



Frederick P. Leavenworth Papers.

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Extract from frontispiece of the manuscript

Diary of F.P. Leavenworth in the
possession of Miss Jane Davis of
Petersburg, Virginia.

[diary dates from 1883 to 1888].

[Leavenworth MSS. -- A.D.]

Caroline Porter was born Oct 19, 1838 at Chili
Coshocton Co. Ohio. -- was engaged to F.PL
Dec 26. 1858. -- married F.PL at St Peter
Minnesota (by Rev Robert Kerr Oct 9. 1859
died at Shreveport La Sept. 1. 1863--

Possessor: Miss Jane Davis,

P.O. Box 765

Petersburg, Virginia.

5617 - 5 Mar 43 - Davis, Miss Jane - g

[Copy]

P.O. Box 168,
Peterburg, Virginia
September 15, 1935.

To

Miss Grace Lee Nute,
Curator of Manuscripts,
Minnesota Historical Society.

Dear Miss Nute,

Perhaps you will be interested in hearing how these letters came into my possession. When I first came to Petersburg, fifteen years ago, there was standing on one of the main streets, a huge brick house where, at the time the letters were written, the family of the writer lived. This was "The Big House" which you will see written on some of the letter sheets. The house was abandoned by the remaining heirs, and to save taxation, the place was razed, several years ago. Previous to the tearing down, various tenants of motley hue occupied parts of the house. The original owners had discarded a lot of books, papers, etc. One of the tenants attempted to clean up the attic, and a large truckful of material was destroyed before it occurred to any one to salvage. Among the lot that was saved were the letters. They were picked up and disposed of by various persons interested.

This budget came to my hands in another state. I have had a few of the books, and have my eye on others. There was a lot of western Americana.

When you receive the letters, it is my suggestion that the names of persons found in the personal matter, be not disclosed. This, of course, will be at your own discretion.

I hope you will be as interested in the material as I have been, and it will be my pleasure to write to you of any other Minnesota items that I might find.

It will interest me, too, to hear of your reaction to the letters.

Sincerely yours,

Jane S. Davis.

P.S. Your check has just come -- thank you.

J.S.D.