

3-16-1862

## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, March 16, 1862

William M. McKinney

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Camp of 15<sup>th</sup> Inf. 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Gen. Wood's Division  
Near Nashville Tenn March 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear cousin Mattie

Your letters of March  
3<sup>d</sup> & —, were both received in the same  
mail, two days ago, and now at this, the earliest  
opportunity, will answer both. I have been  
so very busy during the past two days,  
preparing Pay-Rolls and getting my Company  
paid, that I have scarcely had time  
to breathe until this morning, else, I  
would have answered them as soon  
as received, and kept you as much in  
my debt as possible, for favors received,  
that is, if my letters should come  
under that class of wares. I did finally  
recognize your letter, though you seemed  
not to have been, as you say, in a letter  
writing mood. You however failed to  
inform me, what the trouble was,  
whether you had a fit of the blues or not.

I was pleased to hear, that for once,  
you had thought enough about you,  
to behave yourself properly, at our  
old Aunt's. I am sure she will give  
you good credit for it, and perhaps  
use it to offset some of your old  
accounts, which she, doubtless, has kept  
noted against you. If you carry your  
good resolution into practice, I shall  
expect to see, on my return from  
the war, a perfect Model of perfection,  
a quiet, silent, peaceful, demure,  
young Lady, looking very dignified,  
a perfect "bud of perfection." You  
must not speak of "comping"; when  
you are talking of becoming sober.  
I have now finished one letter, now  
for the other to criticize. Since  
you name me Critic, I must keep up  
my reputation. This letter seems to be  
written in March but as the date has  
been omitted, I, of course cannot be  
positive about it, but will soon  
be informed, when I get tired of your  
letters, I'll bet a month's pay against

one cent, that you get tired and stop  
first. I am expecting ~~them~~ to hear, by  
every letter, that you are ready to stop  
the correspondence. I do wish you could  
possibly find something else to do, some  
other way to amuse yourself and kill  
the time that seems to hang so heavily  
on your hands, beside writing to me,  
when indeed, by your own acknowledge-  
ment, it is so very irksome. Am  
however, much obliged to you for kind  
favors. I received a letter from Cousin  
A. C. when yours came, she did not  
speak as though Sam was so very  
bad. I do begin to think that my  
Buckeye cousins are rather delicately  
constituted. Harsierdown is the place  
to raise strong and athletic  
men. I have roughed it around  
so much, that I am able for  
almost any kind of life, can  
live and thrive on any kind of  
fare. Aunt Angie's brother B. F. Leaman  
called to see me in Camp this morn-  
ing, I have not been to his house

I still expect to be with you on the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
July - feel confident the war will be over  
by that time. As to "Lionizing"; I am  
quite sure you would have a good time,  
in making a regular "Lion"; out of as gentle  
a personage as your Cousin. But who  
is "Cousin A. W." I know of no such  
relative, please inform. I received  
a letter from Cousin Minnie when  
I did yours, have answered hers. I  
am sure you will not be offended  
because I answered hers first.  
This makes the fourth letter written  
to you since the 4<sup>th</sup> inst do not  
suppose you are much ahead yet.  
Will not make this one as long  
as some others, have some news  
about them. Shall expect a letter  
from you next mail. My love to  
all. Your Cousin

~~Wm. B. B. B.~~  
J