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Title: Letters from Alexander McClure to Eli Slifer, 1860-62

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Chambersburg, April 14

Dear

I will go to Philadelphia
on either Friday or Saturday of
next week, I can so arrange
matters as to be in Harrisburg
Friday night, & go to the city
Saturday. Write me whether that
will suit you. Perhaps it would
be well to have Covert there
the same evening, as he will
be on his way to Phila about
the same time; he needs both
counsel & encouragement.

I have been sick all week
with intermittent fever - not
been able to be in court at
all. Next week I hope to be
able to try several important
cases, pending, but can get
through with them or as to
leave Friday noon.

There has been a great
deal of chit-chat about
the State Committee. It is
not yet announced. Last
Saturday I wrote pretty sharp
letters to both Garrison & Weston
about it. The Committee should
have been organized before this time
Ed Eli S. J. P. M. C. M. C. M. C.

Chambersburg, April 14 [1860]

D Col-

I will go to Philadelphia on either Friday or Saturday of next week. I can so arrange matters as to be in Harrisburg Friday night & go to the city Saturday. Write me whether that will suit you. Perhaps it would be well to have Curtin there the same evening, as he will be on his way to Phila about the same time, & he needs both counsel and encouragement.

[Page Break]

I have been sick all week with intermittant fever- not been able to be in court at all. Next week I hope to be able to try several important cases pending, but can get through with them so as to leave Friday noon.

There has been a great deal of childs play about the State Committee. It is not yet announced. Last Saturday I wrote pretty sharp letters to both Cameron & Curtin about it. The committee should have been organized before this time

Yours &c
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

1861

H. K. Wilson

Chambersburg July 23

Spi-

What a sad chapter in our National History is that of Sunday last. If not speedily redeemed, our nationality will tremble in the scale with a more than doubtful issue.

The 20,000 repented men, who were turned home sad & disappointed three months ago might soon have their camps at Richmond. What a commentary upon our apology for a government.

Penna seems to be cuffed at every step. Her troops are badly officered, & have a record, which, however justifiable when closely scrutinized, will not

be a blot upon our fame.

We have good men in all our regiments. Let them be faced to the surface. The 2^d (Col Stumbaugh) has a Lieutenant (Stitzel) in one of our companies, who is a first class military man; but he has the modesty of meekness, & is not a politician. It must be so in all of the regiments. Do give this point special attention, and as regiments are re-organized, let all the efforts of the departments be directed to having the men well officered. Don't hesitate to refuse Commissions where combinations put incompetent men at the head of our troops.

I have nothing from below—expecting to hear daily
Cal Eli Hifa This Adeline

Chambersburg July 23 [1861]

D Sir-

What a sad chapter in our National History is that of Sunday last. If not speedily redeemed, our Nationality will tremble in the [scale?] with a more than doubtful issue.

The 200,000 rejected men, who were turned home sad & disappointed three months ago might now have their camps at Richmond. What a commentary upon our apology for a government.

Penna seems to be crippled at every step. Her troops were badly officered & leave a record, which, however justifiable when closely scrutinized, will ever

[Page Break]

be a blot upon our fame.

We have good men in all our regiments. Cant they be forced to the surface. The 2d (Col [Stumbaugh's?]) has a Lieutenant (Stitzel) in one of our Chambersburg Companies, who is a first class military man; but he has the modesty of [one word illegible], & is not a politician. It must be so in all of the regiments. Do give this point special attention, and as regiments are reorganized, let all the efforts of the Departments be directed to having the men well officered. Dont hesitate to refuse commissions where combinations put incompetent men at the head of our troops.

I have nothing from below - expecting to [hear] daily

Thine
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

Atlantic and Ohio Telegraph Lines,

DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH

PHILADELPHIA, HARRISBURG, PITTSBURG,
AND ALL INTERMEDIATE STATIONS,

CONNECTING WITH THE

NATIONAL TELEGRAPH LINES THROUGHOUT THE UNION.

—♦♦♦♦—
McLAUGHLIN BROTHERS PRS.

Dated at Chambersburg Sept 26 1861

To Genl Eli Sipes
Secy of State

It is next to impossible
for me to leave. Have not
been able to go to town
today Surely Mr Michael
and Gilpin could answer.
Telegraph them.

A. K. McClure

26-57/collet

Dated at Chambersburg August 26 1861

To Col Eli Slifer
Secy of State

It is next to impossible for me to leave. Have not been able to go to town today Surely
McMichael and Gilpin could answer Telegraph there.

A. K. McClure

26-5/collect

1861

Chambersburg, Oct 15
Dear -

I am fully persuaded that
a regt could be raised here
very promptly by Gen. McAllen,
if allowed to rendezvous here.
The men would be supported at
the same cost as in Ham-
burg, & you could equip them.
It is meant as an honest
effort to raise a regt, & not
to swindle as was the case
with Stumlarsh, who is now
fortunately out of the way.
Schell writes me that if McAllen
should be allowed to take charge
of this, Bedford would give at
least four Companies, & I
know that our Co would give
as many. Our better military
men would not have any

thing to do with Stumblough
and he did not take the
hundred men out of our
whole county.

McAllen does not want
contracts of any kind, nor does
any one about him.

You may remember him
as the man who was authorized
by the Gen to raise a Brigade
here last spring, and finally
you had to reject his men when
the Patterson requisition was re-
suced. He paid me \$400 as
I know to get the men off quietly
and, besides, being well qualified
to command a Regt. He has the
character to justify the proposition.

I am satisfied that double
the men, if not five times the
number, could be had here
by knowing then Colonel and

getting ready at home, that could
be enlisted otherwise.

It would not cost the
State a cent, as there is a
Camp and all necessary pre-
parations.

I write you with the re-
quest that you will take a
favorable opportunity to bring
it before the Governor, and get
a definite answer sent me.
I have no personal or political
interest in Gen McAllen; but
save this matter solely because
I feel persuaded it would be
wise to adopt it.

Please give me an early
reply, and if acceptable, let Com-
missary Smith contract to supply at
your regular rate paid at Camp
Cathu.

Yr D

A. McAllen

Hon Eli Sibley

Chambersburg, Oct 15 [1861]

Dr Col-

I am fully persuaded that a regt could be raised here very promptly by Gen McAllen, if allowed to rendezvous here. The men would be supported at the same cost as in Harrisburg, & you could equip them. It is meant as an honest effort to raise a regt. & not to swindle as was the case with Stumbaugh, who is now fortunately out of the way. Schell writes me that if McAllen should be allowed to take charge of this, Bedford would give at least four companies, & I know that our Co would give just as many. Our better military men would not have any

[Page Break]

thing to do with Stumbaugh and he did not take two hundred men out of our whole county.

McAllen does not want contracts of any kind, nor does any one about him.

You may remember him as the man who was authorized by the Gen to raise a Brigade here last spring, and finally you had to reject his men when the Patterson registration was reduced. He paid over \$400 as I know to get the men off quietly and, besides being well qualified to command a regt. he has the character to justify the [proposition?].

I am satisfied that double the men, if not five times the number, could be had here by knowing their Colonel

[Page Break]

and getting ready at home, that could be enlisted otherwise.

It would not cost the State a cent, as there is a camp and all necessary preparations.

I write you with the request that you will take a favorable opportunity to bring it before the Governor, and get a definite answer sent me. I have no personal or political interest in Gen McAllen; but urge this matter solely because I feel persuaded it would be wise to adopt it.

Please give me an early reply, and if acceptable, let Commissary [one word illegible] contract to supply at your regular rate paid at Camp Curtin.

Yours
A K McClure

Hon Eli Slifer

Atlantic and Ohio Telegraph Lines,

DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH

PHILADELPHIA, HARRISBURG, PITTSBURG,
AND ALL INTERMEDIATE STATIONS,

CONNECTING WITH THE

NATIONAL TELEGRAPH LINES THROUGHOUT THE UNION.

MCLAUGHLIN BROTHERS PRS.

Dated at *Carlisle* *May. 22 1862*

To *Col. D. S. Sizer*

Send me any war news you
may get to Chambersburg

A. K. McClure

10/25 coll

Dated at Carlisle May 22 1862

To Col Eli Slifer

Send me any war news you may get to Chambersburg

A. K. McClure

10/25 coll

Pomate

Chambersburg May 25

Dr. Sir -

Our people are unusually anxious about the safety of the border, because of the retreat of Banks.

I cannot of course conjecture what the real state of the case is; but I must not leave home until the safety of the Potomac line is assured. I have written the Gov. returning the \$7,000 judgment, & telling him to have Fuller send me Fuller's check to pay note fee, and to have you pay in Brinkman & James & Co. He assured me that he would do so, & I will keep an eye to it.

Write me how matters go; and telegraph me the war news promptly for our people are wild on the subject.

Yrs
A. M. McQueen

Private

Chambersburg May 25 [1862]

Dr Sir-

Our people are nervously anxious about the safety of the border, because of the retreat of Banks.

I cannot of course conjecture what the real state of the case is; but I must not leave home until the safety of the Potomac line is assured. I have written the Gov. returning the \$7000 judgment, & telling him to have Fuller send me Fullers check to paynote here, and to have you pay in [Bomberger?] & Farm & [Mecs.?]. He assured me that he would do so, & F. will keep an eye to it.

Write me how matters go; and telegraph me the war news promptly for our people are wild on the subject.

Yours
A K McClure

Chambersburg June 21

Dr. Sir

Judge Shaver of Perry Co is dead: & the Gov will have the vacancy to fill.

I have written the Gov asking him, in case he has no special political obligations to discharge there, to appoint Saml Luffer, my brother-in-law. He lives in Shaver's district, & is a most worthy, competent and acceptable man. He was very strongly supported for Leathes Inspector under Pollock, & was withdrawn by me at Leathes suggestion.

I have never asked political preferment for a relative in my life, and feel peculiarly

ably delicate about urging
it upon Centon. If Supper
were not my brother-in-law
I would, as I then could
with propriety, use his ap-
pointment as by odds the
most judicious one that
could be made. I have written
Centon asking him to say
frankly whether the applica-
tion will in any degree em-
barrass him; & if so, it
will be promptly withdrawn
& his wishes in the matter
cordially concurred in.

I do not mean of
course to charge you with
any responsibility in securing
this appointment; but if Centon
has no special preference or
duty in the matter, a kind
suggestion from you might

be of advantage, and I
confess that the appointment
would be to me a special
satisfaction.

I shall go to Phila Wed-
nesday morning.

Truly Yours

A. M. Cline

Col Eli Sizer

Chambersburg June 21 [1862?]

Dr Sir-

Judge Shaver of Perry Co is dead; & the Gov will have the vacancy to fill.

I have written the Gov asking him, in case he has no special political obligations to discharge there, to appoint Saml [Lupfer?] , my brother-in-law. He lives in Shaver's district, & is a most worthy, competent and acceptable man. He was very strongly supported for Leather Inspector under Pollock, & was withdrawn by me at Curtins suggestion.

I have never asked political preferment for a relative in my life, and feel peculi-

[Page Break]

arly delicate about urging it upon Curtin. If [Lupfer?] were not my brother-in-law I would, as I then could with propriety, urge his appointment as by odds the most judicious one that could be made. I have written Curtin asking him to say frankly whether the application will in any degree embarrass him; & if so, it will be promptly withdrawn & his wishes in the matter cordially concerned in

I do not mean of course to charge you with any responsibility in securing this appointment; but if Curtin has no special preference or duty in the matter, a kind suggestion from you might

[Page Break]

be of advantage, and I confess that the appointment would be to me a special gratification.

I will go to Phila Wednesday morning.

Truly thine
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

1862

A. R. McBline,

Chambersburg July 25

Dear Cal -

I have of course many applications for interference with appointments. Some are mentioned, and I shall lay such before you.

J. J. Breigh, of West Chester, who was used at one time for Notary, has been in the Reserves, Co A, 1st Reg. Cal Rifles, and would be a first class man to be commissioned as a Lieut. or Captain. He is a son of Rev Dr Breigh of this County, an educated and excellent

James J. Breigh

man. I have written him
that his Col or Captain
must ask his appoint-
ment. If so, let it be
done.

In the formation of
the new Regt. I will
under no circumstan-
ces, favor the appoint-
ment of any man
except upon the ground
of fitness & merit.

Surgeon A W Green.
7th Regt Pa Reserves, is
broken down, and is
desirous of being relieved
for a while to examine
recruits at Hamsburg
until he recruits his

health a little. He is
one of the best young
physicians of German-
town, and if it can be
done, He is a very
valuable man.

I see that they have
at last come to their
senses at Washington,
and concluded, after
three weeks of hesita-
tion, to take 9 or 12,000
men & fill up the army.
Let us be thankful that
they did not wait a
month longer and defeat
recruiting as they did
before.

The Im has struck
the right chord. His pro-

Lamentation will be promptly
unfounded to. He is the
only Executive who has
dared to throw himself
upon the people for men
& money. It will be
a proud chapter in his
history.

I take the stamp
to mean evening & will
not sit down to rest
until our quota is full
to the last man. I
do hope that you will
tender Capt McKelbin
the command of a regi-
ment here. It would be
very acceptable, and there
is no better man within range.
I am satisfied he could be
Sgt. He is at the Merchants Hotel
Philad. Truly yours A. M. McKelbin

A. K. McClure,
Chambersburg July 25 [1862]

Dear Col-

I have of course many applications for interference with appointments. Some are meritorious, and I shall lay such before you.

J. J. Creigh of West Chester, who was urged at one time for Notary, has been in the Reserves, Co A. 1st Reg. Col Roberts, and would be a first class man to be commissioned as a Lieut. or Captain. He is a son of Rev Dr Creigh of this county-an Educated and excellent

[Page Break]

man. I have [written?] him that his Col or Captain must ask his appointment. If so, let it be done.

In the formation of the new levy, I will under no circumstances, [one word illegible] the appointment of any man except upon the ground of fitness & merit.

Surgeon A W Green, 7th Regt Pa Reserves, is broken down, and is desirous of being relieved for a while to examine recruits at Harrisburg until he [recruits?] his

[Page Break]

health a little. He is one of the first young physicians of Germantown, and if it can be done. He is a very valuable man.

I see that they have at last come to their senses at Washington, and concluded after three weeks of hesitation, to take 9 & 12 [mos?] men & fill up the army. Let us be thankful that they did not wait a month longer and defeat recruiting as they did before.

The Gov has struck the right chord. His proc-

[Page Break]

lamation will be promptly responded to. He is the only Executive who has dared to throw himself upon the people for men & money. It will be a proud chapter in his history.

I take the stump to-morrow evening & will not sit down to rest until our quota is full to the last man. I do hope that you will tender Capt [McKibben?] the Command of a regiment here. It would be very acceptable, and there is no better man [within?] [one word illegible] . I am satisfied he could be [got?] . He is at the Merchants Hotel Phila.

Truly Thine
A K McClure

1862

Chambersky July 31

Dear Cal-

I just returned home at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ this morning after a three days trip causing very few recruits. We will, I doubt not raise three full companies of 100 men, and it may be four, within the time limited by your last order. We will certainly send 350 men. We could raise full 500 men in twenty days, had not the mine mos call been countermanded. After our mine mos men shall leave, I shall despair of additional recruits here. If men must be had, they must be drafted. If our county is

a few citizens of the State
Could you not order the
Militia enrolled preparatory
to a draft? Perhaps such
a move would make men
enlist. It would certainly
make every man subject to
military duty interested
in having volunteers come
forward.

I must be here until
the companies are raised and
started. They look to me
for information & counsel
at every step. & I cannot
leave. Write me how matters
move.

Truly Thine
W. M. Chase

Cal. El. Shfer

Chambersburg July 31 [1862]

Dear Col-

I just returned home at 3 1/2 this morning, after a three days trip canvassing for recruits. We will, I doubt not raise three full companies of 100 men, and it may be four, within the time [limited?] by your last order. We will certainly [need?] 350 men. We could raise full 500 men in twenty days had not the nine mos call been countermanded. After our nine mos men shall leave, I shall despair of additional recruits here. If men must be had, they must be drafted, if our county is

[Page Break]

a fair [criterion?] of the State. Could you not order the militia enrolled preparatory to a draft? Perhaps such a move would make men enlist. It would certainly make every man subject to military duty interested in having volunteers come forward.

I must be here until the companies are raised and started They look to me for information & counsel at Every step & I cannot leave. Write me how matters move.

Truly Thine
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

Chamberlain Aug 4

Dear Sir

We have sent you on foot
a statement of a full company
this morning and we will send
certainly three more this week.

I had a green letter from
Quater. He seems to be under
the impression that there was \$1150
was somewhere a somewhere in the
discount of some of his notes,
which he has never received. I
never heard of it. Did you?

I hope that you will,
on the 11th of August, give a
Proclamation giving notice that
accounts will be received as vol-
unteers for say fifteen days,
to receive the local bounty, to
fill up the old reports; and
state in the same proclamation

that at the expiration of that time
the Commissioners will proceed
to draft the balance of the
quota from each county to make
up the necessary 30,000
to make one regiment 1000
strong. This I conceive to be
indispensable to the safety
& efficiency of the army.

In drafting, the Commissioners
should be instructed to draft
heaviest from such districts
as have furnished least men.

One county would, I
believe fill her quota of about
450 without resort to a draft
but many Counties would
not do so.

I hope indeed that this
will be done. The fact that
a draft is certain to come
on a certain day, when
men must go without bounty.

will I believe, require but
little draftings. An army
on the Peninsula must be
in constant peril, and by
filling up the old regiments
it could be strengthened full
100,000 in twenty days, in-
cluding McClellan's force.
The new men going in with
an equal or greater number
of tried men, would be
efficient at once.

You have struck the
popular heart by an appeal
to the people, & you can
safely propose now to the
government to fill up the
old regiments, - the power
to draft to be part of the
authority.

I may be down in a
day or two

Truly Yours
A. M. C. C.

Chambersburg Aug 4 [1862]

Dear Sir-

We have sent you our first instalment of a full company this morning, and we will send certainly three more this week.

I had a queer letter from Curtin He seems to be under the impression that there was \$1150 [over?] somehow or somewhere in the discount of some of his notes, which he has never received. I never heard of it. Did you?

I hope that you will, on the 11th of August, issue a Proclamation giving notice that recruits will be needed as volunteers for say fifteen days, to receive the local bounties, to fill up the old regiments; and state in the same proclamation

[Page Break]

that at the expiration of that time the commissioners will proceed to draft the balance of the quota from each county to make up the necessary 30,000 to make our regiments 1000 strong. This I [conceive?] to be indispensable to the safety & efficiency of the army. In drafting, the commissioners should be instructed to draft heaviest from such districts as have furnished least men.

Our county would, I believe fill her quota of about 450 without resort to a draft, but many counties would not do so.

I hope indeed that this will be done. The fact that a draft is certain to come on a certain day when men must go without bounty,

[Page Break]

will I believe, require but little drafting. Our army on the Peninsula must be in imminent peril, and by filling up the old regiments it could be strengthened full 100,000 in twenty days, including McClellan & Pope The new men going in with an equal or greater number of tried men, would be efficient at once.

You have struck the popular heart by an appeal to the people, & you can safely propose men to the government to fill up the old regiments—the [one word illegible] to draft to be part of the authority.

I may be down in a day or two

Truly Thine
A K McClure

Hon Eli Slifer

Chambersburg Aug 5th

Dear Sir

I am not well, and not able to be out of the house to-day. I may not get to Harrisburg until the beginning of next week. We shall send you five, and probably six full companies, this week, and our citizens are earnestly desiring in common with our gallant volunteers, that they should be put in one regiment. The promptness of your county certainly merits, this respect.

for the wishes of our men. I
hope indeed, that you will
give this matter attention in
time

Truly Yours
A. M. Colver

Hon. Eli Slicer

Chambersburg Aug 6th [1862]

Dear Sir

I am not well, and not able to be out of the house today. I may not get to Harrisburg until the beginning of next-week. We shall send you five, and probably six full companies, this week, and our citizens are earnestly desiring in common with our gallant volunteers, that they should be put in one regiment. The promptness of our county certainly merits this respect

[Page Break]

for the wishes of our men. I hope indeed, that you will give this matter attention in time.

Truly Thine
A K McClure

Hon Eli Slifer

Chamberburg, Aug 20

Dear Sir -

Our Convention met yesterday & was largely attended by Democrats & harmonious in its action. After careful reflection & consultation with leading friends, we agreed that it would be better for Rome to run than for me. It would avoid a contest of unexampled bitterness, and give a Democratic element essential to the ticket. We then compelled Rome to accept. I am fully convinced that it was wise, altho' it would be elected beyond doubt, we will certainly carry our ticket.

The Convention treated me very handsomely. They would have made a united & earnest fight for me for Senator, but I would not assent to it. They then passed

a very handsome resolution regretting
my declination & presenting me
in M. S. Serate. That, of course,
amounts to nothing, as I have
no such notion: but it is a pre-
cious compliment from my own
people. I have never seen a con-
vention in the county in which
there was such a cordial & earnest
disposition to befriend me.

You will see the resolutions
in the paper.

I enclose you another letter
from Capt Henderson about
quarry Harper. His promotion
is so strongly urged from the
line that the Gen cannot hesitate.
I am without formal content in
the matter.

Truly Yours

A. M. McClure

Am El Sheriff

Chambersburg Aug 20 [1862]

Dear Sir-

Our Convention met yesterday & was largely attended by Democrats & harmonious in its action. After careful reflection & consultation with leading friends, we agreed that it would be better for [Rone?] to run than for me. It would avoid a contest of unexampled bitterness, and give a Democratic element essential to the ticket. We then compelled [Rone?] to accept. I am fully convinced that it was wise, altho either would be elected beyond doubt. We will certainly carry our ticket.

The convention treated me very handsomely They would have made a united & earnest fight for me for Senator, but I would not assent to it. They then passed

[Page Break]

a very handsome resolution regretting my declination & presenting me for U S. Senator. That, of course, amounts to nothing, as I have no such notion, but it is a graceful compliment from my own people. I have never seen a convention in the county in which there was such a cordial & earnest disposition to befriend me.

You will see the resolutions in the paper.

I enclose you another letter from Capt Henderson about young Harper. His promotion is so strongly urged from the line that the Gov cannot hesitate. I am without formal interest in the matter.

Truly Thine
A K McClure

Hon Eli Slifer

Chambersburg Aug 21

Dear Sir

I learn that Dr Jas H
McClinton, of this County, either
has been examined, or will pre-
sent himself for examination, as
an army surgeon.

He is not a legal
man - has openly expressed his
opinions in opposition to the
war, and he must not be
appointed. Judge Still has
also written to some of the Dep
agents at Washington stating
the same fact. You are at liberty
to present this letter to Dr Smith,
as I do not hesitate to assume
the responsibility of its content

Yours Truly

Am Eli Hefner

A. M. Clune

Chambersburg Aug 21 [1862]

Dear Sir-

I learn that Dr Jos H McClintic, of this county, either has been examined, or will present himself for examination, as an army Surgeon.

He is not a loyal man—has openly expressed his opinions in opposition to the war, and he must not be appointed. Judge [Hill?] has also written to some of the Departments at Harrisburg stating the same fact. You are at liberty to present this letter to Dr [Smith?], as I do not hesitate to assume the responsibility of its contents.

Truly Thine
A K McClure

Hon Eli Slifer