


5-19-1863

Letter from Jasper Yarnell to Francis P. Porter

Jasper Yarnell

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Benton Barracks Missour

Respected friend.

May 19th 1863.

Your favor of the 15th came to hand yesterday. I was most agreeably surprised to hear from you. I feared from the way I wrote to you, in regard to my leaving here, that you would not write. But I was disappointed. I expected to have a furlough before this to go home, but Gen Dawson has issued orders not to grant any more leaves of absence to men at this post. That is the reason you have not seen me at Clinton before this.

About half of the Regt is absent without leave now. That is not becoming to a good soldier. We have sworn to obey our superior officers, and when we leave here we are violating that oath. If I cant go home honorably I dont want to go at all. I am much pleased with your pictures, and much obliged. Of all my friends, & not one of them has sent me there pictures but you. You said it was a poor one. I agree with you. It dont look quite as good as the original. (But dont think I am flattering.) I am expecting Mothers & sister James every day. If you see Sarah tell her the folks in Pa are all well. And tell her also to write as soon as convenient. I expect we will have the privilege of staying here quite a while yet, most all the troops have been exchanged, up to the first of the April; but we are not included. And our officers also are exchanged. I dont understand why we are not. Some say we cant be. For my part I am tired of this way of serving my Country, doing the government no good nor ourselves either.

like James and Mother together. James with his family
from all the time. I would like to know how you are.
Give my love to your good mother. I would be glad to hear

I have often thought about the pleasant
times I spent at Clinton, what kind friends
I met with there, and the good meetings we
attended. I never attended meeting so much
in the same length of time in my life; as I
have since I've been in the army. Soon after
I came here there was two protracted meetings
started, and one of them is going on yet; we have
meeting every night in the week, and four sermons
on the sabbath. Hundreds have professed religion
and there is still a great interest manifested.
We have a very comfortable church, large en-
ough to accommodate 600 persons: and it is full
every night. Now I will drop this train of thought
In answer to your questions: The reason I did
not return to Clinton as I expected: We did not
get our pay until the 3rd of Apr, and when
they had forbid paroled men going home
without a leave of absence; the rest I have told
you above. I enjoyed myself very well at Porters
The night before I left. I only wished that you
was there. I would have went after you if I could
have got a conveyance. But we knew nothing of it
four hours before. Give my best wishes to the
girls, and best respects to your folks.

Write soon as convenient, the soldiers are alwa-
ys pleased to hear from friends at home. I always feel
thankful for the plan of writing, and that it is our
privilege to converse with dear friends that are far away.
It is not often I apologise, but I will ask you to excuse
poor writing this time, for the ink is so poor it is impos-
sible. I have nothing more to add but my tenderest
regards to you. I shall expect a reply soon, Oblige.
To Francis J. Porter. Jasper Yarnell.

May 19, 1863

Barracks

May 19th, 1863

Respected friend.

Your favor of the 15th came to hand yesterday. I was most agreeably pleased to hear from you. I feared that _____ to you in regard to my _____ here that you would not write. But I was disappointed. I expected to have a furlough before now to go home but General Davison has issued orders not to grant any more leaves of absence to men at this post. That is the reason you have not seen me at Clinton before this. About half of the Reg't is absent without leave now. That is not becoming to a good soldier. We have sworn to obey our superior officers, and when we leave here, we are violating that oath. If I can't go home honorably, I don't want to go at all. I am much pleased with your pictures, and much obliged. Of all my friends, not one of them has sent me there pictures but you. You said it was a poor one. I agree with you. It don't look quite as good as the original. But don't think I am flattering. I expect Mothers to listen to sister Janes every day. If you see Sarah, tell her the folks in Pa. are all well. And tell her also to write as soon as convenient. I expect we will have the privilege of staying here quite awhile yet. Most of the troops have been exchanged, up to the first of April, but we are not included. And our officers are also exchanged. I don't understand why we are not. Some say we can't be. For my part, I am tired of this way of serving my country, doing the government no good or ourselves either.

I have often thought about the pleasant times spent at Clinton. What kind friends I met with there, and the good meeting we attended. I never attended meeting so much in the same length of time in my life as I have been since I have been in the army. Soon after I came here, there was two protracted meetings started, and one of them is going on yet. We have meeting every night in the week, and four sermons on the Sabbath. Hundreds have professed religion and there is still a great interest manifested. We have a very comfortable church, large enough to accommodate 600 persons and it is full every night. Now I will drop this train of thought. In answer to your questions. The reason I did not return to Clinton as I expected: We didn't get our pay until the 8th of Apr., and by then, they had forbade paroled men from going home without a leave of absence; the rest I have told you above. I enjoyed myself very well at Porters the night before I left. I only wished that you was there. I would have went after you if I could have got a conveyance. But we knew nothing of it four hours before. Give my best wishes to the girls, and best respects to your folks.

Write as soon as convenient. The soldiers are always pleased to hear from friends at home. I always feel thankful for the plan of writing and that it is our privilege to converse with our dear friends who are far away. It isn't often that I apologize but I will ask you to excuse poor writing this time for the ink is so poor that it is _____. I have nothing more to add but my tenderest regards to you. I shall expect a reply soon. Oblige.

To Francis P. Porter

Jasper Yarnell

Give my love to your good sister H. I would be glad to hear from all the girls. I would like to have their pictures. I would like Leines and Mollie together. Yours with respect. Good by.