Headquarters 13th o.v.c.
Near Petersburg, Va.
Sept. 10th 1864

Dear Del,

I have not written to you for some days for want of time and opportunity. The rebs have been threatening our rear for a week past and we have been very busy fortifying our rear. Our works are now done and we are ready for them should they come which I think is very doubtful as they are by no means fond of butting their heads against our fortifications. A good many are now deserting almost every morning I have a squad to send to headQrs. They say these are a good deal discouraged since the fall of Atlanta and the capture of the forts round Mobile. I scarsely (sic) know what to write that will be interesting as everything is very quiet just now. The Major left us today. "Not a tear was shed." He went in peace in less than three hours after he recieved (sic) his papers from Gen. Wilcox. I heard this evening that Hen had enlisted I hope has (sic) as he will probably be of little use anywhere else. Mrs. Chesny wrote it to the Major. I recieved (sic) a letter from Col. Hixon today he is in Columbus, and will probably remain there for several days yet. Company "I" of our regt. came yesterday. They are from Cincinnatti under command of Capt. Wheeler. He is a fine looking man and I think will make a very good officer. I have turned my Co. over to Lt. Cooper and do not expect to take command of it again. This army will winter here, or they are making preparations for it. In two days more we will have a rail road from City Point to our extreme left on the weldon rail road. They will issue rations to

the hole (sic) army from this road and save all hauling. Each Brigade will have its own station and no army ever wintered better than this one will here this winter as they can have everything a soldier can ask for. I recieved (sic) a letter from Eddy last week and will answer it as soon as I get time. It was a very good letter but contained no news of importance. Since I have come into command of the regiment I find but little time for writing. I did not expect to have all the responsibility of managing a regt thrown on to me so soon and rite (sic) in the middle of an active campaign but so it happened and I am not sorry now that it did, for it has given me an opportunity of showing that I was equal to any emergency. I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when I can come home to see you. I shall enjoy all the more my visit for being away so long. When the Col. returns I shall try for a leave of absence, unless there is a prospect of more fighting to be done. We are looking for the pay master and should like to see him very much as there is six months pay due us in this rgt. I would like to be at home to get some of the mellons but expect I shall be to (sic) late for any thing of the kind. I can not tell you how much I desire to see younor would I if I could for I am affraid (sic) it would not tend to make my sweet little pet any happier or more contented. I trust your health is still improving and that you are getting real <u>fat</u>. I am real sorry Annie thinks of cutting my acquaintence for not writing. Just tell her to use one pint of Christian forbearance before she takes that rash step. But I will make all these matters straight when I come home this fall. If Asbury should enlist he had better come to this rgt. if he was here now I would give him the first Lt. of Co. I but unfortunately he is not.

I do not know what more to write today and will close by saying that if you see the promotion of a certain Capt. about my size before this gets there you may know it is me and need not take to hart (sic)

for it will not make any difference about my coming home.

Write as often as you can for I am alwase (sic) very very glad to hear from you.

from your loving husband
Steve