

Addison McPheeter Letters

Sullivan Illinois

Jan 18th 1863

Mr. Rankin T. McPheeters

Dear Rankin

Your letter of Jan 11th came to hand last wednesday night, To learn that you were still, enjoying your usual, good health was indeed a gratification to me. I was sorry [sic] to learn that you had suffered so much with your teeth, hope you will get rid of the toothache soon. Rankin I received a letter from Uncle Henry last evening. The letter stated that there was an estate in England coming to the Campbell heirs said estate is said to be worth several hundred million.

Monday morning

There is a Mr. Owen a second cousin of my Fathers ferreting it out; there has been a hundred and fifty dollars sent to an Attorney in England to examine the Record. The heirs are generally [sic] paying five dollars a piece. This company will be chartered by the United states, and all the heirs outside of the company will have the trouble of proveing [sic] up their heir ship, and this company can lay a tax on those that do not belong to the company. I am going to send five dollars to cousin Thomas Birch to make me a member of the company. Mr. Owen has received one letter from a lawyer in England and there is such an estate there, and Owen is expecting another letter soon. Uncle Henry writes that he intends to go to Covington between now and the 4th of February and pay the taxes he says he intended doing it - if I had not have written. He says he will still attend to renting it if I want him to. I am going to let him know that I dont [sic] want him to rent it anymore. He writes that the rents of last summer a year ago has to [crossed out] not come in to his hands yet owing to corn being so low price he thought it best to hold it. The corn is gone and nobody knows where. I passed along by the place and the corn was all gone and the cribs nearly all torn to peices. [sic] We dont [sic] write with any satisfaction at all Rankin. Father wont [sic] let me write what Turvis said about the fight. He said a great deal and if you will just come home I will tell you all about it. Rankin Mr. John Freeland walked out here yesterday evening and stayed all night. I read your letter of Jan 11 to him also your great long letter of Dec 29. He bragged on your letters very much. He said your letter you wrote in Dec. was as long as the letters Paul wrote to the Corrintheans. [sic] Rankin I will make you a nice pin cushion and needle book and send them also thread with your socks. If I had of known it I could sent them by Dr. Everette I will send you a few pins and needles in this letter to last you until I can send you more. When we received [sic] your letter Father sent John to Sullivan to let Mrs. Everette know how Jo was. She was very much pleased to hear

that he was able to go about again Rankin I feel so thankful that you did not join Loves Co a great many of his company were killed and wounded. Julia can walk across the house alone she is pretty well off for dresses. I made her a dress out of my scarf while in Indiana she is very proud of it because it is red she steps around as big as you please when she gets it on. If you could come home and see her I know you would not go back to the army anymore. she is very interesting. Here goes another half sheet but it is Fathers [sic] fault I could write more but Father wants me to leave this half sheet for you to write on. Write soon. My love to all and accept a large portion yourself. Anna I have not weaned Julia yet.

[Note written in the left margin of the first page of this letter] We have not heard from Mr. Cornwell and them yet it is two weeks to day since they left here be very careful not to get the small pox. I am uneasy about you Mollie Olds stayed all night here last night I read your letters to her she said they contained good news for her Tuesday morning

[note written at top of letter] William Cornwell was taken prisoner at the battle at Murfreesboro but was paroled immediately and is now in the hospital taking care of the sick at Nashville.

[note on right margin] Write soon.

Yours as ever Anna Write soon We are all well

Sullivan Illinois

February 1st 1863

Mr. R. T. McPheeters,

Dear Rankin,

Your very welcome letter was handed to me last friday [sic] evening it was perused with great pleasure [illegible] came by here on his road home, he stoped [sic] and left a package of letters for Father to distribute. He wasent [sic] here but a few minutes, and I did not have an oppportunity of asking him any questions. He is coming here in a few days to bring those things you sent to Julia. Julia is very proud of her money you sent her she thinks it very pretty. You have her thanks for it. Mr [sic] Cornwell and Mr [sic] Lynn returned home last wednesday. [sic] They came very very [sic] near being captured on their way home. They were fired upon by the fussillers, but no damage done. Mr. Cornwell says there was only four men in Capt [sic] Loves [sic] company but what was hurt in some way. Lieutenant Freeland Duncan, George Lynn and Peter Carver (John Freelands [illegible]) were the only men but what was hurt. Brother Addison did not receive a scratch but was knocked down by a limb from a tree that was struck by a shell, it stuned [sic] him for a short time. while he was lieying [sic] on the ground the rebels passed by him and told him they would tend to him as they went back this took place when our men retreated and the rebels were in persuit [sic] of them.

Addison waited until the rebels got out of sight and then he jumped up and ran around the rebels and caught up with his company. He said the rebels ran over our killed and wounded just like they were [illegible]. Addison managed to crawl between two large rocks to keep them from running over him. Addison cut a cedar cane while lying [sic] on the battle field near where Barber Knight fell. He sent it to Father. Mr [sic] Cornwell saw where Andy Lynn and Barber Knight was buried. Knight and a Mr [sic] Hill from Manibone were both [sic] buried in one grave. Our men were advancing on the enemies [sic] battery when Knight was killed. He was loading his gun when he was shot the ball was supposed to have passed through his heart. Andrew died a few days before his Father got there. He wrote his wife a letter while lying on the battle field after he was wounded he did not die for several days after he was wounded. He died in the hospital.

Cromwell said he saw a grave [crossed out word] that contained four hundred and fifty dead rebels. He said they went on the battle field in a few days after they got to Murfreesboro. he saw three men lying on the battle field that belonged to the 21 regiment Co. and that had not been buried also sixty-three rebels. The country between Nashville and Murfreesboro is entirely devastated there aint [sic] a rail to be seen and only two or three houses that was preserved for some use for our troops. Cornwell said he could stand and count forty brick chimneys that the houses had been burnt between N- [sic] and M- [sic] It was eight o'clock [sic] at night when they arrived at Murfreesboro they inquired for the [illegible] 21 and 42 regiments they were all camped close to gether [sic] Cornwell went to a tent and hollered and Henry York knew his voice and came out and in a few minutes Billy Cornwell came out they set and chatted awhile and Addison and several more boys of company E came up they were nearly all gone to bed when they got there. Mr [sic] Cornwell said it kept him more than busy to answer all their questions. They stayed with the boys from monday [sic] until [sic] friday [sic] and could have stayed a week longer if they had of known evrything [sic] they were detained at Nashville a week after they had started home. The boats were not ready to start. Addison was not well when they left there he had an attack of the colic. Mr [sic] Cornwell brought me a letter from Addison. He says he has no desire to fight another such battle but he is not tired of fighting for the old stars and stripes. He seems very anxious to hear from you. He has not had a letter from you since you left Alton. He has written four letters to you and has received no answer. I want you to write him often direct to Murfreesboro Tennessee. He had just received a letter from David Richardson. He is at Benton Barracks has been home lately his sister Francis is going to be married soon to Mr [sic] Brown. Mr [sic] Samms is at brothers very sick. Dr. Lewis is tending on him. I forgot to tell you that Mr [sic] Lynn did not bring Andrew home with him. Mr [sic] Knight has not sent for Barber yet I don't know whether they intend to or not Addison is going to send Father some cedar trees from the battle field as soon as the rail road is in running order again.

Rankin I am very sorry that you have learned to chew tobacco. I did not think that of you. I see I have too good an opinion of you. Rankin I would rather heard of your

loosing [sic] twenty dollars than to have of [crossed out] heard of your chewing tobacco it is such a filthy practice it will injure your health spoil your beauty and ruin your teeth it will also make you nervous. I think it is no wonder you have the tooth ache so much. I dont [sic] blame your teeth for acheing. [sic] although I sympathize with you very much for I have been troubled with the tooth ache a great deal myself. Rankin I dont [sic] want you to think that I am scolding when you read this. I feel more like crying than scolding. I want you to try and quit chewing tobacco, please promise me in your next letter that you will never chew any more. If you will quit I will make you a nice pin cushion and send you. I think I will have a chance to send you a pair of socks pins needles and thread in a short time by Purvis or Powell. Nelson is going by Humboldt when he returns to his regiment James Powells [sic] wife James Hagerman Sarah Harris and some other man is going with him as far as Humboldt Sarah is going by Humboldt on her road to see Ike [illegible]. O dear I do want to go along so bad. If I only had some money I would go. I am realy [sic] sory [sic] I went to Indiana If I had the money I spent going to Ind I would go to see you. I want to see you so much. I cant [sic] stand it much longer it seems like it has been a year since I saw you. This would be such a good chance for me to go I could come back with Mr. Hagerman What think you about it? Rankin. Addison hasent [sic] chawed any tobacco for a year he has quit entirely. Ma and I are so proud to think he has quit we are going to make a nice present and to send to him. Miss Olds says she would rather hear your letters read than any others she has heard read from the Co. she says you write with so much satisfaction and explain evrything [sic] so well. Evry [sic] one that has heard your letters ready bragg[sic] on them they say you write such interesting letters. I am proud of your letters. It lifts me to have folks brg [sic] on your letters. You can laugh at the boys that write to the ladies in the brick as much as you please.

Rankin we just finished butchering yesterday evening. We killed ten hogs nine of which we kept our selves we let Mr [sic] Hammer have one. We wished for you and Addison a great many times before we got through. I do wish you was here to help us to eat our good sausage meat and souse. Rankin I dont [sic] think Uncle Sam is very good to you or he would provid [sic] clothes for you. If you will come home you shant [sic] want for nothing. I have learnt to knit and I can keep you in good socks and I can patch as good as anybody. I should like very much to have you come home. Suppose you apply for a discharge and see how you will succeed. What is the general opinion in regard to the length of the war. Do you all think it will be ended before spring or not. I cant [sic] say what the general opinion is here. Some think the war will be ended be fore [sic] spring and others think it will continue for some time. I think a few more battles like that of Murfreesboro will end the war. The seceshionest [sic] here are a great deal worse than those in the south I have a natural hasted [sic] towards them. I hope their property and every thing they have in the world will be confiscated and taken from them. Rankin I will send some more hearts to you provided you will let me know who those gentlemen are that want them. Julia is not very well she has caught fresh cold. She is real antic can take a paper and read. I wipe her nose, and walk to the kitchen. she never reads anything but dad. It would amuse you to hear her talk. If we go to the door and tell her

dinner is ready she will start for the kitchen in a run. She has nine teeth. John says he thinks you mad [sic] a mistake when you said you intended to send Charley a rebel gun. you must have ment [sic] him as you promised him one. Charley says to send it the first opportunity. Ma wants you to send a rebel gun to her to shoot chicken hawks. [word crossed out] We are all on the grunting list; all have very bad colds Charles Tyler the attourney [sic] I was going to employ to attend to our business is dead. died since I wrote to him. Uncle Jesse has paid our taxes. The amount he paid was \$109 dollars. The taxes was not as much as we expected. He is going to send the remainder of the money back. Father sent a hundred and twenty five [sic] dollars \$125 dollars.

[Written upside down on the top margin of the first page of the letter:]

Father has not received your letter that you sent by Lieutenant [sic] Knox. Rankin write often your letters afford me much pleasure. Present my compliments to the boys and accept a large portion yourself. Your Affectionate wife Anna.

[Written across the top margin of page 4 of the letter:]

Rankin I think this letter will come up with yours now for that present. I imagine you will say it is not as long as yours but I have written it very close and there is no print on it. Dont [sic] you think I have earnt [sic] my present? Rankin I sent you some pins needles postage stamps and letter paper in my last letter did you get it. Don't [sic] forget to answer my questions.

[written on top of page 3]

Mr [sic] Hancock has writing school at the school house two nights [word crossed out] in of [crossed out] every week. Robbert [sic] Stewart was buried a saturday [sic] evening. Rankin try and get a furlough to come home on a visit. I do hope [illegible] and Vaughn will get discharges and come home. I think your company will be better off without them. Ranking I have a strong [written on top of page 2] notion of teaching school next summer if you dont [sic] get home, but I hope you will be at home before that time. I answered Cousin Betties [sic] letter a few days ago. Rankin I am going to make some hearts and send them to those little girls that carries you your dinner. I haveent [sic] anymore or I would send them in this letter. We have very cold weather now the ground is froze hard. Write me a long letter.

Mufreesboro, [sic] Tenn [sic]

Feb 12th/63

Mr [sic] R. P. McPheeters

Dear brother, I have written to you several times, and as yet have rec'd no answer from you, I cannot imagine why it is that I do not hear from you, if my letters do not come to hand why do not you write, and let me know that you have not received my letters. I am verry [sic] anxious to hear from you and hope you will delay no time in answering this. Give me all the news, tell me how you like soldering, [sic] and how your Co. is getting along etc.

I rec'd a letter from Father last night, written on the 27 of Jan, he reports all well, I also rec'd one from Ann last week, she had not heard from you for some time, was uneasy about you. I have answered her letter, also wrote to Father this morning.

I am not well at presant,[sic] nor have not been since the Battle. I am suffering with the flux, think I am improving slowly. George Lynn has also been quite unwell, has had a verry [sic] bad cold, but is about well.

Our Division left here the first of this month on a scouting expedition, they are out 12 days to day, have not heard from them since they left. George and I did not go on account of ill health, camp is very lonesome to us now, John Cummins was to see George and I yesterday, he is well and hearty. We have had a great deal of rain since the first of Jan. at presant [sic] we have beautiful weather.

Murfreesboro is being strongly fortified. yesterday there was ten thousand men working on the forts and breast works. The Rebles [sic] may attack us here, but I think it doubtful, should Grant be successful at Vicksburg. The Rebles [sic] will give Tenn [sic] up. Four Divisions of our army have gone to Vicksburg, and more may follow soon. There is where the great Battle of this Rebellion will be fought, and as it is strongly fortified it will take a large force to take it. I think Grant and the Western boys will take it.

I sent you a list of the killed and wounded of our Co. Since then Thomas Strayhorn has died of his wound. We had four men killed, Knight, Lynn, Hiller, and Strayhorn. The wounded are doing well, that is those that are at Nashville. We have not heard from them that were sent to Cincinnati and Louisville.

The loss of our Regt was 308, killed 61, (now) 80, including those that have died of their wounds, Wounded 188, Missing 99, two Comissioned Officers killed and four wounded. We suffered a much heavier loss than any Reg in the Battle.

George says tell Lee that he has been looking for a letter from him, he wrote to Lee a few days after the Battle.

You will give my compliments to the boys. Write soon, And Believe me as ever your
Affct [sic]Brother

A.W.McPheeters

Wright Wing, Army of the Cumberland
Maj Genl [sic] Rosecrans,
1st Division Genl [sic] McCook,
2nd Brigade W. P. Carlin
Murfreeseboro, Tenn
March 13th/63

Mr. R. P. McPheeters

Dear Brother – Your kind favor of March 1st has been received, I was very glad to hear from you, also to learn that you were well, and was well contented with a soldiers [sic] life. I have a letter from Father of March 5th he reports all well. No special news of importance, The Copperheads are still howling as usual, and making treats, [sic] but he thinks it will all amount to nothin, [sic] I wish we had some of them with us, We would give them something to howl for, I have no mercy or forbearance with sutch [sic] men, shooting is too good for them, they should die the death of a fellen, [sic] I long to see the Conscript law go into effect. I want to see the Copperheads Compelled to fight, or see what their resistance to the law will amount to.

The Rebellion must, and will be put down, regardless of cost, or sacrifice. We need more men in the field and must have them, better loose [sic] everything, sacrifice our all, even life itself. than have this Government destroyed. [sic] We are both in this rand should be willing to bear our part of.

We have had two little skirmishes with the rebles [sic] latly,[sic] killed several and took quite a number of prisnors. [sic] Our Division is now out on a scout. have been out five days, will be in tomorrow. I did not go on account of ill health. My health has not been good for some time for I am now suffering with diarrhea.

We were paid 4 months pay on the 6th of this month. Camp E sent \$2,500 dollars home, there is now two months pay due us.

I received a box by Express last night, from home, with three pair boots, socks, etc. for G. W. Lynn, J. B. Reese and myself.

We have had a great deal of rain here lately, at present we have beautiful weather but the roads are very muddy, [sic] I want you to write often, give my compliments to all enquiring friends. Tell Lee, George is well and hearty, will write to him when he returns, Write soon, Your brother

Addison W. McPheeters

Murfreesboro Tenn [sic]

May 24/63

Mr. R P McPheeters

Dear Brother, I have delayed writing to you longer than I intended or should have done. My reason for not writing sooner is that my health has not been good for several week past. Consequently I have not felt much like writing. At present I feel much better, and think, I will soon be well again. I was much pleased to hear from you, and want you to write as soon as this is received.

I received a letter from Ann to day,[sic] dated May 20th, she wrote a verry [sic] interesting letter, and reports all well. No [illegible] news of importance.

Well! we are getting along as usual, have plenty to eat and do, think likely we will remain here for several months, and probably all sumer. [sic] The, enemy is on our front, [sic] threatning, [sic] we have had several skirmishes with them lately, yesterday our Cav had a fight with the rebles, [sic] and capttured [sic] two hundred of them, they killed and wounded about fifty, We lost two Officers killed, and ten privates, had about 20 wounded, and thirty taken prisnors. [sic] We have a large cav [sic] force here now, and they are doing good work. I do not think the Rebles [sic] will attack us here soon, but I think it more than likely they will give Rosey fight here this fall, if not sooner. We have good news from the Hero of America, Genl. Grant, he has whipped [sic] the rebles [sic] at Vicksburg, taken the place, with a large number of prisnors, [sic] Bully for Grant. I think a large portion of Braggs [sic] Army went to Vicksburg, to reinforce the rebles [sic] there. Well I think a great many of them will never come back here, would that they all might never return, but find a traitors [sic] grave there.

We are now carrying the War into Africa, just to suit me. All we have [crossed out] have to do now is to press them hard, and the victory is ours, the Rebellion is put down, and the old Flag, the Proud Emblem of our Nationality will again waive triumphantly over every foot of the U.S..

Well Hooker did not do so well, did he, hope he will meet with better success the next time.

John Cummins spent the day with us to day, he is well, recd. Lee's letter yesterday. We were verry [sic] glad to hear from you. John will write to Lee soon.

The health of our Co. and Regt is very good at present John Samms is discharged, well he was of no account any way, three of our wounded will probably be discharged, Thomas Lansdon, Joel Lansdon, Isreal Akins, and probably E. F. Green, W. L. Baskson is at St. Louis, his wound is well, but his health is poor he will probably be discharged, all of our boys that were taken prisnors [sic] have been exchanged for, and will be back soon, the two Wilsons boys have joined the Marine service, bully for them. Lieut G.W.L.

is well, sends his respects to all the boys. My highest regards [sic] to all the boys and believe me as ever your afct [sic] Brother A W McPheeters

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

May 31/63

Mrs. R. P. McPheeters,

Dear Sister, I was very glad to receive your long, and interesting epistle, which informed of the good health of the family, and that you were all getting along well.

I am glad to inform you that my health has improved greatly since I last wrote home. I am now able to perform light duty, and think with proper care I will soon be well again.

This is Sabbath [sic] morning. We had a heavy rain yesterday and last night, and a prospect of more to day. We are now on Picket duty, on the Shelbyville Pike five miles from Murfreesboro

We have been here three days Will remain four days more. I like Picket duty, would rather be out here than in camp, though I tell you it was not very pleasant yesterday, and last night, for we got a good ducking. Our Pickets and the Rebels are in sight of each other. We exchange papers with them every evening. We get the Chattanooga Reble, [sic] Yesterdays Reble [sic] reported that Grant had been repulsed at Vicksburg, with heavy loss, but he was receiving heavy reinforcement and if Pemberton did not receive reinforcements within a few days he must surrender his whole force, It also reported that Davis had promised Pemberton a hundred thousand men from Richmond, bah. But I think before this Grant has taken them all in out of the weather. Bully for Grant, the Hero of America Well Ann, I agree with you in your opinion about the War Policy and that the Government is doing all it can to put down this infernal Rebellion, I think it pretty right to arm the negros and put them into the field to fight the Rebels, the South has had their service long enough, I am glad to know that the Government is now organizing and arming the negros, they will make good soldiers and I am satisfied will fight well. There will be about on [sic] Regt. of them formed at Murfreesboro, and three or four at Nashville.

The war is now conducted on the right Policy, and our prospect of final sweep is truly cheering. We are now carring [sic] war into Africa, and I think ere long they will cry, hold, enough. Till then and not till then will we stay our hands, but when we go forth to meet them again, we will distroy [sic] everything in our road that is useful to them. I have not heard from Rankin lately, only through letters received from his Co. to Reese and others in our Co., he is well, I wrote to Mary some time ago has she received it yet. I also wrote to Father some ten days ago. expect a letter from him today. The health of our Camp and Regt. is very good at present. We lost another one of our Co. yesterday,

Morris McAboy. (died May 30, 1863) He has been sick about two weeks, he enlisted in our Co at Mexico, Mo. Since the first of Jan last, we have lost eight men out of Co. E, two killed in Battle, 4 died of wounds received in battle, and two have died of disease. There has been seven men discharged from the Co. since Jan. Making a loss to the Co. of 15 men, and two have been transferred to the Marine service, and two more deserted making the total loss to the camp. of 19 men in five months. We have 13 absent sick, most of them wounded. Our total number at present is 73 men. Well I must bring my letter to a close, give my love to the Family and believe me as ever your Afct. [sic] Brother.

A. W. McPheeter

Write soon, I expect to be at home in twelve months.

Letter Fragment that lists killed and wounded

[illegible] a letter from Addison, [illegible] Murfreesboro, Ten and am pleased to inform you that he came out of the battle there unhurt, except being knocked down by a [two illegible words crossed out] tree broke off by a shell. He was stunned but soon recovered. Thirty one [sic] of company E was killed, wounded missing.

Killed, J.B. Knight

[illegible] Hiller

Wounded

W.L. Bankson, severe

C.F. Green, left thigh, severe

M. Lensdon, left arm broken

[illegible initial] S. Faceland, left thigh, severe

K. Jenkins, Ear slightly

[illegible initial] Gregg, Arm paralyzed [sic]

A.[illegible], head severe

M. Wilson, left hand slightly

Straham, leg broken and amputated

[illegible initials] Akins, thigh, severe

A.G. Lyman, mortal dead
W.B. Kenedy, leg, slightly
Fines Kenedy, leg, severe
S. Kenedy, [illegible], slightly
Thos [sic] Lansdon, knee, serious
R.S. [illegible], thigh, severe
I.H. Black, thigh, slightly
G.W. Baker, foot severe
Robt [sic] Bean, side slight
I.W. Bone, thigh severe
Baggs, hand slight
T. Adams, side, severe
I. Abbott side. Slight
A.M. Bone, leg. Slight
J.B. Reese, Head, Slight
J. Kutch, mortal
Missing, W.G. Brown
H.H. Wilson
Thos [sic] Famers

There may be some errors in the above list but I think it about correct

Letter Fragment

Addison says, that no man could have fought more gallantly than did company E they all stood up to it most manfully- So Ann is writing to you, I will only fill this paper I send you stamps and paper. The Secesionest [sic] had a meeting on Saturday in Sullivan Eden, Dr [sic] Keller and young Titus were the speakers and of course Lincoln and all who are in favour [sic] our Government fell under their displeasure. Eden, I am told was abusive, and denounced the emancipation proclamation most bitterly was opposed to the [illegible] of our citizens by M.S. [illegible] said our state was full of [illegible] and spies that if any of them came prowling about him or tried to arrest him that he would

shoot them and advised all his friends to do so to [sic]-(great applaus [sic])- Eden would allow a man here to preach up treason, and deny to our government the right to arrest such persons and yet he claims to be loyal, and when a candidate he avowed himself a war democrat, and that he was in favour [sic] of a vigorous prosecution of the war- but he is elected [illegible] [rest is missing]