St Marys April 3rd 1847

Dear Aunt

Since last I wrote to you many things have taken place shortly after I arrived at Anton Lizardo the fleet was put in great commotion in getting under weigh with a number of soldiers on board of each Man O War which made it very difficult in working ship up to the Island of Sacra Ficios we arrived and come to anchor under the lee of this Island and the surf boats that was sent out expressly for the purpose of landing troops were kept manned at a signal from General Scott all boats then took their load of troopers they waited for each other untill 64 surf boats were ready armed and equiped ready for landing and at about 6 o clock P. M. they landed without opposition much contrary to their expectations the excitement was very great by two o clock the next day their were about 21000 landed they had several little skirmishes before that they could get the town and to dig entrenchaments for their safety through the heavy winds we were longer in getting the ordnance ashore than could be expected but on the 21st day of March General Worth reported to General Taylor that his Division was ready to bombard and on the 22nd he made the first attack upon Vera Cruz that day by order of Commodore Perry we had to get a Gun from our ship to be ready and on the platform erected for our Naval Battery by that night the Raritan and the Potomac Mississipi and Albany had to do the same and at daylight of the 25th of March we opened fire from the naval battery under the command of Captain Dick and Captain Riddell Mackenzie they done great execution on

that day and we only lost 5 brave men two of them belonged to our Ship the first lot that went to get the guns up and first opened fire were very much fatigued and were very glad to be relieved I was in the party that relieved them only imagine dragging a Sixty Eight Pounder for nearly 4 miles over sand hills and only getting along at a very slow pace and then no sleep for the 48 hours that they were ashore and then the fatigue of firing the guns for upward of 8 hours any one would be glad to be relieved after our party came on shore we at night built up the embrasures and repair everything that required it and at daylight we opened fire upon them after about 6 hours hard firing we had silenced every fort except Santa Cruz and then went to dinner after dinner we gave them another warm salutation and they ceased to fire altogether they came out with a flag of truce to demand of General Worth a suspension of hostilities for 3 hours he granted it and after the term was up they did not fire then about daylight General Worth commenced again and fired for 15 minutes they did not return the fire but came out with another flag of truce to surrender the Castle and Town to the Army and Navy of the United States the Officers were allowed to leave the town with their side arms and the privates with provision and on the 29th

the Star Spangled Banner was triumphantly hoisted on the
Town and Castle but I hope soon to be home and give
you with my tongue a better account than I can with my
pen but I can assure you that our battery got great praise on
the second day we killed upwards of 2500 in the town and
we only lost two of them a Midshipman of the name of
Shubrick I will now conclude by giving my best respects
to all enquiring friends and accept of my kind affection
yourself and believe me to Remain

Your Obedient Nephew

Charles Spear

St Marys April 3rd 1847

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Your Obedient Nephew
Charles Spear

Mrs. Rebecca Spear, East Thomastown, Maine
PMK. "PENSACOLA Flor. APR 14" and ms 10

Battle of Vera Cruz