

Winchester Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1862

Dear Sister.

I received your letter dated the 21<sup>st</sup> today & as I have nothing to do will answer it. We left Romney on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & marched 28 miles to Salopon bridge, where we halted for the night, by day the next morning we were again on the road & marched to this place a distance of 21 miles, so in the last two days we have marched the distance of 44 miles. The longest & most disagreeable marches we have made since we came in service. The day before I left Romney I wrote you a short note, but fear you will not receive it as the mail between this place & West is so irregular in which I gave you an account of the disposition of the troops for the winter. General's brigade goes into quarters near this place, George Anderson's & the other northwestern troops at I am afraid Romney.

Leave them, as of all the miserable holes in creation Romney takes the lead.

But as I promised to give an account of the whole trip why not begin at the beginning. After getting back from the dan expedition at Martinsburg, of which I told I gave you an account, our brigade was quartered about 7 miles from Winchester after staying there one day our company was ordered to report at Hedgesville, we staid there four days until <sup>a few more days</sup> troops got in when we were ordered to take the Hedgesville road, we went on the Romney road until we came to the Broad Roads, where we took the road to both the County seat of Morgan, here we joined the regiment again when we got to both the militia during the Yankees' slip the if our company was again detached from the regiment & put in charge of 28 or 26 privates, we were quartered in the Court House & had a very pleasant time as we could take a noon nap when

on Corcoran's (middle) at Hagerstown a  
small town above Hagerstown) Gen Meigs's  
brigade at Martinsburg, the cavalry at  
different points on the border, & the 1st  
Infantry Hall Volunteers near Headquarters  
in Winchester. So at last the army of  
Jackson is in winter quarters. The very  
last of the Southern troops to get in  
Hagerstown "letter late than never".

Our company are in tents just  
now, until a house can be prepared, got  
today evening finding that we would have  
to pull up tents & feeling very tired, so of  
course I would do. The greater part of  
the occupants of my tent being sick &  
looking a great deal like snowing, I con-  
cluded I would try and get into a house  
in which I succeeded & very glad I  
did, as the ground is covered about  
two inches with snow this morning.  
Dixie's coming one very much disappointed  
with being left at Hagerstown & I can not

ever be pleased, for the Berkeley springs or  
situated there, which are owned by Shober  
the father of Porte Crayon, as Porte is an  
engineer in their 18 and among his property  
was taken by the soldiers or in the military  
train passed & as the training was gen-  
eral & allowed I passed some things my self  
& have some very pretty pictures & other things  
which I got out of Porte's study. Hager-  
town is a very pretty place though small it con-  
tains some elegant buildings the houses  
around the springs are very fine & long  
to give you an idea of the size of one of  
the piping buildings, they contained all of  
Falkner's brigade containing fine regiments  
to it in & there was plenty of room to  
whilst at Hagerstown two hours the  
Buckeye bridge & then a few shells into  
Hagerstown a small town on the Maryland  
side of the river. After knocking about  
there a day or so we came back to the bu-  
reauds in charge of the prisoners, where

at the time he said we again joined the  
regiment & marched to Hagerstown a  
small village on the Potowmack road we  
staid there all night & received orders  
the next morning to move forward with  
the Gen baggage to Hagerstown we went on  
thirty one miles to within four miles  
of the place, staid all night the  
next morning went to the town and  
took our pick of the houses (if in doubt  
there was any choice as all were to play  
for desert) mess to stay in & staid there  
some time, expecting every day to have to  
move to the river to capture the Rebels  
who were reported to be at Hagerstown and so  
on the side of the Potowmack, but they had  
planted the rail road bridge & had  
managed to get away, which was a  
great pity for if ever men deserv'd a

of my clothes, firsty in the first place  
I am getting rather bad off for a coat  
as this one is burnt & worn out to  
gather, but am in no hurry for one if  
she thinks proper I can get one made  
here or she can have it made & send  
to me, one pair of my pants are burnt  
a little at the foot but I can wear  
my pants in my boots every day & put  
on my new pair Sundays, so I can do  
very well in that line, as for a mile  
when at Hagerstown I got so dirty not having  
changed for three weeks as my baggage  
left in Winchester I bought a change of  
under clothes shirt drawers stockings  
etc & I am pretty well off except the  
This morning I see they are burnt a  
little in the waist but I will have a  
to be burning it was this kind of cut patch put on that so I can get along  
through. There are not less than 80 or 90 very well. Oh I forgot my hat, well

house burn around him & I called up  
the men shot down & left lying, one man  
was shot whilst he was making soap in  
his house & the house burnt over him  
allowing his wife & children begged the  
dogs to allow them to take his body out  
of the house before they burnt it, a  
poor old woman who lived near him  
very bad her house burnt down & when  
she asked them to allow her to save  
some of the things, they told her to take  
out whatever she pleased, she took  
out some bedding & an old clock  
after the house was burnt they set  
fire to the things which she had  
taken out & put them up too.

Hampton county is just a wilderness  
now, you see only dotted, where a few  
months ago beautiful houses stood.

The rest I have already told you  
& now as I have given you all the  
particulars, I will give you a history of

you can tell to your father I say he  
cheated me in that as I wrote it over  
in less than three weeks, but I got myself  
a very good copy, which does very  
well. But you can send me a blanket  
or something of that kind, I don't know  
either as we are going into a house  
tomorrow, or not & will need one but if  
I do I can write again. You think I  
mention that it is about enough in the  
last line so I will stop. About 16 of us  
company are more or less sick John  
Lightfoot has the pneumonia very bad,  
has been delirious over a week, do  
not think he will get over it, none of  
the rest are seriously sick. If you can  
find out any of Mrs Hargrave's kin  
& write their names, probably I can  
find them but as the place is rather  
large & she not known, I was surprised  
at finding so large a place, it was  
about 8 or 10 houses and inhabitants.