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This is a Civil War letter written by a member of the 32nd Missouri Infantry at Rouse’s Plantation, North Carolina, to his niece at Steelville, Missouri. Davis commented on the capture of Richmond, Virginia, and the prospects for peace.

Beverly Davis was a farmer from Steelville in Crawford County, Missouri. He enlisted in August 1862 in the 32nd Missouri Infantry, and served under Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman at Vicksburg and on the “March to the Sea.” By 6 April 1865 Sherman’s army was encamped at Rouse’s Plantation near Goldsboro, North Carolina. The troops had been given official word of the fall of Richmond, and Davis commented in his letter to his niece at Steelville that, “I think there is a better prospect than ever at this time of having peace soon.” The Confederate army under Gen. Joseph Johnston surrendered to Sherman on 26 April 1865 at present-day Durham, North Carolina.

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