

12-8-1862

## Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Oxford Miss, Dec, 8th, '62.  
Dear Sister Frank:

As I have not heard from you for some time. I will write a few lines thinking you will be anxious to learn as to my whereabouts. I have written home from every stopping place since we started upon this march. I wrote last from Aberdeen. The next morning after I wrote, we started for this place (Distance 12 miles) and it was raining for all that was out. As we had a very large train and almost an ocean of Artillery. You may judge how the roads were. This was a very hard march on the men. But G. W. is never soiled. I am very hearty, and feel thankful to our Divine Benefactor that I am yet alive & well. I find I can stand the hardships of



Soldiering with any of them. I think  
the Secesh have about felyed out  
in these parts. If they would only  
push things in the east. This war  
would soon close. I think the time  
of the downfall of Rebellion is near at  
hand. I still think I will soon be  
permitted to mingle with you all  
as in time past and gone. Ten  
months day after tomorrow since we  
left Camp Gilbert. Time passes swiftly  
by and awaits for no one. The 26th  
of this month, I will have been <sup>in</sup> the  
service 18 months. I thought I would  
try and get Home this winter. But  
as we are engaged in an active  
Campaign, I can not think of  
leaving. Even if I did. I don't suppose  
I would get to go. If nothing happens  
I will come Home next Spring. I  
think the war will end by the first  
of April. Our Cavalry have had  
several pretty hard fights with the

Rear guard of the retreating enemy.  
we have taken about 1000 Prisoners.  
And quite a number of officers. Our  
Division is now in the advance. Gen.  
Logan is our Commanded. I see him  
often. I tell you now he is a regular  
brick. I also see Gen. Grant often. He  
is a fine officer. Our officers all appear  
so common and friendly. Logan is  
liked by all. Gen. Grant says "He has  
the advance and I shall keep it." This  
pleases us all. As soon as our Train  
returns which went back after Provis-  
ions we will push on towards Gren-  
ada. The Rebs. are reported to be  
between here and there. If they don't  
leave we will give them thunder. (I  
think they will leave) As near as I  
can learn we are bound for Jackson  
this State as soon as possible. I will  
give you a description of Oxford. It is  
a very neat Village situated on the  
Railroad running from Grand-junctn



4  
Jenn. to Grenada this state. The  
Residence of The Hon. Jacob Thompson  
(President Buchanan's Secretary  
of the interior.) is here. And fine  
building it is. One of our Generals is  
now occupying it. The Hon. J. Thompson  
(of course) did not await to welcome  
his guest. But moved Southward.

His diary was found which brought to  
light a great many things connected  
with this infernal Rebellion. It appears  
a great many Northern Politicians have  
been connected with this affair. I hope  
their doom will soon come. I saw  
Richey day before yesterday. he was  
well. Esq. just came in. I had to stop  
and talk with him. He sends his  
best wishes and respects. He appears  
in very good spirits. Thinks the war  
will soon be over. I believe this  
is the general supposition here.  
I know not what you folks think  
about it. Do you ever hear from Saml.



I heard you was kind of taken  
with Hanson. This of course I did  
not believe. If I were you and he  
wrote to me. I would write him friendly  
letters. But you must not think of  
any thing farther. I want you to hold  
your head up. If you cant do better  
than Susie Hartney has. Live an old  
maid all the days of your life. Han-  
son is a friend of mine. And will do  
anything in his power for me. But to  
be honest he is too fond of King Alcohol.  
Keep this a secret. <sup>He</sup> spends all his  
earnings for strong drink. I would  
rather see a sister of mine go down  
to the grave. than marry an intemper-  
ate man. I expect to be home soon  
and then look out for the good  
looking Gals. The word just came  
that we have over 1100 prisoners here  
and down at Waterville they have a

number of them. Down the coast  
towards Grenada, they are reported  
to be in squads in the woods. are  
coming in and giving themselves  
up. As I cannot get anything here  
I want. I wish you to send me a  
good Black necktie. You can put  
it in a letter (a silk one) also send  
me \$50 worth of Postage Stamps. I  
want. Rather to get those things. And  
take the cost out of my money. of  
all you have sent me. And keep  
an account of it. I would send  
for some more things. But as we  
are on the move I would not  
be apt to get them. Send these  
Direct to La Grange. I will close  
for the present give my love to  
one and all. Reserve a goodly  
portion for yourself. Write often  
I remain your affectionate  
Brother.

G. W. Parker.



December 8, 1862

Addressed to Miss F.P. Porter Dewitt County Clinton, Illinois

Oxford, Miss Dec 8th/62

Dear Sister Frank,

As I have not heard from you for some time, I will write a few lines thinking you will be anxious to my whereabouts. I have written home from every stopping place since we started upon this march. I wrote last from Albeville(?). The next morning after I write, we started for this place (distance 12 miles) and it was raining for all that was out and we had a very large train and almost an ocean of artillery. You may guess how the roads were. This was a very hard march on the men. But G.W. is never soiled.

I am very hearty and feel thankful to our Divine Benefactor that I am yet alive and well. I find I can stand the hardships of soldiering with any of them. I think the Secesh have about played out in these parts. If they would only finish things in the east. This war would soon close. I think the time of the downfall of the Rebellion is near at hand. I still think I will be permitted to mingle with you in time fast and gone. Ten months day after tomorrow since we left Camp Gilbert. Time passes swiftly by and waits for no one. The 26th of this month I will have been in the service 18 months. I thought I would try and get home this winter, but as we are engaged in an active campaign I cannot think of leaving. Even if I did I don't suppose I would get to go. If nothing happens, I will come home next spring.

I think the war will end by the first of April. Our cavalry have had several pretty hard fights with the rear guard of the retreating enemy. We have taken about 1000 prisoners and quite a number of officers. Our division is now in the advance. Gen. Logan is our commander. I see him often. "I tell you now, he is a regular brick." I also see General Grant often. He is a fine officer. Our officers all appear so common and friendly. Logan is liked by all. Gen Grant says "He has the advance and shall kick it." This pleases us all. As soon as our train returns which went back after provisions we will push on towards Grenada. The Rebs are reported to be between here and there. If they don't leave we will give them thunder (I think they will leave). As near as I can learn we are bound for Jackson this state as soon as possible.

I will give you a description of Oxford. It is a very neat village situated on the railroad running from Grand Junction, Tenn to Grenada this state. The residence of the Hon. Jacob W. Thompson(?) President Buchanan's Secretary of the interior is here and fine building it is. One of our generals is now occupying it. The Hon J. Thompson (of course) did not wait to welcome his guest but moved southward. His diary was found which brought light to a great many things concerned with this infernal rebellion. It appears a great many northern politicians have been connected with this officer. I hope their doom will soon come.

I saw Rickey day before yesterday. He was well. Esq. just came in. I had to stop and talk with him. He sends his best wishes and respects. He appears in very good spirits, think the war will soon be over. I believe this is the general supposition here. I know not what you folks think about it. Do you ever hear from Sump?

I heard you were kind of taken with Hanson. This of course I did not believe. If I were you and he wrote to me, I would write him friendly letters, but you must not think of anything further. I want you to hold your head up. If you can't do better than Susie Starkey has. Live as old maid all the days of your life. Hanson is a friend of mine and will do anything in his power for now. But to be honest he is fond of King Alcohol. Keep this a secret. He spends all his earnings on strong drink. I would rather see a sister of mine go down to the grave than marry an intemperate man. I expect to be home soon and then look out for the good looking gals.

The word just came that we have over 1100 prisoners here. And down at Waterville, they have a number of them. Down the road toward Grenada they are reported to be in squads in the woods and are coming in and giving themselves up. As I cannot get anything here I want, I wish you to send me a good black necktie. You can put it in a letter. (a silk one). Also send me \$1.00 worth of postage stamps & ask Father to get those things and take the \_\_\_\_\_ out of my money. Of all you have sent me and keep an account of it. I would send for some more things, but as we are on the move, I would not be where to get them. Send these directly to LaGrange I will close for the present, give my love to one and all. Reserve a goodly portion for yourself. Write often. Your affectionate brother.

G.W. Porter