

Camp near Decherd Tenn.

Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> 1843.

My Dear Wife:

Your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> was received last night. To say that it gave me pleasure is would but ill express my joy at its reception. Somehow I never wanted letters so much in my life as I have for the few past weeks. And then how sweet are letters dictated by such pure love as yours. I hardly know where to begin in replying to it. I am glad you had such a pleasant visit at ~~the~~ your friend's and with Donna.

I am, of course, greatly gratified to know that you have ceased to accuse Donna of what I do not imagine she ever dreamed of being guilty. I have often tried in vain to convince you of this very fact and have assured you that she did it from not other motive, but you would not believe me. You could not believe that I who had known Donna's almost every thought so long could understand her motives better than you. I was somewhat surprised at the messages which she transmitted to me. I do not know what motive she has had in ignoring my very existence for so long a time, but I presume it was some innocent whim, or thoughtless neglect. I do not think she has used me kind

as justly, and I cannot feel towards her as I used  
to do, while affairs are in their present condition.  
I am glad she is to be married and thankful that  
she has made selection of an honest, worthy, "common  
man." If any one ever needed a sensible "common  
man" for a husband, that one is Donna. We had  
no opportunity to send back letters until about the  
time your was written. You have probably received  
several letters from me since that time. I mailed  
this morning a letter of three sheets to father, which  
might interest you some. I presume you will get it  
if the S. can find transportation for it. As to that  
miserable ~~thing~~ care a snap what you do with  
it. You can use it, send it back or throw it  
away, just as you please. Donna has fathered me  
entirely over it in all conscience. I was never so  
tormented by (wrotting) so trivial an affair. Just  
please never to say anything about it again, if you have  
any consideration for my temper. ~ But I have a scolding  
for you. Are you the wife of an officer, or that of some  
Assumptin who never heard a drum or saw a bayonet?  
Have you lived and read in the U.S. during two years  
of War, or, have you been a sort of female Rip van  
Winkle, during all that time? If you are an offi-  
cer's wife, and have any pride in him, or his position  
and profession, do not ever again make so egregious  
a blunder as to speak of "Roscerans" (not Roscerans)

Division". It is unpardonable, my dear, you ought  
to know better. Of course I do not expect you to  
understand the minutiae of the service but you ought not  
to be ignorant of a thing so simple as the organization of an  
Army. If you did not see it in print you should inquire  
of some one who ~~has~~ knows. Roscerans has under his  
command some twelve or fourteen Divisions.  
The I will explain to you now the organization, so that you  
need never mistake in this manner again.

The unit of strength, in an Army of modern times  
is the Brigade, commanded by a Brigadier General. The  
Brigade is composed of a certain number of regts usually  
four, and generally a battery of artillery is attached to it.  
Each regiment - commanded by a Col. - is composed of  
eight or ten companies, commanded by Captains. Companies  
when full number 100 men, so that a brigade (40 Co's) <sup>full</sup> num-  
ber about 4200 men. In service they seldom number  
more than half that estimate. Two Brigades, sometimes they  
form a Division - commanded by a Maj Gen, or some superior  
officer, acting as Maj Gen. A Division usually numbers  
from 7,000 to 10,000 men. Three or four Divisions form  
an Army Corps (abbreviated, A.C.) commanded by a Major Gen.  
An Army may be composed of any number of Corps, &  
is termed, the Army of the Cumberland, Army of the Potomac,  
of the Mississippi, &c. The commander of an Army usu-  
ally has control of a Department, as Grant, Burnside,  
Banks & Rosecrans. These commanders are all and

control of the Commander-in-Chief. This Army consists  
of four Corps. Granger's - 20<sup>th</sup> - McCook's - 22<sup>nd</sup> -  
Thomas's - 4<sup>th</sup> - and Crittenden's 21<sup>st</sup> of Granger's  
McCook's constitute the right wing. Thomas is the Center  
& Crittenden the left. Now it is just as ridiculous to  
speak of Rosecrans or Grant's Divisions, as it would  
be to call "the Comfort" when in uniform. The wife of  
an officer should know of better, my love - In look-  
ing this over, I am impressed with the idea that you will  
think it harsh. It is not so indeed. You know  
I would not reprove you, for that which you could not  
well avoid. Please try to be a little more accurate  
in your knowledge of army matters. If there is anything  
which you do not understand, just ask an explanation of me  
& I will cheerfully give it you. I do not think anything too tri-  
vial to ask about. Of course you are just right in wanting  
to see about your eye, my love. Do not even think that  
anything that can in any way affect your health or happiness  
is a little thing you should not interest me. Do you not remem-  
ber my speaking to you of some swelling on one of your lids?  
I think I did & you said it was not troublesome. I cannot tell what it  
is. It may be insignificant humor and it may be some-  
thing serious. You had best consult some physician, probably any  
one could tell you its nature. If it is increasing fast it is  
probably temporary, if slowly permanent. If it is likely to prove  
serious you had better have it removed. When you write again describe  
its appearance & situation as closely as possible. Do not see or  
read, if your eyes are weak, without a good light & not much  
even then. I think one blind eye will do for both eyes.





Mrs. A. W. Torgue  
Cornwall  
N.Y.

Camp near Sevier  
July 12<sup>th</sup> 1863