

*Camp near Guinea Station VA*  
*Thursday at noon. May 28<sup>th</sup> 1863*

*Dear Father + Mother*

*Your kind letter was received  
on last evening and was much gratified  
to hear that you were all well. I've  
no news of much importance to write.*

*We are anticipating a move very soon in  
Some direction unknown to us at pr-  
-esent, we received orders on last evening  
To keep in readiness to march at a m-  
-ments warning. It may be possible that  
fighting Joe Hocker<sup>i</sup> is going to cross  
the Rappahannock<sup>ii</sup> again and give us  
another brush if he does I think yes  
I know that he will get a worse wh-  
-ipping than he did before. It is thought  
that he will either make another attempt  
to cross the Rappahannock or change  
his base of operations to some other point  
probably down on the Peninsular<sup>iii</sup> to by*

old George B. McClelland's route to Richmond"  
I think Hooker is like a great many other  
Of their Generals played out as the old saying  
is. Something about my fare we get pl-  
-enty to eat such as it is old Bacon and  
flour very inferior articles of both; and  
occasionally we get a few dry peas and  
pickled Beef which is so salt that a  
dog could not eat it. Capt Corker's<sup>iii</sup> negroe  
boy that cooks for us goes out and get  
us milk every other day. It sells very high  
fifty cents per quart. The Lady with whom  
Capt Corker's wife is boarding furnishes us  
plenty of milk occasionally a pound of  
Butter. Our Mess consisting of five in  
number on several occasions drank four  
dollars worth of milk in one day. by this you  
may draw an indefinite idea of our  
expenditures for something to eat. two and  
two and a half dollars is considered reas-  
-enable for fresh Butter when I can get  
Milk to drink I don't care about any  
thing else. I would like now to be at

home to drink milk and eat Butter, and great many other things which abounds at ones home. have you plenty of fruit this year at home or will have. fruit crops especially apples has proven to be a perfect failure in this Section of Country and I am very sorry indeed, as It proved to be very beneficial to our army last Summer while we were on Marches through the Mountains in Northern Virginia and couldnt get anything to eat except apples and roasted corn. I think you sold your Cotton extremely high though that was not as high as other things for Instance Calico at three and four collars per yd. at such rates cotton ought to be worth seventy cents. Dear Father. I want you all to write so that I can hear from home once a week. I had not heard from you in three weeks before yesterday. I have wrote about three times o some one of the family since the fight on the Rappahanuck I haven't received a letter from William<sup>iii</sup> since the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May. I answered

a letter from Uncle Adam<sup>iiii</sup> one also  
from Mid Them a week or two ago. You  
must write soon and give me all the news  
There is one of the greatest revivals going  
on in our Regiment<sup>iv</sup> I ever saw the  
old men say here that they never saw  
such before in all their lives twenty four  
joined the Church here during one week  
and they \_\_\_\_\_ go into it through ex-  
-citement as a great many do at  
Such times, but they seem not to be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ deliberately \_\_\_\_\_ had Baptism to-  
day \_\_\_\_\_ Rev Mr Heyman<sup>v</sup> chaplain of the  
49 \_\_\_\_\_ Rgt They joined the Baptist Church  
Consequently our Chaplain had to send for  
A Baptist minister to administer the ordanance  
Our Chaplain being a Methodist. I am glad  
to see it. To see religion gaining on vice  
and immorality so fast I think it con-  
-tinues so long that vice and wickedness will  
be entirely banished I must close by saying I  
am well and hope this may find you all  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ could pay the  
\_\_\_\_\_ but it is almost impossible to get stamps

*Here in Camp. I have got plenty of money but  
cant pay the postage on my letters with it or I would  
pay it myself. Tell Stephen B.<sup>xi</sup> that I will write to him in  
a few days I few donot start on a march You  
all must not wait for an answer all the time for  
sometimes perhaps I don't get your letters. And I am sure  
that such is the case sometimes. I wrote to Sue<sup>xiii</sup> a few days ago  
before I got your letter I told her good about not  
writing to me. Tell Steave the answer to that question he  
asked me in your letter is "NO" nor have no idea of  
such a thing. You may show him this he will understand  
what I have reference to I will tell him about how  
come I've to write to her V. C. You must write poor  
L. Ann. Your Devoted + affectionate son  
Judson T. Hargroves*

*To Henry and  
Martha A. Hargroves*

*The boys are all  
well and enjoying good health.  
Spring time has just  
made its full  
appearance here  
J. T. H.*

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<sup>i</sup> Joseph Hooker (November 13, 1814 – October 31, 1879), known as "Fighting Joe", was a career U.S. Army officer and a major general in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Although he served throughout the war, usually with distinction, he is best remembered for his stunning defeat by Confederate

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General Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. Hooker's plan for the spring and summer campaign was both elegant and promising. He first planned to send his cavalry corps deep into the enemy's rear, disrupting supply lines and distracting him from the main attack. He would pin down Robert E. Lee's much smaller army at Fredericksburg, while taking the large bulk of the Army of the Potomac on a flanking march to strike Lee in his rear. Defeating Lee, he could move on to seize Richmond. Unfortunately for Hooker and the Union, the execution of his plan did not match the elegance of the plan itself. The cavalry raid was conducted cautiously by its commander, George Stoneman, and met none of its objectives. The flanking march went well enough, achieving strategic surprise, but Hooker somehow lost his nerve when the first reports of enemy contact reached him on May 1, 1863. Rather than pushing aggressively into Lee's rear, he pulled his army back around the tiny crossroads town of Chancellorsville and waited for Lee to attack. Lee audaciously split his smaller army in two to deal with both parts of Hooker's army. Then, he split again, sending Stonewall Jackson's corps on its own flanking march, striking Hooker's exposed right flank and routing the Union XI Corps. The Army of the Potomac dropped into a purely defensive mode and eventually was forced to retreat.

<sup>ii</sup> The Chancellorsville campaign began with the crossing of the Rappahannock River by the Union army on the morning of April 27, 1863. Heavy fighting began on May 1 and did not end until the Union forces retreated across the river on the night of May 5 to May 6.

<sup>iii</sup> McClellan's army began to sail from Alexandria on March 17. It was an armada that dwarfed all previous American expeditions, transporting 121,500 men, 44 artillery batteries, 1,150 wagons, over 15,000 horses, and tons of equipment and supplies. An English observer remarked that it was the "stride of a giant." The army's advance from Fort Monroe up the Virginia Peninsula proved to be slow.

<sup>iv</sup> George Brinton McClellan (December 3, 1826 – October 29, 1885) was a major general during the American Civil War.

<sup>v</sup> McClellan's Peninsula Campaign in 1862 ended in failure, retreating from attacks by General Robert E. Lee's smaller army, failing in the planned seizure of the Confederate capital of Richmond.

<sup>vi</sup> Captain Stephen A. Corker. 3<sup>rd</sup> GA Infantry Company A.

<sup>vii</sup> William Hargroves, his brother who was 29 at the time.

<sup>viii</sup> Adam Brinson? His mother's brother?

<sup>ix</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Infantry Company A. Thomas Judson Hargroves enlisted as a private and discharged as a Sargent Major.

<sup>x</sup> John T. Heyman, 49<sup>th</sup> GA Infantry Chaplain.

<sup>xi</sup> Steven Brinson Hargroves, Judson's brother, who was 24 at the time. Called "Steave" later in the letter.

<sup>xii</sup> Susannah E. Hargroves, his sister, who was 17 at the time.