


9-8-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Jacob G. Armstrong

George W. Porter


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Head Quarters 1st. Brig. ^{3rd} 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 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 ^{Illinois} 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 ^{combats} 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 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 lay a four or five weeks returned a week ago yesterday had a pleasant time. Father wishes me to write you & 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 so.

have don fall in love with it, while I was at home seven of my Co, died, among the number was Edg, Sherrard, they came forth and laid their lives upon the altar of their country as sacrifices. And they were sacrifices, 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 men for duty, but thanks be to God men can not die nobler deaths than those brave boys have. I'm fighting for the Old Stripes & Stars, I hear ^{him} ~~him~~ is in prison. I would like to see him. I think I would have some sport, Oh! how 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
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,

P. S. Please direct to Lt. G. W. Porter
U. S. Co. 1st. Brig, Logan's Division. 17th Army
Corps. Grant's Army.

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Wm. H. Bond

For Boston 1864

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