

CHATTANOOGA HISTORY CENTER

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2015.001.085 transcription

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October 9th 1863

Camp Near Chattanooga Tenn

Dear Sister I take pen in hand to inform you that I received yore letter dated Sept 21 and it was read with pleasure- I am well at this time and truly hope when you get this letter it may find you and all the folks in good health. Sarah it is hardly nesary for me to write anything concerning the grate Battle that we fought a few weeks ago. But I will try to give you a sketch of the Battle. the 38. Regt. Ind. Vol belongs to the 1st Brigade. 1st Division 14th Army Corps (scratched out) which was commanded by Genl Thomas who is said to be the hero of the Battle of Chicamauga [sic]. this Battle is called the Battle of Chicamauga [sic]. the 1st Division was [scratched out] Commanded by Genl Baird -- but since is commanded by Genl Ronsean. the 1st Brigade was commanded by Col Seribner(?)

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We went in to the fight on Saturday the 19th of Sept about 11 oclock. at first we drive the Rebels about one mile. The Rebels massed their force an come up 8. Ranks deep poreing(?) volly after volly in to our Ranks. we fought them like tigers for awhile but was forced to fall Back or be all killed or captured. we lost a good many men. we ralied [sic] again and took our position again about the same place where had been fighting. the rebels had been driven back and a battery recaptured that the Rebels had taken from our Brigade. and about sun down they came again and we fought them until after dark and such a clash of musketry never was exceeded. the rebels got a cross fire on us and we had to fall Back the second time. on Sunday the fighting commenced about 10. oclock their first charge was made on the first Division. but we repulsed them they made 5 [or 3?]. diferent [sic] charges but was repulsed we held our position until late in the

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evening. all this time Genl McCook had been drawing his troops from the field. and he was himself by this [crossed out] time at Chattanooga. while Thomas was fighting. well I must stop on this subject for the preasant [sic]. Some time ago I had a memarandum of the company that I belong to

sent to you. I have never heard whether you got it or not. if you hav I want you to take good care of it, for it cost me 100. dollar. I also wrote an order for Mother to get fifty dollars to settle up the Depts [Debts?] . I hav never heard whether she got it or not. I want you to write and let me know about these things. this makes 5 [3?]. letters that I have wrote since the Battle and got no anser. I wrote 3. while I was in Georgia before the Battle and got no answer. it is discouraging to write and get no anser [sic]. I saw Wilford Allen he came out all Right. I am with Robert Brown almost every day. Moses Seese and Bill Lookis and Jim Sigler are at this place

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a little more and I am through for this time. we hav had two or three little fights since we hav been here. the shelled all day a few days ago but [crossed out] did not do much damage. we can see the camp of the Rebels and their campfire. our pickets and the the [sic] Rebels are in gun shot of each other. this place is well fortified and we are fortifying every day.

If we did hav to leave the Battle Field and our dead and wounded in the hands of the Rebels Genl Rosecrans says we gained a grate victory. he says we went for Chattanooga and we got it. Well I must close my letter. [crossed out] No more for the preseant [sic] but remain your Brother

Lafayette McKown To

Sarah Jane McKown