Camp Near Brandy Station  
March 28th 1862

My Dear Wife [Amanda Kershaw Stepter]

I received your Welcome letter last Night and i was glad to hear from you and the children. i am glad to hear that Lew [son Lewis] is getting Better and i hope By the time this reaches you that he will Be well again. if your teeth have Begun to Bother you again i think that you had Better get them pulled out. you say that Bess told Duello [Duello Kershaw] that we were coming home to the election. there is such talk. But i am afraid that it will turn out like it did last fall. i thought that i woud not say anything about it in my letters and then if we Did not get home you woud not get disapointed. the election is on the Sixth of April. thay are going to abolish Slavery in Maryland. if the Soldiers get home to vote we wil carry the Day. i am an abolishmentist my Self and if we dont get home to vote Maryland will have to Stay a Slave State. i am going to vote for Old Abe. Next fall if i get to vote i dont want you to Build your Self up in my coming home to the election for you may get disapointed. we will know By this time next week wether we are to get home or not. you must tell emma [daughter Mary Emma] that i have not forgot her yet and if i get home i want a good hug and a kiss for me. Mr. Thompson is no Better yet. they dont expect him to live a great While. Lords Mill is going to Start in about a month.

You say that i have never gave you my encouragement to go down to Maryland. i told you in a letter Some time ago to go when you get ready and make your own arrangements and if you got dissatisfied not to let me-
know anything about it. If you were in the fix that I am in you would not want to hear any complaint from home. When I first enlisted I wanted you to Stay Down thare till fall. But nothing woud Doo you. But go to chester and the next thing was you wanted the things moved up and I opposed that as I Did not think it woud Doo and now you Say that I dont encourage you to go Down. But I tell you I want you to go Down whenever you think that you are ready. Now Amanda I dont want you to think That I am angry with you for I am not. But I want you to Doo what you think Best for yourSelf and children. And dont complain to me if your plans dont work right. You say that the ladies that are up thare are a hard Set. They are not any harder than they are Down here. Men that have been away from home for three years cant help getting out of order and when to do get home for a while they try to put things through and the people at home think they are a hard Set. But it is the way with them and it is Best for a desent woman or young Girl to keep away from them.

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We have not [Be]en paid of[f] yet and I dont know when we will get paid of[f] if we get home I think that we will Stop in Washington and get paid. Our regimental Mail Bag was Stole and rob[ed] on Saturday Night. There was no money in it. But who ever Done it tore all the letters open and took the Stamps off[f] and left the letters laying on the ground. So the Boys had to write all of thair letters over again. I had no letters in the Bag. So they got nothing from me. You tell me in your letter that your Mother [Betsey Kershaw] is very poorly. I am Sory to hear it. But I hope that she is Beter. By this time you See by the papers that we have got a New General. I have not Seen him yet. But he is Down here. Somewhere they have made a change in the army. Our regiment Did Belong to the third Core. But we
have been transferred to the Sixth core that is the one that Tom Settle belongs to and if the weather gets cold once I think that we will make a move in some direction but I don’t know where I must bring this to a close. Give my love to all from your loving husband.

James F. Stepter

[4 (envelope)]

Mr Thomas Kershaw

Chester

Del County Pa.

Care of James Stephens