

**George L. White letter, 1861**

**MCC-00222**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Kathryn Donahue, June 2009  
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes  
University of Maine at Fort Kent  
Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** George L. White letter

**Creator/Collector:** White, George L., ca. 1830-

**Collection number:** MCC-00222

Shelf List number: UM-222

**Dates:** 1861

**Extent:** 1 folder (.05 cubic feet)

**Provenance:** Unknown.

**Language:** English.

**Conservation notes:** None.

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access.

**Physical restrictions:** None.

**Technical restrictions:** None.

**Copyright:** Copyright has not been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes

**Citation:** George L. White letter, MCC-00222, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Separated materials:** Not applicable.

**Related materials:** Not applicable.

**Location of originals:** Unknown.

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Not applicable.

**Biographical information:**

George L. White enlisted in the Union Army at the age of 31. He mustered into service on August 21, 1861, joining the 7th Maine Infantry Regiment, Company A out of Houlton, Maine. He was discharged in 1863 after an absence due to an unknown cause. According to Claude Charette's "Civil War Men From Fort Kent in Union Forces, 1861-1865" (MCC-00237), White was from Fort Kent and was married. However, the 1850

U.S. census for Aroostook County has a George L. White listed as a resident of Hodgdon, in southern Aroostook County, age 19 and working as a farmer. He is again listed as a resident of Hodgson in the 1880 census. It has not been determined whether the two listings are of the same person.

***Scope and content:***

This collection consists of a photocopy of a letter written by George L. White to "Mr. Stevens" on October 30th, 1861 from Washington, D.C. In the letter, White states that seven men in his regiment have died in Baltimore, including a William Knowlen (Noland?) "from No 11 Aroostook." He was buried in the western cemetery of the city. He mentions their skirmishes under the direction of Generals McLellan and Scott and describes fighting the Confederate forces. He also mentions the 8th, 9th, and 10th Maine. White states that the weather is as cold in Baltimore as it was in Fort Kent at that time the previous year.

***Inventory:***

Folder 1: Letter, George L. White to Mr. Stevens. 7th Maine Regt. Co. A. Washington, D.C. October 30th, 1861. 4 p. Photocopy.

***Transcriptions:***

With original spelling:

7th Maine Regt Co A Washington D.C.

Oct 30th 1861

Mr Stevens Dear Sir as i Have a fue  
ours to spare i thought that i would  
write you a fue Lines to Let you know  
That the Rebels has not Got me in  
their Claws yet My helth is Good  
Since i have been out hear Seven  
Men died out of our Regiement in  
Baltimore one of them was William  
Knowlen from No 11 Aroostook his  
Remains was Laid in the western  
Cimitry in this City  
we Left Baltimoire Last Fryday

and we are now in Camp one mild  
out of Washington Monday 21st we was  
Reviewed by Genrls McLellen and Scott  
Fifteen thousand of us union Boys  
Steped on to the top of Capital hill  
to Exsibit our Skill in Arms

During the Exhibition i Ling(?) that  
Good old Song unchael Sam is  
Rich Enough to Give us all a farm  
i enjoy my self much Beter hear  
than i did in Baltimore i Spent  
all day Sunday in the woods Geathering  
Hickery nuts the Country hear is much  
Like home it is only a fue Rods from  
our Camp to the Potomoc River  
the woods all along the Banks of the River  
and Back in the Country in Every  
direction is Lined with Soldiers when  
it is time to Call the Rowl at night  
you Cant hear a thing But drums in  
Every direction the 10th Maine is in  
Baltimore But will Be hear soon the  
8th and 9th is some place in Virginia  
we will Cross the Potomoc in a fue days  
in to Virginia and pitch our tents on  
Arlington Hights from thence we will  
Go to Manasses Junction then to Richmond  
and so on un til we drive the Rebels  
in to the Rio Grand or the Gulf  
of Mexico Abraham Lincoln said that if  
all his Soldiers was from Maine that  
the war would be all over now theair  
is Going to Be a bold Push made soon  
with i hop will determinate i Routin  
the Rebels from Son of Thair Strong  
Holds i the South the weather is Cold  
out hear as it was at Fort Kent this  
time Last year the helth of the men  
is improving very fast the country  
Hear has a helthy appeareance but the  
Water is very Bat it is Cold but it is  
mudy and has a bad tast But thank  
Providence that i am able to Eat  
my Bread and Beefe i have Got so  
Clos to the Rebels that i want to go in to  
them Live or die i Should Like to have  
one fight Before i Come home and i think  
that I will have the Privilage very soon  
Every thing Presents a war Like appearance  
out hear i marched through the City of Washington  
twice and i saw nothing But soldiers marching  
through the City towards the Long Bridge that

Spans the Potomoc whilst i am writing this  
Letter in my tent i Can hear heavy Cannon  
acteing(?) in Alexandria their was a Picket Guard  
Shot Last night Belonging to the NY 20th that is  
in Camp on the Same Ground with us

I hope that the war will End  
this winter so that we Can turn  
our faces toward the North Next  
Spring i must Close my letter as time  
wont alow me to write any Longer  
Rember me to Mr Seley to tel my  
old Camp mates that i am out  
South Strugling with the Rest  
to Seprt the union and hold  
up the Stars and Strips tel them  
that i say i am willing to die  
For My Glorious Country  
if you Sea any of Glasiers men  
i want you to tel them whare i am  
as they are all acquainted with me  
Be Sure and write to me for it  
would be a Grait plasier for to Git  
a Letter from you

Adress George L White  
Washington DC  
7th Maine Regt Co A

As soon as i have a Good Big  
fight i will write and Let  
you know don't fail to wright  
Respectfully yours  
George L White

Transcription, edited:

7th Maine Regt Co A Washington DC  
Oct. 30th, 1861

Mr Stevens

Dear Sir. As I have a few hours to spare I thought that I would write you a few lines to let you know that the Rebels have not got me in their claws yet. My health is good. Since I have been out here, seven men died out of our Regiment in Baltimore, one of them was William Knowlen from No 11 Aroostook. His remains was laid in the western cemetery of this city.

We left Baltimore last Friday and we are now in camp one mile out of Washington. Monday 21st we was reviewed by Genrls McLellen and Scott. Fifteen thousand of us Union boys stepped onto the top of Capitol Hill to exhibit our skill in arms. During the exhibition I ling(?) that good old song. Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm.

I enjoy myself much better here than I did in Baltimore. I spent all day Sunday in the woods gathering hickory nuts. The country here is much like home, it is only a few roads from our camp to the Potomac River. The woods all along the banks of the river and back in the country in every direction is lined with soldiers. When it is time to call the roll at night, you can't hear a thing but drums in every direction. The 10th Maine is in Baltimore but will be here soon. The 8th and 9th is some place in Virginia. We will cross the Potomac in a few days into Virginia and pitch our tents on Arlington Heights. From thence we will go to Manassas Junction, then to Richmond and so on until we drive the Rebels into the Rio Grande or the Gulf of Mexico. Abraham Lincoln said that if all his soldiers was from Maine that the war would be all over now. There is going to be a bold push made soon, which I hope will determine in routing the Rebels from some of their strongholds in the South. The weather is cold out here as it was at Fort Kent this time last year. The health of the men is improving very fast. The country here has a healthy appearance bu the water is very bad. It is cold but it is muddy and has a bad taste, but thank Providence that I am able to eat my bread and beef. I have to so close to the Rebels that I want to go into them live or die. I should like to have one fight before I come home and I think that I will have the privilege very soon.

Everything presents a war-like appearance out here. I marched through the city of Washington twice and I saw nothing but soldiers marching through the city towards the Long Bridge that spans the Potomac. Whilst I am writing this letter in my tent, I can hear heavy cannon acteing(?) in Alexandria. There was a picket guard shot last night belonging to the NY 20th that is in camp on the same ground with us.

I hope that the war will end this winter so that we can turn our faces toward the North next spring. I must close my letter as time won't allow me to write any longer. Remember me to Mr Seley to tell my old camp mates that I am out South struggling with the rest to support the Union and hold up the stars and stripes. Tell them that I say I am willing to die for my glorious country.

If you see any of Glasier's men, I want you to tell them where I am as they are all acquainted with me. Be sure and write to me, for it would be a great pleasure for to get a letter from you.

Address            George L. White  
                         Washington DC  
                         7th Maine Regt Co A

As soon as I have a good big fight, I will write and let you know. Don't fail to write.

Respectfully yours,

George L. White