



Mrs S Hutton Camp near Downsville N.D Oct 18  
 Dear Madam I take this pleasant opportunity  
 of writing these few lines to inform you <sup>that</sup>  
 your ever welcome letter dated the 10th of October  
 and I was very happy to hear in my poor  
 companion family I am happy to hear of your  
 husband was thought so well of in Philadelphia  
 god knows that his company miss him I have  
 spent many a sad hour since ~~he~~  
 has departed from us it was a sad blow to  
 us Mrs Hutton is now not what time some  
 of us may be laying in a soldiers grave  
 We have been in two fights since her term  
 has departed from us god has some mercies  
 to give us We lost three in the battle of Sharpsburg



Mrs Hutton We cannot get home to attend his  
 funeral this month the rebels took us so soon  
 to follow them that it would be impossible for  
 us to get of god knows the boys would dearest  
 like to come home to attend his funeral you  
 must not think hard of us for not coming  
 god knows We would dearest like to come  
 Mrs Hutton I did not get to see the captain  
 he is not in camp at present he has been  
 away nearly a week on a courtmarshal case  
 so I could not get to see him When I write  
 these lines I shall speak to him as  
 soon as he come back to camp I am  
 glad that the captain will tend to your husband  
 affairs if he did not I would dear Mrs Hutton

i must close the mail is going excuse  
these few lines and my lead pencil i have  
no ink i must close write some

truly your  
friend  
John Baker

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Camp in Downsville, Maryland

October 16, 1862

Mrs. C. Hatton

Dear Madam,

I take this present opportunity of writing these few lines to inform you that your ever welcome letter dated the eighth of October was received and I was very happy to hear from my poor companion's family. I am happy to hear of your husband was thought so well of in Philadelphia. God knows that his company miss him. I have spent many a sad hour since he has departed from us. It was a sad blow to us, Mrs. Hatton. I know not what time some of us may be laying in a soldier's grave.

We have been in two fights since poor Tom has departed from us. God has been merciful to us. We lost three in the Battle of Sharpsburg.

Mrs. Hatton, we cannot get home to attend his funeral this month. The rebels keep us so busy to follow them that it would be impossible for us to get off. God knows the boys would dearly like to come home to attend his funeral. You must not think hard of us for not coming. God knows we would dearly like to come.

Mrs. Hatton, I did not get to see the Captain [Theodore H. Peters]. He is not in camp at present. He has been away nearly a week on a court martial case so I could not get to see him when I wrote these lines. I shall speak to him as soon as he comes back to camp. I am glad that the captain will tend to your husband's affairs. If he did not, I would.

Dear Mrs. Hatton, I must close. The mail is going. Excuse these few lines and my lead pencil. I have no ink. I must close. Write soon.

Truly your friend, — John Baker

# Bio of Corporal John Baker

He was enlisted in the Co. D, 82nd Pennsylvania Infantry. Little is known of John Baker. The regimental roster indicates he deserted on 11 December 1862. He may have been the umbrella maker (b. 1836) who lived in Philadelphia's 16th Ward with his widowed mother, Mary Baker, an immigrant from Ireland.