


2-23-1862

Letter from Robert Hanson to Francis P. Porter

Robert Hanson

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Fort Donelson Tennessee
Sunday eve February 23rd 1862

Miss F. Porter

The first time that I have had the pleasure of addressing a few lines to you hoping that they may be favorable received. I would have written before but was afraid that you would think that I a stranger was a little too fast. I looked anxiously to see you and Miss Mary at Camp Gilbert but looked in vain. We left Zanesville on Tuesday the 11th and reached Cincinnati on the next day and took passage on the steamer Neptune as I thought for Paducah Kentucky when we were about 300 miles below Cincinnati we heard that a battle had commenced at Fort Donelson. We then steamed up the Cumberland River and arrived at the landing three miles below the Fort on Saturday eve about four o'clock amidst the firing of cannon and hissing of shells and the sharp rattling of small arms. We were ordered to get ready for the fight we did so; the next morning we were ready our cartridge boxes filled with ammunition and our haversacks with meat & bread

we started on foot and we met ambulances coming from the field filled with wounded we hurried on and expecting ere noon of the day to be engaged to the death with ^{the} enemies of our free institutions (The distance to march was eight miles)

When we arrived within two miles of the fortifications we heard cheering an indication that our boys had won the day soon a courier passed us with the cheering news that the Fort was ours and that the old Flag was floating over the ramparts of Donelson that nest of rebels. We on account of a storm on the Ohio which caused us to lay over one night and part of a day, lost the opportunity of immortalizing ourselves. We was not there, so all honour to the brave Boys who fought like heroes and conquered. They deserve it for they fought with desperation they went at with purpose to conquer or die, they conquered but not without loss many gallant Sons of Illinois and other states shed their best blood for their country's Flag and many struck hearts to day mourn the loss of loved ones whose footsteps they will here no more

May God be with them and comfort the bereaved ones at home. Many little ones will listen in vain for the music of their Fathers and Brothers footsteps You remember the first time that I had the pleasure of seeing you and your Mother in camp she gave me a dime and also told me while there was anything in that box of eatables to help myself. I did so and I shall remember her. And if ever an opportunity comes in my way to do so to one who is very near and dear to her I assure ^{you} that I will do my utmost to relieve him. After we heard the news of the victory we halted on the banks of a stream about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the conflict and ate dinner in the evening when supper time came no one had coffee but myself I went down to Capt. Chandler Company brought George & J. Armstrong to my place of rest and made them both a pint of coffee which they received very thankfully. I presume that ere this time George has acquainted you of the march and all the incidents connected with it, so I will forbear I expect you will tire of this ere you read it through.

George is well and J. P. A. and all the others
W. D. Armstrong left Friday eve for the hospital
in Cincinnati being sick with some kind of
fever he would have died I believe if he had
stayed here. Please excuse these hastily written
and badly composed lines and believe me
your

Friend

R Hanson

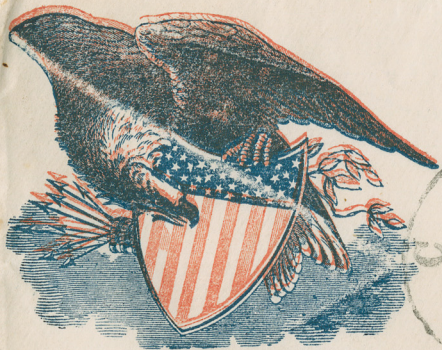
Please answer soon and direct to

R Hanson
78 Regt. Co. I, 1st Div. U.S.A.
Care Col. M. D. Leggett
Fort Donelson

Tennessee

Errenell may the Blessings of Heaven rest
upon you. My respects to your Father
& Mother and Yourself. I have the money
to pay the Postage but no Stamps keep account
I will pay when I get back

R Hanson



"Fear not, ABRAM, I am thy Shield and
thy exceeding great reward."

Soldiers Letter
Mrs Suggitt

Vol 78 ch 100

A I
FEB
1862

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Miss Frank P. Porter
West Garesville
Muskingum County
State of Ohio



February 23, 1862

Addressed to Miss Frank P. Porter

West Zanesville

Muskingum County

State of Ohio

Fort Donaldson Tennessee

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you that I will do my utmost to relieve him. After we heard the news of the victory, we halted on the banks of a stream about 1 ½ miles from the conflict and ate dinner in the evening when supper time came no one had coffee but myself. I went down to Capt Chandler Company brought George and T.S. Armstrong to my place of rest and made them both a pint of coffee which they received very thankfully. I presume that ere this time, George has acquainted you of the march and all the incidents connected with it so I will forbear. I expect you will tire of this ere you read it through. George is well and T.S.A and all the others. W.F Armstrong left Friday eve for the hospital in Cincinnati being sick with some kind of fever. He would have died I believe if he had stayed here. Please excuse this hastily written and badly composed lines and believe me your friend,

R. Hanson

Please answer soon and direct to

R Hanson

78th Reg't Co. F OV USA

Care Col. M.D. Leggett

Fort Donelson Tennessee

Farewell. May the blessings of the _____ rest on you. My respects to your Father & Mother and yourself. I have the money to pay the postage but no stamps. Keep account. I will pay when I get back.

R. Hanson