

10-13-1861

## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, October 13, 1861

William M. McKinney

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Shuttanville October 13<sup>th</sup> 1861

My dear Cousin

Your last came to hand this evening, and I hasten to answer it, but I might be called to duty tomorrow and am sure delayed for long. You will perceive by the heading that we have changed locations, we are now 8 miles back from our former camp, Our Brigade of Gen. Sigurd's command here on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, giving up our other camp as a fortification to another Gen and Brigade, to put up barracks for the winter. What we are going to do as where we will be ordered, I cannot tell, but think to try, at least to see, One thing I think is now fixed, and that is, we will not winter in another season. I have not will leave here soon, as it is already getting quite cold, being frosts every night, and sleeping in tents is rather uncomfortable. Indeed it is so cold now while I am writing, I can scarcely hold my pen. We have made quite an expedition since I last wrote you, on account of which you have doubtless already seen in the Civil Paper, the Green River, Camp Bartons had quite a battle with the Rebels. Our Regiment stood under a heavy cannonading for a full hour, the balls whistled all around me, one passed so near me, I had to tip off my hat very nicely, doing no further mischief than putting me to the inconvenience of picking it up again. I do not deem it necessary to go into the particulars of that 4 days expedition, since you have read all the general items concerning it, though I might give some further items, but will save them until I see you, which you know will be soon, certainly within 2 years. Although this is Sunday, I took a ride into the mountains in search of something to eat, I went 8 miles on horseback, and returned with the following articles, 1 bushel of potatoes, cost \$1.00 & lbs butter at 25cts per lb, being the first I had seen of that commodity for two months. 4 dozen of eggs at 12cts per doz. I was going to line fat for a few days, but got tired of Lord Bread and salt pork, both of which I was going out on <sup>horse</sup> ~~foot~~



I had thought my days of courting butter and eggs long gone by,  
but if you had seen me coming in this evening with my  
prizes, you would have seen a proud looking boy, but things is  
quiet here now, no enemy threatening us, do not know what  
we are kept here for, since we cannot crop the mountains this  
fall, we ought to go where we could do something, and I think  
we will move before long, the Paymaster has been here for  
two weeks paying off the troops, we all had plenty of money,  
but no place to spend it, nothing to buy. I have just written a  
letter to Cousin Abby in the other half of this sheet,  
you will have to excuse the shortness of this letter, since I  
have but little time to write, and I do not feel in a good  
mood to night, probably if I had time to write to you again I  
will be in better humor to write, and give you a very  
stylish letter, the night is so cold it has frozen up  
my pen and left me little but water for  
ink, but full of them being at command, I myself,  
individually, your very affectionate Cousin, will have to  
close, simply adding, write soon and my love.

Wm. W. Rimes

Will be a good good and help you in that, My love to all.