
William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863
MS/52, 1863 Letter 015

1863-09-20

Siles, S. S., Letter to Mary
Knight, September 20, 1863

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Camp Dec 20 1863

Dear Mary your kind from was nice & was
very glad to hear from you and Mary and
William has got home I hope he will soon
get well you have quite a trip I know you
were really disappointed but still it was
much better that he was already at home
scarcely a day but what some woman
comes to the Dupont Companies to see
I try to get her husband that is sick
of home but seldom is it the officers
will notice them, if it was William I would
send certificates back until I was good well
I am sorry I am not at home longer at home
we have had a very heavy storm our tents were
very old & much worn I now scarcely a man
has a tent that will keep off any rain the Quartermaster
Claster says he tried in Savannah to get tents
but failed Capt. Hylly says they will be no more
tents to be had at least Capt. Mercey told him
so, I suppose if we stay on the coast we will make

And I am afraid we are about played out
It is my opinion depends greatly on the expected
fight in Northern Ga, if we get Whipped there it will
be very apt to hasten Desertion & gain & I may lose
our Army. Some of our Men has Return & I would
be glad if all would come in I am a peace Man
some times almost on any terms but you knowes
& know one else how often it will close
Look what a Trick was first to get in the men
then to tell several, it was a trick but they said
they know no danger of our going in long at a time
I would like very much to see William
but it is entirely out of my power

Our Men are very sickly & I fear some will
die, our case is very hard & scarce we dont
eat any thing but Beef & some Meats

Tell William I write me, my health is not very
good, I suffer very much with my Breast
& have some Fevers, from it, the Men say I fall
off very fast, but I continue to do any amant
orderly Sergeant dislike it very much

Write soon & all the news Truly I am
Yours

1863-09-20

Camp Lee, Sep 20 1863

Dear Mary, your kind favor was rec & was very glad to hear from and very glad William has got home. I hope he will soon get well. You have quite a trip. I know you were sorely disappointed but still it was much better that he was already at home. Scarcely a day, but what some woman comes to the different commands to see & try to get her Husband that is sick off home. But seldom is it the officers will notice them. If I was William I would send certificates back until I was good [&] well. I am sorry I have not of staid longer at home. We have had a very heavy storm. Our tents were very old & much worn & now scarcely a man has a tent that will keep off any rain. The Quarter Master says he tried in Savannah to get tents but failed. Capt Wyllly [Thomas S. Wyllly] says there will be no more tents to be had at least Capt Mercer[?] told him so. I suppose if we stay on the coast we will make...

...huts. I am afraid we are about played out. It is my opinion depends greatly on the expected fight in Northern Ga if we get whooped there, it will be very apt to start desertion again & away goes our army. Some of our men has return & I would be glad if all would come in. I am peace man, some times almost on any terms, but God knows & know one else how or when it will close soon. What a trick was fixt to get in the men over 45. I told several it was a trick, but they said they know no danger of our going in long at a time. I would like very much to see William but it is entirely out of my power.

Our men are verry sickly and I fear some will die. Our fare is very hard & scarce we don't eat any thing but Beef & cornmeal.

Tell William to writ me. My health is not verry good[.] I suffer verry much with my Breast & I have some fevers from it, the Men say I fall off verry fast, but I continue to do duty am act Orderly Sergent. dislike it very much.

Write soon & all the news Truly SS Siles