


1-13-1863

## Letter from Robert Hanson to Francis P. Porter

Robert Hanson

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Please  
exchange  
the class  
of the  
letter  
it was written  
in a hurry  
that is  
P.S.

Head Quarters 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade  
3<sup>d</sup> Division Lafayette  
Tennessee January 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

Friend Frank

George has left this morning on a scouting expedition and requested me to write a letter to you, he has now been transferred and is 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut<sup>nt</sup> of a Co<sup>y</sup> of Mounted Inf<sup>try</sup> 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 no mail Memphis papers of the 13<sup>th</sup> announcing a glorious victory achieved by Rosenkrantz and his brave boys also 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 Pot has entirely disappeared  
from our Regt, and the health of  
the men is better then 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 that our Regt, will go down  
the idea of his resigning has cast  
a gloom over the whole Regt,  
There is no man that can fill his  
place.

I presume that George  
has given you the details of our  
rest while at Goozopotasy River  
Water Valley, and now we put  
in the holidays. Nearly all  
the time we were on half rations  
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  
then 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

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

I close to eat my dinner  
on the 13<sup>th</sup> and after dinner  
other duties came causing  
me to wait until a more  
favorable opportunity. Well some  
then it has rained and snowed  
and this morning the snow is near  
six inches deep in the mean  
time it snowed 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 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 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 that I take you to  
be will make you  
feel different to what you  
do now My Love to the  
family and yourself

R Pearson

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