

5-6-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Wth Regt. 2^d Brig, 3^d Division
17th Army Corps.

Encamped upon the banks of Big Black Miss. May 6th/63.

Dear Sister Frank:

I just had the pleasure of reading a good long letter, bearing your signature. And oh! what a treat. I had not heard from home for some time, on account of our being on the march. I wrote Father a few lines since our arrival here, giving a full description of our last move as far as possible. Therefore I need add nothing in reference to that. Only I had once more a fair trial, as to whether I could stand fire or not. And I find I can, and from what I am just going to state you will find there are others here who think the same. Genl. Thomas arrived here day before yesterday, from the Bend. He is still raising Colored Regts. And of course calls for the best of Officers to officer them. There was a Col. wanted from our Division, by lot it fell to our Brigade. The question was debated by our Genl. and Colonels of our Brigade. C. B. Porter's name was proposed. The ballot was made, and he beheld he got every vote, was appointed. I concluded he did not want the position. Therefore I wrote a note to the Adj. Genl. requesting to be released. I will send you a copy of the same which I wish preserved. It shows how I stand in my division. Which I hope will be satisfactory to you all. I would give my reasons for not accepting such promotion.

were they not so numerous. It would have been quite a jump from 1st Lt. in the Volunteer Service to Col. in the Regular Army. Had I not refused to accept the Promotion, to night I would have had a Commission in the Regular Army. With the Lovick's name upon it, I feel much honored with being offered such a position by my superior Officers. I want no better position than the one I now have. I am perfectly satisfied in this respect. My chances are good for promotion here. I am no ways uneasy about anything of this kind. I assure you George will get along, give me your opinion upon this subject. (Of declining such promotion) I rec'd. a letter from Samp a few days since he was well. I will answer the first opportunity. Search rec'd. a letter from him this evening, in which he sent me Genl. Milroy's Photograph. I will send it to you in this that it may be taken good care of. I don't think I shall go into the Regular Army. For numerous reasons. The greatest is I have a desire to live with you all. Where I can enjoy myself as in time past. I love that home dearly. All my life shall be such that my Father Mother, Brothers, and Sisters will be able to say. I believe George will do his duty. This is all I have to live for. I would like much to see you all, and hope to soon. I would like to see Grace, and all the rest of the family. For I assure you they all treated me well while I was with them. George always gets along well wherever he goes. I will talk to you more about this, if I am ever permitted to see you.

And I hope I shall. Tell Mother I would like much to be at home. I think I could take care of some of those fires for her. Bob. Hancock was left at the Bend. he has been troubled with sore eyes for some time. I don't think there is any danger of his losing his eyes. But I don't think he will ever be able for the service. The Blockade past Pickersburg has been run several times just with our transports. A number of our boys have run the Blockade on those transports. Thanks to Huldah for the Boquet. I decline answering some of your questions until I see you, as it is getting late I will close for the present. My love to you all. I was up to see Pichey to day. He is well & hearty. My love to his folks. Write soon I am your affectionate brother.
G. W. Porter

May 7th / 1843

The march immediately for

Rocky Springs,

I think our destination is Jackson this state, parents

write you the present, I will

write you the first opportunity of my

be some days. But you must not be uneasy about it

I will look out my No. 1. I will love to

all. Let Mother to take good care of Mrs. Cooklin, Beck all,

the service she can, your Brother

Dear

May 6, 1863

Hd Qrs 2d Brig 3rd Division

17th Army Corps

Encamped on the banks of Big Black, Miss May 6th/63

Dear Sister Frank:

I just had the pleasure of reading a good long letter bearing your signature and oh what a treat. I had not heard from home for some time on account of our being on the march. I wrote Father a few lines since our arrival here giving a full description of our last move as far as possible. Therefore I need add nothing in reference to that only I had once more a fair trial. as to whether I could stand fire or not. And I find I can and from what I am just going to state you will find there are others here who think the same. Genl Thomas arrived here day before yesterday from the Bend. He is still raising Colored Regts and of course calls for the best of Officers to officer them. There was a Col wanted from our Division, by lot it fell to our Brigade. The question was debated by our Genl and Colonels of our Brigade. G.W. Porter's name was proposed. The ballot was made and lo and behold he got every vote. Was appointed. I concluded he did not want the position. Therefore I wrote a note to the Adt Genl requesting to be released. I will send you a copy of the same which I wish preserved. It shows how I stand in my division which I hope will be satisfactory to you all. I would give my reasons for not accepting such promotion here they are not too numerous.

It would have been quite a jump from 1st Lt. in the Volunteer Service to Col. in the Regular Army. Had I not refused to accept the promotion, tonight I would have had a commission in the regular army with Abe Lincoln's name upon it. I feel much honored with being offered such a position by my superior officers. I want no better position than the one I now have. I am perfectly satisfied in this respect. My chances are good for promotion here. I am in no way uneasy about anything of this kind. I assure you George will get along. Give me your opinion upon this subject (of declining such promotion). I received a letter from Sump a few days since, he was well. I will answer the first opportunity. Search rec'd a letter from him this evening in which he sent me Genl. Milroy's photograph. I will send it to you in this that it may be taken good care of. I don't think I shall go into the regular army. For numerous reasons. The greatest is I have a desire to live with you all, where I can enjoy myself as in time past. I love that home dearly. All my life shall be such that my Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters will be able to say I believe George will do his duty. This is all I have to live for. I would like much to see you all and hope to soon. I would like to see Grace and all the rest of the family. For I assure you they all treated me well while I was there. George always gets along well wherever he goes. I will talk to you more about this if I am ever permitted to see you and I hope I shall. Tell Mother I would like much to be at home. I think I could take care of some of those pies for her. Bob Hanson was left at the Bend. He has been troubled by sore eyes for some time. I don't think there is any danger of him losing his eyes, but I don't think he will ever be able for the service. The Blockade past Vicksburg has been run several times just with our transports. A number of our boys have run the Blockade on those transports. Thanks to Huldah for the Boquet. I decline answering some of your questions

until I see you as it is getting late, I will close for the present. My love to you all. I was up to see Rickey today; he is well & hearty. My love to his folks. Write soon. I am your affectionate brother.

G.W. Porter

May 7, 1863

On same letter as one of May 6, 1863

We march in immediately for Rocky Springs. I think our destination is Jackson, this state. Farewell for the present I will write you the first opportunity. It may be some days, but you must not be uneasy about me. I will look out for No. 1 My love to all. Tell Mother to take good care of Mrs. Conklin. Be of all the service she can. Your brother. George