

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

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Dear Father,

I should have written to you some time since had I not expected to be at home before this, but as the prospect of getting home soon is not as good as it was two weeks ago and getting worse every day, I concluded it was no use to wait on uncertainties any longer.

During active operations I had but little time for writing, and when we had time we were beyond the reach of mails. I can not give you a history of all I have seen and done in the past two months. When I come home I will tell you all about the part taken by the cavalry in the campaign which ended so gloriously in the capture of Gen. Lee and his army. My regiment bore an honorable part in every engagement fought during the campaign and I have the pleasure of knowing that my regiment is as well and as favorably known as any in the division.

We captured Brig. Gen. Corse and staff of Picket's division, with two hundred of his men. The same day I captured and burned a train of forty wagons and succeeded in bringing off most of the teams and drivers. On the 6th of April I made my first saber charge on the 4th Va. rebel

cavalry. They had gained possession of the main road leading to Burksville by driving the 2nd New York who were to hold it. I drove them back and captured their colors with a good many prisoners.

At Appomattix Court House I made the last mounted fight ever made against the army of Northern Va. and witnessed the surrender of what remained of that once famous army. Lt. <sup>Ed.</sup> Cooper of my old company was killed about fifteen minutes before the surrender took place and is as far as we can learn the last officer ever killed by the rebel army of Northern Va. He was the bravest and best officer I had and we all feel his loss very much.

I have lost seventy five men and officers wounded and killed and one hundred and twenty five horses killed and wounded so that we had to leave them. I started with 313 men. We took no horses that we thought would not stand the hardest kind of usage which with those already dismounted form the greater portion of nearly all the regiments. I have escaped unhurt. How I could escape so often is almost a miracle. There is but one other officer in the regiment who has been in every fight and escaped unhurt. At Dinwiddie Court House I had nine officers in the fight. Six of the nine were killed or wounded and not one escaped without some mark. I had three holes in my clothes and my horse shot twice.

This was the hardest fight I ever saw and hope never to see another such. The mail boy has come for the mail and if this goes today I must stop where I am. I will send it and write the balance tomorrow.

Give <sup>my</sup> ~~the~~ love to all our friends and mother in particular.

Affectionately your son,  
S.R. Clark