

CHATTANOOGA HISTORY CENTER

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2015.001.100 transcription

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Chattanooga. Tenn. Jan. 28th /64

Dear Sister I take my pen in hand to inform you that your kind and welcome letter come to hand bearing date Jan 13th and also the 22nd which was read with pleasure. I was glad to hear that all was well. I am well at this time. hoping when you get this letter it may find you and all the folks in good health. I am in the best health I ever was in my life. I will way [weigh] about one hundred and seventy five or eighty and we are having a good time since the cars comes through. We are no more on quarter rations. no more on half rations- but we get full rations. I will name the articles we get- we get coffee sugar tea onions potatoes sour craut. We get Beef. Bacon. pickles. pork .Beans. We draw Soft Bread and Crackers and some flour- we are detailed as pioneers [?] at this time. and work as we please. we dont do no guard duty- we dont care if corn is fifty dollars a Bushel

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To day is a fine and beautiful day the sun shines with grate splendor on the grate City of Chattanooga and it has been very warm for several days. we haven't had but one small snow this winter. There is one that snits me more then all. that is Braggs Army is deserting and comeing in our lines by droves and taking the oath of Allegiance and some are going to our Army. the oppinnion of the most of people is that the war wont last much longer. it is thought by some there will be a war between France and the United States. I believe the Rebellion is about played out.

I was ~~se~~ sorry to hear that you was so badly fooled about me being at New Albany. I would of liked to went home and seen you and all the rest of the folks- but reenlisting for three year I couldnt see home in that light I could go in to the service three longer for this reason. it looks to me to much like upholding these poor cowardly rascals at home that is afraid to come out and help put down this Rebellion

The 38th Ind. has always been rushed in to the verry hottest of the Battles that they have been in and I think we have been in as many Battles as any of the Ind. Regts. 1st the skirmish at Cattanooga in 1862 the first fighting we done The Battle of Chaplin Hills Stone River and Hoovers Gap Dug Gap Chicamauga Lookout Mountain Mishionary Ridge Taylors Ridge I was in all these fights but one that was Taylors Ridge- I was wounded in the charge on Mishionary Ridge and wasent able to go any father I am not very particular about getting in to another- when a soldier goes through that many fights I think that enough-

Well I sent you my likeness a week or two ago I have a gold locket with my likeness in it I will send to you before verry long- and I also have a brest pin that I made of laurel that I will send home- you stated in your letter that Uncle Hiram wrote me a letter I have never got it. I never got that knife I look for that Box that you are going to send me.

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Sarah I want to know if you have all the letters that I have sent you Since I have Been in the Army and if Willy has. if you have I want you to keep them. if I live to get home all right I expect to write a Book- and the letters will be a grate assistance. they will remind me of circumstances that I have forgot

Well I will bring this letter to a close No more for the present but Remain your Brother

LaFayette McKown

Sarah Jane McKown