

12-12-1862

**Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney,
December 12, 1862**

William M. McKinney

Follow this and additional works at: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms92_correspond

Repository Citation

McKinney , W. M. (1862). *Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, December 12, 1862.* .

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Wallace Family Papers (MS-92) at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wallace Correspondence by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact library-corescholar@wright.edu.

Camp of 15th Ind Regt - 21st Brigade
6th Division - 14th Army Corps - Department
of the Cumberland - Nashville Dec 14th 1862

My dear cousin Mattie -

Sunday - the
Regiment gone out - with a package train -
sent my Company out - with the lieutenants
and have nothing to do - Camp very quiet
and thought - to pass the time pleasantly
will write to you - though have nothing to
write particularly interesting - nevertheless
will write something. Since my last
writing me - that is our Regt and Brigade
have had quite a fight. Our Brigade went
out on Thursday as guard for a package train -
about 8 miles from here we came upon the
advance pickets of the enemy - our Regt - being
the advance - was immediately thrown
forward in line of battle - two companies
in advance of the Regt - as skirmishes -
They marched in line of battle 3 miles - driving
the enemy before us - fighting all the time -
they yielding only as they were compelled.
I am

I write to you in my own few days ago.

After we had driven them far enough
back - so that our trains could fill with
forage in the rear of us - we held them
back by fighting all day - till 6 P.M. - The
Rebel force consisted of one Brigade of Infantry -
a Regiment of Cavalry and Battery of Artillery.

During the entire day - we lost but one killed
and three or four slightly wounded. I tell
you the shot & shell came thick and
fast - part of the time - my company with
its usual good fortune came off
uninjured. But every man stood up
gallantly under the continued fire of
the enemy - not a man of my command
seemed at all fearful or nervous - but
wanted to push forward. It was a
hard days work - in going out and
returning - marched about 20 miles - besides
the fatigue of marching so far in
line of battle - over fields - and deep
ravines - through woods and thick
brushwood - over streams and fences -
the continually falling back under
cover of such places - from which we
had to dislodge them by a steady advance.

We did not get into Camp till
10 P.M. - The Brigadier went out to day-
but from the directions they went do not
think there will be any fight. I am left
in Command of the Camp. Yesterday I
paid a visit to the 1st Regt - camped about
one mile from here - saw your Uncle
Lieut Lamb - he will be a Capt in a few
days - is expecting his Commission every
day. He looks well - seems to be in good
health and spirits - seems to be quite a
jolly kind of a man. Is he a married
man or a bachelor? I did not see
Parine - guess he is with the Regiment.
I presume you think I have but little
to do - since I write so many letters -
if you do - you are much mistaken -
I am most of the time kept busy -
but when I have nothing do - then
I am truly at leisure - and am one
of those kind of beings that must be at
something all the time - hence - when
I have no military duties to perform
I can just sit down and scratch
off a bundle of letters to Cousin Mutt's.

Will finish & Will be
enriched again - or worse
if they are left - I would
all the hair of the Whitman
name in the service -
The hair if well not
do to give it up. 20.
If they will consent
here I will take them
into my Company
and make good strong
men of them - I trust
The Ludlow Company.
I have to all -

Wm