
William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863
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Siles S. S., Letter to Mary
Knight, November 2, 1863

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MO N
Camp Simmes 9 Nov 1863
M

Dear Mary

Gauss was rec'd a few days before
our move, from Kilkenny to this place & would
have been an excellent long since had of being
well. & since I reported for duty I have been
absent nearly all my time on Picket Co. &c
I was sorry without left so much. had of
been in his place would have stayed until
I was well. I for a long time was sorry I did not
stay at home longer. Mary I have lost all the
patriotism I ever had. I am now a Peace man
& don't care much how it comes. Am tired of
living this life & want to stay with my family
& pass of my home. thinking about my little
boys I know they are so interesting now,
I have been trying to get a few days to come home
ever since I heard my brother was home.
but it is nearly impossible to get off. I want to
try again & if I do get off will be home 13 or 14
but it is very uncertain. I dislike our present
location the water is very bad. I am confined on
Ireland. Some say we are good boats for the families

It is thought by several that we will soon go
to Charleston & help to form a ^{of Cavalry} Brigade to be Commanded
by Genl R. H. Anderson, this may be true as I have
some Companies of Home Guards will next week
relieve some of our pickets & it may be for that
purpose of sending us a way - private agreement
prevails among some of our boys that is in
the habit of swamping it. I know chances
to get off of the Island, I advise myself a good
deal by telling them they are to be put in front
of the battles that it is a late order that all
men that ever deserted have to serve as best
work for the balance some few believe it & c
Provisions is scarce, & our Ration is cut short
so the Gov at this time feeds us poorly I have we
will get half loaf of light bread per day every
Bacon is only worth \$3.50 cts per pound. Butter 50c
Potatoes 3 1/2 cts per quart & large ones 50 pieces
Capt Henry says all the fodder our Horses eat
cost the Gov 450 & 500 per hundred what is our
for women & children to do & we only draw from
the Gov 11 & 12 cts per man the if this war continues long
many will starve. Please write me soon & all the
kiss your children for me. Respectfully
Siles

Camp Simmons 2 Nov 1863

Dear Mary,

Yours was rec [received] a few days before our move from [Killerny?] to this place & would have been answered long since had I of been well. & Since reported for duty I have been absent nearly all my time on picket [counters?]. I was sorry William left so sick. Had I of been in his place I would have stayed until I was well. I for a long time was sorry I did not stay at home longer. Mary I have lost all the patriotism I ever had & am now a peace man and don't care much how it comes. I am tired of living this life & want to stay with my family. I pass up many hours thinking about my little boys. I know they are so interesting now. I have been trying to get a few days to come home ever since I heard my Brother was home but it is nearly impossible to get off. I want to try again & if I do get off I will be home 13 or 14 but it is [very uncertain?]. I dislike our present [station? situation?] the [Quarter?] is very bad & confined on & [island?]. Some say we are good Bate [sic] for the [Yankees?]....

... and is thought by several that we will soon go to Charleston & help to form a Brigade of Cavalry to be commanded by Gen. R.H. Andersonⁱ. This may be true as I [hear?] some companys [sic] of home guards will next week relieve some of our pickets & it may be for that purpose of sending us away. Greate [sic] excitement prevails among some of our boys that is in the habit of Swamping it & know [sic] chance to get off of the [Island?]. I amuse myself a good deal by tell them they are to be put on front of the battles that it is a [late?] order that all men that ever deserted have to serve as breastwork for the balance. Some few believed it. Provisions is scarce & our rations is cut shorter so the Gov at this time feeds us poorly. I hear we will get half loaf of light bread per day extra. Bacon is only worth \$3.50 cts pr. pound. Butter 500. Potatoes 37 ct pr. [roast?] & large ones 50 piece. Capt. Henry says all the fodder our horses eats cost the gov 4.50 & 5.00 per hundred. What is our poor women & children to do & we only drawing from the gov. 11 & 12 pr month if this war continues long many will starve. Please write me soon & all the [news?]. Kiss your children for me.

Respectfully, S.S. Siles [L.S. Siles?]

ⁱ Richard Heron Anderson (October 7, 1821 – June 26, 1879)