

Camp Scribbling

Letters of Lt. Col. Thomas Clark
29th Ohio Volunteers

Occoquan and Dumfries, Virginia

Edited by Marilyn Clark-Snyder

August 24, 1994

Marilyn J. Hochmuth, Curator
The Weems-Botts Museum
P. O. Box 26
Dumfries, VA 22026

Dear Marilyn:

It was delightful talking to you this morning. Per our conversation, I am sending you typed copies (that I happen to have done) of Thomas Clark's letters starting with his description of the skirmish at Occoquan, December 28, 1862; march towards Dumfries; and the building of log huts "...on the ruins of this old once populous place in Dumfries...", December 29, 1862. Included are copies of the original letters [Slip 2 & 3, 9th Letter, 2nd Army series].

I have typed excerpts from three of his letters; Letter 10, Slip 1 and 2, 2nd Army Series, January 4, 1863 and Letter 12, Slip 3, 2nd Army Series, January 19, 1863; again included are copies of the entire letters.

You will notice that he found a tombstone dated as far back as 1684 and could still see the foundation of the old church. I found it interesting when Thomas mentioned about numerous rebels being buried on the heights where the Union soldiers had built there forts. I wonder where that was??

In Slip 2, 10th letter, Thomas mentions that the camp is just one fourth of a mile from the town. Do you suppose that we might figure out, by these two excerpts concerning their camp site, where it was??

The letters of Lt Col. Thomas Clark are copyrighted by myself and may not be published without my permission. If you wish to use excerpts from the letters, that is permissible with source identification.

Also enclosed are copies of an 1862 map of the Dumfries and Occoquan area. I have marked possible routes that Thomas and the 29th Ohio Volunteers may have taken on their journey from Fairfax Station to Dumfries. Note on the smaller map, showing more of the Potomac, below the Quantico Creek there is the name "Evansport". I found that Evansport, as shown on Civil War maps, was the future site of Quantico, Va. This location was selected for the erection of the heaviest Confederate battery in a series constructed along the Prince William shore in the fall of 1861. [Prince William: The Story of Its People & Its Places, page 96.] I just thought that was interesting!

Marilyn J. Hochmuth, Curator
The Weems-Botts Museum
August 24, 1994
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As I mentioned, I have started preparing a notebook of Thomas Clark's letters that he wrote, to his wife, Corrie, while encamped near Dumfries from December 29, 1862 to April 20, 1863, with the 29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. It will be a while yet before I have time to transcribe them, but when I do, you will receive copies of the typescript and original letters.

I will be down to Dumfries again soon to do some more historical sleuthing! Hope to see you then.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Clark-Snyder
4102 Daniels Ave #204
Annandale, VA

703/354-2427

Enclosures

P. S. I decided to include in this letter, a picture of Thomas Clark and a brief biography, of information I have been able to glean so far.

CAMP SCRIBBLING

LETTERS OF LT COL THOMAS CLARK
29TH OHIO VOLUNTEERS

Skirmish at Occoquan and Winter in Dumfries, Virginia
December 28, 1862 - April 26, 1863

Edited by Marilyn Clark-Snyder

1994

Prepared For

THE WEEMS-BOTT MUSEUM IN HISTORIC DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

1994

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Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark
29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
1861-1863

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark
19th & 29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
1861-1863

By Marilyn (Clark) Snyder
October 28, 1993

Thomas Clark was born in Ackworth, New Hampshire on December 4, 1821, son of Robert and Sally (Wyman) Clark, died 1894 in Cambridge, MA. He married, May 15, 1851, Cordelia (Corrie) Richardson who died April 27, 1902, Cambridge, MA. Four children were born of this union: Louise born 1856 died 1859 in Fitchburg, MA; Walter Thomas born 1861 Cleveland, Ohio, (graduated from Harvard Medical School, 1886, married Ann Greeley, practiced medicine in Worcester, MA 1899 to 1909) died September 24, 1909; Ida A. born 1864 in Alstead, NH, died (unmarried) July 22, 1940 and Earnest Robert born 1865, also in Alstead, NH, died 1867 in Cambridge, MA.

Thomas attended Norwich Military University for two years (1841-1842), located in Northfield, VT. For several years he was a teacher, then had a business in West Fitchburg, MA from 1850-1857.

In 1857, looking for better business opportunities, Thomas read of a man in Cleveland, Ohio in the grindstone business who wanted a partner and capital (Thomas had already sold his store in Fitchburg, MA, having planned on joining a brother in Lawrence, Kansas, but the brother died before they started the journey), so he took the family and money and went to Cleveland, Ohio. He was in business until 1861. Shortly after Fort Sumter surrendered, April 15, 1861, and when President Lincoln called for volunteers from the State of Ohio, Thomas offered his services to the State and was appointed State Drill Master at "Camp Cleveland. Corrie remained in Cleveland and taught school.

Thomas' first Civil War letter, to Corrie, finds him on a train, May 30, 1861, traveling to Camp Goddard, Zanesville, Ohio, as a member of the 19th Ohio Volunteer Militia. He saw service with Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's army invading western Virginia, June - July 1861, and was at the Battle of Rich Mountain, near Beverly, VA (now W. VA).

Thomas, a Captain, was Drill Master of Co. D in the 19th Regiment, a three month Ohio Volunteer Militia, which was disbanded by order of the Adjt Gen, the end of July 1861, in Columbus, Ohio, disposing of all three month volunteers not needed for active service; Thomas was retained.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark
29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
1861-1863
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The officers of the 19th Reg Ohio Volunteer Infantry [Lt. Col. E. W. Hollingsworth, Maj. L. P. Buckley, Capt. N. A. Barrett, Capt. R. Shurtleff, Capt. Robt. W. Crane, etc.] wrote a letter to Governor Dennison [Ohio] August 3, 1861 soliciting an appointment as Capt. for Thomas Clark - "We most cheerfully bear witness to his efficiency as Drill Master in Co. D. of this Regt. and to the promptness with which he has discharged every duty required of him, as also to the readiness manifested to share with us the toils of camp life in our late expedition to Western Va., and for this general service rendered in the 19th Regt". Thomas was mustered into the 29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, August 14, 1861, at Camp Giddings, Jefferson, Ashtubula County, Ohio. as a Major. The 29th was just being organized and Thomas had a major role in setting up the camp, recruiting new volunteers and training them. In November, an election was held by the men of the 29th and Thomas Clark was elected Lieutenant Colonel. On November 29, 1861, Thomas was officially appointed Lieutenant Colonel by David Tod, Governor of Ohio, (this document was actually signed in January, 1862, and predated) for a period of three years unless sooner discharged.

By December 26, 1861, Thomas and the 29th were at Champ Chase, Columbus, Ohio and on January 18, 1862, they started out by train for "Romney or Elsewhere"... February 16, 1862, found Thomas at Camp Tyler, 2 1/2 miles from Paw Paw, W. VA on the Winchester road. Orders were received on February 28th to prepare for a march...

By March 13, 1862, Thomas was in Winchester, VA and this was the beginning of his activities against Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, as a member of Colonel Erastus B. Tyler's 3rd Brigade, Brigadier General James Shields' 2nd Division, and Major General N. P. Banks Army of the Potomac.

Thomas had one slight diversion from the valley activities when the 29th and the rest of Shields' Division were sent to Fredericksburg, VA on May 12, to support General McDowell's Army. The Division returned to the Shenandoah Valley, by way of Manassas Gap, on May 29th.

At the Battle of Fort Republic June 9, 1862, Thomas Clark was captured by Jackson's troops. He was not injured, but lost his horse and sword. From Fort Republic he was taken to Lynchburg, VA arriving there June 11th; went from there to Salisbury, NC June 20th, arriving June 22nd; left there August 11th and went to Richmond, VA where he arrived August 13th; landed on the side opposite Richmond at Belle Island; was kept there but a day or two,

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark
29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
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when he was taken over to Libby Prison; left Libby on the morning of 17th August. August 19th found Thomas at Fort Monroe (he had been paroled) and in his letter of that date said that he was going to Baltimore and then on to Washington, D.C. On August 20, 1862, Thomas wrote to Corrie from the National Hotel, Washington, D.C. He was ill and said that he had not been able to sit up for long for the last three weeks (which would have started in Salisbury Prison, the last week in July), was very thin and suffering from a canker in or on his mouth. He wrote "General Tyler is here. Also Dr. Fifield and Adj. Winship and will aid me in getting a long leave of absence - failing to do that I shall have to resign as I am now totally unfit for service. I shall try and get a little pay and as soon as I can, start for home..."

Thomas' next letter, dated September 23, 1862, indicated that he had been home on leave and was now on a train from Cleveland to Columbus, Ohio - "next stop Columbus Exchange hotel" (Camp Chase). September 24th, Thomas wrote "have reported to Gen. Lew Wallace who is a sharp black eyed man of very few words". Thomas mentions that he is expecting to get a regiment of paroled prisoners, "if he can take it". Then he wrote "will look around and see how the ground lies. It don't look as though there was much for any army here, but that's nothing. I was ordered to report here - & if ordered to go away elsewhere it is not for me to ask where or why I'm sent - such is military life." On October 15, 1862, Thomas was officially exchanged, received furlough, and at which time he took Corrie and Walter back to New Hampshire (Papermill Village). He returned to active duty November 10, 1862, at Frederick, MD, where the 29th was then stationed.

In December 1862, the 29th and Thomas moved into Virginia by way of Harpers Ferry, Hillsboro, Centerville, Fairfax Station, Occoquan, and finally stopping in Dumfries, VA. for the winter of 1862-63.

Thomas' last big battle was Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 1 - 4, 1863. He requested an early discharge after the Battle of Chancellorsville (due to illness) and was mustered out June 19, 1863, at Leesburg, VA. He returned home, by steam boat, down the Potomac and up the coast to Hartford, Conn., bringing "Old Rock" (his horse) with him to continue the journey on land up to Papermill Village, NH, still writing letters and sending them along the way to let Corrie know his progress.

Thomas Clark wrote almost daily and sometimes several times a day, even during a break in battles, or whenever he had a moment.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark
29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
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Corrie apparently wrote often also, but unfortunately her letters have not been preserved (or at least I haven't been able to locate any). Thomas wrote about everything he was doing, thinking, seeing, including interesting information about the officers he served with (not always complimentary). All of the letters are absolutely wonderful reading and so full of human feelings. He was a "good" man with a wonderful sense of humor, even in very difficult times: a trait I have seen in my own father and, you know, I find that in myself.

The above is a brief biography of Thomas Clark. He was my Great-Great Uncle [actually "half" Uncle as he was the half brother of my Father's Grandfather, Amos Clark]. My Father was also Thomas Clark and was the one responsible for obtaining these wonderful letters from a family member. I obtained the letters (all 300 of them) from my father several years ago and plan to publish them in the near future.

Additional information, in this biography, has come from the files and notes of George G. Clark which are now in the archives of Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, NH; "War of the Rebellion: Official Records of The Union and Confederate Armies"; "The Richardson Memorial", by J. A. Vinton, 1876; and "Norwich University 1819-1911", Vol. 2, by William A. Ellis, 1911.

Marilyn Clark-Snyder's path to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark:

- * Marilyn Jean (Clark) Snyder
 - Thomas Byron Clark (Father)
 - Myron Justice Clark (Grandfather)
 - Amos Clark (Great Grandfather)
 - Robert and Mary (Clark) Clark (First Wife)
 - (Great-Great Grandfather)
- * Thomas Clark (Lt. Col. in Civil War)
 - (Great-Great Uncle)
 - Robert and Sally (Wyman) Clark (Second Wife)
 - (Great-Great Grandfather)

Marilyn J. Snyder
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Annandale, VA

Phone: 703/354-2427

Slip 2 9' Letter 2d Army Series

Rebel Fort Near Ocoquan Creek Va

Sunday Morning 2 oclock Dec 28' 1862

We moved from camp a little past 9 last Eve leaving Tents & Baggage behind__ We moved slowly & and as I supposed we should took the road direct for Dumfries Landing This Old Rebel Fort built last winter by the 16" N. C. Regt directly on our way & as more or less rebel cavalry were known to be in the neighborhood it was supposed they would attempt to reoccupy the Fort & if they did so could dispute our passage with a vim that would require the strongest kind of a Saltpetre & - Blue pill discussion to make them yield the question_We must therefore get possession first_The 29' O.V.I. & one Co of the 1' Me Cavalry were entrusted with the mission ie. to take & hold the Fort till daylight when more troops would arrive if needed_ I have by the aid of a little picket Fire of dry sticks & leaves just sent back by a courier the following despatch to Gen Geary _ vis__

Sunday 2 AM Dec 28'/62

Sir - I have the honor to report that the 29' O.V.I. has taken the position indicated in your orders. We are now in the old Rebel Fort & intend to hold it. Our pickets were fired on & driven in a few minutes before our arrival_ Respectfully

LP Buckley Col commanding
for Lt Col Clark

But my fire is going out & we propose not making any more_sleep will be out of the question & I would probably write more but will be minus a light & will therefore dry up_ 7 A.M. We had it a little cool last night but as I did not sit down until after daylight I felt quite comfortable. All danger from a night attack being now over We have got rousing fires & are engaged making coffee & making ourselves comfortable The night did not seem much longer than some of those long cold nights when some years ago I used to go over near East Lempster my immediate-reward being a few pleasant hours of chit-chat_a smile a kiss & sometimes a very bad cold with the ultimate reward of one of the best little wives in the world _

Our pickets were fired on by a little squad of Rebel Cavalry_but their fire was promptly returned by the 1st Maine Cavalry & the Rebs wheeled & ran_Dont know that any body was hurt_ 10.AM. Gen Geary has joined us with more force & appears to be waiting for still more troops to cross the ford _ We have moved out about a mile towards Dumfries & formed in line of battle across the road_ Things look to an old Soldier as though the Gen was anticipating a bit of a skirmish though of course we know nothing of what force there may be in front__

9P.M. Sunday Eve Well we have had a rough time today & a long march. considering that we were on our arms & without sleep last night About noon our advance guard came upon a force of the Rebel Stuarts Cavalry said to number 1500. They charged boldly upon us & drove in our cavalry scouts but a few shells from our artillery & one volley from Cos A & E of the 29' which has been our advance guard all day set them skedadling in another direction_results on our side. one man in Co A struck with a spent shot which may give him a sore leg for a few days though he has marched all day Two or three dead Secesh discovered & some more were helped away. We moved several miles in line of Battle with 2 Cos deployed as skirmishers_ The Rebs have retreated before us all day_We have made about 12 miles & have skirmished with the enemy perhaps half the distance. being quite as much in line of Battle & over the Fields & through thick woods. as in columns in the road. results to your humble servant Tore my pants a little & feel somewhat tired though not "played out". Old Rock has done a good service. though he has had nothing to eat all day but oak leaves & twigs & this Eve one ear of corn_Our waggon having on it the Forage Officer rations & cooking utensils for the Regt was ordered back this morning & we must go it dry_ I have been able to help along three privates who gave out by putting one man on my horse & carrying the guns of the others_ For the last 5 miles we have lost sight of the enemy & have kept the road. A barren desolate looking country. most of the houses burned_ Towards Eve we came in sight of a full rigged schooner on the Potomac a large wide road now all cut up by army teams & cavalry with a telegraph line on it_ This with the vessel on the River indicate land marks of Civilization_ None would have reminded us more strongly of home unless it had been a nice white cottage with a well dressed good looking woman in its open door & a cradle seen within_ This last we did not see_ We are now encamped for the night in a little ravine with good fires of dry trees _ a little raw pork & a few "US Pics Hard-crackers in my Haversack has with a cup of coffee made one a good supper. Guess Ill have a hash made of whats left for breakfast_ Im all right but poor Old Rock has to content himself with eating dry oak leaves & gnawing the bark from a green tree_ I give him one of my blankets tonight & with my feet near a good fire by the light of which I have been scribbling will now turn in & invoke sleep____

Monday Dec 29' _ 8 AM - Some of the boys have made a requisition on a Gristmill near by & the old Horse has a generous feed of corn meal this morning_ We are now 4 miles from the rest of the Brigade__ Gen Geary here bids us Good Bye & goes back or Elsewhere_ We go on to join the Brigade at Dumfries_ I am sorry to have him leave us_ He is a plain blunt man. Yesterday he was on foot some of the way & a soldier on his horse. He is one of my kind of men. Says he knew Doct Clark of Lawrence Kan very well & very favorably_ [Doctor Hiram Clark, brother to Thomas Clark]

We shall move on soon_ It was reported that our Old Brigade had to fall back when attacked the other day_but Major Crane of the 7' Ohio who has just rode out with Doct Fifield to see us says they didnt fall back at all but that the Rebels didnt give us more than half a chance to kick them before they lit out with a big lot of wounded _ Reports are said to be in the papers that our forces surrendered which is a mistake_It was the same force that attacked us on the way_They began here by [Continued on next Slip 3 - 9' Letter 2' Army Series]

41 Cup of coffee made me a good supper. I was all over
a heap made of what's left for breakfast. In all
right but poor old Cook has to content himself
with eating dry oak leaves & gnawing the bark from
a green tree. I give him one of my blankets tonight
& with my feet make a good fire by the light
of which I have been scribbling with pen & ink
& now sleep

Monday Dec 26 - 8 AM - Some of the boys have
made a requisition on a Grinnell near by
& the old horse has a generous feed of corn
meal this morning. We are now to make from
the rest of the Brigade - Gen Casey here bids
us Good Bye & goes back or elsewhere. We
go on to join the Brigade at Dinwiddie. I
am sorry to have him leave us. He is a plain
blunt man. Yesterday he was on foot some
of the way & a soldier on his horse. He is one
of my kind of men. Says he knew Doct Clark
of Lawrence's as a very well & very fast rider.
We shall move on soon. It was reported
that our Old Brigade had to fall back when
attacked the other day - but Major Grant of the 1st who
has just rode out with Doct Fairfield to see
us, says they didn't fall back at all but that
the Rebels didn't give us more than half a
chance to kick them before they lit out with
a big lot of wounded. Reports are sent
to be in the papers that our forces surrendered
which is a mistake. It was the same force
that attacked us on the 20th - they began here by

1/ Slip 2 9" Letter 2^d Army Series

Rebel Fort near 3^d Wyman Fork Va
Sunday Morning 2 o'clock Dec 28 1862

We moved from camp a little past 9
last we leaving Suits & baggage behind -
we moved slowly & and as I suppose we
should took the road direct for Dinwiddie Landing
This Old Rebel Fort built last winter by the 16th
N. B. Regt. directly on our way & as more or
less rebel Cavalry were known to be in the neigh-
borhood it was supposed they would attempt to
occupy the Fort & if they did so would disrupt
our progress with a view that would require
the strongest kind of a Salt Petre & Bone Mill disease
to make them yield the question - we must therefore
get possession first - the 29th O. R. I. & one Co. of the 1st
The Cavalry were instructed with the mission is
to take & hold the Fort till daylight when more troops
would arrive if needed. I frame by the aid of
a little picket line of dry sticks & leaves just sent
back by a courier the following dispatch to Gen
Gury viz - Sunday 2 AM Dec 28 1862

Sir - I have the honor to report that the 29th O. R.
has taken the position indicated in your orders.
We are now in the Old Rebel Fort & intend to hold
it. Our pickets were fired on & driven in a few
minutes before our arrival. Respectfully
S. P. Smith Col. commanding
for 2^d Div. 2^d Army

2/ But my fire is going out + we propose not making any more - sleep will be out of the question + I would probably write more but will be minus a light + will therefore stop - 7 AM. We had it a little cool last night but as I did not get down until after daylight I felt quite comfortable. All danger from a night attack being now over we have got roasting fires + are engaged making coffee + making ourselves comfortable. The night did not seem much longer than some of these long cold nights when some years ago I used to go over near East Campster by immediate reward being a few pleasant hours of chit-chat + a smoke + kiss + sometimes a very bad cold with the inevitable reward of one of the best little wines in the world - Our prospects were farmed on by a little squad of Rebel Cavalry but their fire was promptly returned by the 1st Maine Cavalry + the 1st Rhode Island + 2nd - Don't know that any body was hurt - 10 AM. Gen. Lee has joined us with more force + appears to be waiting for Artill. more troops to cross the ford - we have moved out about a mile towards Dumfries + formal line of Battle across the road - Things look to an old soldier as though the Gen was anticipating a bit of a skirmish though of course we know nothing of what for or where any be in front - 9 P.M. - Sunday Eve. Well we have had a rough time today + a long march. Considering that we were on our arms + without sleep last night - about seven our advanced guard came upon a force of the Rebel Artill. Cavalry said to number 1500. They charged boldly upon us + drove in our Cavalry sent but a few shells from our Artillery + one volley from the A + S. of the 24th which has been our advanced guard all day set them skedaddling in another direction - results on

7 One side one man in Co A. struck with a spent shot which may give him a sore leg for a few days though he has marched all day - Two or three dead horses were discovered + some more were helped away. We moved several miles in line of Battle with 2000 deployed as skirmishers - The Rebels have retreated before us all day - we have made about 12 miles + have skirmished with the enemy perhaps half the distance being quite as much in line of Battle + over the fields + through thick woods, as in Column in the road - results to your humble servant - I'm very pants a little + feel somewhat tired though not played out. Old Rook has done a good service though he has had nothing to eat all day but oak leaves + berries + this we saw one ear of corn - Our wagon being on it the forage Officer returns + cooking utensils for the Regt. were ordered back this morning + we must go it dry - I have been able to help along three privates who gave out by putting one man on my horse + carrying the guns of the others - for the last 5 miles we have lost sight of the enemy + have kept the road - the horizon desolate looking country - most of the houses burned - towards we saw in sight of a full rigged schooner on the Potomac + a long wide road, now all cut up by army teams + cavalry with a telegraph line on it - this with the ground on the River indicate land marks of civilization - I wish would have reminded us more strongly of home unless it had been a nice white cottage with a well dressed good looking woman in its open door + a cradle seen within - This last we did not see - We are now encamped for the night in a little ravine with good fires of dry trees - a little raw pork + a few "Red" Pies + Hard-Trackers in my Ammunition box with a cup

Slip 3 - 9' Letter 2' Army Series

surrounding & capturing our pickets & the first saturation [situation] our men had were the enemys shells flying into the town__

2 PM. We are now at Dumfries_Col has pretty nearly played out. The Qr Master & commissary are both back at Fairfax Station & our men have nothing to eat_I must again in this emergency play Qr Master & Commissary both & consequently may not write any more today

Tuesday Dec 30' _ I procured one days rations last night & the boys feel better. I also as Qr Master procured Forage for horses. This march has been rough on our horses as well as men_but if we can rest here a few days.Old Rock will be kicking up his heels as usual & will be as apt as ever at extending his hindmost muscles where a mule or Darky passes him _ I was intending to lie down & have a good sleep.had a good fire of pine logs & had just got stretched down perpendicularly to it when an order came in to sleep on our arms & for the Officers to be on the lookout as the enemy are said to be hovering around us & that the telegraph wires have been cut.on both sides of us this P.M._ In case of an attack upon our pickets we are to go out on the Brentsville Road & hold it_ Midnight I have been out with one or two Officers reconnoitering for a position on said Road_found a short cut where I can get the Regt out into position quick & having punched up my Fire must manage to sleep with both Ears and one Eye open till daylight _ A little knot of us are around my fire occasionally spinning yarns_The men generally are sleeping & the rest of us are ready to rally them if a signal come in from the Pickets_In addition to my other orders & duties I am detailed as Officer of the Day tomorrow

Wed Dec 31' _ No attack last night & only an hour or two sleep _ Brigade Guard montering is over _ Pickets posted & now I must go & get rations & Forage_It is said the Qr Master & comm' will arrive today with our waggons & I shall be glad to see them as this stepping outside of my regular duty to play Conn' & Qr Master is a bore still I had rather do it than have the men suffer & I find at such times they always look to me to help them out of any troubles.They dont like to call on an Officer who snaps them up short_

Evening. 10 PM. I have been my whole rounds & have delivered the countersign & have got into camp again. It has been since sundown a little cool & snowy & I guess too dark for a cavalry dash on us tonight & so I will prepare to rest Hallo.Here come a letter from Home written Dec 7 the 3 of Corries Series _ I have already noticed the 4' of the same series & the last shall be first

sometimes_ In war times they may be lucky to be at all _ I dont care if your last letters do come first they are always good & fresh if they are sometimes 3/4' of a month old when rec'_They tell me of my little circle of loved ones at home_which circle would now be complete if Papa was only in it. But as that cannot be just yet we must be content with the poor privilege of talking on paper & waiting a long time for answers.Your last contains the Phillips Letter & now I can make the order to E. Richardson & will send you the copy.that is as soon as I can get a pen & ink & a place to use it.It looks now as though we might stay here a while.if we dont get driven out or ordered Elsewhere_ Our men have been busy today in cutting away the bushes in our camp & building little Log huts with fireplaces using their shelter Tents for roofs_already quite a city has sprung up on the ruins of this old once populous place in Dumfries about 18 miles South of Fairfax Sta & about 20 or 25 north of Falmouth & Fredericksburg_ The last end of this slip the close of the day & last of the year.a fitting to retire & say Good night

Slip 3 - 9th Letter 2^d Army Series
Surrounding & capturing our pickets & the
first saturation our men had worn the
smugg shells flying into the town -
2 P.M. we are now at Dumfries - Ed has pretty
nearly played out. The Dr. Master & Commissary are
both back at Fairfax Station & our men have
nothing to eat - I must again in this emergency
play Dr. Master & Commissary both & consequently
may not write any more today

Tuesday Dec 30th - I procured one days rations
last night & the boys feel better. I also as Dr. Master
procured forage for our horses. This march has
been tough on our horses as well as men - but if
we can rest here a few days. Old Rock will be pick-
ing up his heels as usual & will be as apt as ever
at extending his hindmost muscles when a mule
or Dorky passes him - I was intending to lie
down & have a good sleep, had a good fire of pine
logs & had just got stretched down perpendicular to it
when an order came in to sleep on our arms, for
the Officers to be on the lookout as the enemy are said
to be hovering around us & that the telegraph wires
have been cut on both sides of us. This P.M. in case
of an attack upon our pickets we are to go out
on the Brentsville Road & hold it through midnight. I
have been out with one or two officers reconnoitering
for a position on said Road - found a short cut
where I can get the Regt out into position quick
& having punched up my fire, must men age to sleep
with both eyes & one eye open till daylight - A little
knot of us are around my fire occasionally spinning
yarns - the men generally are sleeping & the rest of us are
ready to rally them if a signal comes in from the
picket. In addition to my other orders & duties
I am detailed as Officer of the Day tomorrow

Wed Dec 31 - No attack last night & only
an hour or two sleep - Brigade Guard hunting
as ever - Probs posted & now I must go & get
rations & forage - It is said the Dr. Master & Com^d
will arrive today with our waggons & I shall be glad
to see them as this slipping outside of my regular
duty to Joly Com^d & Dr. Master is a damn stiff & had
rather do it than have the men suffer & I find
at such times they always look to me to help
them out of any troubles - they don't like to call on
an Officer who straps them up short -
Evening, 10, P.M. I have been my whole rounds
& have delivered the counter signs & have got into
Camp again - It has been since I am down a little
cool & snowy & I guess too dark for a cavalry
dash on us tonight & so I will prepare to host
Halls. Here comes a letter from Home written Dec 7
the 3 of Corvies Series - I have already noticed the 1st of
the same series & the last shall be first sometimes -
In our times they may be lucky to be at all - I don't
care if your last letters do come first. They are always
good & fresh if they are sometimes 2^{1/2} or 3 months
old when rec^d - They tell me of my little circle of
loved ones at home - which circle would now be complete
if Papa was only in it. But as that cannot be just yet
we must be content with the poor principle of talking on
paper & waiting a long time for answers - Your last contains
the Phillips letter & now I can make the order to E. Richardson
& will send you the copy - that is as soon as I can get a
pen & ink & a place to use it - It looks now as though we
might stay here a while - if we don't get driven out or ordered
elsewhere - Our men have been busy today in cutting down the
bushes in our camp & building little log huts with fireplaces
using their shelter tents for roofs - Already quite a city has sprung
up on the ruins of this old once populous place i.e. Dumfries
about 18 miles south of Fingus Stn & about 25 or 26 miles of
Falmouth at Funder's despatch - The last word of this slice the close
of the day & last of the year - a fitting & quiet one - Good night

Camp of the 29" Regt. Ohio Vol Infts. 1" Brigade
2n Div 12' Army Corps. Near Dumfries Va
Sunday Jan 4 1863_Slip 1_10" Letter 2d Army Series

"...I have been out sometime about a little among the older inhabitants & making inquiries about this dilapidated old Town_I find nothing of importance to write about save the Old Burying ground which is now in a thick growth of Pine & Oak Some Oak trees among the graves are 18 inches in Diameter_It is said the old church owned 200 acres of land.the most of which was used to bury in_some crumbling Tablets & Tombstones have distinct dates as far back as 1694. The foundation of the old church is also very distinct among the Trees__Last Winter a large Rebel force were encamped here & very many of them died_It is said that about a Thousand of them died & were buried here while they occupied this place..."

Slip 2 10" Letter 2n Army Series [January 6, 1863]

"...Having business today down at the Commissaries which is in the Town & perhaps a fourth of a mile distant_ I wondered a little among the Old Dilapidated houses..."

Slip 3 12" Letter 2n Army Series_Monday Jan 19/63

"... I have been out this morning to take another turn through the old burying grounds in the woods. I found one grave made as late as 1846 but generally there have been scarcely any buried here since 1820.though sometime about 1750 It seems to have been a frequent burying place for some distance about here_but in another part of the yard where the brush had been cut out. the new graves were thick The Head Boards bore the name & Regt that the sleeper belonged to_I found Texas Regts quite numerous as also some from NC, Sc & Ala_Texas Soldiers must have been very numerous here last winter or else the climate was very fatal to them. as there is another lot of them buried about a mile from this place on the heights where our Forts now stand Ill bet their Secesh friends will have to work some if they ever remove them as our large Fort with heavy Embankments is right on them..."

Return. My duties have been rather onerous
this time, though all has been quiet at the out-
posts during the day. The picket force has been
much enlarged and the work of Station in-
creased since I was officer of the Station &
work since - We have about 3 or 4 miles on
the Potomac & taking that as a Φ inside we
have a chain of pickets on a semi-circle
of about 6 miles around - I have been especially
charged today with having the thousand & one little
Cowpotts which interlock each other in every direction
to be as effectually as felled trees can do it - I have
consequently been busy all day & as you will perceive
by the hours come a considerable part of the night
I have today for the first time in my life been accompa-
nied in my rounds by a mounted orderly - a cavalry man
I have had 9 of them at my command - one or more
at each station & one with me all the time - About 7 PM
a telegram came in that a Cavalry Regiment of about 700 men
had been ordered to the front.

On this day I was especially instructed to relieve our left
outposts & also the Cavalry Regt. which made business
for me ordinary - I will as my horse does not send till about
10 AM. I think I will try to sleep a little bit as I am
& I have got severely harassed & so good night -

11 AM Sunday Jan 6. It is warm & pleasant just now but
I think we may have some before night - I was just relieved
from duty & have stretched myself out on my back to lounge
a little & as I did not get the full Masonic measure of
sleep last night I may elapse a little between the lines
rather than I begin to feel a little that way just now - with
my feet to this year gone - - - 12th PM. It is beginning to
rain. Patter patter on our ~~roof~~ - ~~roof~~ - ~~roof~~ -

Camp of the 29th Regt. Ohio Vol. Infy. 1st Brigade
2nd Div 12th Army Corps near Dumfries Va
Sunday Jan 6 1862 - Slip 1. 10th Extra Easy Series

My kind little wife - Bro Park says the northern
army has no hope yet is fighting without one - This
is a northern letter, though written south of Mason's
& Dixie's line - Intended for a northern lady, one of
the best in the world - It may have northern ideas
of a southern climate - given in the graphic style of
a northern author & its got a long heading to it
I don't think Park will look on this letter & say
it has no head to it - though there may not be any
very hard head work about it - I have just sent
away No 9 of Tommie's Series & am as usual at it
again - I have been out searching about a little among
the older inhabitants & making inquiries about this
old plantation - I find nothing of importance
to write about save the old burning cross which
is now in a thick growth of Pine & Oak - Some Oak trees among
the graves are 16 inches in diameter - It is said the old
church owned 200 acres of land, the most of which was used
to bury in - Some crumbling tablets & tombstones have
distinct dates as far back as 1684 - The foundation of
the old church is also very distinct among the trees -
Last winter a large flock of geese were snowed here & very
many of them died - It is said that about a thousand of them
died & were buried here while they were in this place -
I have been reading an old letter over again a little today
for items with which to make up my own letters - I shall run
out soon of matter to write about unless I draw more
on imagination than I have done of late or we have another
brush with the Rebels - I am about as hard run for anything
to write about as the northern letter was when sent up his

My dear paper principally from the last leaves of an old Almanack. telling his Patrons that he should continue to do so as long as his stock of news held out - But I have found of your letters of St. Stephen's issue & one of those that I can review, hence you need not fear but letters will come as long as I have anything to suggest, advise, or say.

You have an interesting subject to write about - a little Boy now called Little Red Bird - I like that - & as you last letters have contained very much respecting him they are very interesting - He is now at an interesting age - you can watch these interesting changes in budding as he goes from baby to boyhood - I am away when I cannot see any of his progress, hence every little new trick of his, every new word, his progress in talking, walking - his fondness for eating or loving & kissing mamma, & the rest - his aptness with the knife or any of his playthings, are all so many items of interest to me which you need not fear to write me - I can thus at all times see in my mind's eye just how you are.

I hope he will often attempt mamma to give him a little kiss & imagine he will do this when he gets up in grandmas laps to get hold of her "spoon" or to pick at that little red pinhole on her forehead - but in what he is so much loved & hope he will as he grows be a good little boy - I have never heard you speak of any manifestations of ill nature in him yet & trust there are not very frequent or forcible but still his "boy baby" & we should more naturally expect them than in such a delicate little creature as our little Sonie had - Be patient with him now, but be decided - give more kisses than spanks & don't threaten to spank him unless you really intend to do it and if you feel in a fit when inclined to do so count ten before you spank or talk about it - but he seems to be your baby to manage & a big baby at that & so I will not dictate - But what in heaven has broken loose in camp - I haven't heard such a terrible churning since last 4th of July at Salisbury I must go out & see - 9 P.M. The churning was for the arrival

3/ of our Post Republic prisoners about 70 of them who have just arrived - The Capt. went for them to Fort Dix just before we left Fairport Station. It was supposed we should have got them with us without sending an officer for them & I guess the supposition was correct. The North has not suffered enough in this war with those who control will care less for the ceremony of unclothing just a man of "Red Tape" than they do for the good of the Country or welfare of her Soldiers. These men have been neglected & apparently forgotten - & so long ago but still crop up at Fort Salisburia - a great fortune looking lot of men as I saw & saw - badly clothed & not rec^d a cent of pay while there - no wonder they cheered loudly when they saw our Camp Fires - If I have written badly for the last few minutes please attribute it to the heavy hearts & hard shakes & grips my hand has had since I began this page - But Letter beat long ago & I sleep too & my console has also played out - Fine times & times nearly so & as an announcement has just been made from Head Quarters that ~~Label~~ block of the 29th Div. Regt. will be ordered & inspected as General Field Officer of the Big Towns & wishing to command all the respect & obedience due to that position I will retire to rest that I may be the better prepared for it - Jan 6th

Tuesday 2 o'clock A.M. I am sitting by a bright Camp Fire, away down in Dix having just completed my last column as Officer of the Day & as my toes were a little cold from being long in the saddle I thought I would just warm them a little by this good fire which I found burning in camp on my

and fulfilling the mission of my enlistment. My health is also
thus far just as good if not better than while there - I'm also
think worse of a Battle than I do - While on our march here
I thought for a time we should have one but it only proved to
be a pretty sharp skirmish but those contemptible Skunks
who have baselessly insinuated that I was cowardly had a chance
to try my metal & coolness on that occasion as also in the
Alarm the previous even when we took possession of the
Rebel Fort. They look sheepish at me now & I hardly think
they have made more than twice out of it. The fact is that
the Old Col would be a Brigadier & 2 or 3 other Generals &
promotions would not object to being with the Col or other
of them could calculate on my assistance. I never
thought Col. B. capable & he so understood it from his speech
but let him & the whole Chigan. go. They don't trouble me -
Don't fear our being captured. I'm used to that - but Gen. Barry
says the 1st Brigade will surrender - But for your sake
I will try & take good care of myself & if I get sick
again & unable to do my duty, then as an honest man
I should resign & give place to them who can do it -
Hence you may trust to that promise to resign - but must
comes the question of what shall we do & where shall we
live for the benefit of Little Red Bird & his twin & three
youngsters - If I had as much brass & impudence as
some few I know of in the Army - my plan would work
but I guess may be as I am something of a home body &
have a strong attachment to old Ark. I shall have to come
back there & be a farmer & yet you are hardly equal
to that unless we have some money apportioned - If I
could get a good berth as a Rail Road Conductor
it believe I would like it - but I must dismiss this
for the present & all other decisions while in the Army
of what I will do when I get out of it. But every time
you speak of my resigning, I can't help thinking a
little in that direction - but my light is growing out & I
must stop & go to bed - It is 11 o'clock. Rain appears to be
over & I guess it will be a cold night - but never mind a good
stone fire place, plenty of wood - a good supply of blankets & mattress
& my bed - pleasant - from your friend -

✓ Slip 2 - 10th Letter - New Series

Dumfries, Va. Sunday, Jan 6th 1862 -

Having business today down at the Commissary in
which is in the town & perhaps a fourth of a mile distant.
I happened a little among the old dilapidated houses & as I
chanced to see a working creek through an open door, I noticed
in remarking that it was an old seager that no house was
complete in its furnishings without an iron chair & a wooden
table & a wash tub & as I passed it, I sat the Old Granddaddy
at 10 o'clock & I saw a notice the babies were put in
place on the mother's side & mother's side & did not
have the baby noticed. There were in this house 3 widows & 2 children.
The oldest a little fair haired girl of 5 years. The youngest a little
girl of 2 that when father was killed at Antietam. She was
now a little girl old & the 2 daughters both small widows within
a year. The oldest little girl said her mother was dead & that
Papaw had come to "live" & she, are dead. They are all
here for that matter but somewhat sad. I don't know how they
or any of the rest live here - Such they must live like dead
in winter, as the land is mighty well worn out & we never
see any manure heap. Not even Black Horses - please not
read those last few words out loud - The air feels very
much like rain - in fact it does rain & I guess it has
at it ever since about 10 o'clock. but being scarce
inside the house I did not worry myself about it
unless I got ordered out. The Red was in camp about
1 PM & left word that I would attend to the Dr's farm.
I have attended to it, by ordering the men to dress
themselves as comfortably as possible to prepare fuel for
the night & then Parade themselves in their quarters -
But here I have been "darning samplings" these two days
without even giving an Editorial notice of your
four December issues all patiently awaiting to be pressed
upon - Saying No 3 of Dec 7th - The weather cold weather
you speak of seems natural enough for old Ark. we are not
having very cold weather this far - not as cold as last year

we have eaten at Siderick City since we have had since
Amesbury. Lady here says the weather is not so much any more
till March & April she says look out for those months - but it
does me good like Hot Oysters to Keweenaw you & Siderick
sleep warm - You attempt to flatter me about my good
letters - If it were not for my honor of mastering I think I
should be bound out to learn them all & rewrite Soperick if
I ever read them over - You cannot take up each point
in my letters & answer it for the very good reason that I
seldom make points & use dashes - and write right
along just as one would scribble notes out of a cart
got my pencil & paper ready I pull out the end board &
let my slide - that the way I manage to scribble so much
It is not so much hard say a thing to you on paper as when
I write I say it & that is why I have a
chance to use the writing materials I carry - I cannot
but suppose that you are at home instead of at Cleveland - I
think the time would seem very long to you there - It is now
near 2 months since I left you & yet it does not seem
near as long - but that I do not think of home & often
wish myself there - My frequent writing must indicate that
but in camp or on the march there is so much to take my
attention that days & weeks go idly pass - You speak of
Burnside moving very slow - I have in a former letter spoken
of the fatal error as well as very silly error of marching
before the world his plan of action at the time of changing
his base to Coque Creek & prematurely declaring his
success in an unfought battle - I don't know that
I predicted a failure on paper - but which I stand ready to
support Burnside & wish him all success had my power
I now predict that he will not remain at Siderick
very long - He will find it difficult to support his
Army there & will then be advised at any & every cost
or fall back I think it will be the latter - In which
event this will become an important point & we are now
engaged in strongly fortifying it - I am glad you
agree with me on the President's message being a
long time - It is so - Now must get along the

5/ Just you can with a narrow party spirit of which you
cannot help coming in contact with a little of even the
Sidericked Old - The Don't embrace these narrow
views yourself but give them the best your house affords
which I know is a considerable - They will find fault while
the war is going on & they will find fault when it is over
& if they should ever be so ungrateful (happy as to be) that
that blood should (of what there is some doubt) be
hailed as a day as out of place - They will blame the
retire here find fault with the Administration there
So as the world - But I pass to a more pleasant
topic - you Siderick - wish I had been there with you
with 'Old Kock' I want to call him Chesley & thought for
a while that that was his name - It is not a fact
I would rather think we would like drawing with
I baby in a sling on a good & comfortable rather better
than carrying one on his back over these hills sleeping
over deep cuts & tumbling one's stumps - I hope you will
have more good sleep this winter - but keep little
Red Bird up warm & don't let him freeze that little nose
of his - I haven't forgotten how Walter Libard & later than
every he was after them - if he was here he should have
all of mine & the compound extract of bones & decalified bones
Kine bones - called decalified mixed vegetables besides -
But I am not at the Squash Pie - I don't trust him &
I wouldn't care if I had a section of it too - Please get
a quart of old Gos. of it for me and tell me how
you feel after it - I am glad he grows fat after being
starved & if he uses his lungs freely in laughing let
him laugh & grow fat - I am glad you have written to
Augusta I don't know as I shall ever get time to - I will
write E. Richardson as soon as I can & send you copy
of the Order - I think of writing more in comes to I
now for the 1st of Dec 11 - It seems like I had one divine
this little especially the part where you were reading my to 6
with so much satisfaction until in the last slip you found
an error ordered away from Frederick & then for the I could
be - but me excuse you that I have enjoyed myself better since we
left there than while there - It seems more like doing a soldier's duty

Slip of the letter to Army Series - Monday Jan 11/10

Had no further orders left & all quiet here

I have been out this morning to take another turn

through the old burying ground in the woods, I found
one grave made as late as 1861. but generally there
have been several any buried here since 1820. though
sometime about 1850 it seems to have been a frequent
burying place for some distance about here - but
in another part of the yard where the brush had been
cut out, the new graves were thick. The Head Boards bore
the names & Regt with the sleepers belonged to - I found
Sax as Regts quite numerous as also some from N.C. Ga
& Ala - Texas soldiers must have been very numerous
here last winter or else the climate was very fatal to
them as there is another lot of them buried about a mile
from this place on the heights where our fort now stand
I'll bet their Scotch friends will have to work some of this snow
down them as our fort with its heavy embankments is
right on them -

An order has just come in to get ready for
that I expect & Review that has deferred some days and
on account of the rain - We are to be ready at 1/2 past one
that I must go out and command of the Regt as he will
take the place of a Reviewing Officer & he will have to take
command of the Brigade & as I must go in for a little
I'll send him to step out & fix up -

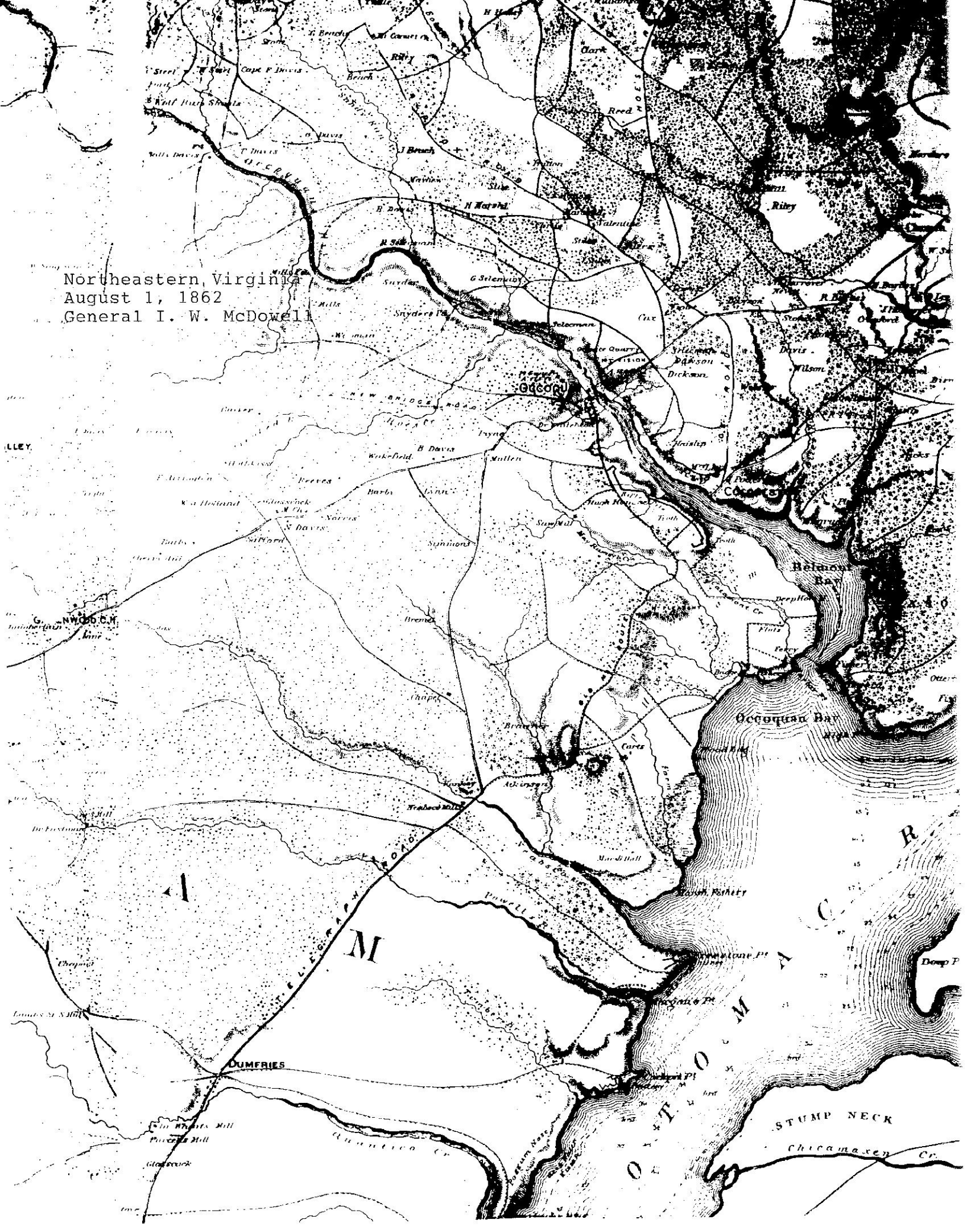
S. P. Monday Jan - The Review of this P.M. to see when
passed off very well. I think he's a command in it & much
to take any attention I did not mind much how it did go
as though I had been a spectator - We had out about 840
new officers & some of the Regts were smaller than ours
we had 6 Regts probably 2000 in all were out on Review today
I was the only mounted officer with the 2nd - 2nd was
side - But I see go it almost necessary - The 2nd did well

but not on whether I did or not for I am for a long time
he had no objection at all - nothing but a Review which I had
since then required to make a written report of - I had to
go out for a short time but I had to go out as well as to
then show Review except in time of peace & at home where
our business & business friends can look at it & advise - But you
hope this will be the case before many months? But I too?
I wonder I like to have Blacklock after a long Band of music
in it. I hope he would feel as good & dance as lively as he did
today. Perhaps I may hope to see you. But the letter
expect a mail in before morning in which I hope to
get a letter & I also hope for a chance to send this out tomorrow
But I will stop now & go to determine how best

Tuesday Jan. 20 1863

It is a pretty cold day & the air feels much
like snow - Some troops are moving by here
today & though we have no orders yet
& no mail we rather expect the letter
tonight & may possibly get orders in the
morning, although something of that kind
is uncertain - We have a chance
to send a mail now & I will stop
right now - Good Bye for this time
Adieu as ever
Shut

Northeastern Virginia
August 1, 1862
General I. W. McDowell



2

Monday Eve Dec 25 - Nothing new in Camp today
 except building winter hats - after this style - a few
 legs are rolled up with hair - further leaving one end
 open - one half to be used for the ears & the other filled
 up with a stone fireplace & chimney of wood & sticks -
 I have with a few others built one today & am a little
 tired tonight but a good fire is blowing from our
 fireplace - I built the fireplace & chimney myself & have
 got a draft - no smoke yet - Ben being published a
 very patriotic order looking relative to a further ob-
 servance of the birth of the Christian Era & praying
 as worthy to be to the heroes who have fallen in defense
 of our country during the past year & hoping that we
 may see another Christmas shall so come to us
 home in the society of our friends - Around Camp
 we hear some of the old songs & hymns being sung
 in the air which come at the Gen's Head Quarters the
 sound of Drums & Clarionet descending more lively
 indicates that if the large Camp attend the Ball at home they
 can at least have a dance here - I am our own
 melody sings out which sounds of Old Christmas - "I'm going
 Home" American & the Old Folks at Home - Capt Smith
 has today given to Prescriptions to get various instruments repaired
 for the Band - Perhaps I have neglected to tell you that we have on
 a Brass Band from Summit & Madras Co but as one of Sunday
 is away & the other has broken his instrument we are without
 any music today & in a country uninhabited for miles
 around except by our Army - Capt Smith being a little small
 has been sent to get the instrument repaired - He has acquaintance
 in Washington of whom he expects to get money then being but very
 little of that commodity in the West - He being acquainted with the
 Blake of Medicine Co - In the 18th School Books perhaps you remember
 a story of a brass Blake being lost in a snow storm in Ark & frozen to
 death that had protected an infant child - Some poet has endeavored to
 do justice to the subject - I remember this line of the poem is "She babe
 looked up & sweetly smiled" - That babe is said to be Reuben
 Blake of Ohio - Friday Eve - Nothing new today in or
 about Camp - Our new house works well - I don't smoke
 abit & is warm & comfortable - as a house at home - if
 the ribs will let us stay here - or if those at home who
 are anxious for an active campaign - would not send at
 our address - or if we were not busy in ourselves to
 to have the war close & get home we could make ourself
 very comfortable here even in very cold weather -

3.

It is amusing to hear one + another around
 call on some imaginary John to run down cellar &
 bring up a pitcher of cider - I wish of those early Rappahock
 which another visits on Monday favoring with a short
 turn at the Plemons - Well anything for variety & to remind
 us of how well we might enjoy the society of those who
 cluster around our most cherished recollections of what
 one word Home could be Exchange Holiday of Christmas
 in Camp for the same days at home - Well since
 we can't have anything new in Camp tonight I may
 as well get tired - Sleeping in our new house is a great
 luxury & I'm afraid I shall be inclined to indulge to
 a greater extent than the regular Camp or Masonic
 allowance & perhaps my thanks when we move again
 that I have a little in advance -

Sat Eve Dec 27

The main of Camp Life is again broken - The soldier
 long for something new & occasionally gets it but it comes
 in different forms - Sometimes after a visit of
 the Paymaster whom he is always glad to see he gets on
 a little indulgence & winds up with a few days leave
 of a ball & chain attachment - again his relations are
 short - an inflexible - though not at all uncommon occu-
 rence & then he has a tilt with the Dr Master whom
 he strongly suspects has pocketed the extra shortages -
 Again the latter comes round with articles of food
 too stale to be palatable & a price that must have
 been tested by an increasing arithmetical series until
 the higher attenuations were fully realized -
 Our modern soldier manifests his contempt for
 the drake & his love for excitement by "cleaning him
 out" upsetting waggons & appropriating or spoils
 contents - but again when after having been
 ordered to rig up winter quarters & perhaps