

Camp in the field near  
Smickers gap Va. July 17<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear wife,

It is some days  
since I wrote to you. for the  
reason that we have been on the  
march every day - after Lee. We  
are now camped on the ground  
where he camped yesterday. We are  
following him up very closely. We  
did not get a fight the day I  
wrote you that we expected too.  
When we got where he was he  
wasnt there. We have seen very  
rough times the last fortnight.  
and expect to see rougher, but  
we manage to live well most of the  
time. To day we had for dinner  
fried chicken, and blackberries and  
sugar. Chickens some how have a way