

6-17-1862

## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, June 17, 1862

William M. McKinney

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Camp of 15<sup>th</sup> Ind Regt - 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade - 6<sup>th</sup> Division -  
Genl Woods - Army of the Ohio - near Tusculum, Ala -  
June 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear cousin Mattie.

I wrote to you last and  
but a few days ago from Tuba - Miss. Since then we  
have made two days and a half's marches to this  
place - 30 miles from Tuba. Arrived here on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
the most terrible marches we have made since in  
the service - the weather was and is intensely hot - no  
rain has fallen in this region for some four weeks  
and you can form no idea of the amount of dust  
and then men marching along in close columns -  
keeps it flying at such a rate - that it almost chokes  
one to death. I can ought to have seen us after making  
a days march - I very much doubt whether you would  
have been able to have recognized your cousin after  
a days march. I do not know how long we will  
remain in this place - perhaps not long - we are  
looking for marching orders every day. Perhaps we  
will have to march to Decatur Ala about 60 miles  
further eastward. I am enjoying excellent health - and  
have stood the march well - but I was getting somewhat  
tired of marching about so much during the hot weather.  
We have walked over Virginia - Miss - and now  
getting well into Ala - I am afraid I will get  
more off until I will be a stout man - and  
I do not like that style. I never thought when  
I enlisted I could do so much walking -  
but then one never knows what he can do until  
he is tried. I think when I get through this  
service I will be able for most anything one  
could think of - except it be a quiet - civil -  
individual - and that is out of the question.

I received a letter from Sister Lizzie two days since -  
announcing her approaching marriage - I do really  
wish I could be at home then - but it is out of  
the question to think of such a thing. I suppose it  
will go off all right - but I would like to be a witness.  
I scarcely know what to think of her choice - since I  
have no more acquaintance with the gentleman -  
than simply meeting him last winter - when  
you were at our house - what do you think of him?  
Had I known then what was going on - I should  
have tried to have known more of him. I however -  
think him - from a passing acquaintance - a very  
pleasant gentleman - further than that - I have had  
so slight an acquaintance - I cannot speak.  
Had to stop writing just here yesterday - and not until  
this moment - had time to finish the sheet.  
No marching orders yet - from what I have heard  
to day - I should not be surprised if we remained here  
several days - though we might move to move -  
and never know our mistake ahead - what will  
be the order for the next minute. It is a  
queer kind of a life to live - but are we  
accustomed to such a mode of life - and then  
it does not seem so strange. You know a  
person can become accustomed to almost any  
thing - in time - unless it be to learn to kiss  
without eating - and I have come up near  
learning that as the nature of my case  
will admit. But thanks to Hard Bread and Salt  
pepper I am still luxuriating in this world.  
I am now sorry to say - owing to the great fondness  
the rebels have for "shedding" I will not be able to  
be with you this 4<sup>th</sup> of July - as I had promised - will  
have to postpone until the next 4<sup>th</sup>. I write you  
this in time - that you need not make arrangements for me.