1-13-1863

Letter from Robert Hanson to Francis P. Porter

Robert Hanson

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Friend Frank,

George has left this money on a scouting expedition and requested me to write a letter to you. He has now been transferred and is 1st Sgt. of a Co. of Mt. Inf. composed of boys out of our Brigade. Have splendid times, the boys all like him and will do all for him that they can. Cars have just arrived from Memphis to mail Memphis papers of the 13th announcing a glorious victory achieved by Rosecrans and his brave boys all of the defeat of Sherman at Vicksburg. We have marching orders leave for Memphis in the morning will have a hand in the capture of that place. Boys are all in
good spirits we are now cooking and otherwise preparing to march. The small box has entirely disappeared from our Post and the health of the men is better than it has been in a long time.

Col. Leffert has sent in his resignation. I feel bad about it. I fear that if he leaves that our Post will go down. If our Post will go down, the idea of his resigning has cast a gloom over the whole Post.

There is no man that can fill his place.

I suppose that George has given you the details of our start while at Petersburg. We came over the whole Post in the沼泽.

I close to eat my dinner on the 13th and after dinner other duties came causing me to wait without a favorable opportunity. Well done then it has rained and snowed and this morning the snow is near six inches deep. I am nearly lying in the mud and there was the rest of the time it snowed so much that I was nearly always in the mud.

on Christmas day was one cracker and one pint of Marched.

Some of the boys had less than that. We were better now plenty to eat and any amount of marching to do. Iquire, I am not as well as he has been he grins about the death of his son, indeed thank the Iquire is a good man and so kind to all.

Jan 17 1863

I close to eat my dinner on the 13th and after dinner other duties came causing me to wait without a favorable opportunity. Well done then it has rained and snowed and this morning the snow is near six inches deep. I am nearly lying in the mud and there was the rest of the
Boys, Frank I do not remember in all my experience of ending such weather George arrived in camp being accomplished all that he was sent to do or all required of him. He is a noble youth and worthy of his relatives and I do hope that they will be more prompt in writing to him. Frank this is a hard army and we have to march (can you not pick us) please come this when we arrive in Memphis I will tell you something that if you are the patriotic girl that I take you to be will make you feel different to what you do now. My Love to the family and yourself. P. Nelson
January 13, 1863

Head Quarters 2d Brigade

2 Division Lafayette

Tennessee January 13, 1863

Friend Frank

George has left this morning on a scouting expedition and requests me to write a letter to you. He has now been transferred and is 1st Lieut of a Co. of Mounted Infantry composed of Boys out of our own Brigade. Have splendid times. The Boys all like him and will do all for him that they can. Cars have just arrived from Memphis. No mail. Memphis papers of the 13th announcing a Glorious victory achieved by Rosecrans and his Brave Boys, also of defeat of Sherman at Vicksburg. We have marching orders, leave for Memphis in the morning; will have a hand in the capture of Vicksburg. Boys are in good spirits. We are now cooking and otherwise preparing to march. The smallpox has entirely disappeared from our Regt and the health of the men is better than it has been in a long time.

Col. Leggett has sent in his resignation. I feel bad about it. I fear that if he leaves, our Regt will go down; the idea of his resigning has cast a gloom over the whole Regt. There is no man who could take his place.

I presume that George has given you the details of our Regt while at Zosorrapotasy (?) River & water valley and how we put in the Holydays. Nearly all the time we were on half ration and had to drink corn and rye coffee. Col Chandler dinner on Christmas day was one cracker and one pint of parched corn. Some of the boys had less than that. We fare better now, plenty to eat and any amount of marching to do. Squire Sherrard is not as well as he has been. He grieves about the death of his son, indeed, Frank, the squire is a good man and so kind to all.

January 17, 1863

I closed to eat my dinner on the 13th and after dinner and other duties caused me not to write more & favorable opportunity. Well since then, it has been raining and snowed once this morning. The snow is near six inches deep. In the meantime, it smoked so much that I was nearly blind and so was the rest of the Boys. Frank, I do not remember in all my experience of ending such weather. George arrived in camp having accomplished all that he was sent to do. He is a noble youth and worthy of his relatives & I do hope that they will be more prompt in writing him. Frank, this is a hard morning and we have to march (can you not pity us) please excuse this. When we arrive in Memphis, I will tell you something that if you are the patriotic girl I take you to be will make you feel different to what you do now. My love to the family and yourself.

R. Hanson