

4-3-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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K. A. G. S., 2^d Brig. 3^d Division
17th Army Corps.

Vista Plantation, Near Lake Providence,
La., April 3^d, 1863, L

Dear Sister:

With pleasure
your kind letter of the 27th of March was
just received & perused. And I assure
you as usual I was much pleased to
know all so well at home. I also received
Duch's letter, which was very interesting.
Father's letter was received & answered
immediately. My position is a very
pleasant one. The more I learn of it the
better I like it. And what pleases me the
most is from what I learn from my
friends, that the Col. is just as well
pleased as I am. I tell you he is one of
the best men I ever saw. He is just as
kind to me as were I his own son. And
as soon as his papers come. he says I

shall be commissioned at Aided-
camp. This takes me from the Regt.
and increases my pay twenty dollars
per month, and I am satisfied from
what I can learn that the Col. will
be put in command of a Division.
And if this war continues will become
Maj. General. He says I am to remain
with him. This pleases me much. I
would not go back into the Company
while Munson is in command, under
any consideration whatever. The 2^d
Lieut. has the same trouble with him
I had, only a little more so. The (3^d
Lieut.) came to me a few days since
and wanted me to return to the Co.
he said the boys all wanted me back,
and that Munson was not going to
stand the service much longer. And
he plead with me to return. I told
him as for him & the boys I was ready
to do all in my power for them. And
whenever they wished my help, just

to let me know. But I would never
return to the Co. while Munson remained.
And that Col. Leggett insisted me to
stay with him, under those circumstances
as I could not return. He still insists
upon me to return but never, I only wish
I could see you & state to you how I am
used here & how well I get along with all.
I assure you if you only knew, you would
say stay. And stay it is, were I to leave
Col. Leggett. I know of several much
more preferable positions I could obtain.
That is preferable to returning to the Co.
I am in splendid health & fine spirits,
and hope you are all the same. As for any
of the Harkney family, or any of the rest of
my relatives who ^{have} wished my downfall, and
even sought it, I care but very little about.
Just wait and see them start out in
world as I have. If they do better and ^{have}
more true friends than I have all right.
But I have not seen it yet. This matter
is to be tested. I hear from Bill, once

in awhile, not directly. But Reliably.
It is now reported that he can take as
heavy a snort as old Culliver. This
reminds me of a little incident which
happened yesterday. I heard of a Sutter
who was selling whiskey to the boys. I
took a Guard went down and Confiscated
his whole stock. Poured out 230\$ worth
of whiskey for him, allowing what he was
selling at. It was put up in tin cans and
marked Peaches & Plums. I know you
would laughed to have seen me with
an axe busting the cans. I had a
gay time, Richey was here yesterday read
Father's letter to him. I don't think he can
possibly get home. Please state how his
brother is in each letter. I want the
true statement as to how she is. He might
just as well know is now as last. The
young lady I spoke of in my last. I think
a beauty. I don't think you were mistaken
in her looks. I have nothing more to add
in reference to this at present. More anon.

Pichey is here now just came in and
is reading your your letter. I dont wish
to keep the truth from him in reference
to his Mother. I think as a friend it would
be wrong, were I in his place I would
thank any one for informing me, and
I know he will. The worst is yet to be known
and I think he should be prepared to
meet it, as it come when it may. It will
no doubt be bad enough. Rich just left.
he says for me to never write without
giving you all his best wishes & respects.
he is well & hearty, I hear from Ned fre-
quently. It appears from what Mother wrote
you all thought we were engaged. I have
never seen that lady. Bob. Hanson is
sick, is able to be about. But will never
be fit for the service. His eyes are so afflicted
he cannot write. I think he brought it all
on by drinking and carousing around.
Eg. has been unwell. But is better again.

Oh! how I would like to see those times. I expect from the description they are interesting. I only wish I had been with you on that visit. I imagine you had a good time. you did not give me a description of Virginia's appearance, I wish to know. I never received that picture of her. I would like much to have it. your picture does not look much like you. Bulcack's neither. I think those dresses of yours with the big spots on their sleeves. Those did not take well. You speak of making some garden. I have seen Potatoes, Beans, all kinds of garden stuff, up & growing nicely a week or two ago. Apple trees are in full bloom. I will send you some blossoms. I expect by the time you get this Grandmother & Jany will be with you. I would like much to see them. But never expect to until Peace once more is heard through our our land. I hope to be spared to meet them with you all. If not all right, we will then meet beyond the stream of time.

where parting will be no more. my life is all I have to offer as a sacrifice. And willingly will I lay it down for my beloved Country. I think if goe. I had gone into the army instead of running to Ills. (which is I suppose to avoid the Conscription Act,) it would have looked much better. I have no sympathy for those Chops. Not the least. There are others I could mention, who I think ^{care} but little for the good of the best government the Sun ever shone upon. I hope they will all reap their reward. How is Johnny? Is he satisfied with the Country? I hope he is. and that he will remain at home until I return. Tell him not to be carried off with any of those Ohio relatives. I put but little confidence in them. And he had better not. If he does, want to be sold. I must write to Josy soon and enquire about those Red whiskers. I want him to give me a full description of them. How is his dog? Has he a horse now? Does he ever ride my

Saddle, Tell him Just to ride it whenever
he please. And often too if he wishes.
I would like much to see him and all
the rest of you. I will close for the pres-
ent and write to Buldak tomorrow.
for I know you will be tired before
you get all this read. My love to
one and all. Tell them to be of good
cheer. I will send my Commission
as 2^d Lieut. home as I want need it.
also my parchment as Serjt. Put
them away carefully & take good
care of them. I close hoping to hear
from you soon and a long letter.
I remain your affectionate brother
George.



Miss L. P. Porter
Clinton
Illinois.



April 3, 1863

Addressed to Miss F.P. Porter

Clinton, Illinois

Hd Qrs 2d Brigade 3d Division

17th Army Corps

Vista Plantation Near Lake Provident, La

April 3d, 1863

Dear Sister:

With pleasure your kind letter of the 24th of March was just received & perused and I assure you as usual I was much pleased to know all is well at home. I also received Duch's letter which was very interesting. Father's letter was received and answered immediately. My position is a very pleasant one. The more I learn of it the better I like it. And what pleases me the most is (from what I can learn from my friends) that the Col. is just as well pleased as I am. I tell you he is one of the best men I ever saw. He is just as kind to me were I his own son. And as soon as his papers come he says I shall be commissioned as Aide de Camp. This takes me from the Regt and increases my pay twenty dollars per month. And I am satisfied from what I can learn that the Col. will be put in command of a Division. And if this war continues will be made Maj. General. He says I am to remain with him. This pleases me much. I would not go back into the Company while Munson is in command under any consideration whatever. The 2d Lieut has the same trouble with him I had only a little more so. He (2nd Lieut.) came to me a few days since and wanted me to return to the Co. He said all the boys wanted me back and that Munson wasn't going to stand the service much longer and he plead with me to return. I told _____ as for him and the boys I was ready to do all in my power for them and whenever they wished my help, just to let me know. But I would never return to the Co. while Munson remained and that Col. Leggett wished me to stay with him. Under those circumstances I could not return. He still insists on me to return but never.

I only wish I could see you & relate to you how I am used here & how well I get along with all. I assure you if you only knew you would say stay. And stay it is. Were I to leave Col. Leggett I know of several much more preferable positions I could obtain. That is preferable to returning to the Co.

I am in splendid health & fine Spirits and hope you are all the same. As for any of the Starkey family or any of the rest of my relatives _____ my downfall and ever sought it. I care but very little about. Just wait and see them start out in world as I have. If they do better and have more true friends than I have all right But I haven't seen it yet. I hear from Bill, once in awhile, not directly, but reliably. It is now reported that he can take as heavy a snort as old Gulliver. This reminds me of a little incident which happened yesterday. I heard of a Sutler who was selling whiskey to the boys. I took a Guard, went down, and confiscated his whole stock. Poured out

230\$ worth of whiskey for him, allowing what he was selling at. It was fruit in tin cans and marked Peaches & Plums. I know you would laughed to have seen me with an axe bursting the cans. I had a gay time.

Rickey was here yesterday, read Father's letter to him. I don't think he can possibly get home. Please state how his mother is in each letter. I want the true statement as to how she is. He might just as well know now as last. The young lady I spoke of in my last I think a beauty. I don't think you were mistaken in her looks. I have nothing more to add in reference to this at present. More _____.

Rickey is here now, just came in and is reading your letter. I don't want to keep the truth from him in reference to his mother. I think as a friend it would be wrong, were I in his place, I would thank any one for informing me. And I know he will. The worst is yet to be known and I think he should be prepared to meet it. Let it come when it may. It will no doubt be bad enough. Rick just left, he says for me never to write without giving you all his best wishes and respects. He is well & hearty. I hear from Meda frequently. It appears from what Mother wrote you all thought we were engaged. I have never seen that lady.

Bob Hanson is sick, is able to be about but will never be fit for the service. His eyes are so afflicted he cannot write. I think he brought it all on by drinking and carousing around. _____ has been unwell, but is better again.

Oh! how I would like to see those wives. I expect from the description they are interesting. I only wish I had been with you on that last visit. I imagine you had a good time. You did not give me a description of Virginia's appearance, I wish to know. I never received that picture of her, I would like very much to have it. Your picture doesn't look much like you. Huldah's neither. I think those dresses of yours with the big spots on them _____. Those did not take well.

You speak of making some garden. I have seen potatoes, beans, all kinds of garden stuff up & growing nicely a week or two ago. Apple trees are in full bloom. I will send you some blossoms. I expect by the time you get this Grandmother and Jany will be with you. I would like much to see them. But never expect to until Peace once more is heard throughout our land. I hope to be spared to meet them with you all. If not all right. We will then meet beyond the stream of time where parting will be no more. My life is all I have to offer as a sacrifice and willingly will I lay it down for my beloved Country. I think if Joe S. had gone into the army instead of running to Ills. (which is I suppose to avoid the conscription) it would have looked much better. I have no sympathy for those chaps not the least. There are others I could mention who I think care but little for the good of the best government the Sun ever shone upon. I hope they will all reap their rewards.

How is Johnny? Is he satisfied with the country? I hope he is and that he will remain at home until I return. Tell him not to be carried off with any of those Ohio relatives. I put but little confidence in them and he had better not if he don't want to be sold. I must write to Josy soon and enquire about those red whiskers. I want him to give me a full description of them? How is his dog? Has he a horse now? Does he ever ride my Saddle. Tell him just to ride it whenever he pleases and often if he wishes. I would like much to see him and all the rest of you. I will close for the present and write to Huldah tomorrow for I know you will be tired before you get all this

read. My love to you & all. Tell them to be of good cheer. I will send my commission as 2d Lieut home as I won't need it. Also my parchment as Sergt. Put them away carefully & take good care of them. I close hoping to hear from you soon and a long letter. I remain your affectionate brother.

George.