

3-17-1862

Letter from Josephus Thew (Fort Thompson, N.C.)  
to his father and stepmother, Daniel Thew and  
Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, March 17, 1862

Josephus Thew

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Fort Thomson North Carolina March 1862

Dear father and Mother I now take my Pen in hand to  
let you know that I am well as can be expected we have  
had a terrible fight and have come off victorious we have lost  
many valuable lives there is all most sent to pieces  
in the Battle of Roanoke we had nine killed and thirty wounded  
and this Battle the Battle of Newbern we had twenty  
six killed and sixty wounded it was a ~~very~~ fight we had in  
this fight twelve thousand men and the rebels had ten  
thousand men the eleventh day of March we left Roanoke  
island and the twelfth day of March we was at Hertoes  
and the thirteenth we was moving up the Roanoke river  
and that day we landed in fifteen miles of Newbern  
and that day we were lost ten miles and found a battery  
one mile and three quarters long they had deserted it and we took  
possession of it and raised the Stars and Stripes on the parapets of  
the fort and three such Cheers never before sounded in the lone  
woods of North Carolina we did not stop long on the lone  
wall of the fort the rain came in twenty and we was tired  
and hungry and wet we formed in line of battle and in  
a few moments came the familiar order to march  
and we did march on the railroad some three more long and  
weary miles and stopped by the side of the road and built  
our Camp fires and had to lay down in the rain with  
only for our covering and the shell report of the rifle to  
charm us to our midnight repose in the morning of the  
fourteenth of March that great day for the Cause of our Country  
we met the Enemy and drove them from their strong works  
they had a fortification that was two miles long and ten thousand  
men and twelve pivot guns and some twenty guns  
of the Common kind and they had twelve rifle pits  
and part of them was manned with Canons I had a chance  
to load and fire sixty balls at them who can paint  
the scenes and feelings on the battle field to see your  
brethren falling on the site and left and to hear the  
groans of the dying it is a hard sight to look at dear  
father. I have been so far afraid I have been in the  
feared of battle ever the Balls did fly like hail I have  
seen the strong man back to I have had a chance to  
fight the Enemies of my Country

and if god sees fit I will not chop my gun until  
this rebellion is blotted out to day I went and saw  
a Cotton gin to take the seed out of Cotton in the  
Mill was plenty of Cotton and went to a rich planters  
house he was not to home for ~~ten~~ five miles and they have  
left their homes their houses were full of the best kind of  
furniture I have not been from for three months I cannot  
send my money home it is lost and I have about  
nothing so good by for ever

I This from Josephus then  
Write as soon as you get this

Direct your letters to Josephus then  
in care of Captain H. H. H. Richardson Co. I  
The twenty first Regiment of Mass. Vol  
the Brigades Burnside's Expedition