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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from Thomas Dick (Feb. - Mar. 1863)

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Camp near Bull run bridge

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

Dear Brother

This is the anniversary of the birthday of the beloved "Father of our country." And as I am not on duty, and have some leisure time I thought I would improve it in writing to you. I received a letter from Spacie since I received yours and will answer soon.

I answered Spizzie's last letter. But as yet have received no answer. I have very little news to communicate in regard to the Company. Lt Elder has been mustered in as Capt since Solar has been discharged Fern still holds his position as

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. He did not care about being  
mustered for three years, I believe  
cannot have more than two commissioned  
officers in the company with the  
present number of men. The  
health of the company is generally  
good. Samuel Johnston is going  
to the invalid corps today. He  
has been sick for sometime; and  
looks very bad. Our duty is not  
very arduous here; I come on duty  
about once a week. We have to  
guard the railroad; there is nothing  
to annoy us but the  
guerrillas they pop one over  
occasionally. Major  
Farmer of the 5<sup>th</sup> was  
killed a short time ago  
while leading a skirmish-  
ing party. We have very  
good quarters, plenty of  
rations; and generally

enjoy ourselves very  
well. All our veterans  
are back to the regt except  
Phipps we expect him today  
and Mr Miller with him.  
and we were thinking  
Capt Bolas would be to  
see us soon. Please forward  
that box as soon as  
convenient. I believe  
I have nothing more  
to write

ever your affectionate Brother  
Tom W Drake

Write soon

Camp near Bull run bridge  
Feb 22nd /63

Dear Brother

This is the anniversary of the birthday of the beloved Father of our country. And as I am not on duty; And have some leisure time I thought I would improve it in writing to you. I received a letter from Lucie since I received yours and will answer soon. I answered Lizzie's last letter: But as yet have received no answer. I have very little news to communicate in regard to the Company. Lt Elder has been mustered in as Capt since Bolar had been discharged. Kern still holds his position as

[Page Break]

2nd Lt. He did not care about being mustered for three years I believe we cant have more than two commisioned officers in the Company with the present number of men. The health of the Company is generally good. Samuel Johnston is going to the invalid corps today he has been sick for sometime; and looks very bad. Our duty is not very arduous here; I come on duty about once a week. We have to guard the railroad; Have nothing to annoy us but the guerrillas They pop one over occasionally. Major Larimer of the 5th was killed a short time ago while leading a skirmishing party. We have very good quarters plenty of rations; and generally

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enjoy ourselves very well. All our veterans are back to the regt except Drips we expect him today And Mr Miller with him. And we were thinking Capt Bolar would be to see us soon. Please forward that box as soon as convenient. I believe I have nothing more to write.

Ever your affectionate brother

Tom W Dick

Write Soon

Camp near Sul-run Bridge

Mar 4<sup>th</sup> / 63

Dear sister Fannie

I received your letter  
and was glad to hear from  
you as I always am. I was  
glad to hear that all were  
well; and especially, that  
mother is entirely well.

I don't think though you  
should be sorry because  
there is a month's  
more school. There is nothing  
so nice either for male  
or female as a good education  
and I hope you will think  
so too; and improve your  
time accordingly. I told  
Fizzie in my last  
that I would not answer  
Fannin's letter until he

could write one himself.  
I dont know how he  
will like that. But  
I hope he will soon  
be able to write me in his  
own hand writing. I was  
glad to hear that you were  
going to get some photographs  
of Robert; and I would  
like Stewart would get  
me one to but as usual  
I suppose he will forget  
it. There is a good deal of  
dispute among the boys about  
the time we will be discharged  
and I cant say when it will  
be but I think we will see the  
heaviest part of the coming  
campaign before we get home.  
As you will see by  
the heading of this letter  
we are still in our old  
camp. But how long we

will remain as it is fine  
weather and we may move  
any time. We were  
ordered to march  
the other day (Sunday)  
and only got as far  
as Massachussetts Junction  
when we were ordered back  
to camp. We have good  
times here good quarters  
plenty to eat; and  
not much to do.

We have not received that  
box yet. But tell Maggie  
as soon as we get it I will  
answer her last letter  
and let her know. We  
are in a very lonely place not  
much consequently I have nothing  
more to write with soon.

Yours affectionately  
Tom



My dear friend  
I have sent you  
one dollar worth of stamps  
in your next letter you  
can get them from  
Hart I did not get any  
pay this time

Camp near Bull run Bridge  
Mar 4th /63

Dear Sister Lucie

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you as I always am. I was glad to hear that all were well; And especially that Mother is entirely well. I dont think though you should be sorry though because there is a months more school. There is nothing so nice either for male or female as a good education. And I hope you will think so too; And improve your time accordingly. I told Lizzie in my last that I would not answer Sammie's letter until he

[Page Break]

could write one himself. I dont know how he will like that: But I hope he will soon be able to write me in his own hand writing. I was glad to hear that you were going to get some photographs of Robert; and I would like Stewart would get me one to but as usual I suppose he will forget it. There is a good deal of dispute among the boys about the time we will be discharged and I cant say when it will be but I think we will see the heaviest part of the coming campaign before we get home. As you will see by the heading of this letter we are still in our old Camp. But how long we

[Page Break]

will remain as it is fine weather and we may move any time. We were ordered to march the other day (sunday) and only got as far as manasses junction when we were ordered back to camp. We have good times here good quarters plenty to eat; and not much to do. We have not received that box yet: But tell Lizzie as soon as we get it I will answer her last letter and let her know. We are in a very lonely place not much consequently I have nothing more to write write soon

Yours affectionately

Tom

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PS Please send me one dollar's worth of stamps in your next letter you can get them from Hart I did not get any pay this time

Camp near Falls Church March 6<sup>th</sup>  
1863

Dear Brother

In looking over my old letters I found one of yours remained unanswered: And not being particularly engaged this morning I concluded to improve part of the day by writing to you. It is a cold disagreeable morning and my messmates are all gathered around the fire; There is reading an old magazine; Spencer is smoking the pipe as leisurely as if he did not care when the war come to an end. and from the look of M<sup>r</sup> West I would think he is in a brown study about something, perhaps thinking of the girl he left behind him. Alex<sup>r</sup> Hart (as I suppose you have already heard) is on guard at a sutler's tent and is not here.

Stewart was examined by the medical board a few days ago and is daily expecting his discharge papers: but as he has been looking for them so long; we cant tell when they will come. I suppose you wish to know how we are situated here; how I like our new post and so on: for this is a question often asked us in letters: well for my part I like it very well all but the picketing; we have more picket duty here than in front. Otherwise I like it exceedingly well. We have comfortable quarters plenty of soft bread fresh beef and other things in proportion. Besides we are expecting a box from home soon. Our company presents quite a different appearance now to what it did when we were here before. It is but a skeleton of its former self. We now draw rations for over 60 men. how does that compare

with last winter when we drew  
solutions for over 90 men; and the  
missing where are they? The bones of  
some of them bleach in the blood  
stained soil of the peninsula: some  
of them repose on the disastrous plains  
of manassas: while others who fell  
at south mountain and antietam  
received a decent burial in the faithful  
old state of Maryland. I thought I  
had done. But others yet who perished  
at Fredericksburg go to swell the number  
in the graveyard of Virginia. There  
are others still who may be classed  
among the missing of 60<sup>th</sup>. Some  
of them are languishing in the hospitals  
that have become so common in our land  
and others I suppose you see almost  
daily: some with their arms hanging  
powerless by their sides; and others  
with their limbs bent in an uncarnely  
shape. and some with an empty coat  
sleeve that shows too plainly that they were  
members of the glorious old reserve.

I must close I did not mean  
to write such a serious letter  
when I commenced but I began  
to think. But there is  
something I have forgotten  
In a letter from aunt Elizabeth  
she told me that she sent me  
a can of leerys in the box  
that was sent. and I am sure  
you did not tell me anything  
about it. But she wishes to know  
whether I got it or whether I  
knew it was here. I wont write  
until I hear from home ask  
mother about it ~~but I dont want~~  
~~to say more~~ I have nothing more to  
write.

write soon

from your brother

J<sup>nr</sup> W<sup>nr</sup> Dick

Camp near Falls Church March 6th /63

Dear Brother

In looking over my old letters I found one of yours remained unanswered: And not being particularly engaged this morning I concluded to improve part of the day by writing to you. It is a cold disagreeable morning and my messmates are all gathered around the fire; Kerr is reading an old magazine; Spencer is smoking the pipe as leisurely as if he did not care when the war come to an end. and from the look of McNutt I would think he is in a brown study about something perhaps thinking of the girl he left behind him. Alexde Hart (as I suppose you have already heard) is on guard at a sutler's tent and is not here.

[Page Break]

Stewart was examined by the medical board a few days ago and is daily expecting his discharge papers. but as he has been looking for them so long; cant tell when they will come. I suppose you wish to know how we are situated here; how we like our new post and so on: for this is a question often asked us in letters: well for my part I like it very well all but the picketing; we have more picket duty here than in front. Otherwise I like it exceedingly well. We have comfortable quarters plenty of soft bread fresh beef and other things in proportion. Besides we are expecting a box from home soon. Our company presents quite a different appearance now to what it did when we were here before It is but a skeleton of its former self. We now draw rations for over 40 men. how does that compare

[Page Break]

with last winter when we drew rations for over 90 men; and the missing where are they? The bones of some of them black in the blood stained soil of the peninsula: Some of them repose on the disastrous plains of manasses; While others who fell at south mountain and antietam received a decent burial in the faithful old state of Maryland. I thought I had done. But others yet who perished at Fredericksburg go to swell the number in the graveyard of Virginia. There are others still who may be classed among the missing of Co H. some of them are languishing in the hospitals that have become so common in our land and others I suppose you see almost daily: some with their arms hangings powerless by their sides; and others with their limbs bent in an uncomely shape. and some with an empty coat sleeve that shows to plainly that they were members of the glorious old reserve.

[Page Break]

I must close I did not mean to write such a serious letter when I commenced but I began to to think. But there is something I have forgotten In a letter from aunt Elizabeth she told me that she sent me a can of berrys in the box that was sent and I am sure you did not tell me anything about it she wishes to know whether I got it or whether I knew it was hers. I wont write until I hear from home ask mother about it but I dont want any fuss. I have nothing more to write,

write soon

from your brother

T W Dick



Minor's Hill Va  
Mar 25<sup>th</sup> 63

Dear sister

I sit me down this lovely spring morning to scribble a brief reply to your last letter. If it fails to interest, you must not find fault, for it is such a beautiful day outside, that I can scarcely content myself to remain indoors, while I write it. I can hear the loud shouts of the boys, who are engaged at a game of ball while I write.

I suppose you are aware there  
has quite a change taken place  
in our mess; Spence's discharge  
papers came at last; and last  
week he took up the line of  
march for Armagh; I accom-  
panied him to Washington he  
appeared sorry to leave: and  
we were sorry to see him go.  
Ben Angus is in our mess now.  
I am sitting here all alone Sam  
is on camp guard Andy and Ben  
are away washing. Now I suppose  
I must come to that all important  
subject the furlough. Well Spiggie  
I have just been down to see  
the sicut about it, and have  
almost come to the conclusion to  
give it up for the present; The last  
one sent in was sent back dis-  
approved; and I suppose there will be  
no others go in from the company  
until that one is approved; there is only

give allowed to be absent from  
the Regt at a time: so it is rather  
a slow business. But I have spoken  
to the Lt in regard to it and may  
afterwhile get one for a short time.  
This beautiful weather makes me  
feel lonely and causes me to  
think of home and wish I was  
there. But as Wallace says in his  
last letter I would rather never  
go than go dishonorably. I wrote  
Aunt a letter since and took

P.S. I would be pleased  
if you would send me  
a couple pairs of socks as  
the supply has pretty near  
run out also some postage  
stamps.

Minors Hill Va  
Mar 25th /63

Dear sister

I sit me down this lovely spring morning to scribble a brief reply to your last letter. If it fails to interest, you must not find fault; For it is such a beautiful day outside, that I can scarcely content myself to remain indoors while I write it. I can hear the loud shouts of the boys who are engaged at a game of ball while I write.

[Page Break]

I suppose you are aware there has quite a change taken place in our mess; Spencer's discharge papers came at last: and last week he took up the line of march for Armagh; I accompanied him to Washington he appeared sorry to leave: And we are sorry to see him goe. Ben Angus is in our mess now. I am sitting here all alone Sam is on camp gaurd Andy and Ben are away washing. Now I suppose I must come to that all important subject the furlough: Well Lizzie I have just been down to see the Lieut about it; and have almost come to the conclusion to give it up for the present; the last one sent in was sent back disapproved; and I suppose there will be no others go in from the company until that one is approved; there is only

[Page Break]

five allowed to be absent from the Regt at a time: so it is rather a slow business. But I have spoken to the Lt in regard to it and may afterwhile get one for a short time. This beautiful weather makes me feel lonely and causes me to think of home and wish I was there: But as Wallace says in his last letter I would rather never go than go dishonorably. I wrote Aunt a letter since and took

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P S I would be pleased if you would send me a couple pairs of socks as the supply has pretty near run out also some postage stamps.

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