

3-3-1862

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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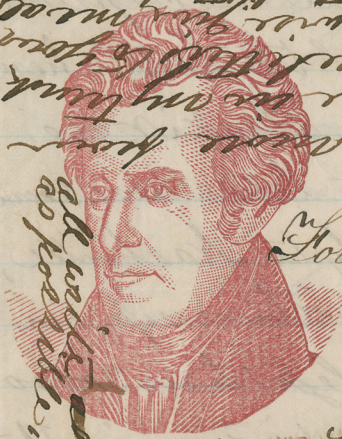
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Do you hear anything more from
 grand-dad? I am sure in my heart
 I have you all, I feel them with you
 will write of and otherwise in mean
 all mine. My love to the little boys &
 girls. I must go to school study hard
 my father will be with me.

June 1862.

Fort Donaldson, March 3rd

Dear Sister:



all with you
 as possible

“Our Federal Union,
 MUST be preserved.”
 JACKSON

I seat my-
 self this beautiful eve,
 for the purpose of ad-
 dressing you a few lines, thinking
 you would be pleased to hear from
 one, who has left all the endearments
 of home, and gone out, to bear his
 part in the preservation of our glori-
 ous union. Well Frank I am
 enjoying myself finely, and getting
 along so much better than I expect-
 ed, that I couldn't find room to
 complain if I wished to. I hope
 you are all well & enjoying all the
 comforts of a kind Father's house (as
 we have been used to all our lives)

of my way of how we do ^{not} ^{know} ^{of} ^{where} ^{the} ^{troops} ^{are} ^{at} ^{present} ^{at} ^{least} ^{we} ^{may} ^{go} ^{some} ^{where} ^{to}
as I gave you a full description (as near as possible) of the battle here, I will say but little about it. we are now expecting to leave here soon & go up the River, likely to Nashville, I think there is something up, in that direction. not less than 30,000 of troops passed here to day in that direction. we are now right in the heart of Seceshdom here, within the last few days some few citizens are coming in, claiming to be union men. Some I suppose are honest. but I think a little as one of our contrabands said the other day, dat dem old gun boats make union men mighty fast up here. we have a lot of contrabands here that was at work on the Lock, you would laugh yourself to death nearly, if you was here to see them dance, we go up almost every

^{the} ^{only} ^{to} ^{know} ^{by} ^{word} ^{of} ^{mouth} ^{and} ^{not} ^{by} ^{writing} ^{or} ^{otherwise} ^{at} ^{all} ^{the} ^{time} ^{we} ^{know} ^{of} ^{where} ^{the} ^{troops} ^{are} ^{at} ^{present} ^{at} ^{least} ^{we} ^{may} ^{go} ^{some} ^{where} ^{to}
night nearly and have them all get together & take a dance, and I tell you now they are just what can dance. Some of them I find pretty sharp. they give us a full description of affairs here. One of them told me from what he could learn. that when he saw the Yankees, he expected to see little bits of men, and that it would take about three of them to make one Southerner, but God mighty (says he) I find em bigger than our men heap, and more than that they will fight to. You ought to see the drop of the Secesh troops, when drawn up in line together they look "ring streaked & striped", you can hardly find two of them drops alike, and the individuals themselves are generally speaking very ignorant, about as much so as their negroes, Wesley Anderson returned this

They had a good deal to think of their
What John to be a good boy & kind of
love. he says the report in Ohio
is that we took only 1300 prisoners
here, I know the exact amount.
I have it from head quarters.
we took not less than 17000. This
you may rely on. our loss was
heavy. we are encamped right
on the bank of the Cumberland
River, I see in traveling around
some of the Seceshes feet sticking
out of the ground. they about half
buried their dead. This sheet
of paper Dolph took out of a
dead Secesh's pocket. the first day
we came on the battle field, and
is getting late I will close. give
my respects to Keim's girls &
all enquiring friends, with my
respects & best wishes ^{to} you all. I
remain your Brother, with immediate
Direct to G. W. Porter Esq
Care Col. M. S. Leegett 48th Regt. O. V. York
Donaldson Tennessee.

Miss Sarah M. Porter

March 3, 1862

Addressed to Miss Frank P. Porter - West Zanesville - Muskingum Co. - Ohio

Fort Donaldson, Tennessee

March 3rd, 1862

Dear Sister,

I seat myself this beautiful eve for the purpose of addressing you a few lines, thinking you would be pleased to hear from one who has left all the endearments of home, and gone out to bear his part in the preservation of our glorious union. Well Frank I am enjoying myself finely and getting along so much better than I expected that I couldn't find room to complain if I wished to. I hope you are well and enjoying all the comforts of a kind Father's house (as we have been used to all our lives).

As I gave you a full description (as near as possible) of the battle here, I will say but little about it. We are now expecting to leave here soon & go up the river, likely to Nashville. I think there is something up, in that direction. Not less than 30,000 of troops passed here today in that direction. We are now right in the heart of Secesh down here within the last few days some of the citizens are coming in claiming to be union men. Some I suppose are honest, but I think a little as one of our contrabands said the other day, that some old gun boats make union men mighty fast up here. We have a lot of contrabands here that was at work on the Fort, you would laugh yourself to death nearly, if you could see them dance. We go up almost every night nearly and have them all get together and take a dance. And I tell you they are just what can dance. Some of them I find pretty sharp. They give us a full description of affairs here. One of them told me from what he could learn that when he saw the Yankees he expected to see little bits of men and it would take about three of them to make a Southerner, but God mightily (says he) I find em bigger than our men _____ and more than that they will fight to. You ought to see the dress of the Secesh troops to here drawn up in line together they look "Ring Streaked and Striped," you can hardly find two of them dressed alike and the individuals themselves are generally speaking very ignorant about as much as their Negroes. Wesley Anderson returned this eve. He says the report in Ohio is that we took only 13,000 prisoners here I know the exact amount. I have it from headquarters we took not less than 17,000. This you may rely on. Our loss was heavy. We are encamped right on the bank of the Cumberland River. I see in traveling around some of the Seceshes feet sticking out of the ground. They about half buried their dead. This sheet of paper Dolph took out of a dead Secesh's pocket the first day we came on the battle field. As it is getting late I will close. Give my respects to Keirner's girls & all inquiring friends. With my respects and best wishes to you all. I remain your brother. Write immediately.

G.W. Porter

Direct to care of Col. M.D. Leggett, 78th Regt Ohio Volunteers, Fort Donaldson, Tennessee

Tell John to be a good boy _____ & to obey his old father. He will think of these things when older.

We may be home by next fall, not sooner at least. We may go from here to Alabama. We know not where.

Do you hear anything more from quad. Don't let anyone in my trunk. Save yourself. Keep these letters to yourself unless I order otherwise. Give me all the news. My love to the little boys & girls. _____ & May must write. Tell _____ & Willy they must go to school. Study hard so they can write to me.