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Oath of allegiance, Samuel Williams

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Oath of allegiance, Samuel Williams, Samuel W. Williams papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Little Rock, Jan 7 22^d 1864.

Dear Friend,

Yours of the 28th ult. has been received. We were truly glad to hear from you, and heartily rejoiced to know that you had fared so well under federal rule. May your former good fortune attend you and yours through all the vicissitudes, to the end of, this horrible war; and above all, I hope and pray, though not without serious and painful misgivings, that you may yet be restored to the blessings of civil and religious liberty under a representative government - My faith in the perpetuity of our republican form of government is greatly shaken of late, and I begin to doubt the capacity of the people to govern themselves.

We have not been so fortunate as you, yet our grievances are so trivial and inconsiderable in comparison with those of thousands of our fellow citizens, that we feel thankful that ours have been no worse, and that we are compensated in a great measure for all the ills we have borne by our good fortune in having Maj: Gen: Steil in command. He is a magnanimous, humane, honorable and just officer, and deservedly the most popular federal officer in the South. He has the confidence and esteem of every one.

Gen: Davidson, the second in command is a despot, and is cordially detested by the citizens. He has been trying to have Steil removed - wrote to Washington that Steil's conciliatory course had disgusted the Union citizens and the officers and soldiers of the Army - You will hear the particulars of this soon.

I will write you at length in a few days - I must be brief - the boat I first hear is about to leave.

Do the best you can with my horse. If Thompson refuses to surrender possession apply to the Commanding officer for an order to dispossess him, if that fails, ask for the appointment of