

1-30-1862

## Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp Wool Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mother,

We were paid off last Saturday but we have had so much extra duty that I have not been able to write before. Enclosed find \$5.00. Of this I wish you to retain a dollar and a half for your own private use and you may promise definitely that at the next pay day the remaining \$7.95 will be promptly liquidated. Owing to my funds having run low in consequence of buying my watch, and feeling not only the prudence but the necessity of keeping a fair supply on hand, I can not conveniently pay in full now. The next pay is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. but will probably be over to the 15<sup>th</sup> before the Paymaster can get around to us. I am enjoying myself and weigh about 175 which is very fair for me. My strength is greater than ever before and as for spirit I am as full of the "Old Harry" as Frank when he used to cut up so absurdly. Well how do you all get on. I went to a daguerrean saloon this afternoon. that I might get my likeness taken for Jennie, but there was such a crowd that I walked off in disgust. I have received no answer from Lucy and am thinking of trying it again. What do you think? I was over to the 1<sup>st</sup> this morning and found Bob as fat as a woodchuck in a clove patch. He had been thinking of



hunting me up. Aunt Jane sent me nine numbers  
of the Springfield Republican with a continued story in  
them. I received them last night but have had no  
time to look at them. I feel some symptoms of liver com-  
plaint and mean to try a blue pill before I eat again.  
A timely dose would have saved me Dr Horton's bill, and  
last fall's sickness too. We have now to carry our mood  
at least a quarter of a mile and a good deal up hill at that.  
This exercise strengthens the muscles of the legs wonderfully  
and I feel as active as a colt. As roll call is close at hand I  
must quit and indeed I am tired for I have worked hard  
to day and written a letter for the Censor beside. I had a letter  
from Uncle Theodore a few days ago. He was well, as were his  
children and grandson. How I would like to see the good  
old soul. What are Frank and Luther doing - are they going  
to school. How does Newton get on. Does Mary P. teach or  
study this winter. I am getting behind in some things but I  
do not think that upon the whole I lose ground, and when  
this war is over I will show you what hard study can do.  
When sixteen years old I lacked application but I have the  
power of concentrating my mind upon studies in a more than  
ordinary degree now. You can hardly imagine how eagerly I desire  
to retrieve lost opportunities. I am now at that point where a  
year's study will double the profits of the next. Well I am  
tired and must leave off so good bye.

Your aff. son  
Arthur Wellington



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Mrs Austin Chapman  
Forestville  
N.Y.

AV