

MS92_9_7_14

Camp of 15th Ind Reg't -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 forage 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 we-that is our Reg' t and Brigade have had quite a fight. Our Brigade went out on Thursday as guard for a forage train- about 8 miles from here we came upon the advance pickets of the enemy-our Reg't being the advance-was immediately thrown forward in line of battle-two companies in advance of the Reg' t as skirmishes- Thus 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~~

(side note)

I wrote to Cousin Minnie (five/few?) days ago.

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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 time came off uninjured. But evry man stood up gallantly under the continued fire 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 take brushwood-over streams and fences- that continually falling back under cover of such places-from which we had to dislodge them by a steady advance.

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We did not get into Camp till 10 P. M. The Brigade went out to day- but from the direction 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 Ky-Camp about 1 mile from here-saw your Uncle Lieut. Lamb- he will be a Capt in a few days-is expecting his Commission evry 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 (Perine?) 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 an scratch off a kindof letter to Cousin Mattie.

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Tell Tim & Will to enlist again-as soon as they are able, I want all the kin of the McKinney name in the service- tell them it will not do to give it up so. If they will come here I will take them into my company and make good strong men of them. I have the lucky Company.

Love to all-

(signed)

Mc