

St Charles Arkansas

June 1st 1855

My dear Pet,

You must not think I have neglected you since the 28th ult. for I have not. That letter was dated wrongly. It should have been either the 27th or 30th, I am not sure which. But this will be a short and poor letter my sweet pet I am afraid. It is so hot, and is getting late in the evening, and the mail will be made up before sun down. So you see there is not much time for a lazy man to do much between this and that time.

I have no news, except that Gen. Drake has just received orders to send a Missouri Battery that is at this place to St. Louis. I suppose the men are to be mustered out immediately. Perhaps an order will be along one of these days for us.

We are getting along very well. Not much to do, plenty to eat, and good quarters to stay in.

The artillery has to have the ~~post~~ desk. I will

have to quit and let him go to work.
I do love you my sweet pet, and I want
to see you, worse every day
My health is first rate. Will is well
Give love to Jerry
Sincerely
Dollie
Peaches

St Charles Arkansas

June 14th 1885

My dear Pet,

I sent you such a poor letter this afternoon, I don't know but you ought to send it back for the want of subject matter. I couldn't do any better my sweet pet, and I am by no means sure I can now. There is such a commotion in camp, and then the chaplain is holding services in a building but a rod or such a matter below me, and Major Hamilton and two or three other officers are playing euckre in the building next above me. But you see I will have to remain here, whether I can write or not, to keep the two parties separated. There some one near by has commenced playing the fiddle. One moment I can hear the Chaplain's clear shrill voice above all the turmoil, and then as he lowers his voice a little the sounds of the violin, or the laugh of Major Hamilton is heard quite plainly. But just now the boys in camp have the ascendancy, for they are yelling like demons. Hold, there goes half a dozen drums and fifes, playing for evening roll call. I wish Barmen was here. I think he would put in a bid for the whole concern, and in case he made the purchase, and could ever succeed in getting the thing on exhibition in the City of New York, as it is here this evening, I am sure he would realize a greater profit than he did from Jerry Lind, or Thom Shun. Just now the roll call is over, and I do believe every man in camp is trying how loud he can holler. I hope they will get quiet soon. Camp life is a queer thing, my darling, especially when the boys are a little excited. The one hear of order each day, having been received for us to go home. Sometimes they talk simply of hear themselves. At other times they seem to think

the order are ready here, and that we will start home in a very few days. They will hit it after a while, for the order will be sure to be along one of these days. The drum ^{has} ~~has~~ topped, I will have to go and see if the boys are all quiet.

Later Company ^{"G."} was all right, but such a time as Company "G." and some of the other Companies are having, I scarcely ever witnessed. Just a few moments ago they fired three shots up in or near their Company's quarters. If I were commanding, or were officer of the day, I think I should be after them. But I am occupying neither position, and of course shall not ~~interfere~~ myself keeping order in any other Command but my own. I don't have any trouble with my men. Perfect I think it is the best Company I ever saw. I know it is the best in this Regiment.

I read President Johnson's Proclamation late this evening, and I think it fore shadows what is to be done. Along a poor devil's neck will have to pull hemp, I feel sure, who would have passed Scott free had Lincoln lived. I believe to feel that the rebels will suffer more than ^{we will} for the death of our great President. But I feel that it is right, and that many of them should die for their treason. Johnson is getting close after the leading politician and the wealthy planter. He is going to "improve" them" sure enough, and I must say I am glad of it. Morning No news to-day yet. The sun is beginning to ~~show~~ shine quite warmly. I think it will be very hot after a while.

Morning - June 3rd. It is getting just about as hot as it can be, but we don't have any thing to do till Monday, except our guard duty. The mail goes down to-night. I will undress more during the day, unless my room is crowded with the men all the time.

I love you my sweet fort. We get no order to go home. I wish they would come. Goodbye Pecker

St Charles Arkansas

June 4th 1855

Mine Pet.

I am going to try to write you a letter with a quill pen. Sergoans Brasher has been using it for several days, and you can see from the marks it makes, that it is nearly worn out. I have been using ^{it} some for several days, and I rather like it. Brasher and Will keep lathering me. They want me to let them have my mosquito car, but I am not going to do it, if the mosquitoes eat them up. I offered to sell it to them a few days ago, and they made fun of me. I tell them now to fight the little animals all night. That they should not have it if I did not want it for my own use. Brasher says he can get along with enough to cover his head with. If he can't get that much he talks of sticking his head in his pants and filling his ears full of cotton, but I have got all the cotton there is about the house, and I am not going to let him have enough for that. Will has just covered up head and ears with one

of his thick blankets, and Brasbas says the mes-
quitas have all turned their attention to him.

I received two good letters from you this eve-
ning. I was glad to learn that you were well,
but what is the matter with you my sweet feet?
You are not stout, I know by the way you talk
and I am afraid you are not going to be, my
darling. Tell me all about it, won't you?

I had actually forgotten all about our financial
affairs or nearly so. That is the reason I asked
you to tell me. I think the bank at Centerville
is safer than the one at Abbia, although the latter
may be all right. It is not a regular bank. Still
I believe is the proprietor. I think he owns it all.
But if Mr. Proctor is willing to risk it, we need
not be afraid. Perhaps I will be at home one
of these days to look after things myself, and
then my feet won't have so much to do.

I am not very particular about Richard's getting
his ^{mortgage} bond before I get home. There is no way
by which I can send him a power of attorney,
and then the mortgage is of no force until there
is a note with it. I will fix it all up as soon
as I get home. Tell him not to be uneasy.

We have just heard from Lt. Wright the
Sutler of the 23rd Indiana has just returned
from the Stockade. He left the Sloop in New-
Orleans a few days ago. He will be here in
a very few days, perhaps the next boat,
I suppose he has written home

We don't learn anything more about our
muster out. You must not be too sanguine
of our early return; yet I hope to be there
soon. There will have to be a new order is-
sued before we can go out. But it is settled
that we will not have to go to Texas. Kirby
Smith has capitulated, and the war is over. The
Government will have to try a few hundred
rebels - and I hope hang that number - and
the great war of the nineteenth century is
at an end.

It is getting quite late my pet. I must go
to bed, and sleep some. It was so hot this
p.m. that I couldn't sleep any. I must make
it up between this and breakfast in the mor-
ning. Goodly Dolly

June 5th. We have received orders to move our Reg-
iment to Durdell's Bluff, except one Company. That

goes to the mouth of White river. I don't
know what the move is made for. It seems
we are to remain in the service for sometime yet.
But you must not get the blues about it my
pet, for we have a sure thing of it in four
months. The fourth of October comes next fall.
The boys are all well. So am I, as well as you
ever saw me, and I don't have the blues any, and
I don't want you to accuse me of it, my sweet
pet.

The orderly and Will are still having a
bad time with the mosquitoes. So does every body
else who has no protection.

It is very warm to-day. Dinner is nearly ready
I must put this up, and be ready, or the
other boys will eat up all the fresh butter
I bought a little while ago.

I love you my sweet pet, and think of you all the
time

Truly my sweet pet
Peaches

Dwells Bluff, Arkansas,
June 10th 1855.

My dear Pet,

Here we are. We arrived this morning a little before day, but didn't disembark until just before noon. We have a very good camp, and good quarters for the most of the companies. Company ^{no. 1} is well fixed. Broshar and I have a very nice cabin to our share. Sergts. Marken, Walker, and Kemper, have one to themselves.

We are going to have plenty of duty to do, such as picket and fatigue. I am expecting to be detailed for to-morrow. My health is good. You must not be uneasy about me. Will is well.

I can't write any more now. There is too much work to do. I will write again as soon as the camp quiets down. I love you my sweet pet. O you don't know how much my sweet ^{darling} ~~pet~~
Goodbye

Peaches

Derolls Bluff Arkansas

June 13th 1855

Elline Pet,

St. Wright came in yesterday morning, and I have been talking to him nearly all the time since then, so you must not grumble if this proves to be a short letter, and a poor one, I will positively do better after awhile. He has a great deal to talk about, and I have a great deal to ask him about, but he can't tell me half I want to know, for he is going to start for the "Parole Camp" at St Louis to-morrow evening. He is not declared exchanged yet, and is not very sure he will be. I am of the opinion he will be mastered out of the service. He is looking as well as I ever saw him, and is as cheerful as need be.

We are doing all kinds of duty here that soldiers ever have to do but fight. The men are going on guard every other day, and frequently on fatigue duty between times. Still they are cheerful, and hopeful of getting out soon. I am not sure when that soon will come however, for, I hear of no order that will reach us yet. I am going over to the Rock in a few days to see the

mustering officer, and as certain if possible if
any thing can be done for us, I don't know that
I can affect any thing, but I am determined to try
There are not many troops at this place, but
our regiment and two small detachments of Kansas
troops, and it is said the latter are all to be mustered
out in a very short time. Gen. Shaler says there
will be more here in a few days.

My health is good - first rate, and I don't
have the blues any, although I want to go home as
badly as any body can. But I know there is no use
in fretting about the matter - that it won't get us out any
sooner. You must keep in good spirits my sweet feet,
and not have the blues, or get sick. Oh! I don't want
you to get sick my sweet feet.

Col. Drake (Gen. Drake I should have said)
is commanding the Brigade, and I am commanding
the Regiment. I don't expect to be relieved any more
until we get orders to go north, and I don't know
that I shall make any effort towards it.

The mail will start out in a very short time
so I must put this up, if it is not full. You
won't grumble will you sweet feet? You must not.
Will is well. Give love to Jenny. Remember
me to all friends. I love you sweet Dollie
Goodly
Pecker

De Valls Bluff Arkansas

June 13th 1865

My dear Pet,

I wrote you a short letter this afternoon, but I will write again to-night because I have a "bit" of good news, if it prove to be true. Sergeant Sharon, of this Regiment has just come up from the Rock, and he told me "a bit ago" that he heard Major Vincent, the chief mustering officer of the 9th A. C., say that he was going to muster us (this Regiment) out under the order for all troops to go out whose term of service expires prior to October 1st 1865. He says we lack three days of coming under the order, but he is going to take the responsibility of mustering us out any way how. He is over at Helena now, or I should go over to see him immediately. I shall wait until he returns, and then go over, provided I can't get Col. Drake interested in the matter. Major Hamilton is too in a hurry to do any thing, so I shall not ask him for assistance. I will write you from time to time all I learn in regard to the matter.

Mrs Drake, Mrs Lee, and Mrs Sedney are making their arrangements to meet their "Peaches". Some

where on the road as they go home, and Capt
Lee tells me they are going to try to have you
go with them. I suppose they think "yourens"
must be good friends, because "weens" are; and
I don't ^{know} my sweet pet but you should be
their husbands or good friends of mine, and
they will all be glad to have you come or go
with them to what ever point we decide on -- or
that you may decide on, provided you take the
matter in your own hands. See then if you
have an opportunity; or you can write to Mrs Droke
if you wish to. I think we will be mustered out
either here or at the Rock, and then send to Dan-
vers to receive our pay, and turn over our proper-
ty. If that should be the course pursued, you
will not have an opportunity to meet us until
we arrive at Danvers; because we will not stop
at any point between here and there. If we go
to St Louis to muster out, it will be a very nice
trip for you. Enough of this for this time;

St. Wright hasn't decided to start
to-morrow evening as yet. St. Swiggert, who came
through ^{with} him is waiting to see a ministering officer
and St. Wright don't like to travel by himself
They may not start for several days.

I must quit and go to bed my sweet
Dollie. It is near eleven o'clock p.m. and if I
expect to sleep much between this and break-
fast to-morrow morning I must be at it. Good by!

June 14th 1865

The mail will go out in a very short time, and I am as busy as you ever saw a fellow; but I must say a few words to my sweet Dollie. We are passing on to-day about as usual. Lt. Wright is packing up to start to St. Louis. He is not going to wait for Lt. Swiggett. I believe he wants to get home. I know he does, and I can't blame him. He has seen enough of this war. There will be a mail in this evening I hope I will get some good letters from my sweet pet. I do want to see you to-day, my darling. I want to see you every day; and I am going to see you one of these days. It won't be long till Uncle Sam will let me off, and let me go home to ~~see~~ stay with my pet.

It is beginning to rain again. We are having quite a wet spell. I wish you could have a part of it in Iowa; for if it don't rain there soon, I am afraid the people will not raise much to live on.

I haven't any news. If I learn anything I will write again to-night.

Be cheerful Dollie. I love you. I love you all the time, and I send you a thousand kisses.
Goodby for Peaches

De Cols Bluff Ark.

June 16th 1865

Mine Pet,

We have had a little excitement in camp since yesterday morning, in consequence of the return of Col. C. W. Kittredge, with orders from the War Department that he should be restored to his former rank and command in the United States Army. He arrived in camp about ten o'clock a m. Quite a number of his friends greeted him very cordially. He told them he expected to take command of the Regiment, and to have them out of the service in about sixty days. This morning the adjutant sent for me, and informed me that the Col. had assumed command. I reported the matter to Gen. Drake, immediately. In an hour or two Col. K. sent up his

morning report, but Drake returned it,
at the same time notifying Kithredge
that he was not apprised of his
being in the United States Service, and
he (Drake) could not recognize him
as an officer. Kithredge then forward-
ed his order from the War Depart-
ment. Drake then referred the mat-
ter to Division Head Quarters. Gen
Sholp was absent, but his Adju-
tant General referred the ^{case} by telegram
to Maj Gen Reynolds, and got
his decision that, that the vacancy
was filled, by the Governor of Iowa
commissioning Drake as Col. So
I have to take command again
and Col K starts home wards. It has
been rather amusing, especially among
disinterested persons. Col Kithredge
should have investigated the matter
before assuming command. He feels worse
now, no doubt than ^{he would} if he had ^{not} been all
the way to Washington to get restored

Morning Col. Kittredge has re-packed
his traps, and gone on board the
Steamer Nepon, and will start north
this evening. I have not talked to
him since he received Gen. Reynolds's
decision yesterday. Those who have seen
him say he looks as though a lance
had passed over his countenance that
will never disappear. I hope we will
not be gathered with him any more.

The Commissary of Musters of this
Department has decided to muster our
regiment under existing orders, provided
our services can be dispensed with. So
the matter lies entirely with Gen. Rey-
nolds. The matter I believe has been
referred to him for his decision. We
will know in a very few days, what
is to be done with us.

We have not had any mail for
nearly a whole week. The last mail
has left at St Charles. We will
not get it till Monday.

My health is quite good. You
must not get sick my feet;

I want you to get you all the
nice clothes you need, and have them
made against you have to meet me
at Davenport or where ever I go

Nearly all the officers are going
to send for their wives

I love you my feet

Goodly

D^y Vermeil

Head Quarters 36th Iowa Infantry
De Colls Bluff Ark.

June 19th 1865

Dear Dollie

I am going to commence you a letter on this
half sheet, but I am not going to promise when
it will be finished. The mail will ^{not} go down for two
or three days, and if nothing happens between this
and the time it does start, I will try and have it
completed after my fashion of doing such work.
You know what that is, and of course will not ex-
pect much.

I received two good letters from you this evening.
but they were old; they had been a long time on the
way. One of them was dated on the 3rd and the other the
4th inst. I believe that makes it over two weeks since
the last one was written - a long time to do without
any word from my feet, but it was not her fault,
nor Uncle Sam's either, for that matter. It occurred by
~~our~~ ~~being~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~mail~~ ~~at~~ ~~St~~ ~~Charles~~ ~~and~~ ~~directed~~ ~~to~~ ~~that~~ ~~place~~. The mail
agent was informed of our move, but he hadn't time
to "dit" it, and of course couldn't do otherwise than leave
it. It had to remain there until the next boat passed
up, which was last evening. I hope it will not oc-
cur again. If it doesn't we will get another mail tomor-
row morning, and I hope to get my usual share of
letters from my darling.

There is no news here of a reliable nature, worth
relating. "Madam rumor" ~~is~~ publishes plenty of orders

for our muster out; but on frequent investigations we have become satisfied the Secretary of War has not got her employed to issue orders for him. Late this pm she had it that "all white volunteer troops were to be mustered out immediately." Earlier in the day she had it that "all troops whose term of service expire prior to January 1st 1864" were to be mustered out instanter. But we have not commenced making the rolls, and I don't know that we will until we get something more definite.

I am getting sleepy my feet, and after mature deliberation I have concluded to put this up and go to bed. What do you think of it, Volie? You would do it if you were in my place, wouldn't you? - Goodly!

June 20th 1865

Ellie Get.

The Postmaster came very near stealing a march on me, by not letting me know when the mail would go out. I start in a very short time and this is all I have in the way of a letter to send you. You must not get spunky my dear girl. The sewing will soon be through with and then we will not care so much about the coming and going of the mail. We will talk then to our full hearts content.

The weather is getting very warm again. It is going to be unpleasant, but it won't matter much if we get to go north soon.

The mail is nearly ready to start. I must put this up, or it will be left.

I love you sweet feet. Goodly. Peaches

(No. 81)

Friday Evening, June 25th 1863

My Dearest Love:

I sent you a letter to day, but since that I got two such good ones from you. They quite cured me of the blues, my feet. The latest date was the 14th only nine days ago. And you thought you would soon come home, oh, that was what cured me, sweet darling. I have hardly known what I was doing ever since I read the letter. I feel like I wanted to be "pecking up." But is it sure, deary? Will the sutwating officer really let you off under this order? He's a sensible man, and a patriot, if he does. But I am so encouraged that I will try and wait with all patience till the next letter comes. Then I hope to hear still better news. I went to the office to day and got two letters from you, and one from Jimmie, and one from Will for father. That paid me, didn't it? Will said the general belief was that they would get home by Christmas. Evidently if he knew any good news he was, ^{not,} going to tell it. Edson remarked as soon as I went in that the 36th wasn't coming home for some time yet. He said he had just read a letter from you to Mrs Mesick, and you didn't expect to be home soon.

That gave me the blues worse than ever so I didn't stop
two minutes. As soon as I started I read my own
precious letters - which I guess were later than Mr
Merrill's. Brooker made good time coming home
after I finished reading. I didn't know what I was
hurrying so far - only to be doing something. I couldn't
be quit - and can't get hardly. But I won't talk any
more about that. You will come to Downport
I think, yet, without doubt. I want to go there to meet
you. I don't know what smokes Mrs. Drake and Mrs.
Kee talk about my going in company. I haven't
seen or heard a word from them since we left
Centerville. I should like to go with them though -
especially Mrs. Drake, and if we all go we will be apt
to meet at Eddyville anyhow. I don't think I need
write to them about it. I don't mean to "stage" it any
if I can help it. Mary Walker I think will go
and I shall go with her to Eddyville. Henry writes
to her to come with me, and for his sake and the
old people's I cannot join company with her you
know, that far. I should like there to meet the other
party. But this is enough on that subject isn't it
sweet love? I cannot make a new dress and then
I will be all ready to start any day. Jerry says

she sees plainly enough that if I meet you anywhere
the rest of them want yet to see you before October
no how, and so it dont make much difference.
But I guess we wouldn't "succeed" much; and then I
know that nobody else in the whole world wants to see
you as quarter as much as I do. You know that I
dont you, my precious darling? I'm very sure you do.
Jimmy said he thought they would get here by the 1st
of July. He was well, and was having a good time.
It is supper time, mine pet, and I must quit
writing. Jenny is just finishing her new white dress.
I love you so fondly dear that I feel like I should
like to sit and scribble to you all day. Oh, I forgot to
tell you that people call you "Colonel" up here. They
know it that you are really Colonel, and that Brooker
is Captain. How is it, dear? I tell them I guess
you are only doing the Col's duty while Brooker does
yours, but they dont believe a word of it. Goodbye.

Sunday Evening, June 28th

Mine Pet: I was so busy yesterday that I didn't get to write any
Jenny was quite sick all day, and I had a good deal to do.
She had taken cold I think. She is about well to day. She
took a dose of pills, and it helped her. She is subject to such
attacks of head ache and indigestion - I think it is.

Lieut. Wright and Stud. Jernison yet have to do.
I should like to see the Lieut. I think, he might tell
me something about you, sweet pet. I hope he will
come over soon. Father is gone over to see Jernison.
He got our mail this morning but no letters. I want
me very much, mine pet. The weather is quite cold.
It rained yesterday and last night, and this morning
turned off very cold for June. He sit with the doors
closed, and a good fire would be pleasant enough.
There is no other news, deary. Our daily paper has stopped
its visits, for the very good reason that our time was out.
Father says the war is over now and he cant take it
any longer. I believe I cant, so I guess we'll have to do
without it. This writing is bad, pet. I dont know what
makes me so nervous lately. I cant write hardly at all.
I am quite well. I look for Jernison the last of this
week. I hope he will get here soon. They have given
up the projected celebration of the 4th, I believe. They
have concluded to wait till you all get home and then
have a public dinner. That suits me precisely.
They are going to have a barbecue at Lajonge on the 4th.
This has been a very long day, sweet love. I have been
reading a little. Give my love to Will. I need not
send love to you, pet, for know who loves you all the time.
Heaven bless you my good noble darling. Your own (Pelleu)

Monday Evening, June 26"

Sweet Pet.

I am going to send this letter to Osprey, but I must write a few lines more to you, so you will have as late news as possible. Jerry is well again, and I am well. Do you want to know what I have been doing to day? I mustn't tell you, pet. I guess I can keep a secret if I am a woman, - a very small secret. Don't you remember I was making a little present for you, some time ago? Well, when I got it done, it didn't please me. It wasn't nice enough for my darling. So to day I have been making it over - or rather making another - something. I will manage it this time I think. It pleases me to be doing a little work for you, love, and then I wanted to have some keepsake for you when you come home. My offering will not be worth much, being, but it will be Dolly's own handiwork, and you will like it I hope. Father started to see Lieut Wright this morning, but learned that he had gone to Charleston, and come back. Mr. Evans was here awhile ago, and he saw John yesterday. He says he isn't mustered out yet, and will not be until you are mustered as Major. He is to be Captain. I don't understand how it can be unless Major Hamilton is also promoted. I suppose he will be however.

I expect a letter from you tomorrow evening, my love
and I trust it will say you are coming home at once.
I am so restless I can hardly get on till the next mail.
It seems a long time to wait yet. I get feverish and
excited, sweet darling, and I can't help it. I don't say
much about your coming, but I think of little else.
We hear that the 18th will be at Downport to-morrow.
The weather is still cool, but very bright and pleasant.
Everything is growing nicely. I have hardly time to
fill this page, my dear, for it is getting late. — I hear
distant thunder; I guess we shall have some rain,
bright as it looks now. I will write you very soon.
Mother is improving considerably. She can help
herself a good deal now. I love you, my own darling.
Oh, I do love you so much. Don't forget your faithful
Dollie

Jenny sends love to you. Tell Will, how we get for
me. Tell him I haven't had a letter from him since
that scrap he sent in yours. I shall get "indignant"
as old Mrs. Lane said. Tell me all you can, dear
about your coming home. I want to know so badly.
God bless you, and goodbye. I send you a million
kisses, and I say five times that number for you.
I guess I shall have to quit now, pet. Goodbye again.

De Valls Bluff Ark.

June 23rd 1865

Mine Pet.

The sun is just ^{up} and he gives indications of sending forth an abundance of heat during the day. The weather is getting very warm again. We will have to send to town & get some ice to cool our water, or we will hardly get on during the day. The boys are nearly all going on duty. If one kind or another this morning, I feel for them but I can't help it. Quite a number of them are having the ague. It don't hurt them much, but I am afraid it will terminate in something worse after awhile, when the season is farther advanced. Sergeant Macken has had a chill or two but is better now. He is on duty I believe.

Maj. Hamilton has been returned to the regiment for duty and has relieved me. I hope he will remain now until we are mustered out. Gen. Drake is still commanding the Brigade. Col. K. I learn has gone north to prosecute his claims still further. I am not informed as to where he has gone whether to Washington, or the State of Iowa, to see Governor Stone. I think I hope his efforts will prove unavailing. We don't need him here.

We are trying very hard to get the prisoners mustered out, under telegraph order from Washington of May 30th. I have no doubt myself about the order applying to their case, but there is a difference of opinion among the mustering officers. Gen. Drake has made an application to have them mustered out, but the answer has not come around yet. It will be here to-morrow or next day. Nothing comes touching our case that is those of us who were

most prisoners; but, our time draws to a close. October will be here in a little ~~of~~ over three months, and as the boys say we have a sure thing of it, under existing orders allowing all soldiers to be mustered out at the expiration of their term of service. Now must not get the blues because I talk about let. my pet, for we may have ^{to} remain until then; but if we do it will not be long. Three months will soon pass, and even then I will have time enough to look around and fix up ~~up~~ against winter. I want to go home though, my darling as badly as you want me to; but I will have to wait orders. It would do for me to resign and leave my men just at this time, when they need my services worse than they ever have. No other man knows as much about the books and papers as I do. Even if St. Wright were to come back, it wouldn't do for me to leave for he wouldn't ^{know} so much more than any one who has never seen the Company.

I see the Loyal Citizen speaks of great preparations being made for a grand celebration at Centerville on the 4th of July. I should like very much to be there, but I can't. It will be a grand time no doubt, just such as the people of every county should have every year on that day. I wish you and Jenny would go. You would see many of your friends, and they would be glad to see you my pet. If you are stout enough, do pick up courage enough to go. The Citizen gives a list of the assistant marshals, and among the list I see W. R. Davenport's name. What is a good selection - I know him. I suppose he was selected because of his having been in the service. Dr. Sawyer of Missionville is another

I am glad you are getting what you need my pet,
I want you to get just what you think will suit
you. We may not have to remain at Davenport
long, but there will be a great many officers wives
there. If you go to Centerville you can see Mrs
Droff and Mrs Fee. They are going to meet their
husbands, and if you could get with them, you
would have a pleasant time of it no doubt. If
the prisoners should be mustered out before
the rest of us, you will not see much of a
regiment though my pet. But we won't care for
that, we will see each other, and that will be enough
for us.

It is getting so warm, my pet, I can hardly
sit still. I will quit till evening, by that time the
wind may blow a little.

June 24th 1865-

Dear Dollie,

You see I didn't get to finish my
letter yesterday. It must be done this morning for
the mail goes out this afternoon. I didn't get my
letter last night, although I wanted one just about
as badly as I ever did in my life. I will have to
wait now till Monday morning, which is two days
yet. I must have two or three them, or I will have
the blues worse than ever.

The troops in this Department, whose term of
service expires prior to October 1st will all be
mustered out soon, without unnecessary delay.
The order from the War Department has been sus-
pended, so far as its application to the troops
of this Department was concerned until a few days
ago. Gen. Reynolds removed the restriction, and has
ordered that the order be complied with immediately.

It misses us but three days. Some say the Com-
missary of musters says he will muster us in
any hour, but I think there must be some mis-
take about it. If the order misses us three days
it seems to me that will hold us just as
firmly as if it had missed us three months.
But I shall think Mr. Commissary of Musters a
very clever fellow, if he lets us go home. We
will know in a very few days. If he doesn't
let us off on the Det. order, we will have to
remain till there is another order promulgated.
But that, you know, may come along any day.

This sheet is so large for me to attempt
to fill it, this morning.

This is going to be another very hot day. So hot
I fear I will not get to sleep any. Don't get
the blues any yet. I love you all the time.

Goodly loves from
Peaches

Dealls Bluff Ark.

June 28th 1845

Myne Pet.

Some letter writers say the best way to write a good letter is to analyze the subject, but if I should follow that course, I feel sure you would get no letter this time, for there would be nothing left to talk about there, ^{is} not one bit of news here, not even a good rumor. The boys are actually stupid to-night for the want of something exerting. Those who are in the habit of originating good ^{news} for our edification have neglected their duty to-day. If they had only let me know it a little sooner, I could have supplied the deficiency by starting some good reports they - all hands - excuse ^{me} of doing such things occasionally, and I don't know but I might as well be guilty as to be so ~~excused~~.

The weather is quite warm, and it is raining again to-night. I am glad of it. It will surely cool the air a little. Our Court room is rather close, and we have to sit in full uniform, no odds how hot and unpleasant it is. You may know we pray for cool days. There is a good deal of business I depressed on by the Court, enough, I think to keep us employed for several weeks, perhaps months; but I am very glad I am on the detail. It is better than doing other duty; and being busily engaged will make the time pass better. If I ~~had~~ can have something more and exciting to do every day October will soon be here. I, ^{am} lazy, you know, but I must work here, or I leave the Blues. There is something more and exciting coming up before the Court, nearly every day, and then the Court is composed of good clever fellows, who are full of fun and ready for anything exciting; so the time passes finely.

Each evening, after the days work is completed, Copts Yee, Sedong and myself, take a stroll through town. We always stop at a Saloon and get a good cigar a piece, and you had better believe we enjoy a good smoke. They like it about as well as I do; and They like an evening stroll full as well as I do. They are clever fellows, and can run a joke as closely as any one; but for all that I manage to hold my own with them very well. We have made an agreement to take all kinds of abuse from each other, but hard like. We have to do something to wear away the time - to keep from getting the blues, and the only successful plan we have been able to fall upon as yet is to abuse each other. But, you dont want to hear such stuff, do you pet? I would talk better, and of other things, if there were any better things than to talk of my pet. I will go to bed sweet pet. Goodly

June 30th 1855

My dear Pet

This is mustered day, and such a day as it is, I have not witnessed the coming of last Spring. It rained all the forenoon, just as hard as it could rain. We had to get the men together in their quarters and muster them. I think it will clear off this evening.

I have just commenced reading "Dugames Prison Life" I think I shall like it very well, but the Clarke & Hills Soldier's Bag has not given a true version of that fight. He obtained his information from the Ohio officers July 1855 -

All well this morning pet, but we have no news. John Elgin started home 2 weeks ago. He agreed to call and see you. I wrote he has against me, without interest. I kept the money only to accommodate him. I see he is