

Camp near Fredericksburg
Friday May 1st 1863

My dear Olivia,

I received your kind letter the week before last I think, & now take the chance for it is almost one of addressing it, I received both letters & papers & thought it very kind of you. I wrote to my mother & said I had received one from you & was much pleased, in the first place the room in the 6th Army Corps' General Sedgewick's Brigade attached to the Staff, I was provost at Old Point Comfort but it was turning work & so made application to be removed & got on General Sedgewick's Staff as Clerk & Ord. Bank second clerk as volunteer in the service, I believe I could get much higher if I would take the oath of Allegiance to the United States but I decline to do so in consequence of perhaps a war with England and of course then it would compel me to leave the Army - My dear girl there was a tremendous battle here to day - the Army of the Potomac under the command of Genl. Jos Hooker moved at last & we have crossed the Rappa hammock we began a day or two ago, but to day had a general engagement with all Genl. Lee's forces on this side of the river - we were victorious & captured his batteries men & all, by what I have learned gained a complete victory. I cannot tell you for the noise is fearful, cries of the wounded, cannonading, burning of houses &c &c - I will attempt to describe the battle, I suppose it will be named the Battle of Fredericksburg the second

This morning had orders to be early on horse back & move about with them - the Staff - so told my man John a black fellow I have got to get my things out & clean my horse for we would have a hard day's work, & soon was on my way for Head Quarters of our Division. A great deal of work what is called skirmishing on the front & we lost a great many men as the Rebels are better shots with the Rifle than our men, & nothing they like so much as (both fighting & call it) for its nothing more, but they soon changed their game, & instead of our attacking them they made a furious attack upon us for the purpose of driving us into the Rappa hammock in our rear. The men fought like demons for they all knew that Jackson the Rebel General would give them no quarter - General Sedgewick said Dickins & bring up the Artillery, I say that to my orders away I went, the round shot, flying in every direction & our men falling thick & fast. I don't know how it is but in the intense excitement of the battle you forget

all fear & don't think a single thought of being killed - as I got
in the rear an aide camp told me that not only one corps but
the entire army was in action & that the whole army of
the Potomac was fighting 120-000 men & that it was going
hard with us on the left wing - I reached the battery of
Colonel Butler who was in command that he was to help
us, & that it was General Sedgwick's order, so he limbered
up his guns & came double quick just as the Rebels
were coming down on our men, he waited so long that
I thought they would take the guns before we fired - At
last came the word - "Depress Pieces" & I quite felt sick
they were just about fifty yards or so from my horse was as
much excited as myself when the word fire came, then
twenty cannons loaded with grape, shot & pieces of iron
or nails &c &c was discharged right into their leading
Regts - Good God my dear girl it was awful; their
ranks seemed piled heap upon heap, the shot went right
clear through them, completely smashing the front of the
columns, just at this moment when all was confusion
the word was given "Clear the way" "Clear the way" & right
over the brow of the hill came the 5th U.S. Cavalry 22nd Mar
77th New York & the 5th Ohio "Hurrah" "Hurrah" it looked
well for us. Close up men charged beyond & beyond
the mass went the 1st Regt of General Sedgwick's
Div, one more such a repulse as that my boys &
we shall have Fredericksburg & turning to me said
ride him to the rear & bring up any artillery you can
find giving me an order written on a piece of paper
to his wife - an officer by the name of Hansard a first
rate good hearted fellow, I should like you to have seen
him - Olivia a regular type of a South Carolinian man
with long hair flowing over his shoulders & South
man by birth but a good man for the Union, I
think without exception the best looking man
I ever saw, said we will go together Harry it will
be safer, we rode along fast as we could to the
rear for we did not know how things were going
on there. When just as we were thinking all this
some of Mosby's Cavalry that were floating in
our rear saw us & came down with a yell upon
us, so thinking discretion the better part of valor
feeling quite confident that we should fall in
with some of our rear Guard in a few seconds
I let Hansard the example of running away

but he did not have such a good horse as mine &
one of the Rebels was soon near enough to force it to call
upon him to stop, he would not & the Rebel who was
just mounted clutched at the bridle & then they had
a struggle their horses kicking to that I could not
get near enough to strike him well or shoot him with
my revolver, he got the better of it on the ground &
some his sword right into Hancock's chest his horse
had gone & he tore off its shoulder straps & shook them
at me, I now felt as if he or me must be killed
so taking a good aim at him, (I had made up my
mind I would kill him if I could) I made my
horse get so near that I was safe not to miss I
fired & dropped him dead close side poor it - this did
not take 30 seconds, not near so long as it takes me
to write, I sighted him along the barrel of my revolver
& if I had not killed him the first time would have
killed again for it was a good friend to me - My dear
Cousin this is not much of a letter to write to you full
of fighting & since we have crossed the Rappahannock
there has been not much else - Most likely your
papers will have the American news in so you can
see how we get on I have got very good lodging
for the night the inhabitants of most of the houses
are fled & have left us, so probably our staff are
here & part in a stable a little way up the road
we have got part of the Rebel battery & a 1000 prisoners
I cannot find any more black ink so must write
most blue, I'm getting tired now & so must leave it
for the present, I hope to finish my letter another
time when I get a few records it is now 12 o'clock
at night & the light of the candles says that the
left wing of our Army took 3000 Men Good night
Cousin - Sunday night May 11th fighting all day
Genl Lee and Stoneman's Jackson are doing every thing in their
power to destroy our Army - our Cavalry under Genl Stoneman
are in the rear of the Rebels and are burning & killing all they
can they have not gained (the Rebels I mean) a single
square of ground and we don't mean they shall, our loss
very heavy again today, even now as I'm writing 1 o'clock
in the morning the guns have not ceased firing, Poom,
Poom, all along the line - it is a beautiful moonlight
night not a breath of air, in the day time it is very
hot for more so than in England. I shall not be able to
write much to night have had the forage orders to make
out for the Staff & it has taken some time -

Had a nice letter from Mother this morning & was
much pleased with it also a paper I believe from Joshua

I think it was her intention, I have not missed a letter yet for by sending them to Fortress Monroe as we have a large army holding the roads all about there is no danger of not getting them, I sent Mother a paper yesterday & will write again soon to her - This evening went out with a friend of mine to get the body of poor Hansard so took a spade with us & went out, made our way to the door & found him after a time - The Rebels had killed him dead, they were lying together just as I had shot him & dug a hole about a foot deep & buried poor H but left the other alone ground - Our dead are lying all around & no one had time yet to bury them - I am afraid that we have not got on so well to day by what the men say that have come in our line, for we are so far away from the other part of this large army that beyond what our own Corps are doing we know nothing - I hope to God Hooker will hold out or at least try & help us out of this - As they say that the Richmond people are sending up reinforcements to them every hour, that Jackson is dead, I hope we may be with all my heart, My dear Cousin you must think me quite a savage but the courage of this frightful war & the horrid sights I see every day have made me indifferent to human life - At one time I should have never thought of killing any one, but now can shoot a man without a shudder of my hand, I think I am writing to you more like as if you were a hard hearted man than a very pretty little girl, Oh if only James Otis's sword could see that he would think Black Catridge was poor work how his rich blood would boil, the Rebels look very much like the Magnificent Volunteers they have a brown & grey uniform & that made me think of the Otis's, can't write any more have got to put out the lights as they say it may draw the fire of the guns - Good night to you

Monday Night - This has been a most disastrous day for us dear Cousin, I have been hard at work ever since ten o'clock carrying orders to the different Regts & we have evacuated all that we had won & are now back on to the Rappahannock - I'm writing this from an old barn of a place with the rain & wind coming through the chimney with an old bottle for a candle stick, one of the Staff is Capt. Ringman & in the corner lay Lieut Brown wounded in the shoulder which I'm putting water to - My own & there, he wants to know who I'm writing to, so I said that it was to my Cousin in England & he has just said about tell them as our Cousin says the papers will soon let them know that - The papers have been very heavy all along to day & we have lost a great many men afraid to say how many some estimate it - Men that understand it, say that we are in a much stronger position than yesterday - But there seems to be no plan - what can be expected - none of them had experience - I believe my dear Cousin the men are as brave as any on the

face of the earth - but then we must have good
commanders, one thing in our favor is we have the
road to go back & no danger behind us and can
get letters & papers from the sea, I think our Division
the 6th Army Corps & General Hooker's Division
have done as well as any Corps, we must have re-
-inforcements if we could only get 30-000 more
men up by tomorrow night we might yet get on
I believe my Corps have been fighting to day, not
much firing to night, we are all pretty nearly
tired out, Saturday Morning - May 9th on board
the Ship Louisiana my dear Cousin the whole of the
Army has been driven across the Neppahannock.
your papers in England will be sure to have something
of it in them - some of us have got separated in the
confusion & are now in Hampton Roads - outside
Fortress Monroe don't know what has become of
the 6th Corps as the rebels got between us and
General Hooker - you will see by this we had to come
within a few miles of Richmond & have got down
here regularly fatigued we are quite safe here and
after a little rest shall be all well again - we
frightened ^{the} people & now have a lot of
Stone ^{and} ^{carriage} ^{cut} off with us & when we were coming
down here burnt & destroyed everything we could lay
our hands on because it was the Rebels country
we were coming through - When we reached Gloucester
Point the place of Embarkation to Fortress Monroe
the people thought we had been beaten & asked us
what had become of the rest, that was more than
we could tell them I said - one of the Citizens said
he saw by the papers that we had lost a great
many men - I wanted to know what all the
news was every body thinks that you can tell
them about every thing that is engaged - when
the truth is that beyond knowing what your
Division is about you know nothing till after it
is over, because you may be victorious in one
part of the field & be defeated in another, my
dear Cousin I must now say good bye for this morn-
ing very nearly for today, Give my love to your
Mama, Papa, George & dear Annie you must
excuse this because I have had it in my saddle
bags for a week & it is not ^a very clean letter to send
to my dear Olivia I may excuse it

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1965

BERNARD PRICE

PEOPLE • PLACES • THINGS

When news of the outbreak of war between the American States on April 12, 1861, reached England, the life of at least one local man was completely altered.

That man was Henry George Hore, of Chichester. He had not long celebrated his 21st birthday. An active and kindly young man he decided to travel to America at his own expense and join the Union Army with whose cause he so strongly sympathized.

Until two weeks ago the name of this man meant nothing to me; then from Mr. Mervyn Cutten, landlord of the Murrell Arms, Barnham, I received a newspaper cutting that had been forwarded to him by his cousin, Miss Stella Cutten, who now lives in Australia.

She had taken the clipping from the Sydney Morning Herald of June 13, 1864. In it was the major part of a letter written by Henry George Hore, to his cousin Olivia, during breaks in the battles around Fredericksburg in the May of 1863.

VIVID PICTURE

In my opinion it is not merely an interesting letter, but an historical document of considerable importance. As we read it we get a vivid picture of what this war was really like, coupled with a considerable insight into the personality of Henry Hore himself.

When the Civil War ended, Henry George Hore came back to Chichester. He got married, and became manager of the Capital and Counties Bank, in East Street, where he died in 1887.

Although a splendid building the bank was later demolished and its site is now occupied by David Greig Ltd.

Henry Hore had two children, Richard and Katherine. Richard died, but his sister, now Mrs. R. S. Adams, still lives in

Head Quarters of our Division. Several Regiments were what is called skirmishing on the front and we lost a great many men as the Rebels are better shots with the rifle than our men, and nothing they like so much as bush fighting I call it, for its nothing more, but they soon changed their game, and instead of our attacking them they made furious attack upon us for the purpose of driving us into the Rappahannock in our rear.

The men fought like demons for they well knew that Jackson the Rebel General, would give them no quarter. General Sedgewick said: "Bring up the Artillery, say that is my orders." Anyway I went, the round shot flying in every direction and our men falling thick and fast. I



"The Rebels look very much like the Bognor Volunteers" — an extract from the letter by Henry Hore, pictured here as a lieutenant in the Union Army at the age of 23.

a yell upon us. So thinking as cation the better part of valor, feeling quite confident that we should fall in with some of our rear guard in a few seconds, I set Hansard the example of running away, but he did not have such a good horse as mine and one of the Rebels was so near enough to poor H. to catch upon him to stop.

REBEL KILLED

He would not and the Rebel who was better mounted clutched at the bridle and then they had a struggle, their horses kicking so that I could not get near enough to strike him well or shoot him with my revolver. He got the better of H. on the ground and drove his sword right into Hansard's chest.

His horse had gone and he tore off H.'s shoulder straps and shook them at me. I now felt as if he or I must be killed, so taking a good aim at him, I had made up my mind I would kill him if I could, I made my horse get so near that I was safe not to miss and I fired and dropped him dead alongside poor H. This did not take 30 seconds, not near so long as it takes me to write. I sighted him along the barrel of my revolver and if I had not killed him the first time would have shot again for H. was a good friend to me.

My dear cousin, this is not much of a letter to write to you, full of fighting and since we have crossed the Rappahannock there has been not much else. Most likely your papers will have the American news in, so you can see how we get on. I have got very good lodgings for the night, the inhabitants of most of the houses have fled and have left all, so part of our Staff live here and part in a stable a little way up the road. We have got part of the Rebel battery and 1,000 prisoners. I cannot find any more black ink so must write with blue. I'm getting tired now so must leave it for the present and hope to finish my letter another time when I get a few seconds.

It is now 12 o'clock at night and the Sergeant of the Guard says that the left wing of our Army lost 3,000 men. Good night Cousin.

Sunday night, May 4th. Fighting all day.

Genl. Lee and Stonewall Jackson are doing everything in their power to destroy our Army. Our Cavalry, under Genl. Stoneman, are in the rear of the Rebels and are burning and killing all they can.

HEAVY LOSS

They have not gained (the Rebels I mean) a single yard of ground and we don't mean they shall. Our loss very heavy again today, even now as I'm writing, I o'clock in the morning the guns have not ceased firing. Boom, Boom, all along the line.

It is a beautiful moonlight night with not a breath of air. In the daytime it is very hot, far more so than in England. I shall not be able to write much tonight, have had the forage orders to make out for the Staff and it has taken some time.

This evening went out with a friend of mine to get the body of poor Hansard, so took a spade with us and went out, made our way to the rear and found him after a time. The Rebel had killed him dead. They were lying together just as I had shot him. We dug a hole about a foot deep and buried poor H., but left the other above ground. Our dead are lying all around, no one had time yet to bury them.

I am afraid we have not got on well today by what men say that have come in our line, for we are so far away from the other part of this large Army that beyond what our Corps are doing we know nothing. I hope to God Hooker will hold out or



Henry George Hore, as a Chichester bank manager. He is seated at the table. In the centre is Dr. Prior, Mayor of St Albans, and on the right is Mr. Ebenezer Prior.

at least try and help us out of this.

Deserters say that the Richmond people are sending up reinforcements to them every hour, that Jackson is dead, I hope he may be with all my heart. My dear Cousin, you must think me quite a savage but the carnage of this frightful war and the horrid sights I see every day have made me indifferent to human life. At one time I should have never thought of killing anyone, but now can shoot a man without a shake of my hand. I think I am writing to you more as if you were a hard hearted man than a very pretty little girl. The Rebels look very much like the Bognor Volunteers, they have a brown and grey uniform.

Can't write any more, have got to put out the lights as they say it may draw the fire of the guns. Goodnight to you.

Monday night.

This has been a most disastrous day for us, dear Cousin. I have been hard at work ever since ten o'clock carrying orders to the different regiments and we have evacuated all we had won, and drove back on to the Rappahannock.

I am writing this from an old barn of a place with the rain and wind coming through the chinks, with an old bottle for a candlestick. One of the Staff is dead, Captain Ringmer, and in the corner lies Lieut. Bowen, wounded in the shoulder which I am putting water to, every now and then.

He wants to know who I am writing to, so I said it was to my cousin in England. He has just said: "Don't tell them we are beaten, Harry, the papers will soon let them know that."

NO PLANS

The fight has been very heavy all along today and we have lost a great many. I'm afraid to say how many, some men that understand it say that we are in a much stronger position than yesterday. But there seems to be no plans. What can be expected — none of them had experience.

I believe from my heart that the men are as brave as any on the face of the earth but they must have good commanders. One thing in our favour is we have the road to go back and to danger behind us and can get letters and papers from the rear. I think our Division, the

6th Army Corps and General Hooker's Division, have done as well as any Corps. We must have reinforcements.

If we could only get 30,000 more men up by tomorrow night we might yet get on. I believe my Corps have been fighting today, not much firing tonight, we are all pretty nearly tired out.

Saturday morning — May 9th.

On board the ship Louisiana, my dear Cousin, the whole of the Army has been driven across the Rappahannock. Your papers in England will be sure to have something of it in them. Some of us got separated in the confusion and are now in Hampton Roads—outside Fortress Monroe. Don't know what has become of the 6th Corps as the Rebels got between us and General Hooker.

You will see by this we had to come within a few miles of Richmond and have got down here regularly fatigued. We are quite safe here and after a little rest shall be all well again.

DESTRUCTION

We frightened the people and now must take a lot of Stoneman's Cavalry, cut off with us and when we were coming down here, burnt and destroyed everything we could lay our hands on because it was the Rebel's country we were coming through.

When we reached Gloucester point, the place of embarkation to Fortress Monroe the people thought we had been beaten and asked us what had become of the rest.

That was more than I could tell them I said. One of the citizens said that he saw by the papers that we had lost a great many men, and wanted to know what all the news was. Everybody thinks that you can tell them about every Regiment that is engaged, when the truth is that beyond knowing what your own Division is about you know nothing till after it is over, because you may be victorious in one part of the field and be routed in another.

My dear Cousin, I must now say goodbye, for I'm worn out very nearly for today. Give my love to your Mama, Papa, George and dear Annie. You must excuse this, because I have had it in my saddle bag for a week and it is not a very clean letter to send so, my dear Olivia, pray excuse me. I think our Division, the

A STRANGE TRICK OF FATE

The fighting in the early days of May, 1863, described here by Henry George Hore, almost brought disaster for the Union Army. The Confederates, usually termed Rebels by the Army of the North, and under the leadership of Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson came within a hairs breadth of routing the Union forces.

It was a strange trick of fate that saved them. "Stonewall" Jackson was returning from the front line at night when he was mistaken by his own men for enemy cavalry. They fired on him and he died not long after.

No one else knew the plans that Jackson had just formed for the following day, and the Union Army, Henry George Hore among them, escaped.

Two years later, when General Lee surrendered to General Grant and asked for terms, Grant's reply raised him among the heights of history. Lee's men were to surrender their weapons and go home, his officers could keep their swords, and then General Grant said: "Your men must keep their horses, and mules. They will need them for the spring ploughing."

don't know how it is but in the intense excitement of the battle you forget all fear and don't think a single thought of being killed.

120,000 MEN

As I got in the rear an Aide de Camp told me that not only one Corps but the entire Army was in action and that the whole Army of the Potomac was fighting, 120,000 men, and that it was going hard with us on the left wing.

I reached the battery, told Colonel Butler who was in Command that he was to help us and that it was General Sedgewick's orders, so he limbered up his guns and came double quick just as the Rebels were coming down on our men. He waited so long that I thought they would take the guns before we fired.

At last came the word: "Depress pieces" and I quite felt sick, they were just about fifty yards or so from my horse who was much as excited as myself. When the word fire came, twenty cannons loaded with grapeshot and pieces of iron, old nails, etc., etc., discharged right into their leading Regiments.

Good God, my dear girl, it was awful, their dead seemed piled heaps upon heaps, the shot went right clear through them, completely smashing the front of the columns.

BAYONET CHARGE

Just at this moment when all was confusion the word was given: "Clear the way, clear the way," and right over the brow of the hill came the 5th Wisconsin, 22nd Mass., 77th New York, and the 5th Ohio. Hurrah, hurrah, it looked well now for us, close up men, charge bayonet and right into the mass went the four regiments.

General Sedgewick now said, "One more such a repulse as that my boys and we shall have Fredericksburg," and turning to me, said: "Ride, sir, to the rear and bring up any artillery you can find," giving me an order written on a piece of paper to his wife.

An officer by the name of Hansard, a first-rate, good-hearted fellow, I should have liked you to have seen him, Olivia, a regular type of South Carolina man with long hair flowing over his shoulders, a South man by birth but a good man for the Union, I think without exception the best-looking man I ever saw, said: "We will go together. Harrry. it

The family and friends

Henry George Hore was born on December 6, 1839, in Chichester. His father, William Hore, was a wool stapler, information I obtained from a copy of Henry Hore's birth certificate, registered in 1840.

When reading his obituary I found that one of the mourners present at his funeral in Chichester Cemetery was a Mr. E. Prior. Knowing that the name of Prior has long been associated with the wool trade in Sussex this led me to the Misses Prior

Australia. It was she who brought this letter to light and it was from her friends the Misses Hanna and Rhoda Prior, who live at Fishbourne, that I obtained a Photostat copy of the original letter for inspection.

LOST PAGE

The letter is on very large sheets of paper, closely written and was crumpled in a saddle-bag. It comprised five sheets and is unsigned which means that the final page is probably lost.

I have tried to give the full text of this letter, but a few sentences have proved impossible to decipher satisfactorily and I have decided to leave them out. During my investigations into