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?
Headqrs. 1st Brigade  
3rd Division Army Corps  
Camp near Falmouth Va.  

No. 1  

Sunday March 15th 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 what. I try to  
remember God's 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—but in  
Morgantown—but such is the soldier's  
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
Inside, 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 hence, we have alleys, main streets, front streets, broad streets. Our towns have no hotels, no mattresses. No feather beds—a load 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 have crossed the river, some miles above here, and intend attacking us—I don't believe it. I have been commanding this Brigade since my arrival—and will I suppose until the proper officer arrives. We were 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 you a few days
since—answered his yesterday, he
said Brother and the General, was
doing very well—I hope you are
doing the same—I am proud of
your reputation as a student, and
your proficiency in your studies.
Don't relax your efforts, be
judicious, be kind and courteous to
your associates, and those whose
duty it is to give you instruction.
Education, Prudence, and
Virtue, are the essential elements
that constitute a lady—of all I
be disappointed in you, my
daughter, never I hope, I will
do all for you, that is in my
power—but you must, as your
duty—in order to be what a
lady ought to be—and that is
Ineligible, modest, prudent,
and above all, virtuous. Never
try to be affected, nor dress
yourself out on airs, that can be
immediately detected,
and as you prize your reputation,
never write a single love
letter (as they are generally
tumed) to be laughed at
and remarked about. I
was once a young man and
know what are the bad
results of such practices.
I have written plainly to my daughter—but why
should I 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
never pass by their advice
without due deliberation.
Make it a rule to hear from your
son. I am affectionately your
Cpl. Do. Smith
Sincerely your affectionate