Maryland July 10th 1863

My Dear farther [father] I seat myself to write you a few lines to answer your kind letter that come to hand in due time and it found me well and all so these few lines leave me well truly hoping tha [they] may fine [find] you and all enjoying the same good helth [health]. Dear farther [father] I hav [have] no good news to write to you but I hav [have] bad news. We had a fight about the first day of this month and Pickets Division got cut all to peaces [pieces]. Our regiment went in with 500 and 20 men and come out with 200 and 70 men. Tha [they] was half of our company kill [killed] and wounded and missing. The fight was in Pennsylvania but we are in Maryland near the Potomac but I can not tel [tell] when we will leave Maryland I expect we will stay over hear [here] some time we hav [have] bin [been] 50 or 60 miles in Pennsylvania. John W. Morris has not bin [been] seean [seen] sence [since] the fight. Colonel John B. Magruder¹ was kill [killed] and Colonel B. H. Wade² was kill [killed]. Every Colonel in the bregade [brigade] was kill [killed] but one and Gen. L. A. Armistard [Lewis Addison Armistead]³ was wounded but not very bad. You must tel [tell] this news to all inquiren [inquiring] frends [friends] and tel [tell] all I am well. John A. Bybee is well. I heard from William T. Morris the other day he was well. John H. Morris is well tel [tell] sister Francis to send word to Lucy that Horace is well and harty [hardy]. You must give my love to all and tel [tell] all howdy for me you must tel [tell] the children howdy for me I would giv [give] everything in this world to see them and you all. I want to see you all wors [worse] then I ever did in my life before. You rote to me to no [know] what I had down there. I want you to get everything [she shant?] hav [have] nothing you aught to no [know] what I hav [have] thir [there] [mighty?] my as well are I doe [do]. I want you to try and get everything if you can and not leve [leave] nothing in the [coverd?] for everything in thir [there] is mine all the table ware is mine. Well I will close my few lines by saying I still remain your sun [son] until deth [death] John R. Morris to my affectionate farther [father] Richard R. Morris

¹ John Bowie Magruder (1839-1863) of Scottsville, Albemarle County, Virginia, served as colonel of the 57th Virginia Infantry Regiment, and died of the wounds he received at the Battle of Gettysburg on 5 July 1863.
² Benjamin H. Wade (1830-1863) of Franklin County, Virginia, served as lieutenant colonel of the 57th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company G, and died of the wounds he received at the Battle of Gettysburg on [3 or 5] July 1863.
³ Lewis Addison Armistead (1817-1863) of New Bern, North Carolina, served as colonel of the 57th Virginia Infantry Regiment, and died of the wounds he received at the Battle of Gettysburg on 5 July 1863.
I want you to tell sister Francis that I could not write to her at this time but she can send word to [illegible-crossed out]. He had better save what he has to give to his grandson and give it to his sons were he has in the woods. Direct your letters to Winchester Va. Write to me soon as you can.