

MS92\_9\_7\_04

Camp of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ind Reg't\_21<sup>st</sup> Brigade\_6<sup>th</sup> Division\_  
Gen'l Wood's\_ Army of the Ohio\_ near Tusculmbia, Ala\_  
June 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear cousin Mattie,

I wrote to you last and but a few days ago from Tuka, Miss. Since then we have made two days and a half's marches to this place-30 miles from Tuka. 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 fallin in this region for some four weeks- and you can form no idea of the amount of dust- and then man marching along in close column- keeps it flying at such a rate, that it almost chokes one to death. You 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 evry day. Perhaps we will have to march to Decatur Ala about 50 miles further eastward. I am enjoying excellent health and have stood the march well but I am getting somewhat tired of moving about so much during the hot weather. We have walked over Virginia- Ky- Miss- and now getting well into Ala. I am afraid I will get worn off until I will be a short man-and I do not like that style. I never thought when I enlisted I would 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-docile-individual-and that is out of the question.

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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 you 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-farther than that-I have had so slight an acquaintance-I cannot speak. Had to stop writing just here yesterday-and not until this moment have I had time to finish the sheet. No marching orders yet-from what I have heard to day. I should not be surprised if we remain here several days-though we might move to morrow- one never knows one minute ahead-what will be the orders for the next minute. It is a queer kind of life to live-but one becomes accustomed to such a mode of life-and thus 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 live without eating and I have come as near learning that as the nature of my case will admit. But thanks to Hard Bread and Salt Pork ~I am still luxuriating in this world. I am now sorry to say-owing to the great fondness the Rebels have for "skedaddling." I will not be able to be with you this 4th of July-as I had promised-will have to postpone until the next 4th. I write you this in time-that you need not make arrangements for me (signed vertically)

Direct as formerly

Yours affectionately  
WM Mckinney