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

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Chambersby april 14 I will go to Philadelphia on either Gusay a Saturday of next neck, I can pranange matters as to be in Harristay I way might: + for to the city. Saturay. Unte me whether that will buit ju, Perhaps to would be well to have bouten there the same evening as he will le en his viag to Phola alint the Dawe time, who weeds both Count renemagnest,

I have been sich all nech mthe enternation ferer not been able to be in cern't at all, Next neck I hope to be able to try served empitant Causes, fenoing, but causet though with them or as to leave Inday noon, There has been a po at deal of childre play about the State Committee. It is not get armound. Last Saturay I mote fuelly shark letters to both Carneren South about it. The Committee Shula have been aganged lefre this line bal Eli Ste fa Bruk Alleblue.

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

be a blot you ou fame. The tac good men my all on requirents leant they be faced to the surface, the Do (leal stumbarghs) has a trentered (Stitzel) in one af une behanders buy learnfance, who is a fust Class multary men; but he Las the moderaty of went, & a not a folderan, & must be or in all afte requents. Do fre this found special allention, and as requests are reaganged, let all the effets of the Defaitments le du tea to barry the men well affreed, Don't feartale to refuse Commis suns where combinations but en competent men at the lead below- experting to lease daily take the thing

Chambersburg July 23 [1861]

D Sir-

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

The 200,000 <u>rejected</u> 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 <u>forced</u> to the surface. The 2d (Col [Stumbaughs?]) 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. <u>Dont hesitate to refuse commissions where combinations put incompetent men at the head of our troops.</u>

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.

Dated at Chambersburg Ough 261861 Lecy of State It is next to imposseble Surely Me Michael Gelpin Could a a. f. M. Clure

26-5/Collect

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

Chambershy, acts I am fully persuaded that a regt centa be raised have very promptly by Gen Mckley. if allowed to rendesvory here The men noula be supported at the same cost as in Ham buy to you could eguip their. It is meant as an honest effort to raise a regt o not to suivale as was the care onthe Shumlargh, who is non futually out of the way Schell unter me that of McAllan showla be allowed to take charge of this, Bedfud would gre at least four Companies, a kom that an a nonla fre as many, Om better military men would not have away

there to do with xtumbargh and he did not take the hundred men out af our whole county. mallen does not mant centrals of any kind, andos any one about him, Upu may remember high as the man alo was authorized ly the In to laine a Brigade tere last spring, and finally you had to reject his men when the Patterson regmenten nas re-Anced. He paid are \$400 as I know to get the men off griety and, besides beerg well gralified to command a legt, le bas the character to gratify the proposition. I am satisfied that dishle the new if hot fire times the munter, coulà be bad tere by knowing then Colonel and

getting ready at home, that cinta be calested atterne, It would not cest the State a cent, as the is a Camp and all necessary for faithurs. Just that you will take a famable appetient to her it before the America, and get a defente ansuer sent me, I have no fersonal a folitical interest in Gen Mcallin; but uge this matter solely became I feel persuaded it umla be use to adopt it. Please que me an only refly, and of acceptable, let leon. Mussay Suin contact to suffy at Jun regular rate paid at Camp Hon Eli Slifer.

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 rendesvouz 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

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AND ALL INTERMEDIATE STATIONS,

CONNECTING WITH THE

NATIONAL TELEGRAPH LINES THROUGHOUT THE UNION.

Dated at Parlisle May 24862

To Col Ci Clife

Jend me any war news you

may get to Chambershing

A. J. On Cluve

Jus 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

1862

Defor. Our Jeaple are remonally auxious about the eafly af the border, because af the retral ax Banks. I camar af come conjetu what the real state afthe care is; but I must not lave some until the papel afthe Patomac line is assured. I have untter the Gor, returning the foor Indprent, a telling him to have Faller send me Julley check to pay note tere and to have you pay in Brinkinger & Farm & Me assued we that he would do si, I ti mill heep an eye to do Mate me how matters for; and telepape me the war new prompts for on people are wild on the sufect.

Panute

<u>Private</u>

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 <u>promptly</u> for our people are wild on the subject.

Yours A K McClure

Defi-frage Shaver of Keny Co is dead: I the Ger mele have the vacancy to file. I have written the know asking him, in care he has no special political aliligatrons to descharge there, to appoint Saml Lupper, my hather in lan, He lives in Shaveis distrol, the a most northy, competent and acceptable man, He was very shorply supported for Leatter Buspedu under Pallich, & mas with drawn by me at Centres Englishon. I have never asked politi seal preferment fu a relative in my life, and feel he cale.

-arly delicate about in ging it upon anten, of Lupper nere not my brother in law I mould, as I then could mithe property, unge his affortwent as by odds the most prdicions me that Could be wade, I have witten Center askey him to say frankly whether the applicathen sull in any defer embairado him! & fos, it mel be promptly with deaun I his makes in the maller Cordeally Concured in I do not mean of any refinitely in recurry this affiretirent; but of Centin has no special preference or duty in the matter, a kind Ongesteen from you might

be af advantage, and I confess that the affentivent unla be to me a special frahfreation. nesday moning, There I soll of to Phila Wed-Cal Eli Slifer

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 <u>not</u> 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 with drawn & 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

a. 98. Mc Cline, 1862 Dear Cal-I have of come may applications for interference mthe appointments. Ime are mentonous, and I shall lay such before jon. f. f. Coreigh, Allest lehester, who was ungedo at one time for Nortary has been in the Reserver, lee A. 1st Ref. Cal Raberts, and noula be a fast class man to be commproned a a Lient. a louptain. He is a son after Dr breigh of this County an Educated and excellent

man, I have nuttentun that his Cal a Captain must ask his afformetment. If so, let it be done, In the formation of the new levy, I will under no cucumstances, fain the afforilment of any man except when the found of fitness & ment. Sugeon A or Incen The Righ Pa Resener, is hohen denn, and is desures apleary released for a while to examine recents at Hamsley until he recents his

pealth a little. He " are afthe fust your physice am af German tour, and fit can be done. He is a very ralvable man. I see that they have, at last come à thou senses at Maskington, and circleded, after three neeks of headatron, to take 9 & 12 mis men a fell up the army, Let us be thankful that they ded not hait a mouth longer and defeat recruiting as they ded Defore In bas stinch the aght chard, His picc

lanation sull a homper usforded to. He is the only Executive who has dara to their himself ufon the feather for men a proud chapter ni his hating I take the strink to minum every a soll not sit down to lest until on quota is full to the last man, I do have that pm. mll terder leapt McKebbin the Command of a regiment here, I mind be very acceptable, and there is no letter man withen large. I am satisfie at the Merchants Potel Strike, is at the Merchants Potel 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.

<u>J. J. Creigh</u> 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.

<u>Surgeon A W Green</u>, 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

Scar Cal-Jean Cal-Just returned home at 3/2 this morning, after a three days trap causas ong for recents. He mile I doubt not raise three full companies of 100 men, and it may be four, nother the time lemited by your last order. The sull certainly und 350 men, he could raise full 500 men en twenty days had not the Mine subs call been conviler mandedo After our mine mas men stall leave, & Stall despair of additional recents here, If men must be had they must be diafted, four county is

a fair citerau of the Hato Could you not order the militia enrolled prefacations to a direct! Outape Auch a mue hinle make men enlist. A nould certainly make very man only it to military duty interested in having holuntees come funaido, , I must be have until the Compainer are Paised and Starlea Stey look to me In information & counsel at Eary Step. & d Cannot leave. mute me hem malley more Ting There Millallere leal Ele Ilfer

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

that it to exprestion of that him Chambershing any 4 I Dear Mitores had my attent I have sent you first instalment of a full company this morning and me mile un Certainly three more this much, I had a green letter from Custin de cems to la inder the impression that there was \$1150 ver someton a somewher in the discount of some of his notes, Which he has never received. I neur heard of it. Did you? I hope that you mile, in the 11th of Agust, spice a Orocla water guny native that Mounts mell be delived as Valunteers for one fifteen days. to recene the local bountes, to full up the ala regenents; and state in the same proclamation

that at the experation afthat hime the Commpiness will proved to diaft the balance of the gnota from lack county to make ap the necessary 30,000 to make our requients 1000 strong, This I concerne to be endes fensille to the safety I efficiency after army. In diafting, the Commpnies showen be instructed to diate beaucht from took districts as have fundho le ast men One county houla, I believe fell ber gnota of about 450 outhout resert to a haft but many Countres mould Mat Margery maken when I hope in deed that this sull be done, The fact that a diaft is certain to come on a certain day when men must for mithal bointy

onll I bebere, agme but lettle de aftery, Cen any on the Permeula must be en imment peul, and by felling up the ala repress it conta le stergetour full 100,000 in trenty days, indu duy Melellan Nape He new men formy in with an egral a feater musher of tried men, monta he efficent at one, Ifm two stuck the papular heart by an appeal to the heaple . I you can pajely praface non to the freument to fell up the ala represento-the honer & diaft to be part after authory. I may be down in a day or two Inf The Allthelle

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 <u>the 11th of August</u>, issue a Proclamation giving notice that recruits will be needed as volunteers for say <u>fifteen days</u>, 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 indispensible 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 <u>certain day</u> when men must go without bounty,

[Page Break]

will I believe, require but little drafting. Our army on the Penninsula must be in imminent peril, and by filling up the old regiments it could be strengthened full 100,000 in twenty days, including MClellan & 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 6. I am not well, and not able to be out of the house to-day. I may not get l. Harris. but on west if the beginning of notohusel. We shall send you fine, and probably six full companies, this is est, and our in common with our gall ant. robunteers, that they should be put in one regiment. The promptiness of four eventy e estainly merito, this respect.

for the wishes of our men. I hope indeed, that you will give this matter attention in July Three Hon. Ele Slifer

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

Chamberlung Ry 20 Dear pri-On Comentin met gesterday & mas largely attended by Demicials & harmonous in its action, I fler careful reflection & consultation on the leading brends, we aprece that it under be better for Rose to ven than for me. It mula avoid a contest of unexampled betternes, and gre a Deminate element assential to the techel. he then comfelled Rome to accept, I am fully convinces that it was use, altho either monta be cleted begond doubt, he mile certainf cany on betel. The comention treated me very handsowely They unda have made a united & carrest fight for me for Sevator. but I menta not as leut to it. They then passed

a my handoome resolution regetting my declination & presenting me In M. J. Levator. That of conce. amounts to nothing, as I have as ouch notion! led it is a proce ful complement from my own people. I have never reen a conrenten in the county in which the was puch a endual & carnest disfuntion to befriend me. Ifm mel ree the resolutions in the paper, I enclose que another lettir fum baso Hendusm about gung Harfer. His promotion is on strongly a ged from the line that the Im count heartate. I am nother formal enterest in Inof Thise Hm Eleslifes

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 be friend 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

Chambushing any 21 I learn that Dr fac H mellintic, of the county, enther has been examined, in mel fixpent hunself for examination, as an any buyon. He is not a ligal man-has apeny spreased his opinions in apposition to the pay and he must not be appointed. Judge etill has also unter to some afthe Dep almuls at Harmburg stating the same foot, I'm are at likely to present this letter to De Smith, as I de mot testate à assume the responsibily afile content Am Eli Mefer AM Cline

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