

5-26-1862

Letter from Robert Hanson to Francis P. Porter

Robert Hanson

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Camp in the Woods
May 26th 1862

Friend Frank

Your welcome ^{letter} arrived last evening and was read with much
pleasure as is all your letters; please write often. When George gets one from home I give him
no rest until I read it. By the time this reaches you you will have the pleasure
of welcoming home F. G. I am glad that he has gone, he was while here with us a
pure minded honorable man always avoiding that was evil and strictly adhering
to that that is good. His dear mother will be happy and oh! what a relief
will be off of her mind. I hope that you and all the rest of his ^{friends} will try
to assist him in regaining his health. I would love when I return to take him
by the hand. George is well and in good health and he is the same George
that he was when he left home. As a sergeant he had the esteem of men and
officers. As Lieutenant he has become more popular. One thing Munson wants to
be First Lieutenant the men and majority of the officers says George should have
it and I believe that he will get it, I hope so.

Now I will tell you of the health of
the 78th in the last two weeks something over one hundred have been sent home
or to the Hospitals in Cincinnati. Since I last wrote you several have gone to there some
beyond the grave I will name a few Old Pap Lewis Leroy Roberts Kincaid. I disremember
the others in Co. B, ten or twelve have gone. May Heaven bless the bereaved ones at Home.
We have over one hundred and fifty here and at Camp Philock sick and many of them I fear
will never recover. George has not seen his Brother John yet he wrote to him to day if he
knew what division he was in he could soon find him. Buell's army is in three or four
divisions and not knowing which one he is makes very difficult to find him among so
many thousand men scattered over 26 miles of territory. I have made several inquiries
for him but did not succeed.

The Boys have just come in from dress parade, and now for supper. did you read T. F. letter in the courier I have seen it. That was a hard march for me have been on several more since then and am very tired of it. I went to Pittsburgh landing on Saturday a foot for the mail distance from here twenty three miles arrived in camp yesterday at noon with a very large mail six letters for myself and one was from you George received one or two none from Gratiot. Tell Miss Knowles that she must write oftener. I had an introduction to her at Camp Gilbert. I think that she is a good and kind lady. I judge from her countenance and I believe that I am right. I would love to read one of her letters George says they are excellent. I have heard of another lady that resides near you Sarah is her name the boys speak very highly of her. George received a letter from his boy Starkey the other day he enjoyed it very well.

We are now very near another battle one if we are victorious will end the war in this part of Asia, and I assure you that I will not be sorry I am getting tired of soldiering. There is one thing that gives me pleasure after a hard march through the mud and a night in a drenching rain after we get back to have a good letter to read. Sometimes I hunt up the old ones and read them over and enjoy them very much. Then I think well it will soon be over and George and myself get in the shade of a friendly oak and talk over the times we will have in old muskington mine are only imaginable ones. his are real, he has Parents and relatives and some other that will give him the welcome that he deserves and should have.

The day is past and the sun is set

The breezes are gentle and free

My boat is not ready neither is my sails set

I will wait and light a candle as it is master dark to see. Candle light. I must finish this to night George wants me to make a pair of boots for him to morrow we must keep his feet dry and his head cool. How do you spend the sabbaths we here have no preaching but generally do our marching on that holy day. I would love to go Church once more and listen to a good sermon one that will make a man feel and listen to the singing Oh! it would be so

pleasant. But I must abide my time. Have you good preaching at Hopewell perhaps I may spend a Sabbath there. I wrote to Miss Annie & Co. by request but have not received an answer yet. Perhaps she thinks a soldier is beneath her dignity. I have no fault to find hope she may have a good time. Have you had a may party yet? the woods here are full of flowers some very beautiful and the perfume that arises from them is very rich. These May Mornings reminds of some poetry I once read. I will insert it.

The May of life is bright and fair

And gay with spring times fairest flowers

It hath no heavy clouds of care

To shadow o'er its sunny hours

As birds sing when the light of dawn

Begins with gold the eastern sky

Even thus the heart at life's May Morn

Sends forth its notes of ecstasy

Thus sing the poet dear by, and truly might this bright lovely day that has passed suggest the thoughts the air clear and balmy perfumed with the breath of many flowers, the warm sunlight spreading over the world illuminating Nature into smiles, and the sunshine of Hope playing around the head and animating the heart. May we ever admire earth's beauties while enjoying them, and ever remember to adore their creator —

If this letter is devoid of interest blame me not for there is no news every night we expect to be aroused from our slumbers by the booming of canon. It is hard telling what time the battle will come off our Brigade is on the extreme right about 9 miles from Corinth and near six from our division we are busy during the building fortification we may get into the fight and we may not our position at present is so far to the right that

may possibly not get into it.

I must now bring this letter
to a close. Give my kindest regards to Your Father & Mother
also to Miss F. P. Porter. George sends his love to the Family.

May God bless you for your kindness to me.

Tell your Mother I shall never forget Camp Gilbert
and those Cakes and Chickens. do not go west until
the war is over.

I must tell you that I gave that
picture of a certain young Lady of your acquaintance to
J. L. Was that right I done it for the best?

Farewell May we all meet soon
in old Muskingum Write soon if you please

Your Friend

Robert Hanson

78 Regt, O V S

3^d Brigade 3^d Division

Commanded by

Gen. Lew Wallace

To Miss Frank. P. Porter.

Hopewell

Muskingum Co.,
Ohio

May 26, 1862

Addressed to Miss Frank P. Porter Hopewell Muskingum Co. Ohio

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Robert Hanson

78th Regt OVI

3d Brigade 3d division

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