Camp Harvey
Near Chattanooga Tenn
August 19th 1862

My Dear Sister

I received your most welcome letter yesterday but your kind letter had been in camps several days I just returned from the hospital in Chattanooga yesterday evening my health is not very good at present but I believe it is improving some little I have missed the fever some eight or ten days still I am not exactly right yet I am very weak but do hope I will gain my strength soon I was so glad to hear that all was well with you I tryed to get the Sergeant to send me to Montgomery but he said he could not for he did not have the power to do so

I received a letter from Aunt
Sallie the same time I got yours
I was quite glad to hear from her
Aunt Sallie said Cousin Tom Riggs
was at Chattanooga in the 46th
Ala regt I will try and find out
some thing about him for I would
like very much to see him Aunt
Sallie did not know that I was
at Chattanooga she only supposed
I would be sent there.
Dear Sister it is my opinion that
we will have a severe battle up
in this country before very long
for we are crossing troops every day
over the river with the intention of

attacking Buels army it is supposed that Buel is leaving but do not know this to be true if he is we will follow him up there is deserters nearly every days from the yankee army to our side there was a Lieutenant came over to our side a few days ago and stated that his regiment had stacked arm and swore they would not fight any more his captain was killed also one the Lieutenants and he accidently made his escape that is the report the Lieutenant give but we do not know this to be the truth

we only hope it is Sister if I only could have good Health I would not mind it so much but it almost seems imposible for me to get my health any more I do hope and pray that I may be saved through this war and return home safe and unhurt for there is nothing that would be of more satisfaction and pleasure to me than to see you all once more Dear Sister you must not fail to answer my letters immediately for I will write onced aweek when it is so I can I expect to cross the river before long and circumstancies may prevent me from writing weekly but you may depend I will write as often as I can Give my love to Sallie & Ferde and kiss~~ed~~ you little babe for me Mr Weldy Joins me in love to you all write soon to your affectionate Brother { J. R. Riggs