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**Document:** *Letter from Thomas Welsh to Alice Welsh, dated January 19, 1863*

**Transcription:**

Camp Opposite Fredericksburg, Va.  
January 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Daughter –;

I wrote to Mazie yesterday and after mailing the letter, I had the good fortune to receive your letter. I assure you that I perused your letter and also the lines written by Manna with much pleasure.

I feel as though you would be very glad to see me at home, but my dear child if you knew how anxious I am to get home to be with you, and to enjoy the comforts of home, and to embrace my dear good little children, you would all forget your own troubles and annoyances, and wish more and more for the return of your papa. I do hope that the war may soon be at an end, and that Peace with all its blessings may soon be proclaimed throughout the land. No man in this army will be more rejoiced than I to return to civil life again.

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I am very well and still increasing in weight. I am afraid that I will soon be as large as Colonel Hess. The boys are all well – Henry Wike received a letter last evening from Mrs. Wall and she asks him about me. She says in the letter that Mamma did not hear from me since December 26<sup>th</sup>. I guess I wrote some letters that were lost altho' I ought to have written more frequently.

I was sorry to hear that Mr. Edward Shreiner is dead, but I suppose that to be the case a good while ago for if he had been living he would have found some way to send word home.

If you see my good old friend Mr. Derrick, tell him that George and Eli are both very well.

John Hinkle told me that you had spent the Christmas at their house; tell his mother that he is right well. In fact the boys are all well. Dr. Christ has gone home on a visit

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and may perhaps visit Columbia and call at our house. Dr. Styer has been promoted to surgeon of the 179<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Penn<sup>a</sup> drafted men, and will leave us in a day or two to go their Reg<sup>t</sup>. Our Hospital Steward Alfred Meyers will then have to Doctor us all until Dr. Christ returns.

Howard is well, he is our Post Master he received a picture a day or two ago of the children and some young girls, he let me see them.

I suppose Jim is now one of the principal storekeepers – how does he like it? tell him to be a good boy. Why is it that Blant, Lillie & Effie don't write to me any more? I shall have to pull their ears when I see them. Give my love to all your friends. Write very soon to

your very  
affectionate  
Papa



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I send a great big paper to Effie.

**Scope and Content:**

Handwritten letter from Thomas Welsh to his daughter, Lillie. From Camp Opposite, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Letter describes the sadness he feels from being away from his family and expresses the hope that the war will soon be over. He mentions that he has heard about the death of Edward Shreiner, provides some information about promotions and transfers, and expresses some dismay over not receiving letters from Blanton, Effie, and Lillie.

