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William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (14 July 1861)

William Cowper Nelson

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My Dear Mother;

Camp Magnolia, near Pensacola
Sunday Eve, July 14, 1861

It would have written yesterday by
Captain Jones, but I understood that
he would not leave from before to-day
he left however yesterday afternoon.
Billy Crump has not arrived yet.
I suppose he has left H.S. before
this however. McFee one of my mes-
mates received a little negro from
home yesterday he will probably be
of a good deal of assistance to Jim,
We will get our pay to-morrow
\$43-45 ct, forty five dollars forty five
cts, three months pay, besides an
allowance for clothing, the regular
would only be about \$33, I owe
about ten or fifteen dollars, which
I will pay immediately, the
rest of it I will try and be e-
conomical with, buying only such
things as I need, I wish Father
would procure me one of those
Camp rugs, about which I wrote
him some time ago, I see that

there has been an improvement made on them. I am of opinion they would be fine to sleep on, when on picket guard, and we have to stand guard now about three times a week; about a week ago, while I was on picket about 2 miles from camp I saw one of the most beautiful meteors I ever witnessed, it seemed to be about as large as a tea-cup, and was of unusual brilliancy. It appeared a little east of the milky way at an elevation of 45 degrees, and traversed an arc of about 33° in a direction almost east; it was just a quarter before twelve, and the comet was shining brightly at the time, it was really one of the most beautiful sights I ever observed. I went over to church to-day, Mr. Weller preached this morning from Timothy 3rd 8th 2nd, and this afternoon from Numbers 30th 8th 9th 10th.

I went yesterday over to Fort McKee, saw several old college friends. We were very glad to meet up & can tell you, it reminded us of old times, which we then thought were so hard, but which we now think were so pleasant.

Hugh Barton has almost recovered he will probably get a furlough to visit his relations in Alabama as soon as he recovers sufficiently to travel, he will perhaps stay several weeks, in order to recuperate fully before returning. Mr. Mosely also from our company goes home in a few days. he has been unfit for duty for some time on account of rheumatism.

I have just been informed by the orderly sergeant, John McWilliams that I am one of a detail of ^{from our company} three, to go to Fort McKee to morrow and load a barge with cannon, which are to be sent to Pensacola. We may possibly have an opportunity of going to Pensacola, but I won't lay any such flattering notion to my soul, for fear of being disappointed, only two men from the Regt are now allowed to go to Pensacola now, in one day, that is on a pas-

and as a person has to apply for
permission about a fortnight or
more before he gets it, and that
is laying plans a little too far ahead.
I have never been there but

George Govan, and George Braden
are the candidates in the Home Guard
for B^d Lieut, as there is a vacancy
now that Lieut Jones has resigned.

Braden came within one vote of be-
ing elected yesterday. There is no
telling though who will be elected.

The Home Guards who applied for
transfers failed to procure them.
Golrick the man who was wounded
the other night is rapidly recovering.
The wounds were not serious.

Geo & Jeff Posey return many
thanks for the nice shirts. I am
much obliged for the many nice
things which I continue to receive.
The last articles of clothing were
very acceptable. Taps have beat.
Good bye. Write soon, Your son
W. C. Nelson