3-3-1862

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Cincinnati 1862.

Fort Donaldson, March 5th

Dear Sister:

I sent my self this beautiful one for the purpose of addressing you a few lines, thinking you would be pleased to hear from one who has left all the endearment 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 all well. Enjoying all the comforts of a kind Father's house as we have been used to all our lives.

Our Federal Union, MUST be preserved.

JACKSON
As I gave you a full description of the battle here, I will say but little about it. The people are now expecting to leave here and 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, and 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 dey ole gun buns makes arsenic men mighty fast upon us. We have a lot of contrabands here that was at work on the Stock, you would laugh yourself to death nearly, if you was here to see them. As for us, we go up almost every day.

I have gone over to Kenesaw Mountain and have the Yankees there. I don't know how many, I don't know how near we are. They give us a full description of affairs here. One of them told one 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 Almighty (Job 12) I find our bigger than our men heap, and more than that they will fight to. You ought to see the drop of the Secesh troops, they draw up in line together they look King Streaked & Striped, you can hardly find two of them drop alike, and the individuals themselves are generally speaking very ignorant, about as much so as their negroes.

W. C. Anderson, Warren Co.
He says the report is that we took only 150 prisoners. True, I know the exact amount. I have it from headquarters, and I took not less than 1400. 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 Seceesha fell sticking out of the ground. They almost half buried their dead. The dead of spera Dolph took out of a dead Seceehi pocket. The first day we came on the battle field, it is getting late I will close, give any respects to Kaiser's girls and all enquiring friends, with my respects and best wishes you all. Remain your brother immedi.

Direct to G. W. Parker Co.

Case Col. M. S. Leegett 7th Dep. O. D. York

Donaldson, Tennessee
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.