

11-1-1862

## Letter from Robert Hanson to Francis P. Porter

Robert Hanson

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W. H.  
Blue moner 2000

Head Quarters 18<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
Vol. 1<sup>st</sup> in

Friend Frank

At last after long and patiently waiting the new recruits arrived, bringing with them from you two handkerchiefs, for which please accept my thanks & may you never need one of them, to wipe away a sad tear from your eyes. Munson & George gets along finely now you know that George is game. Munson asked his pardon for past offenses and promise to do so no more. George forgave & now things move on as gaily as a marriage bell.

How ask who can say anything now against Col Leggett? Yes who? There is some few men in this Regt, that are so mean they would do have done the deeds without shame & will do it again. Many very many of the men that was sent home at various times from the 78 would if they were men thank him for there being to day above ground. They have cursed him and call him tyrannical because he forbid them eating things that was sure to make them sick. I have seen men going from the Sulers that was so feeble that could scarcely walk. Eating cheese old, Rancid stale sweet cakes and other stuff that would turn the stomachs of decent Turkey buzzard, please excuse the word, some of them died, and in there dying moments, cursed there Captains for letting them eat those things. I was an eye witness and know it to be the truth. asked me why I could stand so much & not get sick, because I never eat cheese or cakes that a hog would not



Your old Friend I S is gone to the mountains of Virginia  
did you see him before you left your dear old home?  
If I had been sure that you would not thought hard of-  
me I would have kept one at least of those pictures of yours  
many times since have I felt sorry that George did not  
get them the <sup>else</sup> rest all with me and not with him  
he has often wished that he had your picture. If ever  
I am so fortunate as to get your picture again no man  
will get it without your request it I love to look at  
my Lady Friends that are far away. I have many  
yet you remember when she gave it to me I have  
carried it through several fights and on my trip  
to Jackson. On that trip about three in the morning  
I took a good look at her pure countenance it seem  
to say do not falter do your duty. I have very much more  
the case out with a pray day get another case.

You express wonder that we passed through  
another fight and escaped no wonder at all when the  
prayers of the pure & good such as yourself & others  
that I will not mention are offered up for our safety.  
The promise is that the prayers of the righteous avail  
much & I do believe in prayers. Often have I went  
out at night and sat down on a stump or grass &  
thought of the prayers that was then sending there  
way to a throne of grace for us poor soldiers who  
were far away from friends and surrounded by enemies.  
Did you ever go of to some secluded spot and think  
of the times gone by. if you never did you will now

to think of your childhoods home after will your  
mind wander back to the old homestead the old well.  
where you & Huldah have stood to pump water for George  
when he would come home from visiting or business.  
Did you ever read Twenty years ago. I heard that song  
the other night I slept out of the old tent my mind  
went back to my boyhoods home, a tear started to my eye.  
It is all passed Father Mother all are gone and the  
ones that played with me on the green are gone some  
to the state in which you now reside others & the greater  
portion are across the River. Did your Father get the  
letter George wrote in answer to the one stating that  
your aunt wished him to buy her farm he wrote I believe  
that he should buy it. Do you see Meda now George  
did get letters from Gratiot now from some place  
in Ill. If you ever see Meda give her my kindest  
regards. It seems to me at least when I first seen her  
in camp I thought that she had a good disposition &  
would make a better wife for a poor man than a rich  
one. Would he so kind to him after his hard days work was  
over. I think I had better stop now and say something  
or write something of our prospects here in Bolivar.  
We will have no fight here removal to the contrary.  
If we fight we must seek it ourselves, and if we  
have to make the attack it will be a long time  
before we will have the opportunity. I understood  
that Price was evacuating Holly Springs and  
moving to Vicksburg to take a hand in that.



city for its defence. from what I understand  
the city is doomed to fall and that before many  
months. How far are you from Cairo. it takes two  
days from Cairo to Bolivar. George is first Lt  
and has a brand new suit looks splendid  
and well may you be proud of your Brother  
he is one to be proud of.

I must now close my  
letter please excuse it I do not feel very good in  
any way to night did not get a letter since long ago

Give my kindest regards  
to your Father & Mother. Tell Wulda the  
Squire has a great deal to say of her give  
her my respects and also to Miss Frank  
I tell her I think it will be a long time  
before I shall see her. that she must be  
a good girl, live right that when she leaves  
this country she may go over the river rejoicing  
farewell and may your  
days be many and pleasant and happy ones  
Your Friend

Robert Hanson

I would have written sooner  
just got your address this eve.  
R H



Bellevue, Ill.  
My M. Chandler.  
St. Gal. 78. Oct.

Due 3



Wm Frank Porter  
Miss Frank P. Porter

Clinton  
De Witt County  
Illinois



November 1, 1862

Addressed to Miss Frank Porter

Clinton, DeWitt County, Illinois

Head Quarters 78th OVI

Bolivar Tennessee Nov 1st 62

Friend Frank

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Farewell and may your days be merry and pleasant in happiness.

Your Friend,

Robert Hanson

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R.H.