Licking Run Va May 8th 1864
My Dear Lou
Very unexpectedly I have an opportunity to send you a few lines. Some Cavalry are stopping with us tonight and are going on to Fairfax Court House in the morning, so that I can send this letter by them. Our Regiment is divided in three detachments one of which is 8 miles beyond on the Rappahannock and one is below us. The Army of the Potomac is some distance beyond us. There is very little news, with us that I am allowed to relate. I may however say that there has already been some very hard fighting and the losses on both sides is very heavy.

Some Six trains of cars passed us this afternoon to bring down the wounded, I suppose they will return in the morning.

Our forces thus far have been very successful and one of these fine mornings you may expect to hear that Richmond is ours! We reached this point in time to see General Burnsides' forces pass they numbered about forty thousand and near ten thousand of them were negroes, they presented rather a fine appearance, But
Since my return I have been so much occupied that I have had but little time to be sad, but occasionally in my few quiet moments, I recall hour by hour my brief visit home, and cannot but contrast those happy hours with the present. Lou did we not enjoy the few days I was with you? How often e'er the campaign closes will I look back to them as green spots by the wayside of "life's fitful journey." And as I view them tonight here alone in my little tent, I cannot repine at my fate, but feel more determined to use my every effort to crush this Rebellion, that E'er long the hour will come, when the stern decree of a nation's peril, shall tear me no more from your presence. It oftentimes seems hard to endure the fatigues and dangers incident to the life of the soldier, but then the reward will be ample, Yes even now the grateful hearts of thousands of loyal [deleted text] ones at home, are made to bless the efforts of the soldier. And when the end comes glorious will be the reception that shall welcome us again to the home circle. I would like to write you much longer but we cannot keep a light burning late. I have now gone beyond the hour allowed.
for us, but perhaps the Rebels will not spy my dim taper. I have no idea when I can write you again. I may have a chance in a few days, and may not for a month. Do not be uneasy if you do not hear, but remember it is because the Commanding Officer thinks we ought not indulge in the pleasure of writing our friends.

Be sure to write me often for Your letters will follow me. I am getting very anxious to hear from you. Address your letters as before, Good Bye

Ever Truly Yours

Tom

Lou J Seward
Greensboro
Md