
William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863
MS/52, 1862 Letter 010

1862-09-02

**Knight, William W., Letter to
Mary Knight, September 2,
1862**

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Camp Near Savannah September 2nd 1862

Dear Wife I have seated myself to write you a few lines hoping they may find you and the children all well. I have been very anxious to hear from you but I know you have a very bad chance to mail your letters and it is often several days before I get them I have been very sick since I come back to the camp but I have had no fever in six days now but I mend very slow I am weaker than I ever was since I can recollect but I feel very well William Carroll has been very sick with the fever he has missed it today and I am in hopes he will not have it any more while he stays in the service there is a prospect of all the boys under eighteen going out by act of congress and a law prohibiting any more being received under that age Mary I will send this to by Lieut Parrish and a little bottle of ink for you he will leave the letter and ink in Milltown for you I got him to get the ink for me yesterday in the city I have no news to write only we have moved from Causton Bluff to this place it is pine woods where we are now the timber is very thick but not so high as it is in that country we are on the Thunder bolt Shell road three miles from the post office but not over two from the city I do not know that our camp is any healthier than the Bluff but it barely possible for it to be any sicklier we have but eighteen men in our company for duty and we are quite as able as the other companies with us Mary I did not tell any

any thing I wanted done I ought to have laid off the
new ground that Dick is to try to clear I do not think
he can do any thing with more than ten acres if he can
get that much in and and broke up time enough to plant
it in corn if you can have him another year I would
rather have it cleared next to the branch as you go to-
wards the William Jones place if I ever get to live at
home again I want to clear a field on that land it a
nice piece of land and as good as any I have close
enough to the house I do not want it cleared up to the
lot nor any nearer than on a line with the little open
pond back of the orchard and the head of the Gin
Bay where I had the hog pen that will be over one
hundred yards from the back of the lot and I don't
want the timber deadened next to the lot I want
it let alone by all means I had rather it was cleared
next to the branch there is less timber down back there
than next to the house and the land is better on the
branch if Dick can clear ten acres of it it would
be best to sow the largest piece of the old land in
oats and not tend but small piece of old land
besides the new grounds that would make oats enough
for the man and to keep the hogs tow or three months
and leave him nearly thirty acres to tend in corn but
the new ground would not take so much work to make a
crop on it - Mary I write to you like you were a man but
your father or mine will show Dick how to shape the
land to clear I wish I could be there long enough to do it my
self but as it is likely to be your farm for some time
with no farmer but yourself you must not back out
from having things as you want it and that ought to suit
me

1862-09-02

Camp near Savannah September 2nd 1862

Dear wife,

I have seated myself to write you a few lines hoping they may find you and the children all well. I have been very anxious to hear from you, but I know you have a very bad chance to mail your letters, and it is often several days before I get them. I have been very sick since I came back to the camp, but I have had no fever in six days now, but I mend very slow. I am weaker than I ever was since I can recollect, but I feel very well. William Carrol has been very sick with the fever he has [illegible] it to day[sic], and I am in hopes he will not have it any more while he stays in the service. There is a [prospect?] of all the boys under eighteen going out by act of congress, and a law prohibiting any more being received under that age. Mary, I will send this to you by Lieut. Parrish and a little bottle of ink for you. He will have the letter and ink in Milltown (now Lakeland, Ga.) for you. I got him to get the ink for me yesterday in the city. I have no news to write, only we have moved from Causton Bluff to this place. It is pine woods where we are now, the timber is very thick, but not so high as it is in that country. We are in the Thunderbolt Shell Road, three miles from the post office, but not over two from the city. I do not know that our camp is any healthier than the Bluff, but it['s] barely possible for it to get any sicker. We have but eighteen men in our company for duty and we are quite as able as the other companies with us. Mary, I did not tell any...

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any thing[sic] I wanted done. I ought to have laid off the new ground that Dick is to try and clear. I do not think he can do anything with more than ten acres if he can get that much in, and broke up time enough to plant it in corn. If you can have him another year, I would rather have it cleared next to the branch as you go towards William Jones' place. If I ever get to live at home again, I want to clear a field on that land, it['s] a nice piece of land and as good as any I have close enough to the house. I do not want it cleared up to the lot, nor any nearer than on a line with the little open pond back of the orchard, and the head of the Gin Bay where I had the hog pen that will be over one hundred yards from the back of the lot, and I do not want the timbers deadened next to the lot. I want it let alone by all means. I had rather it was cleared next to the branch. There is [live?] Timber down back there than next to the house, and the land is better on the branch if Dick can clear ten acres of it. It would be best to sow the largest piece of the old land in [oats?] and not tend but [a] small piece of the old land besides the new grounds that would make oats enough for the mare and to keep the hogs two or three months and leave him nearly thirty acres to tend in corn but the new ground would not take to much work to make a crop on it. Mary, I write to you like you were a man, but your Father or mine will show Dick how to shape the land to clear. I wish I could be there long enough to do it myself, but as it is likely to be your father for some time with no farmer but yourself, you must not back out from having things as you want it and that ought to suit me.