

ROBERT McDOUGAL TO MACK

Camp Benton St Louis

Jan the 10th 1862

Dear and remembered friend Hank. I shall now endeavor to answer your very fine letter (dress parrade) Well old bones I have to leve my pen to go on dress parrade I nomore then got out there then parrade was dismissed, so I now once more return to my charge (hold on gust brown is pinching me) now hank I dont want you to use eny dellicases in writing to me often for I can assure you that nuthing makes me feel better than to get a letter from a worthy friend. I declare we have the most mud here I ever saw we had a little snow ashort time since we get a rain so that it leves the whole Camp a kind of mud hole. we have lately ben honored by haveing a new Col appointed over us, his name is Granger I think he is young to make something of us after all, he is a shrude man and intends to have things go as near right as possible. He is going to make Mounted Riflemen of us. two or thre of the companies have got there rifles now We are to be armed with Colts six revolver and rifle that shoots five times without reloading also Colts that will be eleven shots all together. I am told the rifles cost sixty three Dollars each. they are nice things When we get all right we intend to make the rebels hunt there holes if ever we get a chance at them. the boys is most out of patience. they think they have hung round and done nuthing long enough and want to have the chance of doing some good for there Country or go home. here we have bean in the service four Mos and have done nuthing yet but fooled round and maid a large bill of expense to the U.S. I declare when I think of it I cant help but get excited and I solemnly hop we shall soon be drawn up in line of battle and ordered to a charge that will make the bravest hearts shudder if there is eny such thing for my part I dont expect to be one of the bravest,

but be I as I am a coward or the revers I wait with the patience of Job to here the order To Armes. last Christmas and New years day we had a nice time. I suppose you have heard of it though by this time I am a little surprised to here you say that jim fiffield was in jail for fifteen days and still more so when you called him the Woodbridge buley I hope if he has got to be that he will not abuse the title. I want you should let me know the movents of the youngsters of my acquaintance So -----

Now hank if ever you think of enlisting I hope you will be sure there is no chance to get into Capt Hawley Co be fore you join eny other because I think to act the part of mounted rifleman would be as good a part as you would want. I understand that jack youngs Jack [?] and jake stevens have ben distinguishing themselves by acting the ignoble part of a deserter. often young men make the professions they have. then act so base. I have no friendly feelings for them and I think the quicker they are got rid of the better perhaps I have missinformation. I hope I have I want you to let me know all the particulars about them if you can. I do not know that I have eny more to say. so Good by Henry I remain your friend Robt McDougall this leves me well and I hop it will find you the same Please write as soon as you can Give My Regards To the Ladies and Gentel men of my acquaintance and that I should like to have them write to me if they feel disposed to

I was very highly pleased at the first glanse of your immagine. But as much the reverse when on looking again and beheld that it referd to that fooles trick that I so foolishly performed the fourth, but never mind.

I must Live and learn

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Note: The envelope is addressed to Henry at the usual Michigan address and is imprinted with one of the patriotic pictures previously described. The letter has a 1" by 1" cut out of the American flag pasted on it, with the words, "It shall wave."

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