

6-7-1861

Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/arthur-mckinstry-correspondence>

Preferred Citation

[Title of Document], Arthur McKinstry Correspondence, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Mississippi State University Libraries

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Civil War Soldiers at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arthur McKinstry Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.



Camp Scott June 7th 1861

Dear Mother, We are now pretty well settled in our quarters and so I again embrace an opportunity to acquaint you with my situation. We left Ft. Tompkins last Monday and now are dwelling in tents of about ten feet square and there are eight men to each. Our food is coarse but wholesome with the exception of the coffee which is so poor that I mean to stick to cold water henceforth. My health is now perfectly good and the chill though sometimes severe seems to toughen me and I am growing stronger very fast. The sickness is entirely gone and if I did not know that you were anxious about me I should not have entirely dismissed the

subject from my mind for
as I said before I am entirely
well. I think that sea bathing
has done me good, and we are
yet within a mile of the shore.
We may remain here for some
time. There are I suppose 3,000
or more troops upon the island
besides many more at another
encampment up the river.
The regiment of which I am a
member is the third and contains
the finest troops upon the ground.
It is in fact the crack regiment.
The Seventh returned from the
south the day after I wrote you
last and we were selected for
a part of the military escort to
receive them. They were a splendid
set of men and looked I dare
say more healthy and sunburnt
than ever before. Twice they pass-
ed us in review and we returned

the compliment. They marched
in fine order but I heard many
New Yorkers remark as they gazed
upon our Irish battalion - why
they march as well as the Seventh
I have not yet had time to
visit the city except in the ranks
but hope to do so before long.
Our regiment as I said is a chosen
one but over on the right of our
camp are the 'roughs' from the
city. They are a rascally set and
we keep a constant guard which
effectually prevents theft. I was up
nearly all last night on guard
and though somewhat fatiguing
we contrived to raise some spirit.
I have written twice to Uncle
Willard who without any solici-
tation on my part gave me on
parting a portable inkstand and
all sorts of stationery and writing
materials - in order as he said

that I might keep him
posted as to our movements.
What was no less liberal for
he shipped a half eagle with
my hand at parting, with
some Indian Soap and a good
supply of fishing tackle.

So as you see I am well
provided for, we are very pleas-
antly situated on a grassy plain
surrounded by beautiful country
boats on three sides and on the
east we see the ocean and the
vessels passing to and fro.
Our tent is perfectly rain proof
and we each have an Indian
blanket to lay upon the
ground and a pair of heavy
woolen ones to wrap up in.
Well my sheet is coming to a
close so hoping to hear from
you soon and with love to all
Good bye Arthur



Free

43



W. H. Chapin

Mrs Austin Chapin
Forestville
N. D.