9-8-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Jacob G. Armstrong

George W. Porter

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Head Quarters 17th Army Corps.
Richelieu Mts. Sep 8th 1863.

Friend Jacob,

I have often wondered why you did not write me, and after coming to the conclusion that I would not hear from you until I wrote you first I have concluded to pen you a few lines. Which I cannot promise to be interesting for I am a poor letter writer. I hear you took a trip to Shreve to buy land and got into a little fight. Yes I hear you got wounded, how is this? Write and give me all particulars. You was not as lucky as I have been. I have been in five hard battles and the siege of Richelieu and was not hurt the least. Shoul I not be thankful that my life has been spared. I have cause to be I assure you.
although I have endured many hardships & dangers, I am willing to endure anything that may come, even death, for my beloved country. Of course, I would rather be enjoying myself with loved ones at home. But now until every man in rebellion against our government has lain down his arms, I think of returning to my home, I owe my life to my country and have lain in upon its altar. I was at home and looked forward to five weeks before a week ago yesterday had a pleasant time. Father wishes me to write you & tell you my thoughts. Illinois one of the best states in the Union for sheath and wishes you to pay him a visit, he will take you around and show you the country. There are several splendid stock farms, I mean Clinton for sale. And at reasonable prices, you had better go and see this country. I think you would as like.

Although I have fallen in love with it, while I was at home seven of my 60 died among the number was C. J. Sheard. They came forth and laid their lives upon the altar of their country as sacrifices. And they were sacrificed, I can proudly say brother boys never wear into battle, I feel they lost. They knew as brothers to me, there are but few of us left. But we are stand ready to meet whatever may be our fate. If necessary to follow those dear ones who have gone before. We left camp Gilbert with one hundred stove hearty men for the battle field of Loxley. We now have twenty men for duty. But thanks to God men can not die noble deaths clean those brave boys have. I have thought for the Old Stripes & Stars. Dreaming is in prison. I would like to see him. I think I would have some sport. Oh, how we will hate the idea of being a prisoner. I have talked with him on this subject.
Thee and I have been corresponding, but I have not heard from him since he was captured. I would write him if I thought I could get a letter to him. If you can get him a letter, give him my respects, and tell him I may be in the same fix he is. One of these times, I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Remember me kindly to your father's family.

Yours sincerely,

E. L. Porter

P.S. Please address to Capt. E. L. Porter, 2d A. A. R. B. Inf., Logan's Division, 14th Army Corps, Grant's Army.
September 8, 1863

Head Quarters 1st Brig 3d Div
17th Army Corps
Vicksburg Miss Sept 8th 1863

Friend Jacob,

I have often wondered why you did not write me and after coming to the conclusion that I would not here from you until I wrote you first, I have concluded to pen you a few lines which I cannot promise to be interesting for I am a poor letter writer. I hear you took a trip to Kansas. Yes I hear you got wounded. How is this? Write and give me all the particulars. You was not as lucky as I have been. I have been in five hard fought battles and the Siege of Vicksburg and was not hurt the least. Shouldn't I be thankful that my life has been spared. I have cause to be I assure you.

Although I have endured many hardships & dangers, I am willing to endure anything that may come (even death) for my beloved country. Of course, I would rather be enjoying myself with loved ones at home, but never until every man in the Rebellion against our government has lain down his arms will I think of returning to my home. I owe my life to my country and have lain it upon its altar.

I was at home and stayed four or five weeks, returned a week ago yesterday, had a pleasant time. Father wished me to write & tell you he thought Illinois one of the best states in the Union for sheep and wishes you to pay him a visit. He will take you around and show you the country. There are several splendid stock farms near Clinton for sale and at reasonable prices. You had better go and see the country. I think you would do as I have done, fall in love with it.

While I was at home, 7 of my Co. dies, among the number was Esq Sherard. They came forth and laid their lives on the altar of their country as sacrifices and they were sacrificed. I can proudly say nobler boys never went into battle. I feel their loss. They seem as brothers to me. There are but few of us left, but we all stand ready to meet whatever may be our fate. If necessary to follow those dear ones who have gone before.

We left Camp Gilbert with one hundred stout hearty men for the battle field of Donelson. We now have twenty-nine for duty, but thanks be to God men cannot die nobler deaths than these brave boys have. In fighting for the Old Stripes & Stars. I hear Sump is in prison. I would like to see him. I think I would have some sport. Oh, he will hate the idea of being a prisoner. I have talked with him on this subject. He and I have been corresponding, but I have not heard from him since he was captured. I would write to him if I thought I could get a letter to him. If you can get him a letter, give him my respects and tell him I may be in the same fix he is one of these times.

I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Remember me kindly to your father's family. I am your friend,

G.W. Porter
Please direct to Lt. G.W. Porter

H.Q. 1st Brig, Logan's Division 17th Army Corps Grant's Army