

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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4 Thegh Del Vols, Fairfax Station Va ang 2/20 My Dearish Lon This afternoon finds me ah leisure, In front of my tent, which you would probably pronounce a Dog house, my servant has built an arbon of pine brush; here I am writing, and having a good breeze it is very com--fortable. Did 2 say comfortable, really the word sounds strangely, for honestly I sometimes Think I shall forget what comfort is. The weather has been so Excessively hot for the pash month that ih was impossible to keep cool anywhere. for the pash week it has been much pleasanten, I am now doing duty in lamp, and will remain here for some time, your letter of the 10th came in lash mail, I need not assure you that it was most cordially welcomed. If you could see the anxious faces that & have seen around the Pash office, Lince coming into

4th Ret. Del. Vols. Fairfax Station Va. Aug 21st/63 My Dearest Lou

This afternoon finds me at leisure. In front of my tent, which you would probably pronounce a [underline] Dog house [end underline]. my servant has buit an [underline] arbor [end underline] of pine brush: here I am writing, and having a good breeze it is very comfortable. Did I say comfortable, really the word sounds strangely, for honestly I sometimes think I shall forget what comfort is. The weather has been so excessively hot for the past month that it was impossible to "[underline] keep cool [end underline]" anywhere for the past week it has been much pleasanter. I am now doing duty in Camp, and will remain here for some time. Your letter of the 10th came in last mail, I need not assure you that it was most cordially welcomed. If you could see the anxious faces that I have seen around the Post office [inserted text] daily [end inserted text] since coming into

Verginia, you could form an idea of the greeting a Loldier gives to, letters from dear ones at home. I was forcibly struck with This fach some time since, It was four lash days march, the sun was shining so hot that it nearly blinded us - The min were so much fatigued that we halted about every mile. at one of these times while the men had runding their knapsacks and wery lying by The road side, I passed along the line to a shade and seated myself on anlog, near by me I noticed one of the men reading a letter, I glinced at the top and saw it Commenced My Dear Husband, I watched him whole he read and presently a tean slowly trickled down his sunbush check, I knew nothing of his family; and could but wonder whether some tale of a suffering wife and little children had started those many tears! or perhaps she was telling him how in the silent night she had petitioned high Neaven for his safely, how estentity and prayerfully she awaited in her lovely home for his seturn! While I was thus meditating attention" was sounded, and The poor fellow folding his letter , realing his

Virginia, you could form an idea of the greeting a Soldier gives to, letters from "dear ones at home." I was forcibly struck with this fact some time since. It was [inserted text] on [end inserted text] our last days march, the sun was shinning so hot that it nearly blinded us - the men were so much fatigued that we halted about every mile. At one of these times while the men had [underline] unslung [end underline] their knapsacks and wery lying by the roadside, I passed along the line to a shade and seated myself on a log. near by me I noticed one of the men reading a letter, I glanced at the top and sw in commenced "My Dear Husband," I watched him while he read and presently a tear slowly trickled down his sunburt cheek. I know nothing of his family; and could but wonder whether some tale of a suffering wife and little children had started those manly tears; or perhaps she was telling him how in the silent night she had petitioned high Heaven for his safety, - how silently and prayerfully she awaited in her lonely home for his return! While I was thus meditating "[underline] Attention [end underline]" was sounded, and the poor fellow folding his letter) [underline] reslung his [end underline]

Knapsack- The whole column moving slowly along the road, I do not recollect of suring him ance, but I often think of that letter from home". Lon I have no one to call me by that dearest of titles, yet have I not one as dean to mo, Are you not as dean as Though the vows I pleaged you before heaven had been consumated? know no difference. The sentiment 2 cherish I believe of two pure origin to need that last bond to preserve who, even amid the dark days That now surround us. In I am occupying much of your time in speaking of the influences of letter unting; pardon me & could not say less. Ion you ought to have lold me the Lady's name That does not like Soldiers. I pity the Lady That has no friend to offer at her country's show! I am glad yn enjoyed your fishing party. I would have been Too happy to have been with you. It is fortunate that your shower bath did not make you sidd. I am used to them. I can easily lay down

knapsack - the whole column moving slowly along the road. I do not recollect of seeing him since, but I often think of that letter from "home". Lou I have no one to call me by that dearest of titles, yet have I not one as dear to me. Are you not as dear as though the vows I pledged you before heaven had been consumated? I know no difference. The sentiment I cherish I believe of too pure origin to need that [underline] last bond [end underline] to preserve it, even amid the dark days that now surround us. Lou I am occupying much of your time in speaking of the influences of letter writing: pardon me I could not say less. Lou you ought to have told me the Lady's name that does not like Soldiers. I [underline] pity [end underline] the Lady that has no friend to offer at her country's shrine! I am glad you enjoyed your fishing party. I would have been too happy to have been with you.

It is fortunate that your shower bath did not make you sick. I am used to them. I can easily lay down

on the base ground and sleep amidsh the hardest showin. So much for becoming used to a thing, I wrote a few lines to my friend 73th Orrell more Than a week since but have not yet heard Low you spoke of looking prightful when you returned from Jishing, I suppose you looked something like you did the Evening I met you coming in from gathering bernies. At WE Roe's & have looked frightful many times since, rather oftener than & then imagined. I little dreamed of it in those happy, happy, days. When I returned from the Perinsula I don't think my whole ward robe would have sold for more than the Dollar Eighty seven ento. as we have 14 officers absent from the Regiments. My sheek warne me to close; mosh of them on sick leave, In grin del. It will be forwarded immediately.

It was my Bro. John that was drafted, Sue Townsend's Lover was drafted so I am informed. De you correspond with hir yel, There is no news of interest in leamp, write me as often as convenient and always at lengthy as your last, I am fond of long letters. I will with you Lon, J. Seward Localingia

on the bare ground and sleep amidst the hardest shower. So much for becoming used to a thing.

I wrote a few lines to my friend Bob Orrell more than a week since but have not yet heard from him.

Lou you spoke of looking frightful when your returned from fishing. I suppose you looked something like you did the evening I met you coming in from gathering [underline] berries [end underline]. [underline](At Mr. Roe's)[end underline] I have looked frightful many times since rather oftener than I then imagined. I little dreamed of it in those happy, happy, days. When I returned from the [underline] Peninsula [end underline] I don't think my whole wardrobe would have sold for more than [underline] One Dollar Eighty seven cents [end underline]. My sheet warns me to close.

I see no chance of getting home at present as we have 14 officers absent from the Regiment, most of them on sick leave.

I suppose if this does'nt reach you until you go in [underline] Del. [end underline] it will be forwarded immediately.

I was my Bro. John that was drafted, Sue Townsend's [underline] Lover [end underline] was drafted so I am informed. do you corresond with him yet.

There is no news of interest in Camp. write me as often as convenient and always as lengthy as your last. I am fond of long letters. I will write you again as soon as I have an opportunity. -

I am as ever [underline] Lou J. Seward [end underline] Yours [underline] Tom [end underline] Greensboro Md.