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## **Civil War Resources**

Title: Letter from Thomas M. Griffith to His SiblingsDate: July 3, 1863Location: MC 2005.4, B1, F2

## **Contact:**

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LBAMAGiffith Carlisle, July 3, 1863, Dear Bro. + Sister I suppose you have been quite anxions since you heart from me last, Communication was interrupted party by the rebils, I partly from fear of them when their whereabouts was not known, although our frees now occupy the place, the mail has not been opened up to Harrisburg, Thight get This letter there by private individuals, I wrote last on Wednisday June 24, That Evening I met Dr. Johnson coming from the Hall who said there was no andience; the rumors of approaching rebild were so Exciting that he thought they had better get the commencement closed next morning, I let the students gehome. That night, people were removing their things but Hhrough Carlisle, pack my window, I was very busy till midnight, being on 2 or 3 committees, I had not finished sxamming papers I making out aports. The people

in Carlicle talf Des and seens much alarmad, I walked down about 11 o'clock I found but few in the streets, I the morning, at 8, the students I free met in the college chapel, The degrees were confirmed, & all finished for the year, at 10 most of the students lift, but some stays for several Days I Rome an here yet, Reyting tuday, was very quil, no rebels near, to be found, we began to think they were not coming at all. But on Saturday about 10 oclock we say their advace guard on horseback coming into town, you. Jenkins i commend, he the afternoon the infantry came pouring in, the bants playing "Dixie's Land" On bigade occupied the campus front of my window. yen. Twell & commander the whole, I had his headquarters at the garrison. There were about 7000, Whink, though perhaps you heard there where 30 000 or more, They were Exceedingly ordery, guards were placed to defend the collige, I had removed my trunk to the branding house, I the best of my semmes to hop W's,

but I soon from there was no cause for fear, I sleppt in my room as usual that night, The rebs were not allowed to touch private property; but their officers made a demand for rations, clothing & other stores, The rations were bought to the public square at noon, but, for the rest they searched the stores, Those who has warchouses & grocerics suffered most, but confiderate serie or boids were given, The scrip will bring 50 cts. on the dollar They did not capture many horses for they were nearly all removed. Our citizens made no resistence, Except that in Thursday, some Embankments were throw up, & a few companies of citizens united with the Garrison poltures, in offiring defense, 12ab a Thursday right, orders from Harrisburg came, to fall back. On Sunday, there was preaching in the campus by rebil chaplains, From my window, I could hear an occasional word, The formor service, litter, I thank nearly

Some that churches had; but Dr. Wing Mr. Black Mr. Clan & I concluded not to open our churches, Partly breaks we did not wish to appear like greeting the rebils & meeting them on friendly ter. but rather to show our sense of the calamit by staying at how in silent quilit party beause the rebels were so exceedingly dirty that they were not fit to enter any decent chang This small was offensive, this althus agges I filling I more over we could see that they When clans, till Tuesday morning at 5, when they lift, apparently in haste, as if they had bears but news. Several of our students whom I Knew were among them, J.J. White (whose likeness Jon have was one of the captains) I had some talk of they with any condiality, I heart that Fingle cloud, + Eppinger were here also it others I saw. I be duesday therewoon, about 60 Jour men were brought in as prisoners, to the public square, a quart of rebils was placed our them, their shoes were taken by the rebs, The ladins soon brought breas & meat, butter, Jelly, jams, Cherry pies te. te, The young men threw tobacco to them, I after they were paroled the citizens took them to this houses & supplies their wants, In the evening genkins' Cavalry (a mounted infantry) occupies the campus again; betong till about 11 o'clock that night, In the morning

Sall the rebels has seffy by afternoon our troops from Harrisburg occupies the town, Provisions in abundance were brought to the Aquare, Sabout 6000 Jour men ate their supports there, They met with a heart, welcome, It was reported that the rebels were friven back your troops Expected to much them either in the town or a few miles out, but soon the excitement died away But about & o'clock, the cavalry of Fitz High Lee, came into town about 2000 strong to far as I can find out) I took our men by surprise while some were eating; but they sprang to their arms & returned this fire vigorously. I was setting on Prof. Wilson's portice at the time, along with Mr Clarke, Migs Watraver Migs Johnson, The heard the fire of musketry, I afterwind the whizzery of 2 or 3 shells over the town, mile g. I Mr C, lift for Dr. Johnson's, I we stood at the gate, Soon Some citizens came along saying our men had driven the rubils back, Then there was quetfor a time, This Walrava had the house locked & The children removed, I we went to Dr. J's, Dome wounder were brought in to West Collye (which is now the hospital I gave one of my mattresses some comforts, fillow de, Soon the firing &

Shilling commenced again, One shell struck the collige, tore a corner of the wall off at a window entered Dr. g's lecture room, tore an opposite door Mits huges, & scattered the stones I dual all over the floor (The shell was found, I part will be but in the college museum, as a relie of this instance Southern barbarity) shells struck different buildings about town, but non of the citizens were hurd, We stayed together in the basement & cellar, where we were safe. Wone time Mils Walravin & Mr. Clarke went out to See after Prof. W's children whom we had lift at a neighborshouse, Coming back a shell burst over Them, On entering, migs W. facuted but soon records, The philling was Ripl up at intervals till 3 o'clock in the morning, but a great part of the time, there was no firmy The riebs sent a play of truce 3 times demanding surrenter but you Smith always repused. Dr. + I went to see your Smith at mitrught to ask of any time was allowed for removing the women & chiefsee I Husand there was none given by the abids, except that at first they said the women told? Show of the mate me alranger and for cessation of hastilities, about 2 o'clock Dr. ament us up for at daylight the shelling would be apple to had better leave opposed it, saying I thought twe were safer where we were. We concluded to stay, but there was very little sleeping dome a few shills were there at 3 o'clock lit after that all was grit. The rebels burned the garrison I gas house, I in the morning all left. He our voundets membered 17, or left, I often go now to see View in the College where they are I am very glas I stayed to see all this I am quite contested, safe I will this is my flost I I dis not ful like leaving it. We have his no hopes moratures for a week into

L.B. & M.A. Griffith Dear Bro. & Sister

I suppose you have been quite anxious since you heard from me last. Communication was interrupted partly by the rebels, & partly from fear of them when their whereabouts was not known, although our forces now occupy the place, the mail has not been opened up to Harrisburg. I hope to get this letter there by private individuals.

I wrote last on Wednesday June 24. That evening I met Dr. Johnson coming from the Hall who said there was no audience; the rumors of approaching rebels were so exciting that he thought they had better get the commencement closed next morning, & let the students go home. That night, people were removing their things into and through Carlisle, past my window, I was very busy till midnight, being on 2 or 3 committees, & had not finished examining papers & making out reports. The people in Carlisle itself did not seem much alarmed. I walked down about 11 o'clock and found but few in the streets. In the morning, at 8, the students & friends met in the college chapel, the degrees were conferred, and all finished for the year. At 10 most of the students left, but some stayed for several days & some are here yet. Next day, Friday, was very quiet, no rebels near to be found, we are began to think they were not coming at all. But on Saturday about 10 o'clock we saw their advance guard on horseback coming into town, Gen. Jenkins in command. In the afternoon the infantry came pouring in, the bands playing "Dixie's Land." Our brigade occupied the campus front of my window. Gen. Ewell commanded the whole, & had his head quarters at the garrison. There were about 7000, I think, though perhaps you heard there were 30000 or more. They were exceedingly orderly. Guards were placed to protect the college. I had removed my trunk & carpet-bag to the boarding house, & the best of my sermons to Prof. W's, but I soon found there was no cause for fear. I slept in my room as usual that night. The rebs were not allowed to touch private property; but their officers made a demand for rations, clothing & other stores. The rations were brought to the public square at noon, but, for the rest they searched the stores. Those who had warehouses & groceries suffered most, but Confederate scrip or bonds were given. The scrip will bring 50 cts. on the dollar. They did not capture many horses for they were nearly all removed.

Our citizens made no resistence, except that on Thursday, some embankments were thrown up, & a few companies of citizens united with the garrison soldiers, in offering defense. But on Thursday night, orders from Harrisburg came, to fall back.

On Sunday, there was preaching in the campus by rebel chaplains. From my window, I could hear an occasional word. The former service, lasted, I think nearly two hours. We had no service in our church. Some churches had; but Dr. Wing, Mr. Black, Mr. Clare & I concluded not to open our churches. Partly because we did not wish to appear like greeting the rebels & meeting them on friendly terms but rather to show our sense of the calamity by staying at home in silent grief; and partly because the rebels were so exceedingly dirty that they were not fit to enter any decent church. Their smell was offensive, their clothes ragged and filthy & moreover we could see that they were lousy.

They staid till Thursday morning at 5, when they left, apparently in hast, as if they had heard bad news. Several of our students whom I knew were among them, J. J. White (whose likings you have was one of the captains) I had some talk with him, but did not care about meeting any of them with any cordiality. I heard that Findlay, Cloud, & Eppinger were here also; and others I saw.

On Tuesday forenoon, about 60 of our men were brought in as prisoners, to the public square, A guard of rebels was placed over them, their shoes were taken by the rebs. The ladies soon brought bread & meat, butter, jelly, jams, cherry pies xc.xc. The young men threw tobacco to them, and after they were paroled the citizens took them to their houses & supplied their wants.

In the evening Jenkins' Cavalry (or mounted infantry) occupied the campus again, but only till about 11 o'clock that night. In the morning all the rebels had left & by afternoon our troops from Harrisburg occupied the town. Provisions in abundance were brought to the square, & about 6000 of our men ate their suppers there. They met with a hearty welcome. It was reported that the rebels were driven back & our troops expected to meet them either in the town or a few miles out, but soon the excitement died away.

But about 8 o'clock, the cavalry of Fitz Hugh Lee, came into town (about 2000 strong so far as I can find out) & took our men by surprise while some were eating; but they sprang to their arms & returned their fire rigorously. I was sitting on Prof. Wilson's portico at the time, along with Mr Clarke, Miss Watravin, & Miss Johnson. We heard the fire of musketry, & afterward the whizzing of 2 or 3 shells over the town. Miss J. & Mr C, left for Dr. Johnson's, & we stood at the gate. Soon some citizens came along saying our men had driven the rebels back. Then there was quiet for a time, Miss Walravin had the house locked & the children removed, & we went to Dr. J's. Some wounded were brought in to West College (which is now the hospital) I gave one of my mattresses some comforts, pillow xc., Soon the firing & shilling commenced again. One shell struck the college, tore a corner of the wall off at a window entered Dr. J's lecture room, tore an opposite door off its hinges, & scattered the stones & dust all over the floors (the shell was found, & part will be put in the college museaum, as a relic of this instance of southern barbarity) shells struck different buildings about town, but none of the citizens were hurt. We stayed together in the basement & cellar, where we were safe. At one time Miss Walravin & Mr. Clarke went out to see after Prof. W's children whom we had left at a neighbor's house. Coming back a shell burst over them, on entering, Miss W. fainted but soon recovered. The shelling was kept up at intervals till 3 o'clock in the morning, but a great part of the time, there was no firing. The rebs sent a flag of truce 3 times demanding surrender but Gen. Smith always refused. Dr. & I went to see Gen. Smith at midnight to ask if any time was allowed for removing the woman & children. He said there was none given by the rebels, except that at first they said the women & ch\_ should leave before they command shelling a second time, but had made no arrangement for cessation of hostilities. About 2 o'clock Dr. roused us up (we were lying on the floor) saying he thought we had better leave for daylight the shelling would be apt to commence again, I opposed it, saying I thought we were safer where we were. We concluded to stay, but there was very little sleeping done. A few shells were thrown at 3 o'clock but after that all was quiet. The rebels burned the garrison & gas house, & in the morning all left. Our wounded numbered 17, or less, I often go over to see them in the college where they are. I am very glad I stayed to see all this & am quite contented, safe & well. This is my post & I did not feel like leaving it. We have had no papers nor letters for a week. TMG