



**MSS295 Thomas M. Reynolds letters to Louisa J. Seward, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.**

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**Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.**



Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point Va  
April 9<sup>th</sup> / 1863

My Dearest Lou,

Having a leisure hour I will employ it in writing you a brief letter. Today I have been in the Service ten months, and fortunately have been able to address you regularly with few exceptions. - A privilege I scarcely expected when I started. But why should I count the months that have elapsed, rather than look forward in anticipation of the close of my term? I have several reasons: one is that twenty six months are yet before me ere the close, another is that the close of the war instead of three years, shall release me if I live. And therefore I consider ten months more than half my term. Strange reasoning you may think, but allow me to say that I believe the war will close in six months at most. Our cause was never so bright as now. The Rebels are being defeated in every quarter, the Loyal States are taking a bold stand in favor of the administration, in fact we cannot look anywhere without being convinced that a speedy fate awaits the sham confederacy of Davis.

Lou do you not see much in the "signs of the times" that should fill every loyal heart with gratitude?

I thank Heaven that victory must ever long crown our glorious cause - that Patriot blood will

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My Dearest Lou,

Having a leisure hour I will employ it in writing you a brief letter. Today I have been in the Service ten months, and fortunately have been able to address you regularly, with few exceptions. - A privilege I scarcely expected when I started. But why should [inserted text] I [end inserted text] count the months that have elapsed rather than look forward in anticipation of the close of my term? I have several reasons; one is that twenty-six months are yet before me e'er the cloud. Another [inserted text] is [end inserted text] that the close of the war instead of three years, shall release me if I live. And therefore I consider ten months more than half term. Strange reasoning you may think, but allow me to say that I believe [end underline] the war will close in six months at most. Our cause was never so bright as now, The Rebels are being defeated in every quarter, the Loyal States are taking a bold stand in favor of the administration; in fact we cannot look anywhere without being convinced that a speedy fate awaits the sham confederacy of Davis [end underline].

Lou do you not see much in the "[underline] signs of the times [end underline]" that should fill every loyal heart with gratitude. I think Heaven that victory must e'er long crown our glorious cause - that Patriot blood will



cease to flow on a soil, too polluted for its reception. - and the gallant defenders of the old flag, return to their joyous homes, to die under its peaceful folds.

A happy thought! may we both yet realize its entire consummation. I must not dwell longer on this pleasing subject, or I may weary you.

You may not, in fact, I could not expect you, to appreciate the various moods in which I find myself.

If you were shut up in a convent or some such place, you would understand about how I feel in my lonelier hours. However I know you will pardon me if I become tedious. I thought I should be able to send you a paper each week but the two last I was unable to procure. They were very interesting as I saw the copies sent to our Col. I shall endeavor to get one next week for I presume our Regiment will occupy a prominent place in its columns. By the way, fearing that I may fail in sending you a copy, I will give you a brief account of an expedition of ours up the County on Tuesday last. Our Regiment with 3 Companies of the 169<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regt. and 5 hundred Cavalry left Camp at 6 O'clock A.M. for Gloucester Court House, a town 17 miles up the County. Our object was to march on the town, drive the enemy out, and capture what stores found there, also to seize everything in the way up and back. We reached the place about noon but did not find the Rebs. as they doubtless learned that we were coming and Skedaddled. I wish I could describe the scene that followed: the men were let out of Ranks

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and the way they demolished doors, windows, & everything of value was amusing. I should like to describe the appearance of said town, in two hours after we reached it but have not time. I will add that it was nearly as large as Denton, but contained only two or three families. There was a Court House, Jail, Hotel &c. We remained only about 2 hours, the Cavalry having scouted the country beyond, and not finding any Rebs, burned some Barns &c, containing grain. We reached camp at dusk of the same day, making a march of nearly 40 miles. And I tell you it was just the worst marching you ever saw. The mud most of way was 6 inches deep, and frequently we were compelled to march in water above the tops of my Boots. I came into camp wet as a Rat, and my feet so sore that I scarcely get around since. But we had a good time nevertheless. We captured 16 horses, 20 mules, 95 cattle, 70 sheep and all the Geese, Turkeys & Chickens in the whole Country. Furniture in abundance, while I write I occupy a Rush bottom Arm Chair which came some 8 miles beyond the lines. It was a grand affair & I suppose the Rebel papers will give no fits over it. Just think of it. Marched 40 miles captured everything in the whole country and were in camp by dark. Well there is nothing like getting our Regiment a name if it is only for making raids. There is nothing new in camp only officers are going home on leave daily 4 left for home

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this morning and one other starts to morrow.

I expect they will induce me to try for a leave before a great while. If they do I will give you notice before starting.

My fire is out, and it being rather cool I will close this uninteresting letter.

I hope to hear from you very soon.

I wish you could write me each week, the time appears so very long down here. the mail is the Soldier's only solace.

If we could not get our letters, life would be almost a blank.

Hoping you are enjoying the married festivities of your friend Em, I close.

As ever

Only thine

Tom

L J Seward

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