

William McElhose Letter

Morfesboro [sic] Feb. [sic] 12th 1863

Dear friend Emma

you will think by this time that I have forgot you but now far from it. I have ben [sic] on duty So much this past few deyes [sic], that I have not Skarcley [sic] time to Wright [sic] to my friendes [sic]. but Since I Sat down to Wright [sic] to you. I herd [sic] a voice at the dor [sic] pf my tent. Seyer [sic] in a low tone of voice, is the Mc boyes [sic] in this Compeny [sic] yes. was the repley [sic] of our boyes [sic]. and he was invited in I droped [sic] my peper [sic] an [sic] geve [sic] him my knapsack to Sit down as it is the best we can do in the Seat kind I looked at him the Second time and I See him Smile. I ran to him and said is it posible [sic] this is brother Hugh. yes. William dont [sic] you know me. I knew him better when he Called my neme [sic] I knew his voice better than his face for his whiskers disfigred [sic] his face and he is not so fleshey [sic] as he was when I saw his [illegible] years a go [sic]. Emma you can imagin [sic] how glad I was to meat [sic] a brother in the field. Robert was out on picket and after we conversed a few ouers [sic] we Started out to the Picket line to see Rob as we come in Sight of him on his post Rob called his neme [sic] right of [sic]. But Hugh would never knew him if he had met him 40 times. I have not received but one letter from home Since the Battle. I am in hopes we will receive a large mail Soon. the [sic] ar [sic] a large mail in Nashvill [sic] we herd [sic] yesterdy [sic] for this Regt. Brother Hugh is in kamp [sic] a bout [sic] one mile and a half from hear [sic] on the Lebedon [sic] pike I think I feel better satisfied Since I foun [sic] him Rob and I will viset [sic] his kamp [sic] next Saterdag [sic] Rufus Bolton is Well I received a letter from his pepel [sic] inquiring [sic] what the reason is he dont [sic] Wright [sic] he does as often as any on in the Compeny [sic] but it apeares [sic] the [sic] dont [sic] receive them. Well Emma I am in hopes that we will Soon See this rebellion [sic] come to a close thogh [sic] thogh [sic] [crossed out] [every thinges [sic] is crossed out] it lookes [sic] dark and discouriging [sic] Some times but I Shall live in hopes that all thinges [sic] is foredained what Soever [sic] comes to pass. I told Hugh that Rob and I lost our best friend in kentucky [sic] he Said he remembred [sic] him very well though he was but short time in Plainfield and did not have a opertunity [sic] to form aquen[illegible] with meny [sic] of our boyes [sic] I told him a bout [sic] what we come through before we parted With Gorge [sic] and after we left him and I See his eyes fill with tears. I turned the Subject to Something elce [sic]. Hugh has ben [sic] fortunete [sic] he has not seen those hard marches in kentucky [sic] that we indured [sic] nor any battle for when he goined [sic] his Regt at Morfesboro [sic] the Battle was over he was in charge of recrutes [sic] at the [illegible] at galliten [sic] his regt [sic] was in the fight and lost only 2 killed 3 or 4 slite [sic] wonded [sic]

I presume you will be over in our house and read them letter for the [sic] will be ancious [sic] to know if we found Hugh. tel [sic] them the box has not come yeat [sic] but I expect [sic] it soon for the [sic] ar [sic] boxes coming up to the Regt every day and I think it will come soon. Emma I hope your helth [sic] is better now. I know you had a great triel [sic]

to overcome but let us reflect a moment and we can see that it is ordred [sic] by him hou
[sic] [illegible word crossed out] bringes [sic] light out of darknes [sic] When I look a
round [sic] in my tent and See how meny [sic] has gon [sic] arredey [sic] I often winder
[sic] can it be So when we started from [illegible word crossed out] Leuisville [sic] we
had 21 in our mess and now only 10 some died some in the Hospitel [sic] and it is so all
though the regiment so we canot [sic] muster but 280 Men fit for duity [sic] at presant
[sic] and the helth [sic] of the kamp [sic] is as good as comon [sic] We have a few keses
[sic] of Small pox in our Brigede [sic] but none but 1 or 2 in our Regiment My helth [sic]
uncomon [sic] good I am heviour [sic] than I ever was in my life my waight [sic] is 170
and I never avrige [sic] waight [sic] at home was 150 Rob I think is much flesherer [sic]
than he was at home. Rob has gust [sic] received a letter from Mother the mail is gust
[sic] come the [sic] ar [sic] none for me. well. I will live in hopes the [sic] will be one for
me in the next mail.

How is James I suppose [sic] he is a big Boy by this time give him my respects I receive
letters from Eddy Hayes but none from [illegible] tell him not to kill all the game [sic] for
he and I expectes [sic] to be together and we Shall have ole times over a gain [sic] give
my respects to Mr [sic] and [Mrs [sic] Flander, and also to Martha I suppose [sic] you ar
[sic] overfloued [sic] with [illegible] in tounsmen [sic] Send some of them out hear [sic]
and fill the [plecies [sic] of those how [sic] has felling [sic] in defence [sic] of there [sic]
country [sic] and the [sic] will look a good deal better I have now [sic] dout [sic] you
would Emma with good hart [sic] and I think a lite draft in toun [sic] would be some
benifet [sic] to it and to the country

[written on margins:] Well I will not tier [sic] your paitence [sic] recalling this miserable
scratch but I will not make any excuses for it is about as well as I can do under the
sircemstances Wright [sic] soon Emme if you plese [sic]

With respect I remain your William McElhose