

In the trenches near Petersburg
Jan. 29th 1865

My dear Pat -

Your last letter has been received and as I had just written to you I have not hurried to answer. I wrote you that my expectations of getting home about the first of next month had all been blasted, and no doubt you have been greatly disappointed as well as myself. I hope though the time will soon come when I shall, through the goodness of God, be with you for good. Everything nears the aspect of Peace - glorious Peace - there is hardly a gun ever fired and all of us feel so much relieved. There are now three Commissioners, Hunter, Stephens and Judge Campbell, waiting to pass into the enemies lines. It is said to arrange about a truce and finally as treaty of Peace. Oh that God may be in this effort and the best consequences may result. I could not tell you how I should feel to bid farewell to this field of blood and carnage. Who would not rejoice. Then there is our home and the loved ones we have been so long separated from - peace brings a happy reunion. Oh who would not have peace? But then peace cannot restore those who have fallen in this war. There will be many bleeding hearts to mourn over the past. We cannot cast a veil of forgetfulness over it. All the troops are in high spirits about the aspects of affairs - all are talking about peace. I wish they may not be disappointed.

Tell Sue I received the box, but it had been robbed of some of its contents.

Tell the negroes they must leave out the old meadows and now plow them up. They never pay for working them, and we have plenty of land without them. Be sure, now Pat, to have them left out and not cultivated. Ask Cousin Jack to get a reliable hand to alter the colt. This is the spring for him to be altered. I wish you would get Brother to collect Simon's hire and to have him hired out again.

A flag of truce has just gone in and the men are crowding up to see the Commissioners pass over. I went up to see the white flag, the emblem of peace, but no answer as yet from Grant - our Commissioners are waiting his pleasure.

I believe I have written you all that is now occurring around us here. May God still be with you to bless and comfort you. Give my love to the children. May I see them before very long. My best love also to you - Farewell -

Your affectionate husband

Jos. L. Pollard

at the ...
Jan. 21st 1933

My dear ...

Your last letter has been received and as I had just written to you I have not hurried to answer. I expect you that the expectations of getting home about the first of next month had all been dashed and to have you have been greatly disappointed as well as myself. I have known the time will soon come when I shall, through the goodness of God, be with you in good. Everything near the aspect of years - glorious years - there are hardly a day ever lived and all of us feel so much beloved. There are now three Commissioners, the late, the late and the late, waiting in vain for the opportunity to be called to fill the shoes of those who have gone before. It is well to think about a time and the initiative as a matter of fact. On that point we are in this error and the best consequences may result. I could not tell you how I should feel to did it result to this field of blood and sacrifice. Who would not rejoice then there is our home and the loved ones we have been so long separated from - peace brings a happy reunion. On who would not have peace? But then peace cannot restore those who have fallen in this war. There will be new-springing hearts to mourn over the dead. We cannot cast a veil of forgetfulness over it. All the prophets in their visions about the aspects of affairs - still are talking about peace. I wish they may not be disappointed.

I tell you I received the box, but it had been robbed of some of its contents.

Well, the negroes they are leaving out the old windows and now give the door they never say for working them, and we have plenty of land without them. Be sure now that we have them left out and not cultivated. And I believe you are not going to give the door. This is the saying for him to be allowed. I think you would be better to collect money and give him a hand to get on.

A class of prices has gone in and the men are crowding up to see the Commission's case. I want to see the white flag, the emblem of peace, but no answer yet from them - our Commissioners are waiting his pleasure.

I believe I have written you all that is now occurring around us here. May God will be with you to direct and comfort you. Give my love to the children. My love will be with you. The best love also to you - Stewart.

Your affectionate husband

Jan. 21st 1933