

William McGinness letter

Murfreesboro Tennasee [sic] May the 24th – 1863

well Hester it is with the gratest [sic] of plesure [sic] that I Can Seet [sic] my Self for the purpes [sic] off [sic] writeing [sic] you A few lines to inform you that I am in better helth [sic] now then I have ben [sic] for over three Months I feal [sic] as if I wer [sic] a nother [sic] man alltogether [sic] I got a few lines from Capt [sic] Wm Sorey yesterday requesting mee [sic] to cum [sic] over to thear [sic] camp this Morning as hee [sic] wer [sic] goeing [sic] to start home at noon to day but I Cant [sic] comply with his request for I am officer of the day today and cant [sic] leve [sic] Camp I am Sorou [sic] to think he wer [sic] Mustered out of service for imprudence whilst under the influence of strong drink This shuld [sic] bee [sic] a caution to all men that is in Command of of [sic] A Company but it is not hear [sic] let mee [sic] inform you wife and children if I never Shold [sic] See you again that you need have no fears of mee [sic] on That [illegible] for I have ever ben [sic] disgusted at that conduct and that disgust has ben [sic] increded [sic] since I have ben [sic] in the armye [sic] Wm Storey promest [sic] Mee [sic] when I last saw him that he wuld [sic] visit you and if he shuld [sic] treat him with respect for hee [sic] is A Noble fellow but whiskey has ben [sic] the down fall of him and he is to bee [sic] piteyed [sic] for he is A brave and noble harted [sic] Man and I am Sorou [sic] for him alltho [sic] he brought it on him self

we wer [sic] ordered to hold our selvs [sic] in redinus [sic] to March with five days rations but we ar [sic] still in our old camp yet and ther [sic] is no talk of a Moove [sic] at this time but ther [sic] is no telling when we May The Cavelry [sic] and Mounted Infantry started out yesterday Mornin [sic] and did not get far untill [sic] thay [sic] met with a Strong Rebel force and had a fight with them but wer [sic] over powered and fell back untill [sic] thay [sic] wer [sic] reinforced ther [sic] wer [sic] severel [sic] killed on booth [sic] sides and quite a number wonded [sic] on boot [sic] sides our forces finely drove them back after thay [sic] had drove our men within three Miles [sic] of our pickets our Men took Seventy of them prisoners but thay [sic] got nun [sic] of our Men Thay [sic] ar [sic] makeing [sic] charges on our men evrey [sic] few days but thay [sic] jenerley [sic] lozee [sic] moor [sic] then thay [sic] gain I received [sic] your letter with stamps in and wer [sic] glad to get them for thay [sic] ar [sic] hard to get hear [sic] at all times if you wish to send mee [sic] or the boys any thing send stamps I have plentey [sic] Money And if the boys shuld [sic] need Any I can let them have it so long as we ar [sic] to gether [sic] Lee wer [sic] over to see Mee [sic] A few days past but I doo [sic] not see them so often now as thear [sic] camp is near three Miles from ours now but thay [sic] ar [sic] booth [sic] well your letter spoke of Marthey Making A potpy [sic] of A fat hen I Asure [sic] you I wuld [sic] like as well to spend a few days with you and enjoy [sic] your sabath [sic] feasts and good nabor [sic] Chatts [sic] as you wold [sic] with mee [sic] but ther [sic] is no use of greveing [sic] over spilt Milk them days is past for the present but I still hope thay [sic] will again return. if thay [sic] ever shuld [sic] I Shall know how to valey [sic] them better then I ever did befoor [sic] but as hy [sic] as I valeu [sic] those

privelages [sic] I doo [sic] not regret that I inlisted [sic] in the defence [sic] of of [sic] my
contrey [sic] in the least for if we shuld [sic] fail to sustain it and it shuld [sic] fall I Shall
have no dezires to live. I wold [sic] far rather fall then live under such a government.
This being the [illegible] I seen things you Must not think strange of Me leving [sic] you
and my lovley [sic] Children and stemming [sic] all the hardships of A soldier for I dezire
[sic] to live in this world under the old Constitution and union so long as god [sic] gives
Mee [sic] breath

well Hester again I set down After grand inspection To finish my letter to you I have
nothing to write but I must close in sum [sic] shape. the beoys [sic] is all well from that
part except Wm Riley he has got sumpthing [sic] like an Abses [sic] cuming [sic] on his
side that is bothering him conciderable [sic] Still he is goeing [sic] round ther [sic] is
sum [sic] complaning [sic] in the Regt not but not mutch [sic] in My Co. I have 2 in camp
sick and Nine in hospitel [sic] I Morning report reports 56 privets [sic] for duty in camp
My totel [sic] number fit for duty is 68. That is officers and privets [sic] this is the largest
Co, in the Regt except one it has jest [sic] the same So you can see how we have
reduced since we from wabash [sic] Town. Now Hester I shall close for this time hopeing
[sic] this May find you all still injoying [sic] good helth [sic] and that you May keep in
good sperets [sic] for your good helth [sic] and prosperity goverens [sic] my hapinus
[sic] gratley [sic] I ashure [sic] you

Now Children I would like to see you all very mutch [sic] but I cant [sic] yet a while but
hope the time will soon cum [sic] that I Shall see you and Spend a few hapey [sic]
moments with you bee [sic] good children and if I ever see you I will get you all
sumpthing [sic] pretey [sic]. Marthey I do not want you to kill all your fat hens for I want
to crack sum [sic] of thear [sic] boons [sic] yet George if you have not got like Mr [sic]
[illegible] has [crossed out] I to [crossed out] want you to write often but if you have any
of my loyilty [sic] pray dont [sic] write any Moor [sic] for I doo [sic] not want any Man to
write to mee [sic] unless he is fulley [sic] satesfied [sic] that I am A loyl [sic] Man. Tell all
the nabors [sic] I want them to write to Mee [sic] often and I will Ancer [sic] thear [sic]
letters with satesfaction [sic] for ther [sic] is nothing moor [sic] welcom [sic] then a letter
from a friend

I remain as ever your husband and friend

William McGinness

Capt [sic] Com. Co. H 75th Regt Ind Vol