In Camp at Lamme Bridge, Missouri, Tuesday Dec 29th 1868

My Dearest wife,

I am on guard today but will try and write you a few lines. I am as well as usual so are the rest of the boys. Andrews has got so that he is out of doors most of the time now. William Breckon has got a bout well.

I received yours of Dec. 16th No. 15, which I was very glad to get. It had been some time since I got one from you. The last one before that was mailed Dec. 14th and the last one the 21st so it must have been a week between your letters. I want you to write often. That dearest if you haven't so much work to do that you can't I have written twice a week for a long time they may say what they please but I want you to write as often
as twice a week but if you don't care to have write as often as that please to say so. When I wrote you last Sunday it was snowing it fell to the depth of two or three inches last night it was quite cold. To day it is clear but not very warm. The cavalrymen have pretty hard times camping out in the cold on the snow. The report that the guerrillas were going to burn the bridge a gain is all nonsense. I guess anyway we have not seen anything of them yet and I don't think we will as long as this weather lasts. Four of our boys started home on a furlough of 30 days. They only get half pay while they are gone and have to pay their own expenses so that it will be about the same as fifty or sixty dollars out of their pockets. Avery, John Reid, Dan. Bers, and Charles Chapman were the ones that went. Oh how I wish I had the money to share
so that I could have come home and see you once more but I thought that I could not afford it. And I don't suppose you would have waited for me to come or that is you would not have thought it was best for me to come would you love. I have not had but one letter from Uncle David since we have been down here but I suppose he will write when he gets ready. He does not believe in writing as often as I do. I hope you will get over being lame soon if you don't I suppose you will have to do as I do about my trouble give and bearings. I wish my time was as near out as Gibbs is. There is lots of the cavalry boys here who are reenlisting they like the service better then I do or they would not be slaves any longer than what they have already enlisted for.
You wrote that your mother wanted me to send some persimmon seeds I will do if I can find any. I will go as soon as I have a chance and see if I can find some. It is most time for me to go on guard again so I must close for this time, but will write again next Sunday perhaps before if I can think of anything to write well I must get this ready to send to the office.

So good bye for this time.

Dearest love, From your ever true and affectionate husband,

James W. Woodbury.