

7-25-1862

Letter from Josephus Thew (Newport News, Va.)  
to his father and stepmother, Daniel Thew and  
Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, July 25, 1862

Josephus Thew

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61.1  
1/3/8 New port news Virginia Camp and Soncon July <sup>the</sup> 25 1862 1/3/8 61.1

Dear father and Mother this leav we well we have moved  
from Newbern and we have got a Pleasant and a healthly place  
here with good water and that is a grate Blessing the water  
is very bad in North Carolina we are in Burnside's division  
Encamped nine Miles from fort Monroe and twenty <sup>m</sup> files from  
Yorktown and fifteen Miles from Great Bethel and Seventy Miles  
from Houson's Landing our Camps are setted for nine Miles  
up the James river there is at this present time 29 regiments  
Encamped here and they are Landing here must every day we are  
a going to stop here untill we have sixty thousand Men. ~~we~~  
all of one regiments are a going to be filled the want is about  
foxe hundred Men and this regiment is about as large as they  
will Everage the nation thinks a grate deal of Burnside and he  
is a terror to the rebels but what Can he do without the  
Poor Soldier he has to March up to the Canon's mouth  
with fixed bayonets and were is our brave Commanders this toxy  
will tell you they are at the head of their Commandes Cheering  
them on but we they are behind some stump or tree or in some  
holler or away from the feard of batel out of danger that is the  
time the Soldier paves their way to honor and glory but what  
does he get in return hard bread and a tinking beef and he cannot  
leave his Camp and pass by the guard without a pass signed by  
his Captain and Colonel of his regiment but a Commissioned  
officers Can go and come when they please we have some hard  
fighting to do yet I think that we will have to help  
take richmond and it will be a hard fight and a bloody one  
but richmond has got to fall and by the yankey army

But war has no time for me nor the battle field no pain will do  
My duty to My Country and to My god he rules the destinies  
of nations he is the only Comfort for the wounded and bleeding heart  
dear father and Mother I would like to see your aged cheeks  
once more and visit My once happy home and visit the grave  
of My wife and My angel Mother there is no more peace for me  
here in this vain and wicked world I am reconciled to My sword  
and Canal too But there is one Consoling thought that I have  
some friends left behind in the hour of battle I do think of you  
and on My lonely beat on guard at night then I do think of you  
and on My long and weary March then I think of My one peace  
and happy home But do not forget that you have a son that  
is not afraid to lay down his life in the defence of his Country  
I do not think that I will live through this bloody war  
I have been in two hard fights and did not get a mark  
and had not it ought to be My turn next I am no better than  
some of My Comrades I have no wife to Mourn My loss and  
god will protect My little girl I would like to see her once more  
I have Received two letters from you that he says that however  
is in the war and he likes it first rate I was glad to hear from  
James then and Bethuel then Gilberts letter I think that if  
I do ever live through this cursed war I will settle down in wisdom  
I think that it is much better than the world for a free man  
write to Me and tell Me all the news do not be so far from a large  
letter one of My letters are as large as two or three of yours I have a very  
good chance to write now I am sitting on my rapsack and My  
pouches hang on the newyork Canal on one of the soldiers banks one sold  
see boys on one side and one on the other side of me or think of home

and the dear ones that they have left behind the Soldier lives  
at demoralising life one moment they will be singing and the next  
they will be swearing or fighting I should not know how  
to set down to a table and Eat as I use to to home our dishes  
is a tin Cup and a tin plate knife and fork and spoon I can  
ly down out doors as well as in the house I have not seen a sick  
day in one year while my Comrades are dying most Every day  
it may be my turn next give my love to Helen and not forgetting  
Miss Cate answer this as soon as you can tell me the number of the  
regiment that was got up in Clinton County  
this from old Joe

Josephus Sher

Direct your letter Josephus Sher  
to Burnside's ~~Army~~ Expedition  
Peninsular Division Second Brigade the regiment across road  
in case of Captain Richardson Co I  
Vra Fortess Monroe