

ROBERT McDOUGAL TO MACK

Camp anderson September the 23rd 1861

Dear Henry I endeavor to inform you how I am getting along. I should have written sooner but I thought I would wait till Capt Fowler came with the remainder of his recruits. My reason for doing so was this I expected to see you here the boys came when we were eating breakfast this morning. the first thing I did after I got through was to look for you but no such person was to be found. but no matter now I must not exercise my wit on this front at the present, but I shall truthfully endeavor to give you some kind of an idea how I like a soldier's life. I have not found out anything in particular when we are going away, but I presume we shall leave this place in a short time. there is some where near twelve hundred troops rendezvoused in this place we have not got all of our equipments yet but expect to have them this week. I understand the horses is on the way here now

We drill every day with the sword and infantry drill. I like the sword drill first rate, and I have got so that I can go through with most all the cuts against infantry and cavalry. Some of the boys and myself went the other day and seen the salt springs and factory they are a little north of this city and right on the bank of the Grand river, and then we took a pleasure walk in the city. I find it is a pleasant and beautiful place. we went on the top of one of the hills and there had an extensive view of the surrounding scenery we could look down on the houses beneath us and of to the south and west of us they looked like mere specks in the distance. last thursday our company marched down to the river and took a bath there was a steam boat and vessel lying at anchor and also some small sail boats. the river runs very rapid and has a level gravelly bottom and about one thousand feet wide. but wait I started to tell you how I liked soldiering. I heard one of the boys say to day that he would not go back home and lead a farmer's life for a thousand dollars, now if I know my own mind it is something similar. Paul Fiffield and Wm vandy is all right and we want the boys out there to stir their dander and level their mite to help protect the flag. I send my regard to you and also the remainder of the folks both old and young and especially the girls. this leaves me well and I trust and hope it will find you the same. please write as soon as possible. from your remembering friend yours with christian regard

RoberMcDougall

Direct to Camp Anderson Grand rapids Mich

In care of Capt F. Fowler

I wish you would tell Ebenezer Lewis that I hope he won't think I have forgotten him on account of not writing to him and that I don't think I will write to him at the present for this reason I expect to come home in a few days. O, I forgot to tell you that we had meeting here last sabbath after noon. the different Companies was formed into a hollow square and the Pastor stood in the midst we had a good meeting. Adieu for the present

all right yours

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Note: The envelope is addressed to Mr Henry Mc Ewings/Cambria Mills/Hillsdale Co/Mich. It is postmarked "Grand Rapids 1861 Sep 25."

WKE 100396