



**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  
March 31<sup>st</sup> / 1863

My Dearest Lou

Your letter dated March 20<sup>th</sup> came to hand last evening. I am happy to inform you that it was accepted with pleasure, although you termed it only a kind of a reply.

Were I accustomed to making apologies I should surely apologize for each of my letters knowing as I do that it is hard to write an interesting letter from this point. Camp life is exceedingly dull, and beside one scarcely ever feels in those pleasing moods, which renders writing agreeable to the parties addressed. Therefore Lou if in the past, or in the future you should find my letters to appear other than what you always found me to be: You must remember the circumstances under which I am placed. or wait until I return and then all will be truly explained. Until then I shall be happy, if I can know that you are surrounded by friends who shall contribute to make your life less gloomy than mine. But I am getting into my Sombre mood again. I concluded, when I sat down that I would write you a jolly letter. So here

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point Va

March 30th 1863

My Dearest Lou

Your letter dated March 20th came to hand last evening. I am happy to inform you that it was accepted with pleasure, although you termed it only a kind of a reply [end underline].

Were I accustomed to making apologies I should surely apologize for each of my letters knowing as I do [end underline] that it is hard to write an interesting letter from this point [end underline], Camp life is exceedingly dull, and beside one scarcely ever feels in those pleasing moods, which renders writing agreeable to the parties addressed. Therefore Lou if in the past, or in the future you should find my letters to appear other than what you always found me to be [end underline]! You must remember the circumstances under which I am placed. or wait until I return [end underline] and then all will be truly explained. Until then I shall be happy if I can know that you are surrounded by friends who shall contribute to making your life less gloomy than mine. But I am getting into my Sombre mood again. I concluded, when I sat down that I would write you a jolly letter. So here



is an adieu to my gloomy thoughts.

I was somewhat surprised to hear that Miss Em. Bradley was so soon to become the bride of Mr. Wilson. He is emphatically a man of both fortune & misfortune, and I sincerely hoped that Em will be permitted to accompany him all the way of "life's journey" to its yet far distant and final cloud! You will surely be present to congratulate the happy pair. I wish I could join you <sup>personally</sup> in wishing them a great deal of joy. In speaking of weddings reminds me of one that transpired on Gloucester Point some time since. I don't think I ever told you of it. I had the pleasure of seeing the devoted couple on the day of their wedding. They passed by camp on their way to Yorktown, to get their pictures taken. The young man was dressed amazingly and had a huge choker on which doubtless was his first and over the towering heights of which, he could scarce see his bride, at least one would think so, by his incessant sideway manœuvres. The Bride was all smiles & blushes, and evidently was not caring whether the Rebellion was crushed or not, so that she and Ichabod were left "to hum". I could but sigh as I gazed after them and wondered how so much happiness could exist, even in the heart of a country blasted by the ravages of war. I am

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I was somewhat surprised to hear that Miss Em. Bradley was so soon to become the bride of Mr. Wilson. He is emphatically a man of good fortune & misfortune, and I sincerely hope that [underline] Em [end underline] will be permitted to accompany him all the way of "life's journey" to its yet far distant and final cloud! You will surely be present to congratulate the happy pair. I wish I could join you [inserted text] personally [end inserted text] in wishing them a great deal of joy. In speaking of weddings reminds me of one that transpired on Gloucester Point some time since. I don't think I ever told you of it. I had the pleasure of seeing the devoted couple on the day of their wedding, they passed by Camp on their way to Yorktown, to get their pictures taken. The young man was [underline] dressed amazingly [end underline] and had a huge [underline] choker [end underline] on which doubtless was his first and over the [underline] towering heights [end underline] of which, he could scarce see his bride, at least one would think so, by his incessant sideway manœuvres & C. The Bride was all smiles & blushes, and evidently was not caring whether the Rebellion was crushed or not, so that she and [underline] Ichabod [end underline] were left "[underline] to hum [end underline]". I could but sigh as I gazed after them and wondered how so much happiness could exist, even in the heart of a country blasted by the ravages of war. I am



glad to hear that the "Yorktown Cavalier" reached you safely. I should have sent you one last week but did not know whether they would go direct. In future I will try and send one every week as long as the Regiment remains here.

I must not omit telling you of our late adventures with the Rebs. On last Thursday night I had command of the Picket force consisting of 2 Companies of our Regt. and one Company of Cavalry. About 12 1/2 O'clock at night I was sitting quietly in my Shanty, when some dozen shots were fired at the outpost just in front of me. I rushed out to send up a Rocket to alarm the forces on the Point, and when I touched fire to the Rocket it exploded prematurely, knocking me down and burning my left hand pretty badly. I was up in an instant however, and proceeded to give orders to the Picket and did not feel my burn until everything was quiet again. When my hand became very painful. I however remained on the line all night and had one other alarm before morning but no one was hurt. My hand is getting better but I have to regret the loss of my Moustacho of three months growth, it being badly singed at the explosion. Our forces had a little brush on Sunday at Williamsburg on the opposite of the River. You will see an account of it in the paper we were expecting to go over and were

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Kept under arms all day Sunday but  
were dismissed towards night. Everything  
is now quiet and probably may remain  
so for some time. I will remark just  
here that in my opinion the Rebels are  
very nearly crushed. There never was a  
time since the Rebellion began that affairs  
everywhere looked as favorable as now  
for the speedy termination of the war.

I have not time to dwell longer on  
these subjects and my pen is a miser-  
able affair. I am glad to hear that  
your Father & Mother's health has improved  
and hope your cold is gone ever this.  
I remember how very hoarse you sometimes  
are. I will also add that I will cure your  
Headache in five minutes if you will be  
seated. Oh how I long to ask you that  
simple question, but rather you were clear  
of Headache. I will not get home this  
Summer but may probably after the  
campaign is over.

I would gladly have a copy of  
the American Union. I have thought I would  
write an article for it but have but little  
time for study. Write soon & often  
I remain

As ever

Only thine

Yours

Lou J Seward

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