

St Charles Arkansas

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1865

My Darling,

You want to know what I think of  
The assassination of President Lincoln; but I don't think  
I can tell you my pet. It is a subject I can't ex-  
press myself on. If I could see you and have the  
privilege of talking to you for half a day, I think  
I could give you an idea of my feelings, and of  
The influence The tragedy will have on The Country,  
and The progress of The war; but to sit here and  
undertake to tell you on paper is too imperfect  
a way for me to undertake to give expression to  
my feelings on such a subject. I don't profess to  
be much of a writer, you know, but I have a good  
knack at talking, and I would like to talk  
to you about The sad end of our beloved President.  
but we must wait, my darling until we meet.  
But you must not get discouraged, my sweet pet.  
The war will go on as though we had lost no great  
man, only I think it will cause many more rebel  
breaks to full hemp than would have done it had  
Lincoln lived

the people are too much aroused to show leniency to such men as the rebels and their mother sympathizers are showing themselves to be; and then President Johnson has never had any sympathy for them, and now that he has the Executive power of the Government vested in him, and a loyal people to support him, and an army strong enough to execute any command he may think necessary to give, at his disposal, they need not expect to receive any <sup>thing</sup> in punishment of their crimes but the sentence of a just law, fully enforced. There will be no Amnesty proclamations issued to the leading rebels, as perhaps there would have been, had Lincoln been permitted to live until this time, and in that respect I don't know but the change will be a good one. The Government is able to enforce any decree it may see fit to put forth; and I sincerely hope it will soon let it be known, that every leading rebel must either stand his trial for treason or leave the country. But it is bed time and I am not very well, so we will talk of these things another

Morning. I feel better this morning. Nothing ails me but a bad cold. I will be well in a few days. I feel well enough to be out drilling, but I thought will might as well attend to that part of the service

The boys have got up quite an excitement in  
The last day or two about our muster-out. They  
have it now that a Captain in The 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana  
Cavalry made a bet with an officer in The  
5<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry, of (\$5000.00) Five ~~Thousand~~ <sup>Reynolds</sup> Dollars  
that all of the 8<sup>th</sup> troops will be mustered out  
inside of sixty days. The Captain - they say - has  
just returned from The Rock, and that he saw  
the order - or heard General Reynolds say it was  
in his office - direct from the War Department.  
I don't think there is anything in the rumor  
myself, but it does The boys to talk about

We are going have Cavalier drill this fall  
I am going out, but I hope The Colonel wont  
keep us out long, for I am a little too lazy  
to drill at this stage of The war.  
I have never written to Dr Richards yet, I  
don't know that I will. I am sure I have matter  
ing encouraging to tell him.

Be sure and take good care of your poor  
shoulder. I do want it to get well my sweet  
pet, and I know it wont if you use it.

This letter is long enough, I think I will stop now. Leave  
all those persons to whom I have sent money for the boys, pay  
their proportion of the expressage. I wish I could see Dullis this  
morning we would have a good talk, wouldnt we Garry Peaches

St Charles Arkansas

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1855

My Sweet Dollie,

The mail will go out to-morrow night, and it must take you a letter, whether it is a good one or not. I am not writing you quite as many letters for the last week or two as I did sometime ago, because the mail don't pass down but twice a week, and the postmaster has quit sending ours out on transient boats. You shall have one every regular mail day though, my darling.

I wrote to Doctor Richards yesterday evening that he must pay you what he owes us. I would have written to him sooner, but I still thought he would pay it without my saying anything more to him on the subject. If he doesn't pay it now, in a reasonable length of time, I <sup>will</sup> have him sued. He must and shall pay the whole amount. I am surely under no obligations to make any reductions in consequence of the loss of the property.

The war is closing very rapidly. It will soon  
all be over with the rebels now, I look anx-  
iously to see what President Johnson will do  
with them, now that they are whipped. He will  
make them especially the leaders - feel the full  
force of the laws, I hope. Lincoln would  
have pardoned many of them, whom I hope  
Johnson will hang. He is perhaps better  
acquainted with the true rebel character than any  
other man at Washington. He has been closely  
connected with the leaders all of his life, and  
he ought to know what to do with them. I hope  
enough of them will pull hemp, to destroy  
the very idea of such a thing as a rebellion  
ever existing in this free Country in the future.  
The papers are being filled with orders from  
the War Department, requiring retrenchments in  
all mass every department of the army. Some  
are to stop the quartermaster from increasing  
their stocks, some to stop the Commissaries from  
increasing theirs, beyond what is necessary to supply  
the troops in their respective departments after  
the first of June, and some are for the mustering  
out and paying of troops, but there is nothing

published yet, that effect our case, we all  
watch those orders very closely my darling,  
and would be very glad to see one requiring  
the 38<sup>th</sup> Iowa to go to Keokuk to be mustered  
out, and to be paid. By the way, my darling,  
I want you to keep what money you have,  
and not put it into bonds. I will not get  
any more pay until I can turn over all  
the Government property I have in my pos-  
session, and get a certificate of mon indebted-  
ness from the Second Auditor of the Treas-  
ury. So you see we will have <sup>to</sup> take care of  
what we have, or we will have nothing to go on  
when we get ready to "go to living."

Morning - I am on duty to-day and I will not  
have much time to write, but then it won't  
matter, for there is nothing to write about.  
We got papers yesterday evening as late as  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, but there <sup>was</sup> not much in them, but  
I think, though the whole rebel army is going  
to either surrender or disband, in either  
case the war will close immediately. Col. Drake  
thinks we will be at home by the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.  
I am not quite so sanguine as the Colonel however.

There is something else I had intended to speak  
but it has slipped my memory. I was in  
regard to our business. If it was of any  
importance I will think of it in a few days  
I will put this up, and mail it. Be cheer-  
ful my sweetest. I love you all the time  
Truly  
Peaches

St. Charles Arkansas

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Sweet Darling,

This is drill hour, but I didn't want to go out. So I don't will. He says I am sending him rather often of late, but his grumbling don't make any difference with me. It will do him good, and then he has just as much right to do some of the work as I have to do it all. I go out every day there is Battalion drill, but I can't take any interest in company drill. So you see the boys have something of an excuse for accusing of playing off.

It will be one year this evening since I rejoined the regiment from recruiting service in Iowa. Then there was not one bright jovial countenance among all of the boys that were at The Rock. They had too vivid a remembrance of the hard and bloody contests at Hook's Mills and Jenkins Ferry, and of the many friends and brave soldiers who had fallen victims to the enemies of our country, to be as cheerful as they are now. And the regiment was disorganized, and



So many of them suffering as prisoners of war in the rebels hands, that it was hard for any man, who had been a soldier in the regiments before these disasters to feel as all seemed to feel when we first came out. But those dark days are gone now my feet. We all feel well, except that we want to go home, and why shouldn't we? The war is over, and there is nothing more for us to do, and the money we draw from the Government doesn't pay us for staying away from our loved ones. But I must not get to talking about home, for fear I get the blues, and that would make one feel unpleasant.

Are you not sorry, my darling, that Sherman made such a blunder, in his efforts to become the great pacifier of the age? I know you are, and so am I, but we can't change it now. It didn't surprise me much, though. His fighting qualities are not called in question, as yet, however, and I don't think they ever will be. He is one of my men yet, and if Jeff. Davis and Breckenridge did beat him in negotiating for peace, they will not dare even try him again with the sword. The boys are making so much fun that I can't write

Later. Perhaps I had better finish this letter and  
put it up, for fear I am ordered off on some  
"military necessity" duty, and don't get it done  
against the mail boat comes a long. If that  
were to happen Dollie wouldn't get any some  
mail day, and then she might think I had  
forgotten her, which I never do for a minute.  
I haven't anything to say about our business my  
part except that I want Doctor Richard to pay  
his note just as soon as possible. We will mail  
it when I get home, to fix our selves up with  
it. If he don't pay it against next court I will  
have to sue him, and smother him, if he has  
property enough to bring the amount, and cost of  
suit. It will be necessary for us to get all the  
money together we can against I get home, or we  
will not be able to smother our selves comfortable,  
without selling our Bonds, and it is uncertain whether  
they will sell readily at par, or not.

Keep in good spirits sweet Dollie, Col. Drake  
is going to the Rock to-morrow or the next day  
to see if he can't have our time of fire in August  
provided the Government don't smother us out sooner.

I love you my precious sweet darling Peaches

St. Charles Arkansas

May 13<sup>th</sup> 1855

My Darling,

This is a beautiful morning, and it is early, the sun only half an hour or such a matter high, but I want to talk to my feet some today, and I must do it now for fear some thing occurs to prevent me if I put it off. We got a mail night before last, and I got four letters, all from my Dollie, but some of them were old, the latest one was dated on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am so glad your shoulders are getting well, but you must not work, or they will be sure to get sore again; and if they do, there will be great danger of them remaining sore, you may think I am only trying to scare you my sweet feet, but I am not. It has been so long since that ~~wound~~ was taken out, and it has been sore so much, that you will have to take extremely good care of it, in order to make a sound shoulder of it. But you are going to do it now I know, and I will not be uneasy about it any more.

What a freak fancy is taking, and I don't know but you are to blame just a little, my pet, for humoring <sup>her</sup> in the idea of teaching school among entire strangers. If she were to get a school, & I were to get home before its close, she would be left for in the County, and among strangers too. She must not think of it this summer, and you must not think of it.

Richards must pay his debt, or I will sue him at the next term of the Court. There is no virtue in waiting any longer, and the sooner he understands it the better it will be for him and us too. I will need the money when I get home, and then the sooner all such debts are collected the better. Last year was a better time for him to pay than this year is. Then gold was worth one hundred percent premium, now it is ~~worth~~ but twenty-five cents; but I warned him of it, and <sup>he</sup> ought to have paid it sooner. I wrote him a few days ago that he must pay it, and I wrote him too that I would give you instructions in regard to the matter. So when you see him, tell him pay is the countersign, and that you have instructions not to let him pass without it.

Look after Wardside a little as soon as the river gets down so you can cross. It will be best to watch those fellows a little.

We have no news, except what we get in the papers, and you will have read that long before you get this. I am going to put this until in the afternoon.

Gen Reynolds is busy at the Rock fitting up an expedition to go to Texas, provided the rebels in that part of the Country don't surrender before he gets ready to start. I have not been able to learn much about the strength of the command that is to go. Some of our officers think we will be sure to go, provided any infantry regiments that are now in this Department have to go, which seems very reasonable, as we are decidedly stronger, and in better condition than any other, and I don't know that I should object much, if I knew <sup>we</sup> were to be held until October. Staying here during the long summer months, will be enough to try the patience of any old soldier, especially one who wants to see his Dollie as bad as I do. This sheet is almost full, and I am glad of it.

It is always understood that I am not  
required to fill the unruled pages.

Dad is getting on finely. He does not  
anything about going home, or at least  
he lets me as though he doesn't

I never learn anything from father ex-  
cept what you tell me. I am not caring  
much

The drum is beating for dinner. I must put  
this up and go or my mess fellows  
will get the start of me

I love you my sweetest

Goodly

Peaches

St. Charles, Arkansas,

May 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Darling

This is on Monday morning, and the sun is but an hour or so high. But I want to talk to my darling a little while. My cold is still hunting me some, but the news is to good - if it only proves to be true. For a good soldier to complain at light ailments I have St. Louis papers of the 12<sup>th</sup> and there is a notice in one of them that there is an order issued for the muster out of all troops, whose term of service expires prior to Oct. 31. That is the first intimation I have seen emanating from Washington, that we would be mustered out prior to the expiration of our term. The order its self is not published, but if it be true Gen. Reynolds will be apt to notify us to "make ready" one of these days, and you may be sure I don't care how soon. - I mean the order is not published in this Department yet.

There is another bit of good news, Gen. Thayer

received a telegram yesterday evening, from St. Louis -  
by the way of the Rock and Mt. Smith - said to  
be signed by Secretary Stanton - that Jeff.  
Davis has been captured, and that he is now  
in the hands of some of our commanding officers  
in Georgia. That news, made every body in the  
camp feel good beyond all conception. John-  
son will hang him, I hope. He has enough  
of the "Andrew Jackson" firmness about him to do  
it, I think, but if he has that public opin-  
ion is sufficiently strong to move him up  
to the proper point. This writing is horrible -  
I am going to quit, and read awhile.

Evening Col. Drake has been gone to the some  
four or five days. I expected him back night  
last but he didn't come. If nothing  
happens him he will be here to-morrow and  
then we will get from him full partic-  
ulars as far as they are known, of what is  
to be done in this Department. He will be in-  
quisitive enough to get the facts from Gen.  
Keynolds. I hope and I believe there will be  
no expedition sent to Texas from this Depart-  
ment, now that Jeff. Davis is captured



Kirby Smith has no doubt been holding  
out to assist his fleeing friends in getting  
out of the way of the Government, by pass-  
ing through Texas to Mexico. He must know  
there is no use in his making any farther  
effort to sustain the falling Confederacy. Our  
mistrust depends a great deal upon his actions.  
When he surrenders there will be no farther  
use for troops that has as short a time  
to serve as we have. We are waiting anx-  
iously to hear of his surrender. What  
a fuss the boys are making, the drum has  
just beat for them to go out on drill. I  
guess I had better put this up, and see if I  
can't do better this evening. Goodly  
Morning. I am all right this morning, so far as  
health is concerned, but I want some news  
just as bad as if I hadn't had any for  
two or three weeks. I want to know if the  
capture of Jeff. Davis is confirmed, and what  
Kirby Smith proposes to do, now that all of  
his Confederates in treason have given up the con-  
test; but I suppose I will have to wait for a  
time yet. I he has half the sense I have

always given him credit for, he will not  
attempt to fight any longer

Have you ever got the pay for all of your  
com: and if so how much did it amount  
to. I don't recollect of your having ever written  
to me in regard to it. Tell me too, Dollie, what  
amount of money you have on hand and  
what amount you have in Government bonds  
I have forgotten all about our financial affairs  
I must quit, as first thing I know, this page  
will be full

Tell Jenny to keep in good spirits, and not  
to get in too big away about teaching  
School, although if the people were not all  
strangers I would not object.

Keep cheerful my sweet pet. Perhaps  
I will be coming home one of these days  
before you know anything about it.

I love you with all my heart. - Goodly

Peaches

Head Quarters 36<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regt  
St Charles Ark. May 18/85

My sweet Darling,

I had made my calculations to write you a long letter to-night, and have it ready to go out in the mail that is to go down to-morrow night, but the Postmaster has just informed me that he is going to put up a mail in an hour or such a matter, and send it on a transient boat that is going down some time to-night. So you must wait "be after complaining" if this should prove to be a very poor letter. I am going to try to write you better letters than I have been doing for the last month, my sweet pet, and when I get home I will talk to you enough to make up for all the bad ones I have sent you since I came in the army, but what annoys me is there don't any orders come telling me to go home. We see orders nearly every day for the musterout of certain troops, but nothing that touches our case. To-day a telegram came to the

Past Commander, for the immediate musters  
of all troops whose term of service expires prior  
to May 31<sup>st</sup> 1865. It seems to me it ought to  
have been Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> in place of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Then I  
would have felt some interest in the order  
but as it is, so far as I am concerned Gen. Rey-  
nolds might as well have not sent it. But  
I guess I had better be talking of something else.

You can't see by the heading of this that I  
am again in command of The Regiment. Gen.  
Thayer has been ordered to Helena, and Col. Drake  
has taken command of The Post. Maj. Summitt  
is still Inspector Gen of The Post, and of course  
can't exercise any command. So you see I am likely  
to have to command The 30<sup>th</sup> until the expira-  
tion of our term of service. I am still going  
to retain command of The Company.

What a nice looking woman Jeff. Davis must  
have made - that is a compliment to all of  
the fair sex, is it not? I suppose he is well  
on his way to Washington by this time, and I  
hope he will soon be tried for treason; then hang  
and curried in The Potomac along with Booth.  
The mail is almost ready to start. I love you very sweet but  
Remember me to your father and mother, and to Gen. & Mrs. Willis with  
love  
Good-bye

St Charles Arkansas

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1885

My dear Pet,

I am lazy this morning. A humble confession is good for the soul, is it not? The preachers all say it is, and I guess in the absence of any evidence to the contrary it will be better for me to adopt that course, especially as there will be no difficulty in making you believe the confession true. I bought me a mosquito bar yesterday evening and Henry Mathers and Bart. have just finished putting it up for me. It had to be sewed together and there had to be a frame put up over the cat. Bart. did the sewing and the sergeants the carpenter work, and they did it well. I don't know but I will sleep now a good portion of each day. The nights are getting warm, and I must always have wake dreams of home and of Dollie until mid-night, or after, so you see I need a little sleep each day. You must not think I am apologizing for what some people consider a bad habit for I want offer anything like an apology, although I am willing to <sup>concede</sup>

We have no news since I wrote you last, except that Col. Drake says that Gen. Reynolds told him while he was at the Rock that we would most likely remain here until we are ordered home to be mustered out, but what vexes me, the General gave no intimation of when that would be. We are all prophets - or have been since the fall of Richmond, until a few days ago but it seems we have been of the School of false prophets, for nearly every man has at more than one prophecy, and some as many as a half a dozen. Nearly all said at first that we would be at home against the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; now but few are so sanguine as to make such an assertion. Col. Drake has more confidence in an early muster out, than any one else I believe, but even he has a latter date fixed than that man. But you must not get the blues my pet, for we are not going to be kept very long. Kirby Smith will soon surrender, and then there will be nothing more to do any where, and you may be sure the Government is not going to keep men in the Service, when they are not needed.

I will stop and rest a while

Later- It is getting 'increas' warmer than it was in the forenoon. I am glad the regiment don't have to drill this evening. If it did there would be a fellow about my size after reporting sick. Warm weather and I never did get along together very well, still I am not particularly fond of cold weather. We are expecting a mail to-morrow, and I hope and so does everybody else in this command hope- to get some good news, such as an order from Secretary Stanton for us to be mustered out immediately; but I positively won't talk about it any more in this letter.

Bill is getting along first rate. He is actually one of the best fellows in the world. He does nothing wrong except to assist Order Brasher in abusing me, by making every body believe that I am one of the laziest fellows in this command. He must quit that. So must Brasher, otherwise there will be a couple of fellows about their size, one of these days, doing for sixteen dollars a month. You must not tell him anything about it, though.

Thank the Lord this sheet is full. There is just room enough left for me to tell you I love you and say good-bye to you and myself. You deserve Brasher.

St Charles Arkansas

May 23 1865

Dear Mother,

You must put up with just a  
scrap for a letter to-day. I have been sick  
since about midnight last night. I didn't  
sit up any this morning until about eleven  
o'clock. I got up then, ate some dinner and  
now I feel quite well, but from my feel-  
ings and the way my tongue appears I  
shall not be at all surprised if I have a  
turn at the ague about to-morrow or the  
next day. You must not be uneasy about  
me though my sweet pet, for I am confident  
I will be all right in a very few days. If  
I don't get any worse I am going to take  
the regiment on Cattelion drill this forenoon at  
5 o'clock, so you will know I don't feel  
very badly now.

We have no good war news. Kirby Smith  
has refused to negotiate for the surrender of  
his army on any terms. The Conference has farther



and the Government has no other alternative now but to fight it out, which will not take long. The preparations are already made no doubt to send a large army into Texas at the earliest moment possible. The troops that are congregated at Little Rock will be apt to have to go, especially if there are more there than are <sup>needed</sup> for garrison duty. I think we are out of the ring. The General told Col. Drake, while he was at the Rock, a few days ago, that we would most likely remain at this Post until mustered out. I shall not object although the troops must be sick, more or less, during the months of July and August.

Will is writing a half a sheet to go with this. He was going to write, and said he didn't think he could put up more than half a sheet and I told him I knew I couldn't. So we concluded to splice. You must not grumble my sweet pet. Will loves you as well as any brother loves his sister, and I know I love you as no other Peaches loves his Dollie. You know it loves you sweet pet?

Be cheerful and I will come home as soon as I can  
Peaches

My health is as good as it  
ever was

Head Quarters 38<sup>th</sup> Iowa Inftry  
St Charles Arkansas

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1865

My dear Pet

I have just learned a bit of good news, and I must tell it to you. Some of the 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana Cavalry have just brought in the guerrilla that shot Gen. Canby last summer here on White river, as he was on his way to The Rock. Col Drake has him in irons and under strong guard. They say he is a very bad looking man. I am going over to the guard house after awhile to see him. He will be sent to the Rock in a few days and confined in the Penitentiary until he can be tried by a military court ~~made~~.

If you <sup>see</sup> state in the paper that your Peaches is promoted, you must not think he is not going to be at home soon, for he is. I have a majors commission but I can't be mustered. There are not men enough in the regiment I didn't want Col. Drake to send for the commission.

but he would do it. He thought something  
might turn up, so I could be mustered,  
but I have no idea of such a thing. Our time  
is too near out. Maj Hamilton is not going  
leave the service as long as he can get a long  
without doing any hard work, and still  
draw his pay. The Col. thought when he  
sent for the commissions that he (The Lt Gen)  
would resign in order to accept a Clerk-  
ship in the Senate, but he is not going to  
do it; so there can be no muster.

We are not having much to do now. The  
weather is too warm to drill much. We will  
have Battalion drill the evening, if it don't  
rain; but there is a heavy cloud coming up now.  
I have to do the drilling. It is very nice work  
and I like it. I have a good horse to ride  
at all times. You know that drill me. I had  
the Regiment out a few evening ago, and the  
boys think we had a very fine drill. I think  
so too.

Col Droke has just sent for me, so this is  
all I will get to write this time. Don't grumble  
sweet pet. I love you Truly  
Peache

Dr seems to be in good spirits  
I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from him a few days ago

S. Charles Arkansas

May 23<sup>d</sup> 1865

Dear Sister;

I received your very welcome letter of May 14<sup>th</sup> last week. I was very glad to get it, but I hate to be "pitched into" so unmercifully. I would rather be put on double rations and hold duty for a week, than to have to write a letter this hot evening, but if I don't, I know you will be scolding again. I havint any news to write, without I tell you that it is awful hot down here, and that the gnats and mosquitoes are "wuss nor you ever seed em." Why the mosquitos are so large down here that they sometimes carry the puckets away from their posts. The other day one caught one of our boys by the arm and carried him

quite a distance, but he was a  
skinny little fellow and he finally  
got away from him, or at any rate  
that is his story.

We are having a very good time here.  
The duty is very light. I have only  
been on guard twice. We drill three  
hours a day or, rather that is the  
order. As a general thing we march  
down below camp to an orchard, stack  
arms, and rest until we think we  
have been out long enough, and then  
go back to camp. Gen. Hayer reviewed  
the troops here yesterday at 6 o'clock P.M.  
It was a grand sight (over the left)  
Col. Drake was Brigade Commander and  
Capt. Vermilion commanded the 36<sup>th</sup>. You  
ought to have seen him, on his little  
bay horse, and his old cavalry saddle.  
But I guess I had better make no remarks  
on that subject. Cap and I are partners  
in a letter this evening I am to write  
half a sheet and he is to finish it.  
You will have to answer them separately, so we  
will get one letter from you extra. Write soon

St Charles, Arkansas

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1875

My dear Pet

I have just received your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. that is doing pretty well, only nine days since it was written, and I was so glad to learn that Dollie was well, and cheerful, and was glad to learn too that Richards had paid his note, but he got you just a little my sweet pet, for I had written to him that I would not throw off any part of his obligation - that he would have to pay it all, and that very soon or I should push him. I did write to him that I would write to you fully in regard to the matter. So I did, in a letter several weeks ago. I didn't say much because I had written him so fully that I thought it unnecessary. He understood it all my sweet pet, and if he had one particle of manly principle, or courage about him, he would never have intimated to you or any one else

that he wanted any part of the debt thrown off, for I said much more to him than I ever said to you. As well as I recollect now, I told him, that I sold him the property at his own figures, and gave him his <sup>time</sup> ~~own~~ to pay for it in, and that he had as fine an opportunity to build up a good business as any good energetic man could have asked. That at the time he bought it, nearly all of the good men of the profession were giving up their business and going into the service, and that shortly afterwards money became very plenty, and that the last two years had been the best time to pay debts I had ever seen. I told him further, that I had sacrificed three or four times the price of his property by coming into the service, besides I had given up the pleasures of home and its comforts, and had for nearly three years been subjecting myself to all the danger of a soldier's life in time of war, while he had been at home with his family, and secure from all danger. I don't wonder at his wanting to know what I had written you in regard to the matter, and if you

had told him it would only have been a repetition of what I wrote him. But we will let it go my sweet pet for I don't care anything about the amount. It will only be nine or ten dollars, but it would have been just as honorable for him to have asked me for ten dollars out of my pay. It is true if you had had the money it would not have brought you anything, but that was nothing to him, for I had been trying to get it of him all the time, and I was running the risk of his becoming entirely worthless. But I will not talk any more about it, and I don't think me too hard of my good sweet Dollie for what she has done. Be sure of that my love.

The drum is beating for dress parade. I must get on my rig, or the Regiment will have to wait for me, and that would make the boys grumble, which I never allow in consequence of my neglect.

Later - What a letter I have written you. You surely won't want any more like it. Do you think  
God will.



You know it always irritates me for a man  
to heat me at any thing, especially after I have  
resolved otherwise, and I can't help feeling a  
little irritated at the legging whelp, and I  
think I shall tell him of it, too. But I  
said I was not going to say any more about it.  
It is getting late my sweet pet, and I am  
going to go to bed. You don't know how  
much I want Dollie to-night. I have been  
sleeping in that lone bed for over one year now,  
and I don't think I have laid down in it of an  
evening without thinking of my loved Dollie far  
away. But I will be at home after a while  
and then I will take you in my arms and  
kiss and love you. May I Dollie  
Sincerely  
Peaches

P.S. We haven't one particle of news. I am  
well

P.

St Charles Arkansas

May 29<sup>th</sup> 1805

My dear Pet,

You see this sheet of paper is all dirty, but it is the only sheet I have here. You won't care if I use it, will you sweet pet? Paper costs money down here in this wooden country and I must use all I draw or I will have to buy more than I will <sup>like</sup> to have to pay for. Some quarters the Quartermaster furnishes me as much as I want to use, but this time I am going to run out, and will have to buy or do without. But I don't mind paying for paper to write to Dollie on. Some of the officers say the mail will go down to night, but the Postmaster thinks the boat that carries the mail will not get here till to-morrow night. So to be sure to have a letter ready for my darling, I will finish this and put it in the office this evening, and if the boat don't come till to-morrow, I will write another and let them both go together.

We had another Battalion drill yesterday evening, and the boys think it was a very good one. I am glad they think so, for I don't want the Regiment to complain of me for Cad drilling, as they have of nearly every body else that has ever drilled them. I like the Battalion drill very well, and if we had long to serve, and I could retain command I think we would go home as well drilled as any of the Iowa Regiments. The men don't like to drill under Col. Drake. They say he keeps them waiting so long for his thoughts to occur, that they get tired, and there is a good deal in what they say. He will not be likely to drill us any more however, for he is in command of the Post, and has taken on himself the rank of a Brig. Gen. Gen. Reynolds recognizes him as a general officer, I believe. His pay will be the same as heretofore. Col. Kittredges friends have managed to get up a very bitter feeling against him in the Regiment, and I think it is so intense, that the Gen. and his friends will never be able to remove it. Still many of us feel, and know that it is unjust. So far as the intentions of Gen. Drake are concerned

You must not laugh at me for calling  
Droke, Col. and Gen. both, for he signs papers  
in both capacities. As Commander of the Post, he  
is a Brig. Gen. and as Regimental Commander  
he is Lt. Col. He tried to get out of com-  
manding the Regiment, but Gen. Reynolds does  
played that out, so for as signing the official  
papers are concerned.

The drums are beating for supper, I will finish  
this after dress parade, and then I am going to  
tell you as near as I can how much I love you.  
I don't know but I had better wait till I get  
home, though for that. I can tell you better by  
talking to you, than I can by writing it on  
paper, but I must stop and go to supper or  
my mess fellows will eat the best of the ed-  
ibles up.

Later - I had Cod Fish and Potatoes for supper. Wouldn't  
you like to have had some of them; I wouldn't have  
run any risk, if I had waited until the other Coys.  
had eaten their supper, for there was quite a  
dish left. The drums will beat for dress parade  
in a few minutes, so you see I can't write much  
more, neither will I have time to black my boots, or

read this letter before I mail it. So you must look  
over the blunders

I want to see my sweet pet. I don't know how  
I can't get on two or three months longer. I think of  
you all the time. I want to think of you all the time  
I love you all the time and my precious pet, and I  
want to love you all the time, and I will love you  
all the time, and for ever, and I am going to tell  
you all about it when I get home. How I do want  
to take you in my arms and kiss you this very minute  
my sweet pet. Are you not afraid you will not have  
half enough of kisses for me when I get them Dollie?  
But I must stop and put this up and be ready for parade  
Write me lots of good letters. I will write to you just as  
soon as we get an order to go home, and then I will  
write to you at what point we will go into camp, just as  
soon as I learn it, and then Dollie must meet me then  
This sheet is nearly full, but I think I will write again  
to-morrow. Be cheerful sweet pet Give love to Jerry,  
and your father and mother. Goodly pet

Peaches

(No. 73)

Tuesday Afternoon, May 30, 1865

My Dearest Love:

It is almost too warm to day to write, or do anything, but I get lonesome when I don't talk to you every day. There is not one single item of news, and I don't know what I shall write about, deary. What had you rather hear? Oh, I know sweet pet; an order read telling you that you might come home. I would rather hear that than anything else in the world, except the sound of your own voice. I think you would like it too. And I hope we shall hear it before very long. I am getting a little uneasy about that Fourth of July speech at New York-ers. What do you think about it, pet? You must not disappoint us. This is mail day, and I look to hear some good news this evening. I hope I shall get a long letter from somebody. Do you think I will? We are all well, but mother. She is much the same. She has taken a fancy now that if she can live till you come home you can do something for her. She has more faith in you than in any one else. She says this is her last hope now. I don't believe she will ever get well, my darling. Dr. Gibbons has quit treating her. He said he could do nothing more. I don't know what can ail her. She has almost lost the use of one arm entirely. I suppose it is some liver disease.

I intended going to Woodside tomorrow, and taking Jerry,  
but I guess I shall have to wait again. Baldwin will be here  
shearing sheep, and we must stay to get dinner, and to wash  
my wool. He promised to shear mine this evening but he  
hasn't come. I have about concluded to sell my wool, deery,  
all but enough for stockings. I am going to see Allie Jm.  
and if I can arrange to have her make me two blankets, I will  
sell it. I would rather work it up if I were able, pet, but I'm  
afraid to pick the wool even. I'm a little afraid you'll scold  
sweet deery, and more afraid of hurting my shoulder (I could  
kiss you into a good humor I think, pet, when you come, but I  
might not cure my shoulder). If I have to hire everything  
done to it, I will sell the wool at once and be rid of all the trouble.  
I wish you could see my lambs - I say my lambs, and my wool,  
but it's ours, dear! That's understood. They are the finest I have  
seen this year. They have grown so big and fat, <sup>and</sup> so plump, that I can't  
near catch them any more - only when I "surround" one occasion-  
ally. Roker is getting quite fat. He runs out on the prairie nearly  
all the time; but he has his back hurt now a little. I have been  
grieved about it. The neighbors want to borrow him sometimes, and I lend  
him now and then - always against my will - and that is the way his  
back got hurt I think. Now, I have said that I would not let anybody  
have him to ride again. His hurt isn't serious at all, only it's on  
Roker's back. That is the trouble with me. This is nonsense, darling,  
I will quit and get supper. I have made two nice caps today. Don't scold.

Wednesday Evening, May 31<sup>st</sup>

My dear Pet. - I have severe headaches this evening, and don't feel like writing much, but I must tell you what a good letter I got last night from my "Pecker." I was so glad to hear that you were well, and likely to remain where you are till the "muster-out" comes. I was so scared over the idea of your going to Texas. I thought I never could stand it at all if you started there. But you will not have to go, my pet, or stay at St. Charles either very long. Kirby Smith has surrendered before now. This is the latest news from Texas, - that Smith was negotiating for a surrender. I thought he would have to do it soon. Sheridan will have 60,000 cavalry in his Department, it is said. Don't you think that is force enough, without any infantry? I hope the "order" will come to you very soon, dear. I do hope so for I want to see you so much. The days are long and dreary till you come, sweet darling. I think of you all the time - day and night, I believe. There is no news at all down, and I can't write this evening you see, don't you, pet? I will put up my letter (what a poor one it is going to be, to be sure) till morning. I will feel better then I hope. Tomorrow is "foot day" you know. I want some of us to go to meeting. I guess Jenny and Mother will go, and I'll stay with mother. The day ought to be observed by everybody I think. I love my own precious darling. Goodby



Thursday Evening June 1<sup>st</sup>

Darling:- Jerry and father are going to meeting to day - I believe the services are to be held in Mother's grove. I have to stay with mother. I don't feel like going no how. I had headache all night. I feel very well to day only I am dull. I have no news to tell you, pet. Everything is going on just as usual. I will write you a better letter to day - if no one comes to bother me. I have not got my work done up yet this evening, and I can't write much. I want to go to Woodside to morrow. Then I will tell you everything I see or hear. Goodbye, sweet precious love. I wish you could know just how dearly I love you, my pet. You do know something about it, don't you? But you can't know it all. Kiss me, darling. God bless you always.

(Pallie)