Head Qrs. 13th Ohio Cav.
Petersburg, Va.
May 16th 1865

Dear ~~Del~~, Pet,

47

I had though that by this time I should have been on my way home but it appears that Uncle Sam is in no great hurry to get rid of us. All the Cavalry except our brigade left for Washington some time since we expected (sic) to follow, but it now looks as if they had left us here for good. I have no doubt myself now that we will remain here as long as it is thought necessary to keep any troops in these parts, which will probably be the most of the summer. A great many officers will get out in the consolidations which are to be made in accordence with Gen Order 87 from the War department. Who will go and who remain it is hard to tell yet, but a few days will probably tell the story. I shall make no effort to remain though I do not think it would require much effort on my part if I chose to remain, as I am the ranking officer of the ohio regiments here. The 6th and my regiment will be consolidated if we can effect it. We have been together ever since we joined the Cavalry and agree very well. The two regiments consolidated would make a splendid regiment of over thirteen hundred men present for duty. And though I think lots of my dear little wife and other friends who are dear to me I cannot say that I have no ambition to command <u>such</u> a regiment. I fear all I have written will not be very interesting to you if you are looking for me home which I suppose you are. If there is no prospect of our getting discharged soon, I will have to try for a leave of absence or else tender my <u>unconditional</u> resignation which would be accepted as the fighting is over. This I do not like to do if I can avoid it as I am not patrotic enough to desire to give Uncle Sam the three months pay proper I would be entitled to if regularly mustered out by order of the War department. The fact is I cannot tell what I will or may be compelled to do, but as soon as I know I will write to you all about it. I will write to you as often as I can now till we move.

I have recieved (sic) no letter from you for some time I am afraid (sic) you are sick and do not want me to know it. If I find this to be so I

shall surely have to punish you severely for not making some of the rest write for you. I am looking forward to the future or our future with a great deal of pleasure. I have been deprived of the comforts of a good home for so long that I know I shall enjoy it very much. I long to see you very much and not only to see and talk with you, but stay forever with you. You must be patient for at furthest it cannot be long.

I will write soon again give my love to all at home.

With lots of love and plenty of kisses I am as ever

Your loving husband
Steve