

**ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY  
AUGUST 22**

**Joseph Snider of Monongalia County was appointed colonel of the 7th [West] Virginia Infantry on August 22, 1862.**

**CSO: SS.8.22**

**Investigate the Document: (Ms99-001, *Colonel Joseph Snider Letters, 1863*)**

1. To whom is Colonel Joseph Snider writing? Are you able to determine to where the person he is writing to is?
2. What three elements does Snider list as essential elements that constitute a lady in this personal correspondence? Do you find what was expected from a young girl in 1862 to be different than today?
3. Had West Virginia been admitted to the Union on the date this letter was penned?

**Think Critically:** How would you describe Snider's sense of duty, based on this correspondence? What was his role in the creation of West Virginia?

No-1-

Head qrs. 1st Brigade  
3<sup>d</sup> Division, 2<sup>d</sup> Army Corps  
Camp near Falmouth Va.Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Daughter - I notice the day of the week, you see, as well as the day of the month. This I did, that you may know that, I try to remember Gods holy day, though speaking in general terms, a soldier knows no Sunday - and now, while I am writing, the sound of martial music is heard in many directions - and men are marching off, to do duty, as guards and pickets for our camp - This would seem very strange out in Morgantown - but such is the soldiers duty - and such is the necessities of war - The weather has been very unpleasant for soldiering since I came to this camp - Wet, and quite cold - but the soldier must do his

dusty - whether it rains or shines  
cold, or warm, you would be  
interested, in seeing the smoke  
ascending from thousands of little  
log huts - and promenading some  
of our nicest streets, our Towns  
are regularly laid out - and here  
we have alleys, Main streets, front  
streets, broad streets &c. Our Towns  
have no hotels, no mattresses No-  
feather beds - a board with a blanket  
constitutes the beds, There is one  
particular difference in our towns  
and others in the country - we have  
no loafers here - every one has  
something to do - and has got to do  
it - It is reported that some Rebels has  
crossed the river, some miles above here  
and intend attacking us - I, dont believe  
it - I have been commanding this  
Brigade since my arrival - and will  
I suppose until the proper officer  
returns, We was ordered out in line

of battle a few days ago - to meet  
the enemy - but he did not come -  
and it is well for him, he did not.  
I received a letter from Son, a few days  
since - answered his, yesterday, he  
said Mother and the General, was  
doing very well - hope you are  
doing the same - I am proud of  
your reputation as a student, and  
your proficiency in your studies.  
But don't relax your efforts, be  
studious, be kind and courteous to  
your associates, and those whose  
duty it is to, give you instruct-  
ion - Education, Prudence, and  
Virtue, are the Essential Elements  
that constitute a lady - shall I  
be disappointed in you, my  
Daughter, never I hope, I will  
do all for you, that is in my  
power - but you must, do your  
duty - in order, to be what a  
lady ought to be - and that is

I, Intelligent, Modest, prudent,  
and above all, Virtuous, & Never  
try to be affectations, no Lady  
can put on airs, that can't be  
immediately detected,  
and as you prize your reputation  
O, never, write, a single, love  
letter (as they are generally  
termed) to be laughed over  
and remarked about. I  
was once a young man and  
know what are the bad  
results, of such practices,  
I have written plainly  
my Daughter - but why  
I should, not - you are near  
and dear to me - and your  
reputation is dearer to me -  
than my own - Remember  
in your Father and Mother  
you have friends - such as  
you can find nowhere else  
never pass by their advice  
without due deliberation  
hoping to hear from you  
soon I am affectionately your  
C<sup>o</sup>l. J<sup>r</sup>. Swine  
Direct to \_\_\_\_\_