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## T. G. Clark to Margery Clark (12 December 1862)

Thomas Goode Clark

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Accip Liddell four Miles North of Richmond  
Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Margery

I again attempt to write you a few lines to let you now how we are getting along we are all tolerable well at present and hope these few lines may find you and the children all in good health we are expecting every day to hear of the a big battle at Fredericksburg our troops repulsed the enemy three times yesterday Burnside attempted to cross the River three times and our troops repulsed them every time with heavy loss on their side and it is that that there will be more fighting for they intend to come to Richmond if there is any chance if they do come to Richmond we will give them a hearty welcome for I am prepared to meet them <sup>come</sup> what may. My mind is made up and I expect to try to do my duty at all hazards but I some times think that I ought to resign and come home but I cant reconcile it to my self to leave the boys here and come home now I expect to stay as long as the war lasts I have just been trying to get a furlough to come home and have just heard that my furlough was rejected which has let me down very much for I had thought that I would be sure to get it but I must be reconciled to my fate and be contented to stay in the army untill times changes and then I will probably get a chance to come home but you may be sure it is a hard trial for I never wanted to see you all as bad in my life we have understood that the yankees are allow our Country and that our Army has fell back to Grenada which has almost run some of our men crazy but I hope that it is not as bad as we have heard. I want you to try and keep the yankees from taking any thing from you if you can put your met

Where it can't be easily found if the enemy  
gets to prowling through our neighborhood for I do  
not now what you would do if they was to take what  
you have for I cannot tell when I will ever be able  
to furnish you any thing to buy with for it is uncertain  
when times will grow change that I can come home  
or even send you any money but I believe that  
if we will only be faithful and do our part that  
all will yet grow well with us I want you to write  
to me as soon as you get this letter and tell me all  
that is going on in that country I want you to consult  
with Isaac Rogers and get him to assist you all  
you can. Tell him that I look to him to assist  
you. Collect what Beauford owes for the horses and  
and try to make out the best you can and as soon  
as times changes her so that I can get a chance  
to come home I will be sure to come and I think  
that will be some time this winter for the winters are  
hard her that when it properly sets in there can't be  
any more fighting until the winter fully opens and  
during that time I think that I will be sure to come  
home we have had some pretty cold weather her already  
the people are putting up ice in abundance ice is  
now about six inches thick on the ice ponds but  
the weather is dry and pretty I think that a few  
days will tell favorable for our army at  
Fredricksberg and if our army proves to hold for  
Burnsides Army we will have now fighting about  
Richmond this winter. The Magnolia Guards are at  
Fredricksberg but I have not heard any thing from  
them for some time I am looking for a letter from  
archie Roan any day. But I fear this letter will not  
get through if the enemy are in there and you get  
this letter I want you to write back if there is  
any chance for you to get me out

I could tell you a great deal if I was in the humor  
But owing to my just getting disappointed about  
coming home I am not in any fix to write. I want  
you to try and manage the best you can and keep  
at home as with you as much as possible and do not  
let him stay about Saraptea now more than you  
can help for I have heard that he was accused of  
being with the fellows that broke open Grants box  
on the night of the Election saw your last letter not  
let him hear about now more than you can help  
I want you to write to me about that matter and  
let me know the facts. Jonathan & Henry are well  
and better than you ever saw them John Weigh's  
more than I do my health is better than it has been  
but I am not in first rate health. Duncan and  
Morcellus are well, and the boys generally  
with some few exceptions Win Sherman is not well  
he has the Rheumatism and has had all fall but he  
is now down with the Pneumonia but is better and I  
think will get up in a few days David Coal is sick  
with some thing like the same complaint but is not  
dangerous at present George Wilkins is in a lingering way  
but I think that he is not dangerous. The rest are all  
well. I wish I could be at home Christmas but I will have  
to take my Christmas in Virginia. If I had have got my  
fortnight I would have been there by the 1st. But you must  
get a good dinner on Christmas day. I would invite some friend  
to help you and the children to make merry and recollect  
that I am thinking about you and will be on that day  
for there is not a day that does not pass over my head but  
what I think of home and those that I love Oh that  
I could be there if only for one day. But when I  
think about how I only resolve to fight on through  
the war with more firmness than ever looking forward  
to the day of our troubles when we shall meet to part

If I have nothing more of importance to  
write I have been waiting for the mail to come  
in now that I can hear something more from  
Fredricksberg. It seems that I will have  
to close without any more news from that quarter  
but I will still wait a little longer. I sent you  
the Richmond Enquirer and I want you to write  
to me whether you have got it or not and when it  
commenced coming.

The paper they have got in  
and there is now other news only the Yankees  
was crossing on the pontoon bridges at 6 o'clock  
last night and there is expected a fight  
this morning but have not heard any thing  
since last night give my best respects to  
all and accept for your self and the  
children love forever for the present  
J. G. Clark