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## William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863

MS/52, 1863 Letter 006

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1863-03-21

# Knight, William W., Letter to Mary Knight, March 21, 1863

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Camp Young March 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Mary, I received yours  
mailed the 17<sup>th</sup> but the letter having no  
date to it this the second one lately do  
tell do not the people up there keep the  
day of the month or month itself I cannot  
think you would be behind your neighbors  
in any thing surely you all have not for-  
gotten the day of the month the month and  
the year altogether Mary I have very little  
change to write besides our drills I have  
to attend regimental school every other day  
and all the spare time I have to study I  
am getting old for a schoolboy but I can  
learn as fast as any of the schoolboys here  
yet I record if the war last long enough  
and I live I will graduate I hope honorably  
and as for peace soon I can see no prospect  
for that blessing yet on the contrary there  
is every prospect of the war's continuation  
long time yet the Federal government  
believes we will not be able to feed our  
army in the field and it will ultimately  
have to be disbanded before another crop

can be made and to judge by the present  
prices for provisions they would be justified  
in their conclusions there is plenty of provisions  
unfortunately the speculators has got a good  
deal of it in hand but the government  
has on hand a very good supply at this  
time as much as can be taken care of and  
in many place more they are doing all  
they can to crush <sup>us</sup> on every point I can  
hear from but our army is in better shape  
than it ever has been before we are better  
drilled disciplined and in better health  
with better armament and more men than  
we have ever had at any time since the  
war we are already crippling them a good  
deal on water our little navy has destroyed  
about eighty of their vessels in the last  
six months several of them their best men  
of war they had and we have learned  
them they cannot take all our batteries  
with Iron clad gun boats and our people  
has learned that they are not such a great  
bugaboo as they used to think them, in  
a short time about one third of their men  
will return home the time of their <sup>spring</sup> harvest

It will be some time before they raise  
that many men without draft to replace  
them one man are in for the war or as  
long as they live there will be no other  
organization in of or army Well Mary  
enough of this how are you a getting along  
are you likely to get your crop planted  
time enough how has the people got their  
hogs roll this year. have you had much  
rain this spring it has rained very  
little here since we come back from North  
Carolina till night before last it begun  
to rain light here it has been raining  
little all the time since and its very cold  
with it I fear it will kill your hogs and  
cattle if it is as cold up there as it is  
here I can tell you we are having a bad time  
yesterday and to day. it is the worst time  
we have had here this winter the wind  
and rain from the North east there is  
very little timber in that direct it has all  
been cut down in front of the Batteries  
for over a mile Mary I sent you two letters  
by Joseph Strickland in the first one  
I wrote I sent you thirty dollars I

thought it would be safer than to send  
it by mail I hope you got them safe  
I have not had a chance to go to town  
yet and I do not know when I can go  
the way we are fixed now I hope Somath  
will be able to come back in a few days  
Mary have you got plows enough to  
make your crop with Dick can tell  
you he knows how many it will take  
and what sort they will have to be ask  
him if he got the other piece of steel  
like the one uncle John made last year  
from Fathus place if not to get it if  
he can do so. Mary it is the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I wrote  
last night untill it was so dark I could  
not see any longer. it is cold and cloudy the  
wind still from the N. E. our picket is having  
an awful on those Islands and marshes I  
wante you to write what you need to make  
your crop with if you need any thing I will  
get it if it is possible. Mary kiss the children  
for me. and you will have to take this  
letter for your kiss I expect it will <sup>be</sup> the  
<sup>only</sup> kiss I can give you in some time  
Your faithful husband W W Knight

1863-03-21

## Camp Young March 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Mary,

I received yours mailed the 17<sup>th</sup>. Just the letter having no date to & this the second one lately do tell, do not the people up there keep the day of the month or month itself? I cannot think you would be behind your neighbors in any thing. Surely you all have not forgotten the day of the month, the month, and the year altogether. Mary, I have very little chance to write, besides our drills I have to attend regimental school every other day, and all the spare time I have to study. I am getting old for a schoolboy, but I can learn as fast as any of the schoolboys here yet. [illegible] of the war last long enough, and I live, I will graduate I hope honorably, and as for peace soon, I can see no prospect for that blessing, yet on the contrary there is every prospect of the war's continuation long time yet. The Federal government believes we will not be able to feed our own army in the field, and it will ultimately have to be disbanded before another crop...

can be made, and to judge by the present prices for provisions, they would be justified in their conclusions. There is plenty of provisions, unfortunately, the speculators has got a good deal of it in hand, but the government has on hand a very good supply at this time, as much as can be taken care of and in many place more. They are doing all they can to crush us on every point I can hear from but our army is in better state than it ever has been before. We are better drilled, disciplined, and in better health with better armament and more men than we have ever had at any time since the war. We are already crippling them a good deal on the water. Our little navy has [destroyed?] about eighty of their vessels in the last six months, several of them their best men-of-war they had and we have learned them they cannot take all our batterys with iron clad gun boats, and our people has learned that they are not such a great bugaboo as they use to think them. I've a short time, about one third of their men will return home the time of their service [illegible]...

It will be some time before they raise that many men without draft to replace them. Our men are in for the war or as long as they live, there will be no other organization in of or army. Well Mary, enough of this, how are you a getting along? Are you likely to get your crop planted time enough? How has the people got their logs [roll?] this year? Have you had much grain this spring? It has rained very little here since we come back from North Carolina, till night before last it begun to rain light here. It has been raining [a] little all the time since and it's very cold with it. I fear it will kill your hogs and cattle if it is as cold up there as it is hear. I can tell you we are having a bad time yesterday and today. It is the worse time we have had here this winter the wind and rain from the North East. There is very little timber in that direct [direction], it has all been cut down in front of the Batteries for over a mile. Mary, I sent you two letters by Joseph Strickland in the first one I wrote. I sent you thirty dollars....

I thought it would be safer than to sent it by mail. I hope you got them safe, I have not had a chance to go to town yet, and I do not know when I can go the way we are fixed now. I hope Jonathan will be able to come back in a few days. Mary, have you got plows enough to make your crop with? Dick can tell you, he knows how many it will take and what sort they will have to be. Ask him if he got the other piece of steel like the one uncle John made last year from Father's place. If not, to get it if he can do so. Mary, it is the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I wrote last night until it was so dark I could not see any longer. It is cold and cloudy, the

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wind still from the N.E.. Our picket is having an awful [time] on those islands and marshes. I want you to write what you need to make your crop with, if you need any thing, I will get it if at all possible. Mary, kiss the children for me, and you will have to take this letter for your kids. I expect it will be the only kiss I can give you in some time.

Your faithful husband,

W. W. Knight.