

4-1-1862

## Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp Hill April 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

Dear Mother,

It is a splendid spring morning and the boys are as merry as crickets. The sun shines bright and warm and the boys of the camp are celebrating "All Fool Day" in the most approved fashion. Well, all this don't affect me very much and I can occupy my time better in writing to you. Frank goes to Edwards' to work. It is a good place and I do not know of so model a farmers establishment in any other place. Much Truman has the science of doing a big days work and doing it in season, and that is just what a youngster like Frank wants to know. Our mail does not run very regularly now on account of the regular boats being seized by Government as transports. We expect however a mail this evening and I shall look for the letter and



hope to get a letter from you. I must  
write to Frank and will do so to day  
if I can get a stamp to pay its postage.  
We expect to be paid off this week and  
have some hope of drawing three months  
pay instead of two. In fact we ought  
to get it but it is by no means certain yet.  
If we should get it I could spare you  $x$   
and not miss it at all at all.

I will send you the five whether or no.

I get along here very pleasantly - as much  
so as any who don't carry a commission,  
Frank spoke in his letter of wooden gun.

I saw nothing but the most approved kind  
of ordnance in the rebel fortifications and plenty  
of it I think I can get Douglas Sturges of Freedom  
to carry some little souvenirs of my trip  
to secessia. He can take them to Uncle Willard.

It now occurs to me that you wanted to lend  
Uncle Henry my hammock. Lend it to him  
for the season if you like. I do not wish  
however to lose any of the companions of my  
journeys, so do not give it away.

We were reviewed a week ago by Gen  
Hooker, and though we had no warning  
at all, but turned out at five minutes  
notice. We came out in such neat order  
and drilled so accurately that he exclaimed -  
"This is not only the best drilled regiment  
in the Division but by God it's the best  
I ever saw. Hooker is an old soldier and knows  
his business well, hence we value such a  
compliment. We are all ready to move  
at any time and may go to-morrow, or  
stay here a month. Mean while we are  
getting rather impatient of McClellan's  
style of doing business. There is nothing more  
in a long campaign, for more lives are lost  
by disease than are saved by avoiding actual  
battle. I am acclimated pretty thoroughly  
and don't fear disease but I am looking at  
the general rule. I don't burnside during sleeping  
sickness. I have not heard from any-body for  
a long time. Last week I got a <sup>paper</sup> letter from  
Brother Morgan. I had sent to the girls - Ellen,  
Kate, and Abbie several numbers of the



Enclose containing my letter, and Chas sent me  
a Republican in return. It was like seeing an  
old friend and I must say that it is the  
best conducted paper I know of far or near.  
I have now and then a game of chess and  
stand my hand with any I have played  
with as yet. I can get plenty of good reading  
and don't fail to improve my chances.

It is a fine day and I expect a wretchedly hard  
drill to day. We have no fire in the tent and  
don't need it today. We shall doubtless keep our  
powder to night. What is John up to this season.

I suppose that you will try to raise considerable  
sheep this summer. I hope that it will be a more  
favorable season than the last. How much stock  
do you put this season. Don't ever get caught  
in the fall with more stock than you can  
winter for it is dear business. Whenever I get a farm  
it will be where hog is out of fashion. How does  
Butter stand it. I hope his health is good. I hope to  
see you all before some months but none can  
say when our labors will end. Write as often as you  
can and direct as formerly.

Your aff son

Arthur

May Stevens 75 My

Due 3



DUE

Ms Anatin Chapin  
Pondville  
N.Y.