

4-28-1863

**Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney,  
April 28, 1863**

William M. McKinney

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Home April 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear cousin Mattie

You have doubtless heard ere this time that I was at home. I started home on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst on a sick leave - but been sick for three weeks before I started - was first attacked with bleeding at the lungs - and had three attacks before I started home - and on the day I started - commenced bleeding severely as soon as I got on the car. The train I was on was captured by Rebel Cavalry about 12 miles from Nashville - and although I was bleeding at the time - the miserable rebels marched me 15 miles that night - then halted and paroled those who would accept parole - though the advice of some Surgeons that were along I accepted a parole - The Surgeons told me that in the condition of health I was then in - that it would cost me my life to be marched further as a prisoner and then be placed in confinement - so I paroled myself - though I do not believe Gen Rosecrans will recognize the parole as binding according to the terms of the Cartet for paroling prisoners.

I got back to Nashville on the evening of  
the 11<sup>th</sup> and started for home on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
arrived here on evening of 15<sup>th</sup>. Completely used  
up - I have scarcely been out of the house since -  
I am better than when I got home - yet I  
am very weak - my lungs sore and painful -  
and have a severe cough. I am taking a  
regular course of medicine and hope to be better  
soon. If all things move along as I hope they  
will - I want to visit you within the next two  
weeks. All the rest will excuse this writing - for  
I am so nervous that I can scarcely hold  
my pen. Write me as soon as you receive  
this -

Your Cousin

Wm. H. Himes