

Pvt. James R. Dorrance , Co. "A"

A year after enlisting in Company A of the 7th Maryland Private James R. Dorrance was an experienced campaigner, having survived both battle and the tedium of camp life. On August 14, 1863, James wrote to his sister Emma from Rappahannock Station, where the 7th Maryland was camped keeping an eye on the Johnny Rebs.

"You write that the girls bother you so much that you can't write. I wish there was some here to bother me it would at lease relieve the dreary monotony of seeing nothing but soldiers, soldiers from one weeks end to another. Well Emma I am getting to be quite a famous cook (I have to do all my own cooking) you ought to see me handle a frying pan we have a new dish now. We soak the crackers quite soft then fry them in fat (now brown them) and then soak them in molasses made of sugar they are elegant."

Hardtack and coffee, the staples of a 7th Maryland soldier's diet during the Civil War!

