

12-10-1861

Arthur McKinstry to Aunt Eliza

Arthur McKinstry

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Cayuga Wood Dec 10th 1861

Dear Aunt,

As all is quiet just now I will improve the opportunity to write you a note though it may have to be cut off short by afternoon drill. I am well and hearty and we have I believe no very sick men just now. We took great pleasure in reading those papers and when through I gave them to the chaplain to take to the hospital. The boots I had finally to sell for they were too stiff for a man who must daily carry upon his back for several hours the weight of a heavy knapsack. I sold them for seven dollars and that was sufficient to pay for a lighter and easier pair. The fact

is a soldier needs an easier boot,
than any other man and must
have it cost what it may,
As however I sold them at a price
great enough to purchase a Lintan
article I am no loser and not the
less indebted to you. Has Mrs
Willard sent that five dollar bill
yet, I have not heard from him.
Since and that makes me think
he may have shown as little
punctuality toward you. The caps
and pieces were duly discussed
and received with grateful thanks.
The gloves were of great service for
a short time and I think will
wear well but just now it has
settled down into as quiet an
English summer as ever you had.
13th of July of the 18th has just
come to hand. We are very
busy - that is our tent, building
a log house. We have the

rafters up and shall get
through in a day or two
Our Day is uncertain, but it
is as well to work at that
as anything else. Our tent is
inside and undisturbed but
when we get all the rest
done we shall take it down
roll it up, take it out doors
and stretch it on the rafters
in place of shingling. As it
is late I will quit but when
the house is done I will write
again. Give my love to Mrs
Lyman and Aunt Jane.

I wrote a few days ago to Edvard
but involuntarily directed to Amherst.

Your aff. nephew
Arthur

P.S. I am well off for clothing
in every particular and have a
mattress.

I have not heard from home for a very long time but I learn by a letter which another young volunteer from our neighborhood received, that Mother had sent a box of sundries and some butter. No doubt there is a letter in it but it came too late to reach me without considerable delay. I expect to get it at the same time that I do yours. I am very grateful to you all for the things you have sent me. I got a letter from Edward the other day.

As it is ten and a quarter - just two hours later than lights are allowed if known of I must quit. I will write again when the box comes.

Your aff nephew

Arthur
(Direct to me Co D. 3d Regt Ex. Brig.
Washington D. C.)