

7-6-1861

Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp Scott July 6th 1861

Dear Mother,

I received this morning a letter from Frank, Jennie, Mam. K. and you. I was surprised and greatly amused to hear how Ed. Graves performed. You can tell all remaining friends that I can go a mile or two on the double quick without any inconvenience, and hit straight out from the shoulder and fetch claret as soon as the next man, though I have never done so except in sport. We had rather a dull fourth and many remarked that it was very like Sunday. Gen. Sikes made an address saying that the brigade was to be completed, armed, and equipped in one week but it will take longer I think. You think things go on slow do you well I don't think that so bad as to be too fast and though we are all burning with impatience yet we own that the slowly closing net of Gen. Scott will prove quite as effectual in the end and cost a far less amount of human life. I see that Gen. Patterson has routed 10,000 rebels with a loss of but two or three. I have had camp sharpened a little but not so as to prevent my doing duty and I am now quite well.

I instead of being the consumptive looking
fellow you saw last I am hardier to day
than two thirds of our men though I am
ten pounds lighter than when I left but
as hard as india rubber. We have church
and I attended last Sunday. We did not need
chaplains for some of our officers stepped up
and in full uniform of captain and Lorento
gave us preaching far superior to what we
usually hear at Evreuxville or Fredonia.

And then such grand singing - You can
hardly realize the effect of the full choir of
male voices varying from bass to alto (and
we have some who can even reach treble.)
There was a power which reminded me of the
organ and I do not think instruments could
have added to the music but would rather
have marred. Well I am tired and as I
wrote only a day or two since I will close
Remember me to all. If you have not sent
my trunk send it as soon as possible as my
black pants will pass for uniform and if I
have them I shall be entitled to their value
instead of having it expended upon very poor
subst. I write in my french as I wish to exchange
reading with the French boys whom I visit

Much love to all

Send the trunk just as soon as you can for I can take it Arthur.



6



Mrs Austin C. Chapman
Forester
Chant.
M

Camp Scott 1861
Arthur to Mother