

2-5-1862

## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, February 5, 1862

William M. McKinney

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Camp Wickliffe Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear cousin Mattie,

Here I am writing you the fourth letter, and have not yet received an answer to my first one, what does it mean? Not my writing, for that speaks for itself. "Swings," but yours; who have you not written, I can but think you have, and I have not received; something wrong somewhere. Since writing to you last, nothing very curious or strange has occurred. I am now in command of the company, the Captain having been ordered to Barracks to recover his health. While I was gone home, he concluded he would try for a leave of absence, feigning sickness, but he did not get it, however, in its stead, he received orders from Gen Buell's Head Quarters to report himself in the Barracks for the sick, about twenty miles from here, among about 400 sick soldiers,

I believe that is your names, if it is not, please inform in next  
where he is now, How long he will  
have to remain there, I cannot tell,  
he was no more sick when he went there  
than I am at the present moment, and  
I am in superb great health, but he  
was ordered and had to go. So much  
for playing sickness, a good joke on the  
young man, and he will not hear the  
lost of it soon, some of the company  
were, to day, talking of presenting him  
with a walking stick, he being so infirm.  
I was out with the Company on picket  
Monday and Tuesday, rained hard all  
the time we were out, had no tents  
or shelter of any kind, had a huge old  
virginia time of it. Made me feel a  
little rheumatic again, but guess it will  
not be bad again. Has been raining  
all the time for a week, mud in  
Camp, not get up to my neck, but  
so deep as to be rather inconvenient.  
Health of the Regiment still improving,  
some dangerous cases yet, but the worst  
have either got well or died, Two out  
of the Regiment were buried to day.

I should like better to  
I should like better to  
I should like better to

I should like better to  
I should like better to  
I should like better to



We received Marching Orders this evening. Camp Wickliffe will be no more by Sunday noon. We march Sunday Morning, where for, I know not, Until you hear from me at some other Camp, direct us, before, to (Camp Wickliffe, to follow the Regiment) and all will be safe. I am beginning to doubt

whether my visit to my friends was, not more injurious than beneficial.

I have been back now two weeks, and not a letter received from anybody, except those I found already here on my return. Guess they found out

what kind of an individual the aforesaid Lieutenant was, and concluded all correspondence with such a fellow had better cease immediately. How perhaps

you are sick, unable to write, if you are, make your Father write, and let me know something about it. If I should

receive a letter from you before we move, and have time to answer it, I will write again before we leave this

Camp. Have not seen the Colonel yet!

Have heard nothing of our former visit in his absence! better will not write!!!