

No. 4
Friday night Sept 19 Camp near Sharpsburg

Dear ~~Brother~~ Mother
we are both
well & we have driven the Rebels out of
Md. it was our Brigade instead of Hancock's
that drove them off the Mountain last
Sunday we got to the Battlefield Wednesday
at 10 o'clock the fighting was terrible
we took a position in the center the
fighting continued until dark
Thursday there was not much fighting
Thursday night they left to day we
are after them we are near the
Potomac our advance has got up
to them as there has been some fighting
our Regt has had but few wounded
we passed over the Susquehanna
to day the sight was horrible
thousands of the dead & dying
lay on the field it is dark
to prevent see to write & we
don't get any time send word
to that we are safe love to you
Hall Philo

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I have got a light so will write a little more
we have had long marches but we
stand it well & think the Rebels will go
to Va & that we shall have to follow them
we have whipped them nicely hope we shall
have as good luck in future where is
General we want to hear from you soon

we are about 8 miles north of Harpers
Ferry & think we shall cross into Va
tomorrow we fought last Sunday near
Burkettville our Regt to the 4th charged
up the Mountain it was like going up
Mt. Pikes Hill & Locusts then went
upon the left of us their Battery played
on us terrible savage but we got through

we captured the 16th Va Regt
I can't write more write to us often
without fail good night Philo

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Camp near Sharpsburg, Md.

Friday night, September 19 [1862]

Dear Mother,

We are both well & we have driven the Rebels out of Maryland. It was our Brigade instead of Hancock's that drove them off the Mountain last Sunday. We got to the Battlefield Wednesday at 10 A. M. The fighting was terrible. We took a position in the center. The fighting continued until dark.

Thursday there was not much fighting. Thursday night they left. Today we are after them. We are near the Potomac. Our advance has got up to them as there has been some firing. Our regiment has had but few wounded. We passed over the field today. The sight was horrible. Thousands of the dead & dying lay on the field.

It is dark & I can't see to write & we don't get any time. Send word to Hat we are safe. Love to you & all. — Philo

I have got a light so I'll write a little more. We have had long marches but we stand it well. I think the Rebels will go into Virginia & that we shall have to follow them. We have whipped them nicely. Hope we shall have as good luck in future. Where is Leonard? We want to hear from you & him.

We are about 8 miles north of Harpers Ferry. I think we shall cross into Virginia tomorrow. We fought last Sunday near Burkittsville [Crampton's Gap]. Our Regiment & the 4th [Vermont] charged up the Mountain. It was like going up Mr. Noyes' hill. Slocum's men went up on the left of us. Their Battery played on us terrible savage but we got through. ¹ We captured the 16th Virginia Regt. I can't write more. Write to us often without fail.

Goodnight, — Philo

Bio of Philo Emery

Born in Tunbridge Vermont 1839 at age 22, he enlisted as Private, Company E, 2nd Vermont Infantry on 4 June 1861. He was in action at Crampton's Gap on South Mountain on 14 September and at Antietam on 17 September 1862. He was wounded in action on 5 May 1864 at the Wilderness, VA, and died of his wounds on 9 June 1864 at the Armory Square Hospital, Washington, DC.

Philo Emery is buried in Durkee Cemetery, Tunbridge, Vermont

¹ The losses in the 2nd & 4th Vermont Regiments in the fighting at Burkittsville (or Crampton's Gap) were relatively light. Official Records state that only one man was killed—Michael F Murray of Co. C, 4th Vermont—and 18 were wounded, all but one of them in the 4th Vermont. The 2nd Vermont had only one wounded, Pvt. Rinaldo N. Hescocock of Co. C.