

William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863 MS/52, 1863 Letter 011

¹⁸⁶³⁻⁰⁶⁻⁰³ Knight, William W., Letter to Mary Knight, June 3, 1863

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Missippi Campi Sear Vajor City Chune 3 ~ x863 - Vange Will ma Dead Margan Again A first yoursed into writerinous in you tinks this I wish you could see the seat and place us are campled at we are no a marrow bottom with a creek running. Through clear limestone water it is all the running water we have seen in any creek fines. we have been in this State we are below plagoo city. three miles on wather we are sout of it; fifty miles from bicksburgh there are more men here than you ever sawin all your live the mander it will not give not knowing but this might fall in the Federald have we come have Histerday we tay in day before two milles form here we. left our comp at Dessonville saturday near tevelor Oclock and marched till night Sunday was the hardest days marches soe wood Taken mot the farmest we have marched farther in the day but the country very broken the weather very hat and not water enough to barily pistain life mary of the men gave out and corold go no further some fainted "in the road and have to be sand "mprimed" sarried off but more of our prigade died from the march Sa far as I can ascertain this country is the barest of wa The of any I ever dain we are gradually desing up around preasburgh the abrahamites are province it our men incides inner Sen- Semberton our subjete army under Sin Sonnie on the commands the whole army we are mindles Sen Walker the is may Leneral now and in comminand

this squad here they are from different states, then is some sickness among the men but none of there derig none I think in our company there the following men sick but They can walk about and tina to their busines Ohn & Adams William Cameron, Henry A Pastinger Mathew K Lindsej Edmond Matthis Haron Mattoy: Volac & Farrish Corf John K Patterson Alfred B Findley, Jacob I Truitt shey are only too weak to hold out to march they have fever or dearshoe. Inathan had the fever two days but he is better he did not have much fever gesterday he got too hot a funday of the march & Farich is well again all the west of the company are well Manning Fender got a letter from Dames Bender last week he was getting better we left him at Columbus. Sa. Elbert I Chapman or as the boys called old yellow is with us again William D Warren of the Sharpshooters form Thomas county found him at Canton Mairon did belong to our regiment before he was put in the parpshooters Battallion Chapman is heartier them I ever law him he was in the 2sth Mepipipi Regement of (mounted infantry he had been these five months and two days the requirent has been in several battles since he has been in it he went by the mane of illaming Colomaniche says he does not know any thing of Benjamins Garrits that he has not seen him since last Secember they got parties at Borokhaven in this state we have no tents in our regiment we take the world and weather as we find it we have four fry pans and one over for our company the sect of

of the companies are no better off than our when we are stopics we get enough to eat bat when we are marching we do not have any chance to cook enough to eat and water to cook with is often not to be had we marched seven milie time day after sin set we stoped to camps, where it had been represented, we could get water but it was not there to get and live had to come Swen miles further before we could get. it and there was not enough and what there was was very bad & will descrabe the kind of water we have been ineng antill we come to this place that is if your imagination will help. draw the picture it is in holes in the creeks the soil slick gellow maid word of sand the water yellows musty, duff with a green seum on it but seldom over a fost deep some Times half dover holes and no more near enough to be got at and that the chance for severals thousand men and a great many of them like hogo if they are not mindea out they will be in it washing there have face fest or da masty clothes it astonishing how many men there are these ... world that are only animals in human form form as one and he will tell you it is wrong but he case some body else do so and he had so well do so as any body else that is always the answer your get they have a kind of elastic consciences. that effand to fit my case. This is a very more farming : coundry they make fine come with the least work of any. country I have ever been in strey breakup Their land plant. their corn aide the com turn the drivit-from it has it out

let it stand about two week side it again turning the dist to the compilet stand about the same time and plough shit the middles and they are done that crop they make from thirly to fifty bushile to the acre their lands are nearly all bottoms lands it average fifty bushels to the acre Mary got two litters saturday from you dated the gt & 17Th of last month I was very glad to hear that you and the children had been well finer I left Davannah & say had been for the head in been written so long they were almost out if bat a mecon mine are gailen no over before they get to you if they ever. "get This well stlay I secon you need not be making for fear I will Differ for many because of what I sent your haven quite as much as will need I hope if I have not have life Davannah & should have sent your as mineto more his have sout you This year one hundred and Ten dollars an monay and a little over thirly dollars worth of things I have about piply dollars with me now I secon it will last me till " we diam again I had much rather sees you and the children that any anoist of money we will ever have at ondinican I and in hope the will hap will "and able to do all the duty . that may be required of me & think all the men in our. Comparing would get well in a week if they could have . that long to rect their is no chance for them to write when werare on a march we have but one ambulance for the pequint it will not carry more than eight meen swill write when were I have as change four, Starthiful Venabana . . William W. Snight ...

Camp Near Yazoo City, Mississippi. June 3rd 1863

Dear Mary,

Again I seat myself to write you a few lines [illegible]. I wish you could see the seat and place we are camped at, we are in a narrow bottom with a creek running through it. Clear limestone water, it is all the running water we have seen in any creek since we have been in this state. We are below Yazoo City, three miles, or rather we are south of it, fifty miles from Vicksburg. There are more men here than you ever saw in all your life, the number I will not give, not knowing, but this might fall in the Federals hands. We come here yesterday, we lay up day before two miles from here, we left our camp at Deasonville Saturday near twelve o'clock and marched till night. Sunday was the hardest days march we ever taken. Not the farthest, we have marched farther in the day, but the country very broken, the weather very hot, and not water enough to barely sustain life. Many of the men gave out and could go no further. Some fainted in the road and had to be taken up and carried off, but none of our brigade died from the march so far as I can ascertain. This country is the barest of water of any I ever saw. We are gradually closing up around Vicksburgh, the Abramites are around it, our men inside under Gen. Pemberton, our outside army under Gen. Johnson. He commands the whole army. We are under Gen. Walker. He is my General now, and in command [of]...

...this squad here. They are from different states, with some sickness among the men, but none of them dangerous. I think in our company there the following men [are] sick, but they can walk about and tend to their business: John S. Adamns, William [Camerson?], Henry A. Lastinger, Matthew K. Lindsey, Edmond Mathis, Aaron Mattox, John A. Parrish, Corp. John K. Patterson, Alfred B. [Finalley?], Jacob P. Truitt. They are only too weak to hold out to march, they have fever or diarrhea. Jonathan had the fever two days but he is better, he did not have much fever yesterday, he got too hot Sunday of the march. Lt. Parrish is well again, all the rest of the company are well. Manning Fender got a letter from James Fender last week, he was getting better. We left him at Columbus Ga. Talbert L. Chapman, or as the boys [him] "Old Yellow, is with us again. William D. Warren of the Sharpshooters from Thomas County found him at Canton. Warren did belong to our regiment before he was put in the Sharpshooter's Battalions. Chapman is heartier than I ever saw him. He was in the 20th Mississippi regiment of mounted infantry. He had been there five months and two days. The Regiment has been in several battles since he has been in it. He went by the name of Manning Coleman, he says he does not know any thing of Benjamin Garrith, that he has not seen him since last December. They got parted at Brookhaven in this state. We have no tents in our regiment, we take the world and weather as we find it. We have four fry pans and one oven for our company, the rest of...

...the companies are no better off than our[s]. When we are stoped[sic], we get enough to eat, but when we are marching we do not have any chance to cook enough to eat and water to cook with is often not to be had. We marched seven miles from day after sunset. We stopped to camp where it had been represented, we could get water, but it was not there to get and [five?] had to come seven miles further before we could get it and then there was not enough and what there was very bad. I will describe the kind of water we have been using until we come to this place. That is if your imagination will help draw the picture, it is in holes in the cracks [of] the soil, slick yellow mud void of sand. The water is yellow, muddy stuff with a green scum on it, but seldom over a foot deep. Some times half dozen holes and no more near enough to be got at and that the chance for several thousand men and a great many of them like hogs if they are not minded out, they will be in it washing there[sic] hands, face, feet or old, nasty

clothes. It[sic] astonishing how many men there are in this world that are only animals in human form form, ask one and he will tell you it is wrong but he can somebody else do so and he had as well to do so as any body else. That is always the answer you get. They have a kind of elastic consciousness that expand[sic] to fit any case. This is a very rich farming country, they make fine corn with the least work of any country I have ever been in. They break up their land, plant their corn, side the corn, turn the [dirt?] from it, hoe it out,...

...let it stand about two week[sic], side it again turning the dirt to the corn, let stand about the same time, and plough [sic] just the middles and they are done [with] that crop. They make from thirty to fifty bushels to the acre, their lands are nearly all bottoms lands, it averages fifty bushels to the acre. Mary, I got two letters Saturday from you, dated the 9th and 17th of last month. I was very glad to hear that you and the children had been well since I left Savannah. I say had been for the had been written so long they were almost out of [state?], but I reckon mine are quite as old before they get to you if they ever get there. Well Mary, I reckon you need not be uneasy for fear I will suffer for money because of what I sent you. I have quite as much as I will need. I hope if I had not have left Savannah, I should have sent you as much more. I have sent you this year one hundred and ten dollars as money, and a little over thirty dollars worth of things I have about sixty dollars with me now. I recon it will last me till we draw again, I had much rather see you and the children than any amount of money we will ever have at one time. I am in hopes I will keep well and able to do all the duty that may be required of me. I think all the men in our company would get well in a week if they could have that long to rest. There is no chance for them to write when we are on a march, we have but one ambulance for the regiment it will not carry more than eight men. I will write whenever I have a chance.

> Your Faithful Husband, William W. Night.