

12-23-1862

Letter from Robert Hanson to Francis P. Porter

Robert Hanson

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Oxford Miss

Oxford Mississippi

December 23 1869

Friend Frank

Your late favour arrived the evening that we marched to the village of Water Valley, and was read by the light of our camp fire. Randal not one to be had I handed it over to George who was almost crazy to hear from home not having received a letter from home for some time. George is the same morally as he was before he went into Camp Gilbert. Personally he has improved very much. he is better looking. Stouter than he was, and has, as some ladies say a love of a monstach, whisker very large. Taking him altogether he is a man that would if he were home cause all the Ladies hearts to flutter. That is my opinion of him. also will make his Father Mother & Sisters proud to call him Brother. Your excuse for not writing sooner is a good one

Yes great changes have taken place since last Sept. Therrard is not very well, but tries Christmas, and I suppose that this Christmas his best to keep up. he received a letter the we will be on the march. We have been other day informing him of the death of his once more cut off and are now marching little Boy. he talks very much about back. previous to this time we were wending him. Poor man. I wish that he could have our way southward and had arrived at been there at the time of his sons death Water Valley 18 miles south of this place. Wm Gardner is Clerk for Col. Leggett our Brigade four miles in front of the Brock is in good health. Lew Kusk is Grand army of the Mississippi. have been a good religious man is the same that put on half rations and coffee cannot get he was when he left home. Capt John it. Tea we draw. I do not like it. on our W. S. Gillespie. has twenty days leave retreat thus far we burnt sixteen bridges of absence, on account of his health on the Mc H Road, and played smash will leave for home to morrow morning with things in general. all the houses We have had no news for sometime from as we returned had the Stars & Stripes the east. except that Burnside had hanging out. we have not had a mail burnt Fredricksburg and was pushing for sometime on account of the rebels on to Richmond. I think that the getting into Holly Springs and tearing up Presidents proclamation will bring the Rail Road. By the paper that are order and peace. I do not believe posted in town on nearly every gatepost that the South will let the first this place is full of small box. Some of January go by without doing of the members of Co A has it. will we something to show that will yield not have a lively time of it. Shuck, and come back again under the old flag

The weather here is warm at present
winter nights are cool. indeed the days
are so warm that we all get the Spring
fever. Miss Meda is lonesome well I am
sorry. Just tell her to come over here
and you come along. We will give you
the very softest crackers and the leanest
meat that we have, and you may have
one of our tents and the softest board and
the neensest blankets to sleep on. oh! we
will do more then that, we will let you
have a good look at Gen Grant Mr. Cherson
Logan & our Brigadiere Leggett indeed
we will. Mr Story is here and has
been here two or three weeks is much pleased
with soldiery he came down to see his
Boys three of them in our Company

I must now close we have
just came in from our march to
Water Valley and I am very tired Please
give my Regards to your Father Mother
and Frank and all the rest Meda
includes Yours Friend

H. Hanson

Please answer soon as
you can R H

December 23, 1862

Oxford, Mississippi

December 23, 1862

Friend Frank

Your rate favor arrived the evening that we marched to the valley of Water Valley and was read by the light of our campfire. Candles, not one to be had. I handed it over to George who was almost crazy to hear from home having not received a letter from home for some time.

George is the same morally as he was before. He went into Camp Gilbert personally, he has improved very much, he is better looking. Stouter than he was and has as some ladies say, a love of a mustache, whiskers very large. Taking him altogether, he is a man that would if he were home cause all the ladies hearts to flutter. That is my opinion of him. Also will make his Father, Mother, & Sisters proud to call him Brother.

Your excuse for not writing sooner is a good one. Yes, great changes have taken place since last Christmas and I suppose that this Christmas we will be on the march. We have bene once more cut off and are now marching back previous to the time we were wending our way southward and had arrived at Water Valley 18 miles south of this place. Our Brigade 4 miles ahead of the grand army of the Mississippi have been put on half rations and coffee cannot get it. Tea we draw, I do not like it.

On our retreat, we burnt sixteen bridges on the Mi R Road and played smash with things in general. All the houses as we returned had the Stars & Stripes hanging out. We have not had a mail for some time on account of the Rebels getting into Holly Springs and tearing up the Rail road. By the paper that are posted in town on nearly every gatepost, this place is full of smallpox. Some of the members of Co. A has it. Will we not have a lovely time of it. Think so.

Sergt Sherrard is not very well, but tries his best to keep up. He received a letter the other day informing him of the death of his little boy. He talks very much about him. Poor man. I wish that he could have been there at the time of his son's death. _____ Gardner is clerk for Col. Leggett. Brock is in good health. Lew Rusk is a good religious man is the same that he was when he left home. Capt John W.A. Gillespie has twenty days leave of absence, on account of his health, will leave for home tomorrow morning.

We have had no news for some time from the east except that Burnside had burnt Fredericksburg and was pushing on to Richmond. I think that the President's proclamation will bring order and peace. I do not believe the South will let the first of January go by without doing something to show that it will yield and come back under the flag.

The weather here is warm at present, writing nights are cool, indeed the days are so warm that we get the spring fever. Miss Meda is lonesome. Well I am sorry. Just tell her to just come over here and you come along. We will give you the very softest crackers and the leanest meat that we have and you may have one of our tents and the softest board and newest blanket to sleep on. Oh! We will do more than that. We will let you have a good look at Gen Grant, McPherson, Logan, our Brigadier Leggett, indeed we will. Mr. Story is here and has been here two or three weeks and is much pleased with soldiering. He came down to see his boys, three of them in company.

I must now close. We have just come in from our march to Water Valley and I am very tired. Please give my regards to your Father, Mother, and Frank and all the rest. Meda included. Your friend

R Hanson

Please answer soon as you can