


10-29-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Jacob G. Armstrong

George W. Porter

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No. 1, 1st, Brig. 3rd Div,
17th Army Corps.

Vicksburg Miss. Oct. 29th 1863.

Dear Friend:

Bob, returned last evening and I was made the glad recipient of a kind favor from you, which I assure you was pursued with much pleasure, and I will endeavor to pen you a few lines in return, hoping they will be as thankfully received as yours were. Bob has much to tell me of all and everything. You know what a talker he is. He says that it pays to soldier & get to go home once in awhile. He gave me all the particulars, in reference to your ^{and} Cousin's expedition. It seems they got you in rather a tight place. Will you now know how that part of soldiering goes. Where the fight comes in. You certainly suffered much, and you surely have my

Sympathies. It seems strange to me that you would start upon an expedition of this kind, without even a pistol to defend yourself with. But no doubt you were better off without one in this case. Had you had fire upon or killed one or more of the party, they were strong in number, and your life would have been taken, I think it best as it was. But if you could have killed two or three of them, and then escaped, of course you would have felt better over your row with the infernal scamps. Had they not been a perfect set of cowards, they would not have shot down unarmed citizens as they did. I am sorry you did not get to pay us a visit. I think Chilton one of the gayest places, I ever saw for a village of its size. And then I wished you to see the country in & around that county. It can not be bettered to my notions. And now than all this. There are any amount of beautiful females in that vicinity.

I became very well acquainted with quite a number of those beautiful little creatures while there. Had I been well during the time I was at home, I would have visited Ohio. I will not get back to Old Ohio now, until my term of service expires, which is little over one year from this date. And if the war is not over by this time, I will enlist. I would like to hear from S. S. I know he must be having a lonely time of it. And should we ever chance to meet, I will have a good time plaguing him. However I may chance to visit him. Who knows what may happen? He was on an expedition our near Canton this state, a few days since, had several heavy skirmishes with the enemy. But they would not stand us fight. The report is that they are moving on this place thirty thousand strong. I say let them come, we will give them a bloody time of it. I have no war news of importance

to communicate. You get news
from Basmeran's Army sooner than
we do. You of course have heard of his
removal. This I think all right. My
reasons are so numerous. I will not
attempt to give them, I trust it is
all for the best. When you write to P.S.
give him my best wishes & kindest
regards. I will close for the present,
hoping to hear from you soon. I am
your sincere friend;

C. W. Porter,

P.S. Please remember me kindly
to your folks. And tell them I am
as patriotic as ever.

Genl,

Direct to Lt. C. W. Porter A. D. C.
Genl. Leggett's Staff,
1st Brig. Logan's Division
Grant's Army.

October 29, 1863

Addressed to Jacob Armstrong Esq

Norwich, Ohio

Hd Qrs 1st Brig 3d Div

17th Army Corps

Vicksburg Miss Oct 29th 1863

Dear Friend [Jacob],

Bob returned last evening and I was made the glad recipient of a kind favor from you which I assure was perused with much pleasure and I will endeavor to pen you a few lines in return, hoping they will be as thankfully received as yours were. Bob has much to tell me of all and everything. You know what a talker he is. He says it pays to soldier & get to go home once in awhile. He gave me all the particulars in reference to your Kansas expedition. It seems they got you in a rather tight place. Well you now know that part of soldiering goes when the fight comes in. You certainly suffered much and you surely have my sympathies. It seems strange to me that you would start upon an expedition of this kind without even a pistol to defend yourself with. But no doubt you were better off without one in this case. For if you had been fired upon or killed one or more of the party, they were strong in number and your life would have been taken. I think it best as it was.

But if you could have killed two or three of them and escaped of course you would have felt better over your row with the infernal scamps. Had they not been a perfect set of cowards, they would not have shot down unarmed citizens as they did.

I was sorry that you did not get to pay us a visit. I think Clinton one of the gayest places I ever saw for a village of its size. And then I wished you to see the country in and around that country. It cannot be bettered to my notion and more than all this, there are any amount of beautiful females in the vicinity. I became very well acquainted with quite a number of those beautiful little creatures while there. Had I been well during the time I was at home, I would have visited Ohio. I will not get back to Ohio now until my term of service expires which is little over a year from this date. And if the war is not over by this time, I will reenlist. I would like to hear from T.S. I know he must be having a lovely time of it and should we ever have the chance to meet, I will have a good time _____ him. However, I may chance to visit him. Who knows what may happen?

We were on an expedition out near Canton this state a few days since, had several heavy skirmishes with the enemy. But they would not stand & fight us. The report is that they are moving on this place, thirty thousand strong. I say let them come. We will give them a bloody time of it. I have no war news of importance to communicate. You get news from Rosecrans' army sooner than we do. You have heard of course of his removal. This I think all right. My reasons are so numerous I will not attempt to give them. I trust it is all for the best.

When you write T.S. give him my best wishes & kindest regards. I will close for the present, hoping to hear from you soon. I am your sincere friend.

G.W. Porter

P.S. Please remember me kindly to your folks and tell them I am as patriotic as ever.

George

Direct to Lt G.W. Porter H.D.C.

General Leggett's Staff

1st Brig Logan's Division

Grant's Army