

William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863 MS/52, 1863 Letter 002

¹⁸⁶³⁻⁰²⁻²⁵ Knight, William W., Letter to Mary Knight February 25, 1863

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drilling all the defences around Savannah Damp Joing Feb 28TO 1863 are about done now and they are as strong earthe works can be made Fort Mester Leav Mary D. received yours ter Genesee's foint is great deal stronger of the site I hast also a note your Than it was before the fight they have your Father dated 17th accompany the Some of largest sived Suns and are prac-Boy it all come safe last Ingday might living every day there will be two now I did not write sooner expecting a clad vane done in fifteen days from letter to day, Heb 26th Well Mary you see now then we will have four as good that I did not write much yesterday boats here as the yankers can bring I had to stoke and attend to some busing to any other Nation in a short time they for the company. the balance of the men cannot blockade Savannah or Chaleston drew their blankets ysterday forty five drew the fact is they cannot do it now resseld in North Garolina they were all that was are coming in and going out nearly every there then the rest did not get theirs till day and they cannot help it we know yesterday. I was very glad to hear you have their will is good if they had the power got well again I would like very much to We have a good many sick now with cold Sie you and the children I would not know In preumionia mineteen of our company Lilian if I was to see her any where elsebut on the pick list this morning several with you I cannot recolect how she looked prety sick but none dangerous. I so not think I would too know either of the others any old man Mac whe was rober and beat where I do not effect to get a chance to very bad in savannah night before go home this year unless the war closes and last I expect he was drinking country I have no idea that it close in 1863 or profile coming here should keep soberand a good while longer a great many say we no go about any where after dork will have beace in a few months for A

to these places , last fryday we all had to a and no prophet but poe will not have peace in and general review at Savannah infantry & caval eighteen months and I fear not in two years - my there was none of the men from the balles the hardest for our people will be from now-ies or packet post there the line of infantry till time by that lime the wheat crops will was over A mile long there was a great many come in if no injury befalls the crop there cavalry but I could not see the whole squadrom will be plenty bread for all we have no news at one time and I do not know how many chere of interest here, we are expecting a battle in were of them - the drums are beating for drill Stennysee this week, The Fiderals were to take I must go - Again trying to write no Artilley Savannah and Wharleston in a few days when was at the review although there are several we come back from Wilmington but they muse fine companies Around the city. there is have postponed it untill another time I think I new regiment the second the State broops they laid the bill on the table for the balance attached to our brigade now but they could of the session I do not believe they have be of little use in battle now they are the men enough to take Javannah in their whole greenest set of men I ever saw of great army and navy iron clads and migger soldiers many of them never saw a drum untill all together - de Abe and higher law Seword last punday some of them die not knows Greely and Butter the beast of New orleans to to what a bayonet was one asked if we all head the whole if they ever do try it they had long knives like that pointing to an will find Davannah a hard road to travel old fashioned musket bayoraet he die they have tried the road to Richmon and not know what they were for but he Wicksburg they will not do for Gankers to will soon learn I am in hopes they will travel they have been eighteen months getting take our place on picket after they have ready for Charleston and Savaniah, but their teams will never be able to travel made been drilled sufficient for that duty but it will take them a month or two hard

Camp Young Feb 25, 1863

Dear Mary,

I received yours of the 21st last, also a note from your Father dated 17th accompanying the Box, it all came safe last Fryday[sic] night. I did not write sooner, expecting a letter today, Feb 26th. 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 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]