

"VICTORY OR DEATH"

Rocky Gap, May  
23<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Aunt

As this is a beautiful day and I have some leisure time I will devote it to writing you a short letter. We left East Mountain on last Wednesday, and came here and am now, waiting orders, our other two detachments are under Heath, and gone to Greenbrier Co and, we are under Col Whorters, who is as brave and as kind a man as I ever saw, our other gun was in the fight at Brunston and did good work, for the Yankees, while our detachment was left to hold East Mountain and we do so with only fifteen Infantry to back us. And while there I had the pleasure of being the only one from our detachment to go on that trip to take that Yankee wagon and baggage, and my part of the Spoils was worth about fifty dollars but I gave most of the things away to my comrades who was not so fortunate, and as for ourselves but very few of our care for we are willing to fight at any time and any place, but some few in our detachment turned very pale when the order was given to place our gun in position this morning of the expected engagement but I think every



man would hoo don his duty, as for my  
self I felt as calm as if I was goin  
to sit down to a good dinner. all these old  
mountain Soldiers has taken a great  
likin to me and when they go out  
on a Scouting Expedition they all ways  
beg the Sargent to let me go with them  
they say that they know that little  
Richmond as they call me will fight  
because they hoo tried me, but it is  
not right for a Canonier to be absent  
from his post and so, I hoo never  
gotten off but once with them.

there is a major from Richmond  
came therr last night and he says  
that the people of Richmond has decided  
to burn the place if the yankees get  
therr but I hope not for, there is a prospect  
if they do get therr to drive them out  
one of these days. but if they burn the place  
it will ruin so many thousand people and  
and not gain a thing for the Southern  
Cause, but a vor all aunty sticks to  
your home as long as you can, as for  
my self I enter to fight them as long  
as breath is in my body, and I  
hope to Coy many a one low be fore I  
depart from this life



in fact I dont believe the Yankee  
ball was ever made that will kill me,  
and as for my self I feel not the least  
uneasiness but for my home and my  
dear Aunt and Sisters I must confess  
I do, the fight at pownston you have  
heard from ear this and I want mention  
that but that is the way we are going to  
do them all the time, up here, that is if  
they give us a half a chance, I have  
not received a word from you all,  
all this month, with the exception a short  
note from Mary written the sixth and  
I got that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month I expect  
I have a good many letters at Dublin  
but have no chance to get them so when  
you write a gain direct your letter  
to my mother, and I hope I will get  
them much sooner I have not been  
the least sick since I left home and  
I have been sleeping on the open ground  
in the rain most of the time for it rains  
most every day and strange to say  
have not had as much as a cold as yet  
and have gained seventeen pounds,  
and sunburnt as bad as I possibly  
can get, in fact I look very much



like and old Soldier, the dumpin  
And Mary they mus writ soon  
And give my love to all the girls  
Benni P, Sulli Austin, Isa and Mary  
in fact all the girls I know, and  
be sure and writ soon Aunty your  
self for I wish to receive a letter  
from you but ~~the~~ the drum  
is a bout to put and I mus  
close. Good bye for the present  
And writ soon to your Affectionate  
Son George, M. Waddy

This is some of the yankee  
paper is it not very nice



Camp Thorny Springs Near Dublin March 24<sup>th</sup>  
1863

Dear Dampier

As this is a bad, and rainy day I will devote a short time in writing to you, every thing up here looks gloomy and the boys are all sleep or playing cards and in fact that is the way we pass off our time and you know that is indeed a dull life for me to lead. I often think of the many pleasant times I saw while in Old Richmond and hope that the time is not far distant when I may meet the many ~~pleasant~~ times over a gain, how is times there now how you all had any parties since I left, and is Mr Rock left yet or not Old Salome is on hand so I am told and has paid his respects to Mary, very often I should not wonder if I find them united in the holy bands of ———, ear long, give me all the points when you write, I wrote to John the day after I reached Camp but as yet have not received a word in reply tell him he must write soon give me all the news the boys up here are very much dissatisfied and have been trying to get a transfer to other companies but they cant do so on account of the Capt he will not allow any one to go, as for my self I do as I please by any thing I wish and in fact, I am displeasid



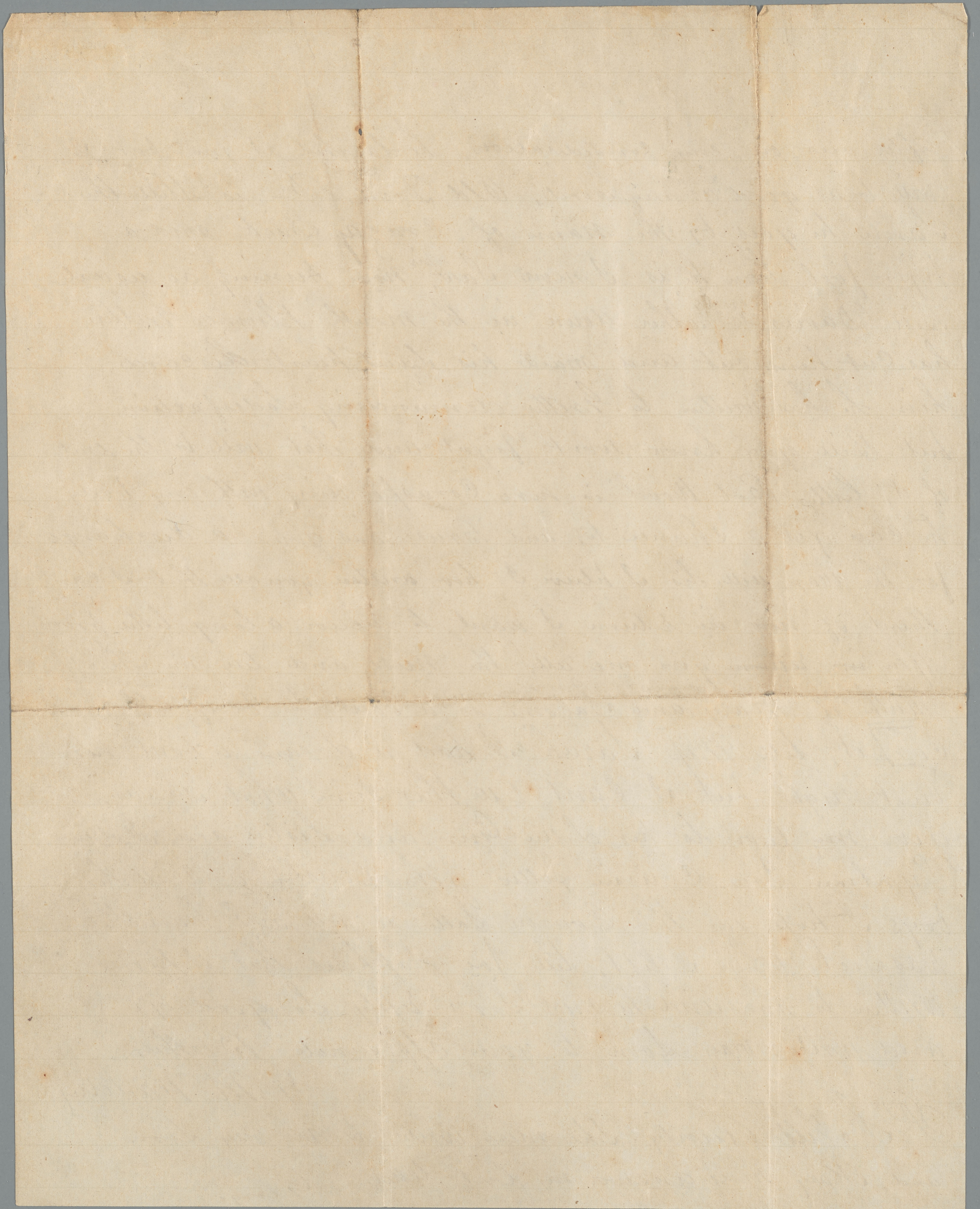
on a count of there being so lenient with me I refuse  
to go on details and the other day I had to go after  
corn and I got ready and by the time I got a bout  
a hundred yards from camp I Run the old wagon  
over a stump broke the old wheel all to pieces and the  
consequence was they sent some one else in my place  
I am determin as long as they treated me as they  
did while I was at home I will make up for it  
now, there is a good many young Ladies up here  
but the Ugly Girls that I ever saw, and some  
of the Boys spend there leisure time by going to see  
them, Tom Stratton is a great Beau among them.  
He is very anxious to carry me a round but I all  
ways decline, the invitation, as yet I have not left camp  
since I arrived here for the first two or three days I can tell  
you what I had the Blues very very bad but I have  
now gotten over that, and make my self easy let the world  
wag as it may with the exception of the other night they beat  
the drum a bout mid night and had Roll Call to find out if  
any of the boys had run the blockade found all present but  
one and they sent six men out on horses to catch him and  
now he is in the guard tent on bread and water for ten  
days but as he is a Substitute it makes but little difference  
none of our boys ever have to suffer so, all I hated was  
to get out of a good warm Bunk to go out in the snow to  
answer to my name but I told Capt Walker that I  
never would get up a gain without the Yankees were coming



after our. on any consideration, he laughed at me but I  
will be as good as my word, Old Dick, D- is still the  
same he goes by the name of Crazy Dick and a  
bigger fool than he is I never saw <sup>his</sup> nose running as usual.  
Bill Davies is rather down in the mouth Plumer Gretter  
has cut him out and maid his sweet heart discard  
him he has written to Gretter demanding satisfaction  
but Bill you know wont fight and that will be the end  
of it, little Bob Wood is here corresponding with any body  
he can get a chance to, and Bruce has gotten a discharge  
for the war, well sis I believe I hav written you all that I can  
think of now in return I want to receive a long letter from  
you ~~in return~~ give me all the news and tell me the  
truth if Mary and Salome is a bout to be off the  
carpet, tell Miss Sarah I had a dream a bout her  
last night but I cant tell this time what it was,  
give my love to her Lillie Ann and Sisters and Mollie  
Lyndham Isa. Cousin Sallie John Austin and all the  
boys. I hope ear. this Cousin Sallie is well as I heard she  
was sick when I left, tell Joe Hopkins that I hav  
written to him and he mus soon reply. So good bye  
and write very soon to your affectionate Brother  
G M Waddy

P.S. Tell Aunty she mus write to me very soon  
and Mary mus answer my last letter  
George







Camp Thorny Springs Near Dublin April 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Aunty

I have written home to or three times but as yet have not received a word in reply but I know owing to hard times you cannot find much time to write we have been having a very nice time up here, up to now, but we received orders from head quarters that we have to increase the guard at Camp from three men to ten and fifteen men to work on the roads, and all the rest of the boys have to drill three times a day. So now we have to go on guard every other night and day all the men are down on the Major for doing so, and there is quite an exciting time in Camp to night, as for my self its matters but little to me for I am on the sick list from the effects of a cold and I shant hurry my self in getting well, but you know when I am well I can stand as much hard ships as any one but, I hope ear long I may get out of this old Camp for good. I received a letter from John the other day he says that Ewell has left the Hospital and that Dr Hancock is going to have me detailed, as soon as he gets some patients on hand, I hope I may succeed for its much better to be in a Hospital at home than being in Camp to stand the hard ships, that every Soldier has to stand, but Aunty I often think I should like for you to have some of the large



loads of Oak wood we burn up here, every week not less  
than two cords a week is burnt in our house, a load by only  
six men, and what we want in camp would long over  
support your family, we go out very often and get Chickens  
at 50<sup>cts</sup> Butter at 1.00<sup>th</sup> Meats hams at 50<sup>cts</sup> per pound  
and Beans at three Dollars a bushel so you see as long as  
we have money there is not much danger of starving  
but from what I can learn of Richmond I am of the opinion  
that you all will <sup>have</sup> leave or starve out, while there is plenty  
to be had if it was not for those speculators in fact that  
has been near the ruin of our Country and unless something  
is done to prevent their progress, God only knows what  
will become of the people I do not wonder at what has  
occurred, and I am afraid it will be even worse  
that there will be war with the poor against the rich  
for my part I do not blame the mob much for what  
they do and as long it will be renewed with double vigor.  
But I hope as long this war will end but it does not  
look much like it now for the Yankees seem to be sanguine  
of success more so than ever, but I hope that the pending  
battles that will take place soon will decide the thing if we  
are victorious I think then there is a good chance for  
a close of this hate full war, and I hope as you get this  
that I may hear of a great victory at Charleston, for I  
think we will be successful there at any rate we will heart  
them very much before they get that Galant City  
but this is enough of war news and I must try to write of



Some thing else but, I hav nothing that would interest  
you as I am here in a dull Camp and never hear any thing  
un till it is staid in Richmond, but Aunt, you spoke  
of sending me a box before I left but do not do so  
for I get plenty to eat and it would do me but little good  
among so many mouths and the government allows us  
a hundred and seventy five Dollars for clothes so you  
know that is as much as I want, and if I was as sure  
that you would be as well provided for as my self I assure  
you I would be much better satisfied than I now am  
so do not send me any thing until I write for it  
and when you next write let me know how you are getting a  
long, in these hard times, and give my love to Cousin  
Sallie tell her I hope her health has improved since I left  
and that she must write to me I will allways be glad to hear  
from her also to John, and be sure and make Dump  
and Mary write to me often for I do expect at least one  
letter from them a week, give my love to all my friends  
both Boys and Girls, tell them I hope to see them all  
ear long tell Mrs Flinnoy that Jim is well and as fat  
as he can be, and now it is quite late and all my Mess mates  
are just to sleep and my Candle warns me to close so good  
night may God bless you is the prayer  
of your Affectionate Nephew  
G. M. Waddy



