Infantry. He mustered out with the company on 31 May 1863 at Elmira, N. Y. Although some sources say that John “died in the service in December 1863,” there is no evidence that he reenlisted unless he went to California to bring mules back East as mentioned in the final letter. Jhon passed in in 1863