

Boonsville Maryland Sep^r 1862

Kind Friend

It has not been long since I wrote you but it has seen many changes we after leaving the heights joined our battery and have had a long & wearisome march Saturday last to day is Thursday we was ordered to halt & inspect our arms, equipments and have every thing ready for action we then could hear the roar of cannon & Sunday we moved them so as we could hear the roar of musketry and at night we or that morning far we marched from early morning until 3 o'clock the next morning without stopping to feed our horses it was a fearful one I encamped within half a mile of the battle grounds of South Mountain where brave men fought and fell by the hundreds in a desperate struggle the next morning just a few steps from where we camped they began to dig a trench to bury

thoas that had died of their wounds in the
night for there was a barn where they
brought in 40 or 50 & after they had
brought out the dead I went out and looked
at them and for one unaccustomed to such sights
it was horrid to see brave men shot & mangled
it would make the sturtest countenance
turn pale then I thought of the friends they
had left to mourn their death but none were there
to bid them a last goodbye but in the roar & tumult
of battle they bid adieu to earth then I went
up to see the wounded & it would make the
stoutest heart to pity to see them poor fall
and suffering & come in the agonies of death
it is horrid it was then we moved shortly
in pursuit of the Rebels & Tuesday night
we encamped in sight of a field that was
then next day which was yesterday drenched
in human blood in the next morning we
being on the Rebels rear I still was posted
on a high as I was & commanding a view
of the field the roar of musketry & booming
of cannon was heard all day it was as

bloody a fight as never painted on the
pages of history all day long they fought
the many a brave youth fell with a fatal shot
no one can describe it we was not called in to act
till to day it is quiet it is reported that
we have surrounded them & given them until 10
this afternoon to bury their dead & surrender
how true I do not know you are all well
I received your kind letter Tuesday I was glad
to hear from you & hope you will write again
soon you enquired about Crest he makes as
brave a soldier as he died sane of temperance
when he cannot ride he will go afoot
you speak of sickness out in the plains
well but you are pulling on the wrong string
for all that I had to do that is done away
with I have no claim or interest there
perhaps you want believe me but it is just as
true as it was when I asked you to bid me
adieu but you believed it at last & so you write
this I understand that Byron Golkes if
enlisting if so tell him to write me a letter
and wait for & answer before he does

tell him for me that he will find a chain
in thing all around in living & heard things
which he would not undergo march
ing day & night without food & sleep
& the soul sickening sight beside the
dangerous battle field all is heard &
dangerous & it requires an iron constitution
to stand it but I as yet have not learned
thing more than I expected when I left so
I am not disappointed tell him I am situated
as he is to stay at home I did not start
for pleasure but to do a duty to my
country & that duty I shall have a share
to do much sooner than most of the rest after
they enlisted we expect to have a hard fight
yet before they are drawn out of Maryland
we now are having a smart shower & shower you
& I had to flee under one of the caissons that
is a cavity which is used to carry ammunition
and heard try to write in my lap but much dis-
turbance as I was to have got home
but it is as good as I expect whilst I go out hear
and when you are enjoying all of the blessings
of a good home & the attentions of dear wife & young
folk remember that it is for home &
friends that we are deprived of them & that
the danger to which I am to you in our quiet
to now as a plaid that has been told but I must
draw to a close for me to go to bed I did not have time I
could write more but I think there is as much as you can
read, good bye until I hear from you again from your
true friend & hope to hear from you soon
Mary Eliza Bates
Benjamin Washington