

[Union soldier in Pettit's Battery account of caring for wounded at the Battle of
Gettysburg] [Incomplete]

s.l., July 1863.

Autograph letter signed, 4 pages.

3) (Corp W. F. Thorn – wounded both Feet)

(" Hooker " Run over Rt ")

John M Scovil " Rt arm & sides Minnie B.

Lt. – A.S. Shelden Rt. & Lt Groin ")

S. Sherman Gun Shot Lt Arm

[August] Rogers, Rt Leg amput^d upper [*inserted: leg*] & gun shot in Rt arm

Coraden Wallace Lt Foot Gun Shot

A.B. Mallery Shell, Head

Geo Rabb " "

Theod Deneyer " "

O.S. states Lt. Arm gun shot

Sarg Childs Bruised leg

John Buckley Rt up^r leg slight

Pat Mc Gowan Lt Sholder Gun Shot

89 Horses killed – 3 wheels smashed 3 [Cassions] smashed – nearly all our clothing – this is all I can say this sabbath Eve – I [want] to rest A kiss love. Kiss our Darlings. God Bless us – Monday Eve July 6th. 10.^o Clock – Em I have passed another busily day – Lieut Shelden was fixed up by me and made as comfortable and sent off with some other officers I am left here in Care of the Boys – Several of the boys who had very slight wounds are with the Battery. We have Patched up just so as to man 4 guns all told and the Battery is ready for the front – I have an other Recommend form Lieut Shelden [2] for a Commition in an Independant Command, – if you can use it – Charly Minard has been clerk at Head Qtrs of our Corps a long time and Gen Hays is in command of our Corps now – And he would not keep on his staff – a Volunteer Officer, there was a splendid Officer who was Adj't Gen. and he would not keep him because he was a Vol and has put in a Pumpkins head – (A Regular) – All tell me to give that up, and try for A Com in some of the new Batteries, Independent –

It is a long time since I got a letter from you but I hope in time we shall get a mail – After getting off [Lt] S. I dressed our Boys wounds then 15 or 20 of the Boys of other Batteries then I was sent to work assisting to cut out Balls and dress the wounded Rebels and we now have an quantity of them and I shall have to help tomorrow I can do up wounds from shot or shell or Bullits quite like an M.D. – I have had quite a Dicipline I do it for that – I can see an Arm or Leg taken off and it has no more affect on my feelings, than cutting so much Beef – Dead men and plenty here – and I saw plenty [3] of them in all shapes on the field – Help to wound & Kill men then Patch them up I could show more suffering here in one second than you will see in a Life– at home It is strange how I have disciplined my feelings to see Dying and suffering men and have no feelings only a passing thought, I have some [*illegible*] that were cut out of men I have had quite a chat to day with Rebels – We get no mail of any kind here – I hope you will get my last letter. It is a bright starlight night and I hope a dry day for the morrow – I think of you at home and I know you know of this Battle and I think of your anxiety – for me– I think of you as at home – But cannot know what news you have rec'd of this Battle, – Give God the Glory so to him with me in prayer and thank him that he has kept me through this Bloody Battle – Oh that I was more thankful to him His mercy endurith forever – such a 4th of July – such a Sabbath I shall long remember and these days work here among the wounded & dying – But I have learned much – I must say a little only we suffered so much in this Battle and I think if Capt Pettit had been here instead of this fool of a [Ranty] – we should have lost [4] far less The first day we [*strikeout*] (ie our Corps) was thrown in to fill a Gap in our lines where the [living] were massing and here we suffered much – we were driven back about ¼ mile took another Position and held untill we had No support and were ordered out – the second day the line of battle was the same shape only farther Back, the enemy had their Artillery conceled much – and then the Position that our Capt – put is in was the worst we could have Capt Pettit would never have put us in such a Place. I will mark out a little and show a little as to our Position and the Position Capt would probily have taken had he been here – I cannot map out the whole but [*illegible*] [where] we were – (the center)...”

[text from a map contained on page four:

crest of hills where Rebels were with their Artillery behind

Rebel sharp shooters behind fence & logs

small stream [sways]

our sharp shooters [concealed]

Crest of hill our lines

Distance from Artillery to artillery from ½ mile

A House & barn

B [*strikeout*] works Infantry behind

C our cassions

D our 4 runs down slope off hill

O Infantry behind, hill

Road

House & Orchard]

Notes: Pages numbered 3, 4, 5, and 6.