

9-24-1864

## Letter from George W. Porter to Amanda Porter

George W. Porter

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-letters>



Part of the [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Porter, George W., "Letter from George W. Porter to Amanda Porter" (1864). *Harvey Collection Letters*. 122.  
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-letters/122>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Harvey Letters (All) at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Harvey Collection Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact [earutigl@owu.edu](mailto:earutigl@owu.edu).



Head Quarters 3<sup>rd</sup> Div, 1<sup>st</sup> A.C.

War Atlanta Georgia Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dear Mother,

Once more I write you from the field. I am well & hearty. I need not give you a description of my journey here as I give all particulars when I write Father & Frank. I left home this time thinking I would return soon. Thinking thus I left in better heart than New York. But yet I may be as far from getting home as ever. There is an order from the War Department - holding all Officers three years from their last muster. This would keep me one year yet. But I think I can get out by resigning. As soon as my three years are up, I will try hard. If I succeed I will be home Christmas. Don't think of my coming until I find out for certain. I don't want you to be disappointed. And as it is, it looks doubtful. I will try anyhow. For I promise to come home if possible. And this promise I don't want broken. If it was really necessary that I should remain in the service, I wouldn't think of leaving it. But there are plenty of men who can take my place. And I can feel that I have done my duty towards my Country. I promise when I entered the service that if I lived I would come home at the expiration of my term. Now should I ask this.



promise renewed for three years longer? I think this  
would be unreasonable. And shall not ask Dr. But  
if I can't get home at the expiration of my term of  
service, will come as soon after as possible. Was it not  
for what I have in India (which you no doubt  
will understand), I would feel it my duty to remain  
in the service. I am willing to die if necessary for  
my country. And have willingly offered my life on the  
altar of my country for three long years. Through sun-  
shine & rain. And I now feel that I am not able to  
stand the service three years more. I therefore feel it due  
myself, family & others that I should not remain. For a  
young man like me, situated as I am, to leave the  
service entirely broken down in health. I think he would  
have rather a serious time of it. I don't think all these  
things should be lost sight of entirely. And if I don't  
look after them no one will for me certain. I will be  
with you on Christmas day if possible. I hope to be  
happy and meet you all upon this day in health.  
What a joyous time it would be. Everything is prosper-  
ing finely here. All are in good spirits & fine health.  
I never saw the men more healthy. And we all  
begin to think that this war is of but short duration.  
God speed the day when this heinous rebellion shall  
be wiped out of existence. That all may return to  
their homes in peace. But none until the South  
lay down their arms. Tell upon their knees and  
ask to come back to the "old Union". <sup>Which?</sup> I this time

is not far distant. I miss Doc's Goodnight. I assure you.  
Tell him I am well & hearty. And give him & family my  
kindest regards. Tell John he had better remain in the store  
until I come home. He must be a good boy. Kind & obliging  
to all. By this he will gain many friends. He may want  
to go into business in Clinton himself some day. I will  
write to him soon. I am anxious to know how Father & I shall  
come out. I hope they made the arrangement & spoken  
of & are all right. For I think it a splendid chance.  
And want to be home to go in with Father. I know  
we can make it pay. If I was there I shall didn't buy  
the sheep Father & I could take part of them. If not all.  
I wish I were there now. But won't think of coming until  
my term of service expires. Which will be only two months  
from day after tomorrow. This will soon pass around.  
Did Rickard's folks get down to the fair? What for fair  
had you? Please give all news in your next. I will  
close for this time. Tell all to write soon. My love to all,

I am as ever

Your Affectionate Son.  
L. W. Porter.









Miss F. P. Porter

Clinton  
Ills.

Le-Witt Co. }

Compliments of  
Robt. Hamersay.

September 24, 1864

Head Quarters 3d Div 17 A.C.

Near Atlanta, Georgia September 24th, 1864

My Dear Mother

Once more I write you from the field. I am well & hearty. I need not give you a description of my journey here as I gave all particulars when I wrote Father & Frank. I left home this time thinking I would return soon. Thinking this I left in better heart than heretofore. But, yet I may be as far from getting home as ever. There is an order from the war department holding all officers three years from there last muster. This would keep me one year yet. But I think I can get out by resigning as soon as my three years are up. I will try \_\_\_\_\_. If I succeed I will be home Christmas. Don't think of my coming until I find out for certain. I don't want you to be disappointed and as it is it looks doubtful. I will try anyhow for I promise to come home. If possible and this promise I don't want broken. If it was really necessary that I should remain in the service, I wouldn't think of leaving it. But there are plenty of men who can take my place and I feel that I have done my duty towards my country. I promised when I entered the service that if I lived I would come home at the expiration of my time. Now should I ask this. Promise renewal for three years longer? I think this would be unreasonable and shall not ask it. But if I can't get home at the expiration of my term of service, will come as soon after as possible. Was it not for what I have \_\_\_\_\_ (which you no doubt understand) I would feel it is my duty to remain in the service. I am willing to die if necessary for my country. And have willingly offered my life on the altar of my country for three long years. Through sunshine and rain and I now feel that I am not able to \_\_\_\_\_ the service three years more. I therefore feel it due myself, family & others that I should not remain. For a young man like me, situated as I am, to leave the service is entirely broken down in health. I think he would have a rather serious time of it. I don't think all these things should be lost sight of entirely and if I don't look after them, no one will for me, certain. I will be with you on Christmas day if possible. I hope to be spared and \_\_\_\_\_ you all upon this day in health. What a joyous time it would be.

Everything is prospering fine here. All are in good spirits & fine health. I never saw the men more healthy and we are beginning to think that this war is at best of short duration. God speed the day when this ungodly rebellion shall be wiped out of existence. That all may return to their homes in peace. But never until the South lay down their arms. Fall upon their faces and ask to come back to the "Old Union." I think this time is not far distant.

I miss Doc't Goodbrake, I can assure you. Tell him I am well & hearty and give him and family my kindest regards. Tell John he had better remain in the store until I come home. He must be a good boy, kind & obliging to all. By this he will gain many friends, He may want to go into business in Clinton himself some day. I will write to him soon. I am anxious to know how Father & Snile(?) came out. I hope they made the arrangements spoken of & are all right. For I think it a splendid chance and want to be home to go in with Father. I know he can make it pay. If I was there & \_\_\_\_\_ did not buy the sheep, Father and I could take part of them, if not all. I wish I were there now. But won't think of coming until my time of service expires which will be only

two months from day after tomorrow. This will soon pass around. Did Riley's folks get down to the fair? What for fair had you? Please give all news in your next. I will close for this time. Tell all to write soon.

I am as ever

Your Affectionate Son

G.W. Porter