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Camp of 15<sup>th</sup> Ind Regt- 2d Brigade-  
1<sup>st</sup> Division – Left Wing - 14<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
Department of the Cumberland  
Near Murfreesboro-Tenn- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Cousin Mattie-

Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> (nlt) was only received a few days since. I wrote you soon after the battle which you doubtless received on this time – you have also read other accounts of the same engagement and by this time know most of the particulars. I need not write- you anything more concerning that engagement, it was terrible enough I assure you. We have been out on another of our hard expeditions since my last writing. Left Camp at Midnight of the 12<sup>th</sup> with three days rations in our haversacks - returned to Camp late yesterday evening. We marched in all- about- 60 miles – 20 miles a day- did not accomplish much – took some prisoners- do not know how many – nor do I care- we went out to Nolensville-thence toward Shelbyville and toward Columbia – But the marching was nothing- when compared with the other hardships – the weather was cold- and the rain fell in torrents – for 96 hours while we were out – I passed two nights out-sitting by poor fires- on logs- the rain falling in torrents – never closed my eyes while we were on the expedition –

(on inside back next page)

By yesterday morning when we started back – the whole country was flood- all the little brooks were swollen into large streams- it was a regular wade for 20 miles- sometimes we walked through water for a quarter of a mile where it was 2 feet deep all the way and waded through streams up to our waists – the air cold-freezing- Last night was very cold – ground froze solid- to the wind blowing a regular North Wester and snow falling. It was a hard expedition – I believe I am about the only officer in the regiment but what is either sick or complaining loudly almost all the men are sick. I have only (8/9?) well men in my company to day – both Lieutenants and Orderly sick- I feel very rheumatic myself – but keep moving – many such expeditions at this season of the year – will kill up the Army. The day before we went out on the last expedition – my boys got brick and put me up a nice chimney and fire place – so I am quite comfortable notwithstanding the cold. Have an abundance of dry Cedar wood to burn – and can sit comfortably – it is as cold as Green land to night – must be very cold with you. Would that this war were over – and we all at home with our friends - as to the Regular service – I was only joking – I could not be hired to enter the service – this is regular enough for me – I am willing to quit anytime – the sooner the better – I would like a little civil life now.

(next page)

Would like to see that cousin Sallie McKinney –

I am very positive to the name – hope she is as gay a girl as some others of the name I know. Hope you had pleasant times during the Holidays – I passed mine on the battlefield. About that Miniature – I am looking for it evry mail – are you not going to sent it. I would like to be at one of your (Oril?) societies – I know I would have a good time. As to that Buckeye girl, I shall expect to meet as soon as the war is over – if I live to get through it. About the first move I will make after I get out of this engagement – will be to enter into another for life – and I want to have the other forty pushed- so there need be no delay in the matter – wrote to Cousins Minnie & Emma both to night. Wish I had an abundance of news to write you this time, but have not and do not feel like (gussing?) much to night. My kindest regards to all- hope to hear from you soon again.

Your affectionate Cousin

WM McKinney

You will perceive by the heading of this that the Brigade and Divisions have changed numbers – direct accordingly. - Mc