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## William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863

MS/52, 1862 Letter 001

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1862-01-22

# Knight, William W., Letter to Mary Knight, January 22, 1862

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we will draw any more money writt  
march. we have been moved and hauled  
round so we not be able to get our pay  
before then. I wish I could get all that  
is due me and send it - to you to pay your  
Father for the cattle I want you to settle with  
him and let me know how much I am due  
him I want to try and pay him what I  
am due him I know he needs his money  
he had to use his own money in paying for  
what he bought for you; I do not no how long  
we will have to stay here or where we will go to  
from here ~~from this place~~ several of the  
boys has just come from Savannah to the  
company the told me John W Hagan boxed  
up my things and sent them home I left my  
oven fry pan black pants black overshirt white  
shirt old uniform coat over coat hat I had a kettle it was  
Mr Leon if it goes home give it to his wife and  
a little dish it is mine pan and several other  
little things. I hope you will get them all St  
Parrish. Spts Hagan. & Griffin went to the Hospital  
in Savannah Edmond & Giddens and W R Fulford  
had been there some time they have been very  
sick Edmond is still very low the other is better

Masonboro Sound six miles East of Wilmington  
Dear Mary I again seat myself  
the straw in our tent to write you  
a few lines I received yours of the 10th  
& 11th Inst I was very glad to hear you  
and the children were well I do not know  
the girl you have staying with you  
I hope she is a good girl and has  
well and will remain with you till  
war ends or I can come home and love  
if you and her can agree. I have little  
news to write you there has been but  
little save off the vessel that ran ashore  
except the small arms and prisoners  
there was sixty of them including the  
officers the Yankee vessels sheeled their  
before their men had got off and they  
scattered in every way that they could  
to get out of reach of their guns she  
been burnt that is she was set on fire  
by our people the masts and rigging  
burnt the water is so rough when she  
lies that it prevented the decks from  
burning there is a great deal of value

on her ~~get~~ principally ~~Port~~ and ammunition, the latter very much injured the wether is very windy and it is dangerous to go on her Lt Bird of the 25th Geo Regt was drowned last Sunday trying to wade in to her where the water was only waist-deed and a hard sand bottom the scurf wash his feet from under him and he could not recover any more his body has not been found yet there is one rifle cannon on her worth two thousand dollars alone I went down to the beach Sunday evening to see her and the yankees shelled us and the wreck also there was twelve of our brigade on board of her they had to stay al night on her the yankees shot several shells through her but did not hit any of the men she was a fine iron steam ship built in England to run the blockade just such a vessel as the Kingal the yankees captured <sup>her</sup> on her first trip and turned her in to a war vessel she had seven guns on her six brass rifle guns they thrown over board to lighten her when they first got on the bar they can be recovered in calm

weather the machinery is not injure yet and valuable Mary I am very glad your hogs turned out so well I am in hopes you will have plenty for you and the children all the time did you get your oats sowed and how is Dick getting along with the new ground will he get it fenced in time to plant it in corn I have not got a word from you about the money I sent you of your <sup>the</sup> Father's you ought to write me whether you got it or not I have been uneasy about it ever since I sent it I have wrote <sup>you</sup> five times since I sent it and nearly every time ask you to write me whether you got it or not I hope it is not lost do write in your next if you got it I mailed the letter the 24th December I put it in the office myself sealed it so it could not be got open without tearing it up. we have not been paid since the first November and I have had to buy at least half I have eat since I left Wilmington when I was here before I drawed no rations for fifteen days but I have money enough for my use and more than I need but I do not expect

1862-01-22

## Masonboro Sound, Six miles east of [Wilmington]

Dear Mary,

I again seat myself on the straw in our tent to write you a few lines. I received yours [of?] the 10<sup>th</sup> [or?] 11<sup>th</sup> [just?] I was very glad to hear you and the children were well. I do not know the girl you have staying with you. I hope she is a good girl and does well and will remain with you till war ends or I can come home and [cut off] if you and her can agree. I have little news to write you. There has been but very little save[d] off the vessel that ran aground except the small arms and prisoners. There was sixty of them including [a number] officers. The yankee vessels shelled the [cut off] before their men had got off and [cut-off] scattered in every way that they could get out of reach of their guns. She been burnt, that is she was set on fire by our people, the mast and riggings burnt. The water is so rough where she lies that it prevented the decks from burning. There is a great deal of value on her, yet principally pork and ammunition, the latter very much injured. The wether[sic] is very windy and it is dangerous to go on her. Lt. Bind of the 25<sup>th</sup> Geo.[Ga.] Regt. was drowned last Sunday trying to wade in to her where the water was only waist deep, and a hard sand bottom. The surf washed his feet from under him and he could not recover any more. His body has not been found yet. There is one rifle cannon on her worth two thousand dollars alone. I went down to the beach Sunday evening to see her and the yankee's shelled us and the wreck. Also, there was twelves of our brigade on board of her. They had to stay alnight[sic] on her. The Yankees shot several shells through her, but did not hit any of the men. She was a fine iron steam ship, built in England to run the blockade just such a vessel a the [Fingal?]. The Yankees captured her on her first trip and turned her in to[sic] a war vessel. She had seven guns on her, six [Illegible] rifle guns. They thrown overboard to lighten her when they first got on the bar. They can be recovered in calm weather. The machinery is not injured yet and valuable. Mary, I am very glad you have turned out so well. I am in hopes you will have plenty for you and the children all the time. Did you get your oats sowed and how is Dick getting along with the new ground? Will he get it fenced in time to plant it in corn? I have not got a word from you about the money I sent you of your fathers[sic]. You ought to write me whether you got it or not. I have been uneasy about it ever since I sent it. I have wrote to you five times since I sent it and nearly every time ask you to write me whether you got it or not. I hope it is not lost. Do write in your next [letter] if you got it. I mailed the letter the 24<sup>th</sup> December. I put it in the office my self[sic], sealed it so it could not be got open without tearing it up. We have not been paid since the first of November and I have had to buy at least half I have eat since I left Wilmington. When I was here before I drawed no rations for eighteen days but I have money enough for my use and more than I need but I do not expect we will draw any more money until March. We have been moved and hauled around so we not able to get our pay before then. I wish I could get all that is due me and send it to you to pay your Father for the cattle I want you to settle with him. I want to try and pay him what I am due him. I know he needs his money, he had to use his own money in paying for what he bought for you, I do not no[sic] how long we will have to stay here or where we will go to from here. Several of the boys has just cine from Savannah to the company, they told me John W Morgan boxed up my things and sent them home. I left my oven fry pan, black pants, black shirt, white shirt, old uniform, coat, over coat, hat that had a kettle. It was [from] Mr. Isom. If it goes home give it to his wife and a little dish it is mine[sic] pan and several other little things. I hope you will get them all Lt. Parish. Sgt. Haagan, Lt. Griffin went to the hospital in Savannah. Edmond L Giddons and W.R. Fulford? had been there some time. They have been very sick, Edmond is still very low, the other is better.