

3-23-1862

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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[illegible]

Cumple, Landing Penn. River. Tennessee

March 2nd 1862. This is a beautiful morn. we are not
 few very well immediately, March 23rd 1862

Dear Sister:

I was much gratified yesterday on return of Mail, to find a few lines, bearing the signature of S. P. Foster, as I had not heard from home, since I left it was received & perused with pleasure, as will be all received, if you only knew with what anxiety a Soldier looks on return of Mail, to find whether (or not) some kind friend has still remembered him, and with what a wishful eye he gazes, as the different names are called, you would most assuredly write to me often, I do not wish you to think from my remarks, that I speak of you only as a friend, but far more than all this, a Dear Sister, I am always pleased to hear from a friend, much more so to hear from home, As I wrote to you two or three days previous, to the reception of your kind & welcome message, and give you a full description of our moves up to our present Camp, I can only give a description of what has passed here, which has been nothing of importance, This Station I suppose is not marked on the map, you can find it in this way, we are on the bank of Tennessee River, 150 miles above Fort Henry, we are also about 8 miles from the Mississippi line, 15 miles from Alabama line, So you see we're getting pretty well down South in Dixie, (I wish Moll Krisner was here to give Dixie for me.) We are now

under marching orders, to day we were called out on general
Review, The 48th Ohio, 76th Ohio, 56th Ohio, and 20th Ohio. Reg-
ments form our brigade, 3rd brigade, 3rd Division, Brigade
is Commanded by Col. Wood of Newark Ohio, Our Division
is Commanded by General Lewis Wallace of Indiana.
Our General was here to inspect us, (that is Lew. Wallace) he
compliments us very highly, (this is the first time he has been
with us,) and says we will see a big fight soon, which does
not affrighten us much, I have been doing some writing for
the Gutter, for a day or so past. Just finished up this eve, as
I feel somewhat tired of writing, you will not think hard if this
should be rather brief, I have filled out allotment rolls for
two other Companies this week, for which I was well paid, I did
it at night, so I lost no time, I would not have written to you to
night, had we not expected to move against the enemy tomorrow,
as we do, I concluded to write, not knowing when I would have another
opportunity, However I intend to write every week, if possible, We are
now within 26 miles of where the Rebels are said to be 100,000 strong
& tolerably well fortified, (which is Corinth Mississippi,) here is where
we are bound for now, There are a small number about 13 miles
from here, at a small Village called Perda. We will just
move then take this place, as we go marching along, I received
a letter from Father to day was much pleased to hear from
you all again, I would not gamble, if I should receive
one from some one of you every day, Father wishes me to be
satisfied, I was never better satisfied in my life, of course I

would like to see you all, and be with you, but duty calls me
elsewhere, and with a free heart, I obey her bidding, How can a
young man stay at home these times? if he has a heart in him
he can not, he either has none, or else he is a Coward.
I claim one & deny the other, (what can those boys say, who stay
at home, when we return? I could not hold up my head, were
I in their place, I glory in Johnny's Spunk, but wish he had staid
at home, I wish now, I had brought him with me, If he has a
certain distance to haul provisions too, he will not have as hard
a time, as if he had to stay with the Regt, and in time of battle
haul the killed & wounded, at least I hope not, I wish you had
told me where to direct my letters to him, I know not, what
Regiment, Brigade, Division, or Department he is in, if I did,
my eyes would not close this night until I wrote to him, when
you write again give all particulars, where he is, what he said,
when leaving, all about it, you need not fear him getting
hurt in battle up there, he is not far enough down, write
to him immediately tell him to write to me, without delay
and direct to, G. W. Porter Co, B. Fort Henry Tennessee
In care of Col. M. D. Leggett 48th Regt. O. V. O. if you give
him this direction & if he should write to me to this place
it would be forwarded immediately to me, don't neglect
this, I want to hear from him, I hope he will retain his health.
God knows this is all we need ask for my part the boys
all day, I stand it as well if not better than any man
in our Co, I am fleshier than I ever was, have never been

Sick an hour, since I left, and am thankful ^{for} it. I Received
a letter from Will. Greize this eve, which afforded me much
pleasure. he says you are all going to move in with them, until
faul. what is Father going to do this summer. give all partionlers.
he said when I left. he thought I would get home this summer.
for my part, if you go to Dls. this next faul. I will never see you until
I meet you there. I dont expect to be at home, in less than a year
from the time I started. I suppose from what you say about John's
hiring for 3 months. that he can quit when he pleases. if not
3 months is not long. I would write to him to come home as soon
as possible, I assure you he will Return when the 3 months is
up if he keeps his health. Tell ^{him} if he should get sick to strike right
for home, for a man might just as well go to the grave at
once as go to the general Hospital. I do not feel uneasy
about him. there is a just God, who Rules over all. my prayer is
that he will let kind heaven smile upon him. You spoke of
Moll Kinner going to write to me. I would be much pleased to hear
from her. if I dont hear from her soon. I will write to her.
tell Han. & her they have my best Respects & wishes. I both to write.
You spoke of Hanson. he is a very clever, accomodating fellow.
neither very smart nor Handsome. Tell Will I was much pleased
with his letter. even it would have been quite a treat. I tell you
it is hard to bear. I wish him to be a good boy attend School
& study hard. I find even in the Army. my education is of more
value to me than Silver or Gold. tell him I intend part of this
letter for him. to answer. tell you I will go his halvers on that bet.
also to be a good boy. & study diligently. The little girls. ^{must write} this is the
eighth letter I have written you. Recd. two. you sent me a Stamp.
thank you kindly. dont trouble yourself about that. I have plenty of Stamp.
all I ask is for you to write often. all with that com. I will write often.
Write often never wait on me for a letter might be mislayed, and
it makes it to long from the time of receiving one to the next. as it is
getting late I will close. May Heavens Choicest blessings Rest upon
you one & all is my prayer. my love & best wishes to one & all.
Remember me kindly to all enquiring friends. from your
Affectionate Brother,
G. H. Porter.
{ does Enadlocke say anything more }
I can never forgive him.



JUST AND FEAR NOT.



Miss Frank P. Porter
Hopewell, Muskingum
County - Ohio -

Chris

March 23, 1962

Addressed to Miss Frank P. Porter

Hopewell, Muskingum County, Ohio

Crumpets Landing, Tenn. River, Tennessee

March 23rd, 1862

Dear Sister,

I was much gratified yesterday on return of mail to find a few lines bearing the signature of F.P. Porter as I have not heard from home since I left. It was received and perused with pleasure as will all be received if you only knew with what anxiety a soldier looks on return of mail to find whether (or not) home kind friend has still remembered him and with what a wishful eye he gazes as the different names are called. You would most assuredly write to me often. I do not wish you to think from my remarks that I speak to you only as a friend but far more than all this, a Dear Sister. I am always pleased to hear from a friend much more to hear from home. As I wrote to you two or three days previous to the Reception of your kind and welcome message and give you a full description of our moves up to our present Camp.

I can only give a description of what has passed here which has been nothing of importance. This station is not marked on the map. You can find it in this way. We are on the bank of the Tennessee River, 150 miles above Fort Henry. We are also about 8 miles from the Mississippi line, 15 miles from Alabama line. So you see we're getting pretty well down south in Dixie, (I wish Moll Keirner was here to sing Dixie for me). We are now under marching orders today. We were called out on General Review. The 78th Ohio, 76th Ohio, 56th Ohio, and 20th Ohio Regiments from our brigade, 3d brigade, 3d Division. Brigade is commanded by Col. Wood of Newark, Ohio. Our Division is commanded by General Lewis Wallace of Indiana. Our general was here to inspect us (that is, Lew Wallace) he compliments us highly (this is the first time he has been with us). and says we will see a big fight soon which does not affrighten us much. I have been doing some writing for the _____ for a day or so past. Just finished up this eve as I feel somewhat tired of writing you will not think hard if this should be rather brief. I have filled out allotment rolls for two other Companies this week for which I was well paid. I did it at night so I lost no time. I would not have written to you tonight had we not expected to move against the enemy tomorrow as we do. I concluded to write, not knowing when I would have another opportunity. However, I intend to write every week, if possible.

We are now within 26 miles of where the Rebels are said to be 100,000 strong & tolerably well fortified (which is Corinth Mississippi); here is where we are bound for now. There are a small number about 13 miles from here, at a small village called Perda. We will just more than take this place "as we go marching along."

I received a letter from Father today, was much pleased to hear from you all again. I would not grumble if I should received one from home one of you every day. Father wished me to be satisfied. I was never better satisfied in my life of course I would like to see you all and be with

you but duty calls me elsewhere and with a free heart I obey her bidding. How can a young man stay at home these times if he has a heart in him, he can not. He either has one or else he is a Coward. I claim one & deny the other. What can those boys say, who stay at home, when we return? I could not hold up my head where I in their places. I glory in Johnny's _____m but wish he had staid at home. I wish now I had brought him with me. If he has a certain distance to haul provisions too, he will not have as hard a time as if he had to stay with the Regt and in time of battle haul the killed and wounded, at least I hope not. I wish you had told me where to direct my letters to him. I know not what Regiment, Brigade, Division, or department he is in. If I did, my eyes would not close this night until I wrote to him. When you write again, give all the particulars where he is. What he said when leaving. All about it. You need not fear him getting hurt in battle up there, he is not far enough down. Write to him immediately. Tell him to write to me without delay and direct to G.W. Porter Co. B Fort Henry Tennessee in care of Col. M.D. Leggett, 78th Regt O.V.I. If you give him this direction to, if he should write to me to this place it would be forwarded immediately to me. Don't neglect this. I want to hear from him. I hope he will retain his health. God knows this is all we need ask, for my part the boys all say. I stand in as well if not better than any man in our Co. I am fleshier than I ever was, have never been sick an hour since I left and am thankful for it. I received a letter from Will Gresize this week which afforded me much pleasure. He says you are all going to move in with them until fall. What is Father going to do this summer. Give all particulars. He said when I left he thought I would get home this summer. For my part, if I go to Ills this next fall, I will never see you until I meet you there. I don't expect to home in less than a year from the time I started. I suppose what you say about John's hiring for 3 months that he can quit when he pleases if not 3 months is not long. I should write to him to come home as soon as possible. I assure you he will return when the 3 months is up if he keeps his health. Tell him if he should get sick to strike right for home for a man might just as well go to the grave at once as go to the general hospital. I do not feel uneasy about him. There is a just God who rules over all. My prayer is that he will let kind heaven smile upon him.

You spoke of Moll Kreiner going to write to me. I would be much pleased to hear from her, if I don't hear from her soon, I will write to her. Tell Flav & her they have my respects & wishes & both to write.

You spoke of Hanson. He is a very clever, accommodating fellow, neither very smart or very handsome. Tell Will I was much pleased with his letter, even it would have been quite a treat. I tell you it is hard to hear. I wish him to be a good boy, attend school, and study hard. I find even in the army, my education is more valuable to me than silver or gold. Tell him I intend part of this letter for him to answer. Tell Josy I will go his halvers on that bet, also to be a good boy, & study diligently. The little girls. This is the thank you kindly, don't trouble yourself about that. I have plenty of stamps. All I ask is for you to write often. All write that can. A will write often; write often; never wait on me for a letter, might be mislaid, and it makes it too long from the time of receiving one to the next. As it is getting late, I will close. May Heaven's Choicest blessings rest upon you one and all is my prayer. My love and best wishes to one & all. Remember me kindly to all enquiring friends. From your affectionate brother.

G.W. Porter

Does Quadlock(?) say anything more? I can never forgive him.

March 26, 1862

With the letter from March 23, 1862

This is a beautiful morn. We're not off yet. Will be in a few days. Write immediately. Tell Father I send him a draft calling for \$19.56 some time since, directing him to call at county treasury & draw the same and make the best disposition of it he can. so as to be safe, take good care of my notes & the horse. Keep _____ at home if you think but I want you to be very careful. I mean to try & live all _____, I must I live through this have some kind of a start.

G.W.P.