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## William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863

MS/52, 1863 Letter 002

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1863-02-25

# Knight, William W., Letter to Mary Knight February 25, 1863

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drilling all the defences around Savannah are about done now and they are so strong earth works can be made Fort McAllister. Genesee's point is great deal stronger than it was before the fight they have some of largest sized guns and are practicing every day there will be two iron clad rams done in fifteen days from now then we will have four as good boats here as the yankees can bring or any other Nation in a short time they cannot blockade Savannah or Charleston the fact is they cannot do it now vessels are coming in and going out nearly every day and they cannot help it we know their will is good if they had the power. We have a good many sick now with cold or pneumonia nineteen of our company on the sick list this morning several pretly sick but none dangerous. I do not think old man Mac Luke was robbed and beat very bad in Savannah night before last I expect he was drinking country people coming here should keep sober and not go about any where after dark

Camp Young Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Dear Mary I received yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> I got also a note from your Father dated 17<sup>th</sup> accompanying the Boy it all come safe last Friday night I did not write sooner expecting a letter to day. Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Well Mary you see that I did not write much yesterday I had to stop and attend to some business for the company. the balance of the men drew their blankets yesterday forty five drew in North Carolina they were all that was there them the rest did not get theirs till yesterday. I was very glad to hear you have got well again I would like very much to see you and the children I would not know Lillian if I was to see her any where else but with you I cannot recollect how she looked I would ~~how~~ know either of the others any where I do not expect to get a chance to go home this year unless the war closes and I have no idea that it <sup>will</sup> close in 1863 or a good while longer a great many say we will have peace in a few months but I

am no prophet but we will not have peace in  
eighteen months and I fear not in two years -  
the hardest for our people will be from now  
till time by that time the wheat crops will  
come in if no injury befalls the crop there  
will be plenty bread for all we have no news  
of interest here, we are expecting a battle in  
Tennessee this week, The Federals were to take  
Savannah and Charleston in a few days when  
we come back from Wilmington but they must  
have postponed it untill another time I think  
they laid the bill on the table for the balance  
of the session I do not believe they have  
men enough to take Savannah in their whole  
army and navy iron clads ~~and~~ migger soldiers  
all together - old Abe ~~and~~ higher law Seward  
Greely and Butler the best of New Orleans to  
head the whole if they ever do try it they  
will find Savannah a hard road to travel  
they have tried the road to Richmond and  
Richsburg they will not do for Banks to  
travel they have been eighteen months getting  
ready for Charleston and Savannah, but their  
teams will never be able to travel <sup>the roads</sup> roads

to these places, last Friday we all had to  
at general review at Savannah infantry & cavalry  
- viz there was none of the men from the batter  
ies or picket post there the line of infantry  
was over a mile long there was a great many  
cavalry but I could not see the whole squadron  
at one time and I do not know how many there  
were of them - the drums are beating for drill  
I must go - Again trying to write no Artillery  
was at the review although there are several  
fine companies Around the city there is  
A new regiment the second Ga State troops  
attached to our brigade now but they could  
be of little use in battle now they are the  
greenest set of men I ever saw A great  
many of them never saw a drum untill  
last Sunday some of them did not know  
what a bayonet was one asked if we all  
had long knives like that pointing to an  
old fashioned musket bayonet he did  
not know what they were for, but he  
will soon learn I am in hopes they will  
take our place on picket - after they have  
been drilled sufficient for that duty but  
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## Camp Young Feb 25, 1863

Dear Mary,

I received yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> last, also a note from your Father dated 17<sup>th</sup> accompanying the Box, it all came safe last Fryday[sic] night. I did not write sooner, expecting a letter today, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. Well Mary, you see that I did not write much yesterday. I had to stop and attend to some business for the Company. The balance of the men drew their blankets yesterday, forty-five drew in North Carolina, they were all that was there. Then the rest did not get theirs till yesterday. I was very glad to hear you have got well again. I would like very much to see you and the children. I would not know Lilian if I was to see her anywhere else but with you, I cannot recollect how she looked. I would know either of the others anywhere. I do not expect to get a chance to go home this year, unless the war closes and I have no idea that it will close in 1863 or a good while longer. A great many say we will have peace in a few months.

I am no prophet but we will not have peace in eighteen months, and I fear not in two years. The hardest for our people will be from now till June. By that time the wheat crops will come in if no injury befalls the crop, there will be plenty bread for all. We have no news of interest here, we are expecting a battle in Tennessee this week. The Federals were to take Savannah and Charleston in a few days when we came back from Wilmington, but they must have postponed it until another time. I think they laid the bill on the table for balance of the session. I do not believe they have men enough to take Savannah in their whole army and navy, iron clads, nigger soldiers all together. Old Abe, higher law Seward Greely and Butler, the beast of New Orleans to head the whole if they ever do try it they will find Savannah a hard road to travel. They have tried the road to Richmond and Vicksburg, they will not do for Yankees to travel. They have been eighteen months getting ready for Charleston and Savannah, but their teams will never be able to travel the road...

to these places. Last fryday[sic] we all had to attend a general review at Savannah, infantry and cavalry. There was none of the men from the batteries or picket post there. The line of infantry was over a mile long, there was a great many cavalry, but I could not see the whole squadron at one time, and I do not know how many there were of them. The drums all beating for drill. I must go. Again, trying to write, no Artillery was at the review, although there are several fine companies around the city. There is a new regiment, the second Ga. State troops attached to our brigade now, but they could be of little use in battle now they are the greenest set of men I ever saw. A great many of them never saw a drum until last Sunday, some of them did not know what a bayonet was, one asked if we all had long knives like that, pointing to an old-fashioned musket bayonet. He did not know what they were for, but he will soon learn. I am in hopes they will take our place on picket after they have been drilled sufficient for that duty, but it will take them a month or two hard...

drilling all the defenses around Savannah are about done now, and they are as strong earth works can be made. Fort McAllister, Genesis Point is [a] great deal stronger than it was before the fight, they have some of [the] largest [sieve?] guns and are practicing every day. There will be two iron clad rams done in fifteen days from now then, we will have four as good boats here as they Yankees can bring or any other Nation. In a short time, they cannot blockade Savannah or Charleston. The fact is they cannot do it now. Vessels are coming and going out nearly every day and they cannot help it. We know their will is good if they had the power. We have a good many sick now with cold and pneumonia. Nineteen of our company on the sick list this morning, several pretty sick, but none dangerous. I do not think old man

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Mack Luke was robbed and beat very bad in Savannah night before last. I expect he was drinking. Country people coming here should keep sober and not go about anywhere after dark.

[END]