



Antoinette Porter King and
Family Papers.

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Seven
GROUP FIVE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
for
THE LETTERS OF LEBBEUS EFFINGHAM PORTER
AND HIS FAMILY

These seven letters provide vignettes of Lebbeus, always called "Lib", brother of Antoinette Porter King. They are arranged chronologically and cover a span of 9 years, from 1860 to 1869.

Lebbeus Effingham Porter was born September 28, 1837, on Wooster St., New York City to Selah Smith and Cornelia (Dan) Porter. His father at that time was a printer for a New York newspaper, The Companion. When Lib was about a year old and his sister Antoinette was three, his family moved to Walworth County, Wisconsin Territory, where his father farmed in Troy Township. His father moved to Milwaukee between 1841 and about 1844, where he printed the newly established MILWAUKEE COURIER. Cornelia, Lib's mother, and the children stayed on the farm, apparently managing it with long distance advice from Selah, and some help from other family nearby. (*See exchange of letters between Selah & Cornelia in Group One*). After 1844, Selah was back on the farm again, and Lib spent almost all of his boyhood there.

Ellen M. King, always called "Nellie", was born in 1837 in Rome, New York, the third surviving child of John & Hannah (Hilton) King. When she was four her family migrated to Walworth County, Wisconsin Territory, where her father farmed and she and her six siblings grew up.

The Porter and King families lived on adjoining farms, and the childhood friendships culminated in two inter-family marriages. In 1856 Nellie's older brother William married Antoinette Porter.

The first letter (#18) is written by Lib to Nellie when she was his fiance. Lib, William and other family members were on a cattle drive when he wrote it. Lib and Nellie were married a month later, on March 22, 1860.

The second through the sixth letters (#21, 26, 30, 31, 47) were written while Lib and Nellie were farming in Crawford County, near the Mississippi River.

The second letter (#21) was from Lib's father, Selah

Porter, who had retired from farming and was living in White-water, Wisconsin. Eastman was about 100 miles farther west, a considerable journey in those days. *(This is the only known letter from Selah to any of his children.)*

The next five letters (#26-30-31-47-57) are all addressed to Lib's sister Antoinette, whom he calls "Nette", and William King.

After William enlisted in the army, Nette moved back to Adams, in Walworth County, to live with her father. Lib & Nellie stayed on in Crawford County, and Lib took responsibility for the farm land that William either owned or leased there, writing to him in some detail about business affairs. Lib's first letter to his sister Nette (#26) spoke of concerns about some of her possessions which he had shipped to her by train.

In his letters to William (#30-31-47) while William was away from home in the army, Lib referred to his fears of being drafted, and his concerns about his health. This was also a subject in his father's letter (#21). There is strong evidence that Lib suffered most of his life and ultimately died of tuberculosis.

When William returned from his war service, the two couples, along with several other brothers and sisters, made plans to migrate. In October of 1866, they all settled on homesteads in Jackson, Minnesota, in Wisconsin Township, named for their party. The diary kept by Antoinette, starting with their settlement there, gave a rich account of their early struggles.

The last of Lib's letters in this group (#57), written January 4, 1869 to his sister Nette, was written from the King family home in Walworth County. Antoinette's diary tells us that Lib and Nellie had left Jackson and returned to Wisconsin the previous September, in hopes his health would improve there. The references to the "estate matters" deal with the property left to the Porter siblings upon their father's death two years earlier.

By March of 1869 Lib and Nell returned to Jackson County. Antoinette's diary gives poignant detail of his steady decline in health. A year later he died after a last heart wrenching journey through a raging blizzard to get back once more to Wisconsin. He still had a desperate belief that being would help him. He left Nellie and their two surviving children, one of them a baby girl three weeks old. He died on March 26, 1870 and was buried in the family cemetery at Adams in Troy Township. He was 33 years old.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Letter #18: February 4, 1860 Lebbeus to his fiance Nellie King

Father--Selah Smith Porter, living in Whitewater, Wisconsin

Wal & Al--two Porter cousins, Walworth Delavan Porter, age 21 & Albert Bartlett Porter, age 18, sons of Samuel Lyman Porter, both of Troy Township, Walworth Co., Wisconsin

Lucy--Nellie's sister Lucy King

Wm--William V. King, Nellie's brother; Lib's brother-in-law

Nette--Antoinette Porter King

Letter #21: September 18, 1862 Selah Porter to his son Lebbeus

Willie--Selah's grandson, at that time 5 years old.

Letter #26: September 29, 1864 Lebbeus Porter to his sister Antoinette Porter King

Vie--Viola Porter, sister of Lebbeus & Antoinette

Zell--Zella Cornelia Porter, Lib & Nellie's daughter, age 2

Uncle William--William V. King, Antoinette's husband

Willie--Willie Porter King, William's son, Zella's cousin

Elisa--Elizabeth Annes King, sister-in-law of Nette & Lib

Irve--Irving Bayant Porter, brother of Lib & Nette

Jack Healy--a boyhood friend of the Porter & King boys, who was badly injured & eventually died of wounds suffered during the Civil War. *(He was frequently mentioned in family letters.)*

Letter #30: November 17 1864 Lebbeus E. Porter to Wm. V. King

Bill--a most unusual reference to William, otherwise always referred to as "William" or "Wm."

Nell--as before

Letter #31: December 6, 1864 Lebbeus E. Porter to Wm. V. King

Nell--as before

Zell--as before

Letter #47: May 18 1865 Lebbeus E. Porter to Wm. V. King

Bill--once again, Lib repeatedly refers to William as Bill, and it is obviously the name he calls William. These are the only such references in any of the King papers.

Letter #57: January 4 1869 Lebbeus E. Porter to Antoinette King

Father King--John King

Mother King--Hannah (Hilton) King

Irve & Vie--as before

Charlie--probably Charlie Heath, the close friend who moved to Jackson Co. with Antoinette & William, and is frequently mentioned in her journal of the early year in Jackson

Uncle Sam--Samuel Lyman Porter, brother of Selah S. Porter

Caroline & Acors--Acors Sheffield Porter, Lib & Nette's cousin, son of Selah Porter's older brother Henry Charles, & his wife, Esther Caroline (Knight) Porter

Irve--as before

M.S.--Mitchell Servitus Barney, brother-in-law of Lib & Nette, husband of Elisa King

GROUP SEVEN
LETTERS OF SAMUEL LYMAN PORTER

to

ANTOINETTE PORTER KING

This group consists of four affectionate letters from Samuel Lyman Porter to his niece, "Nett". They were written over a period of nine years, from 1865 to 1874. "Uncle Sam" was a constant presence throughout the King-Porter letters, and seems to have been a central figure in this extended family.

The spelling in these letters is quite primitive. The editor decided not to attempt corrections in the transcripts for fear of losing touch with the spirit and content of the letters.

Samuel Lyman Porter was born July 5, 1800 in Southampton, Long Island, New York. He grew to adulthood there and was married in 1824 in Brooklyn, New York, to Pamela Clark of Monmouth County, New Jersey. He was listed in the Brooklyn City directories between the years 1825-1837, occupation carpenter.

In 1837, Samuel, Pamela and their three surviving children, one an infant in arms, migrated to Wisconsin Territory. They traveled by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, took a steamboat across the Great Lakes to Milwaukee, then trudged on to their new home in a lumber wagon pulled by a team of oxen. They claimed land in Walworth County, building a log cabin in the forest. The following year their home became a refuge to the families of two other Porter brothers who followed Samuel. The log cabin was apparently quite large and became a stop for many of the early travelers in this region. It was known as the "Porter Settlement". Samuel and Pamela had three more children in Wisconsin Territory. Five of their children grew to adulthood in Wisconsin.

Some time before 1854 (*see letter # 16 from his son Charles*) there was a rift which resulted in separation of Pamela and Samuel for the remainder of their long lives. She lived until 1885 in their home in Baraboo, Wisconsin and was buried there. Her newspaper obituary drew heavily on her husband's history, giving no clue to the fact that they had not lived together for more than 30 years. (*The family historian can only speculate on the circumstances which precipitated the painful situation so obvious in Samuel's letters. Shortly after the family moved to Baraboo in 1850, five year old Melvin, their youngest child, fell into the Baraboo River and drowned. In Pamela's obituary it says "her home was the home & chapel of the early bishops & eldersof Methodism.....in Baraboo." Are there any clues here? We will probably never know.*)

Samuel became an itinerant carpenter, traveling and working throughout the South before the Civil War and again after reconstruction began. He also worked for long periods in several places in the midwest. His first letters to Nette were written from the village of Evanston, Illinois (Letters # 48 & 50). In both he made oblique references to family difficulties and mentioned his intent to return to the South in the fall.

Samuel's third letter (#51) was written from Jackson, Mississippi. In it he described some of the post-war problems in the south. In all his letters he also expressed a lively interest in the circumstances of Nette's new home in Minnesota and a deep concern for family members. He returned to Wisconsin for some indeterminate time later that year, as he was a witness to his brother Selah's will, written in Whitewater, Wisconsin just three days before Selah's death on October 20, 1867.

Samuel returned to Wisconsin again in about 1871, apparently in rather poor health. For the rest of his life, he lived with a member of his family. He seemed to be destitute and entirely dependent on his own ability to provide for himself. In a letter in another group (*Group Nine #66*) his niece Laura (Porter) Palmer wrote to her cousin Nette of her distress about his situation. In one last letter, Antoinette wrote to William in 1884 (*Group Four #78*) that Samuel was living in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, with his daughter Cornelia and her husband, Lemuel Castle Stanley. Mr. Stanley was by several accounts an extremely wealthy man, yet Nette was concerned that Samuel, 84 years old and ailing, was required to work on building projects for his son-in-law to pay for his keep!

Whatever the circumstances, Samuel lived with the Stanleys until he died December 27, 1889 and was buried in their plot in Chippewa Falls. He was 89 years old.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Letter #48 November 10, 1865 Samuel L. Porter to Antoinette P. King

Vie--Nettie's sister Viola Porter, unmarried, living in Whitewater, Wisconsin with her father

the baby--Selah Samuel King, named in part for his Uncle Samuel, age 4 months

Wm--Nettie's husband, William V. King

Willey--Willie Porter King, Nettie & William's oldest child, then age 8

Lebbeus--Nettie's brother Lib, married to William's sister Nellie King, farming in Crawford County, Wisconsin.

Eliza--William's sister. Married a month before this letter to Mitchell S. Barney

Letter #50 May 24, 1866 Samuel L. Porter to Antoinette P. King

Vie--as above

Walworth--his son, Walworth Delavan Porter, then 27 *(One of the first white children to be born in Walworth County and named for that honor. The college he was attending is referred to in other records as "the old Baraboo Institute")*

Irvin/Irve--Nettie's brother Irving Porter

your father--Nettie's father, Selah Smith Porter, Samuel's younger brother

Nelle--Nettie & William's daughter, Nellie Greenwood King, age 6

(The reference to Austin is interesting to the family historian. It was where the Kings and Porters lived and worked on farms for a period of nearly a year while they searched for homesteads in Minnesota. They had located their homesteads in Jackson County and moved there seven months before this letter was written.)

Letter #51 May 5, 1867 Samuel L. Porter to Antoinette P. King

Vie--as above

Samuel Selah--his nephew, actually named Selah Samuel, although his proud uncle loved to reverse the names

Miss Nelley--Nett's daughter, as above

Willey--her son, as above

Irve/Irvin--Nett's brother, as above

Letter #69 January 25, 1874 Samuel L. Porter to Antoinette P. King

Lebbeus & Irve--her brothers *(who both died in 1870)*

your father--Selah Smith Porter *(who died in 1867)*

Laura Palmer--his niece Laura Irene Porter, daughter of his older brother Henry Charles Porter. *(She was married to Walter Palmer and lived for many years in Richfield Center, Wisconsin)*

Cornelia/Corneal--his daughter, Cornelia Ann Porter, married to Lemuel Castle Stanley.

Charles P.--his son Charles Wesley Porter, who lived many years and eventually died in Butler, Missouri

(Samuel wrote of a letter from Charles in which he spoke of the grasshopper plague in Minnesota. Antoinette's diary graphically described this plague)

Viola--Nettie's sister Vie, at that point running a boarding house in the Whitewater home she inherited from her father.

Wille/Nelly/Saml Selah--Nettie's children, then ages 17, 15 & 10

Wm--Nettie's husband, as above

Seven
GROUP NINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

for

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS

of

THE KING-PORTER FAMILY

The letters in this group are more disparate than those in the other groups of King-Porter Letters. All but one were written between family members. The one exception is a letter written by Antoinette Porter King to a lifelong friend. There are not more than two letters in this group from any of these correspondents. The time span of 53 years, from 1839 to 1892, covers almost the entire scope of the collection.

These letters are fragments of what was obviously frequent correspondence within the family. Since they give snapshots of this family's history, a brief sketch of the circumstances surrounding each letter is provided.

Letter # 9: 29 Sept. 1839 Sarah (Warren) Porter to Cornelia (Dan) Porter

Sarah was Cornelia's sister-in-law, married to George Anson Porter, one of the older brothers of Cornelia's husband, Selah Porter. (George was born in Southampton, Long Island, New York in 1793.)

Sarah Warren was born in 1799 in Columbia County, New York. She wrote the letter from her home in Holly [Holley], New York, near Rochester, where she and her husband were early settlers. He was a carpenter, joiner and contractor. They later moved into Rochester and lived there the rest of their lives. George died in 1853; Sarah in 1877.

Names mentioned:

Mr. P--her husband

"your little son"--Cornelia's son William Henry, then 7 years old. Interestingly enough, Cornelia's second son, Lebbeus, was born the day before this letter was written, but Sarah could not have known that.

E.---this reference is probably to their niece, Ann Elizabeth Porter, who was married that June at the age of 19. Her father was another brother, Henry Charles Porter, who had moved his family to Troy, Walworth Co., Wisconsin at the same time as Selah and Cornelia moved there.

Dante--a beloved family horse !

Uncle Samuel--another Porter brother, Samuel Lyman Porter, at that point living in Troy. *(An itinerant carpenter who worked many years in the South, "Uncle Sam" was a dominant figure all through the King-Porter letters. Group Seven contains his several letters to his niece, Antoinette, and numerous letters in other groups made reference to him.)*

Letter # 14: 12 December 1856 William Henry Porter to Philo Albert Porter

William Henry was the son of Selah and Cornelia Porter, older brother of Antoinette. Born in 1833 in Manhattan, he migrated to Wisconsin with his family at the age of five.

He died three months after writing this letter, at the age of 24, probably of tuberculosis. This disease later took the lives of his mother and at least one brother.

The uncle to whom he wrote, Philo Albert Porter, was another brother of William & Antoinette's father. *(There were seven brothers, of which five are represented in the King-Porter Family Letters.)* Philo was born in 1797 on Shelter Island, Long Island, and migrated west in about 1838. He settled in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1850. For many years he operated a grocery store to which this letter was probably addressed. He died there in 1862.

Names Mentioned:

Ruth--Philo's daughter, William's cousin

Barnabus/Barna--William's maternal uncle, Barnabus Smith, called Barna, a Long Island seaman married to Cornelia Porter's sister Sallie Dann.

Viola--William Henry's sister *(This letter provided validation of Viola's birthdate)*

Uncle H.C.P.--Philo's brother, Henry Charles Porter, born in Southampton, Long Island in 1795. He moved to Wisconsin in 1838. He died in Palmyra, Wisconsin in 1858.

Aunt Ann--Henry's wife, Ann Elizabeth Sheffield, born 1796 in Connecticut. She died in Palmyra in 1865.

X Acors--Acors Sheffield Porter, William Henry's cousin, son of Henry & Ann Porter. He enlisted in the 42nd Wis. Volunteer Infantry, serving with the rank of captain. He was married in 1845 to Esther Caroline Knight. They lived in Palmyra, Wisconsin, where he held several civil service position. They both died there, Caroline in 1894, Acors in 1909. He ^{was} mentioned in several other letters.

Laura--Laura (Porter) Palmer, William Henry's cousin, daughter of Henry & Ann. (See her letter this group--#66)

Letter # 16: 26 Sept 1854 Charles Wesley Porter to Antoinette L.P. King

Charles--Antoinette's cousin, the son of Samuel Lyman Porter (Antoinette's paternal uncle) & Pamela Clark. Charles was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1832. He was five years old when his family moved to Wisconsin Territory. After working in the South for a number of years, he enlisted in the Wisconsin cavalry, serving with the rank of lieutenant. After discharge, he was married in Kansas in 1864 to Bettie Roundtree. He lived most of the rest of his life in Missouri, making his living as a carriage maker. He died there in 1909.

He wrote to his cousin Nette of childhood memories, among them the "old log school house", which was also mentioned several times in her diary. *(A somewhat more modern yellow brick version of the school house still stands on that country corner. It is referred to in Antoinette's diary as the "yellow school house." It is a reference point to the small Adams cemetery across the street where both her parents and all her siblings were buried.)*

Names Mentioned:

William--Antoinette's husband, William V. King. He was also a boyhood friend of Charlie's.

Viola--Charlie's cousin, Antoinette's sister

Father--Charlie's father, Samuel Lyman Porter,

Letter # 25 27 Aug 1864 Robert Hilton King to Antoinette L.P. King

Robert, William King's younger brother, was born in 1842 in LaGrange, Walworth County, Wisconsin. He served two years in the Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War. This letter was written during that service. He moved with William and Nette to Jackson, Minnesota after the war but later moved on again. He lived for many years in Clay Center, Kansas and died there in 1927 at the age of 85.

Names Mentioned:

Nell/ Nelly--Nette's daughter, age 4

Elisa--Robert's sister, Elizabeth Annes King, who was teaching school in Crawford County, Wisconsin.

GHK--Robert's brother, George Henry King. To date no official service records have been found for him, but this letter confirms that George did serve during the Civil War.

William--Robert's brother, Nette's husband

Lebb--Nette's brother Lebbeus Porter, usually called "Lib".

Letter # 58 6 Aug 1869 Antoinette L. King to Rhoda Holcomb

Other family letters as well as references in Antoinette's diary attest to the lifelong friendship between these two women. *(It is interesting to note that the letter is from Antoinette to Rhoda, which suggests that Antoinette retrieved it later and saved it for her collection of letters.)*

Names Mentioned:

William--Antoinette's husband

Nellie G.--Antoinette's daughter, age 10

Selah--Antoinette's son, age 5

Zella--Antoinette's niece, daughter of Nell & Lib Porter, age 7

Willie--Antoinette's oldest child, age 12

Barney--Mitch, or M.S. Barney, Antoinette & William's brother-in-law, married to William's sister Eliza

Lib--Antoinette's brother, Lebbeus Porter

Nell--Lib's wife, William's sister

Eliza--William's sister, married to Mitch Barney

Alice Leodora--Eliza's daughter, age 3

Clara Lucy--Eliza's daughter, age 10 months

Albert--William's youngest brother, age 23, father of a year old daughter

Lona--Albert's wife

Richard/ Dick--Rhoda's husband

Irve--Antoinette's brother, age 29, unmarried, living near Rhoda in Whitewater, Wisconsin

Vie--Antoinette's sister Viola, age 27, also unmarried and living in Whitewater

Lucy-Rhoda's daughter

Letter # 66 14 May 1872 Laura (Porter) Palmer to Nette L. King

Laura was Antoinette's cousin, daughter of Antoinette's paternal uncle Henry Charles Porter (*see reference to "Uncle H.C.P." in Letter # 14 this group*) Laura was born in New York City in 1824. She came to Wisconsin in 1838 with her family. She was married in 1854 to Walter Palmer, a blacksmith. (*see reference in Letter # 14*) She died in Richland Center, Wisconsin in 1877 at the age of 53.

Names Mentioned:

Vie--Nette's sister

Elly--Laura's son, Walter Ellsworth Palmer, age 12

Uncle Samuel--as before

Tish--probably Laura's daughter

Letter # 68 4 May 1873 Viola Porter to Antoinette Porter King

Viola Cornelia Porter was born in 1842, the youngest child of Selah & Cornelia (Dan) Porter, and the second child born to them in Wisconsin. Only seven when her mother died, she lived with her father until his death in 1867. She then ran a boarding house in the home she inherited from him. She died in 1884 at the age of 42.

There are many references to Viola, or "Vie", as she was almost always called, throughout the entire King-Porter letters, as well as in Antoinette's journal.

Names Mentioned:

Mr. Kenyon--father of family friend Eliza (Kenyon) Heath, who, with her husband Charles, was part of the group that migrated to Jackson.

Rhoda--Rhoda Holcomb, Antoinette's friend. (*See Letter # 58*)

Rob--William King's brother, newly married to Minnie Bratt. (*Their wedding is described in Antoinette's diary*)

Letter # 71 25 Sept 1875 Henry P. Porter to Viola Porter

Henry Pulaski Porter, son of Sarah Warren and George Anson Porter (*See Letter #9 in this group*), was 55 when he wrote this letter to his cousin Viola from his home in Corfu, New York. He was co-proprietor of a dry goods business with his brother, George A. Porter, Jr. George, age 50, wrote the lengthy second half of the letter.

Viola, age 33, at this time was operating a boarding house in the home she inherited from her father.

Names Mentioned:

Ma--Henry & George's mother, Sarah (Warren) Porter, widowed, age 76, who died two years later

Sobe/William S.--Henry & George's brother, William Sobeskie Porter, age 42

Irving--Viola's brother, usually called "Irve"

Letter # 77: 11 April 1881 Nellie (King) Davies & Ed Davies to Selah S. King

Antoinette & William King's daughter Nellie, age 22, had been married just three months when she wrote this playful letter from her new home in Pipestone, Minnesota to her brother Selah. Selah, age 17, was living with his parents in Jackson, probably attending school.

Names Mentioned:

Kittie & Frank--the family horses

Leonora--Nellie's cousin, Leonora Porter, age 11, daughter of William King's sister Nell (King) Porter, who lived in Walworth County with her widowed mother.

Will--Nellie's brother, Willie Porter King, age 24. As yet unmarried, he was farming in Hunter Township, Jackson County, with his father.

Letter # 84: 10 Feb 1891 Wedding Invitation Nellie Barney

Not really a letter, this communication carries valuable family information. It invited Antoinette & William King, to attend the wedding of their niece, daughter of Mitchell S. & Eliza (King) Barney..

(Nellie, or Nell, or Ellen, is a very important King name. The editor has discovered at least one in every generation for five generations of the King family. This includes the editor's own name, Ruth Ellen King.)

Letters # 85 & # 86: 28 Mar 1891/15 Jul 1892 Alice (Barney) Smith to A.L. King

Alice, born in 1866, was 25 and had been married six years when she wrote the first of these letters to her Aunt Nette. Daughter of Eliza (King) & Mitch Barney, she is a character in the King saga all through her life. She arrived on the prairie above Jackson as a six-week old baby when her parents and the rest of the Kings & Porters settled there. She is frequently

mentioned in her Aunt Nette's diary.

(We do not as yet know how or when she came to settle in Pennsylvania. We are quite sure that her husband's family lived there before him. Research continues.)

Names Mentioned:

Letter # 85:

Nellie St. Clair--Alice's sister, married in Jackson just over one month before. *(see the wedding invitation, letter # 84)*

Clara--Alice's sister, age 23, who later married, moved to Colorado, & will be seen in the next letter (#86) as very likely to "get homesick".

Orrin--Alice's husband

Kittie--Antoinette's 8 year old granddaughter, daughter of Nellie (King) & Ed Davies, who lives in Pipestone

Bess--Alice's daughter, about five years old

Mary--Antoinette's granddaughter, daughter of Willie Porter & Eliza (Trumbull) King. Eliza died when Mary was seven months old, and she had lived since then with her grandparents. Mary was five years old at the time.

Letter # 86:

Nell-- Antoinette's daughter, Nell (King) Davies. The baby is Nell's son Frank Edward Davies, born in 1891 in Pipestone, Minnesota

Will--Antoinette's son, Willie Porter King, age 34, married earlier that year for the second time.

Johnny--Antoinette's son, John Lebbeus King, age 21

Selah--Antoinette' son, Selah Samuel King, age 27

Letter #13B

From: Philo A. Porter

To: S S Porter Esq, Troy Walworth Co Wis

Valparaiso Novem 25th 1853

Dear Brother

Yours of the 14th Aug was duly received. Glad to hear all well in Porters digings(sic). Was glad to hear SL got to California safe and if you will tell me where to write him I will do so for I am not willing that all communication betwixt us should thus seace(sic) and we meet at the Judgement unriconsiled(sic). We are sorry to hear there is no reformation in Bro Joel. Nor not likely to be. I have not heard from N.Y. direct the past year. If I knew where to write him I would. I should like to know how him & H.C. has settled. We are glad to hear Sarah is made comfortable.

The Season has been prosperous in this Section. All Crops are abundant and prices high. Wages also. The Rail Road is progressing finily(sic) and our Town is increasing in population. We have all enjoyed good health in general. My health has been good for the past year. Betsy is much complaining and feels the infirmities of Age. Lavisa is in pretty good health for her but delicate at best. Jane is sick, taken 3 weeks since with Typhoid Feever(sic) but is in a fair way to recover. Robert is with me in the Drug Store.

I believe this is your 48th Birth day and there is no birth day of any [of] my Brothers [that] passes unremembered by me. Then memory reverts back to the scenes of my childhood and I can trace all the pathes(sic) I traveled and recollect my youthful Companions and but few of them are now in the Land of the living. Thus are we all passing away.

I would write more but for the want of time. I must however Hurrah once for the Badger State before I close for her noble stand against the Liquor Traffick. May her Citizens sustain the Effort to drive the Hydra headed Monster from the Land and I hope our State will soon follow your example. Brother do come and see us. Our love to Bro Henry & family. Write soon for we are all anxious to hear from you all.

I remain yours in the bonds of Brotherly Love

P A Porter

Give us all the information from the East and West you can.
Write soon

P A P

Valparaiso Novem 25th 1833

Dear Brother

Yours of 14th Aug. was duly received
 Glad to hear all well in Porters signing. was
 glad to hear S. L. got to California safe and if
 you will tell me where to write him I will
 do so for I am not willing that all communi-
 -cation betwixt us should thus cease and we
 meet at the Judgment unrecosiled we are
 sorry to hear there is no reformation in Bro. Joel
 nor not likely to be I have not heard from
 N. Y. direct the past year if I knew where to write
 him I would I should like to know how
 him & H. C. has settled we are glad to hear
 Sarah is made comfortable. The season has
 been prosperous in this section all Crops were
 abundant and prices high wages also
 the Rail Road is progressing finely and our
 Town is increasing in population we have all
 enjoyed good health in general my health has
 been good for the past year Betsy is much
 complaining and feels the infirmities of Age
 Laura is in pretty good health for her but
 delicate at best Jane is sick taken 3 weeks
 since with Typhoid fever but is in a fair
 way to recover Robert is with me in the
 Drug Store

I believe this is your forty Eighth Birth
day and there is no birth day of any
my Brothers paper unremembered by me
then memory reverts back to the scenes
of my Childhood and I can trace all
the paths I traveled and recollect my
youthful companions and but few of
them are now in the Land of the living
this are we all passing away
I would write more but for the want
of time I must however Hurrah once
for the Baden State before J.C. Cox for
her noble stand against the Liquor
Traffic may her baptizing sustain
the effort to drive the Hydra headed
monster from the Land and I hope
our State will soon follow your
example Brother do come and see us
our love to Ben Henry & family with
soon for we are anxious to hear
from you all

I remain yours in the bonds of
Brotherly love

J A Porter

give us all the information from
the East & West you can write soon

P A R

Letter from P. A. Porter



S. S. Porter Esq.

Troy Walworth Co.

W. S.

Delivered P. O.

Letter #13C

From: Viola Porter

To: Antoinette Porter (No envelope)

Adams 26

Dear Sister

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that we are all alive what is to home. Father is gone to Milwaukee with his Pork and will be home to morrow. Mrs Taylors boy is sick with the Information(sic) in the Lungs but not very bad and Mrs Chatfield is sick and her children. Norman has bin(sic) ver[y] sick. They did not expect he would live for 3 days but now he has got quite smart and Levy (?) is getting fat as he can be.

There was a Slay(sic) ride last night but Lib did not go and the old folks must go just wher[e] the young folks went and Mr Hubbard all most got to fighting with W K and C H. Elle[n] went with James Babcock and he got Uncle Bens cut[t]er and took her and I did not go cry wh... or get any thing.

Cyrus was hear(sic) hunting with Irve and Lib. They kild (sic) 4 Quails in all day. I think we have a quit[e] a sight hear(sic) two wrighting(sic) and one lying on the floor whistling dancing tunes and one resting in the big chair. Now dont you think this is beautifull(sic). I think [it] is. Well I must close now. Well Good by.

From Vie
to Nett

Give my love to your company

You told me to have that girl learn me that [illegible]
I will write what I no(sic) of it

To gether throug[h] life's journey we will travel till we stop
and if we have no trouble we will reach the happy top
Then come with me sweet filors (?) my dear my lovely bride
We will jump into the wagon and we will all take a ride

Chorus

Tis early Sunday morning and I am by your side
We will jump into the wagon and all take a ride.

Net have you got the darned nedle(sic)

Note on back in Antoinette's handwriting : Janesville Received
Dec 30th 1854

Dear Sister

Adams 24

I am taking my pen in hand to let you know that we are all alive what is to home Father is gone to New Lanark with his Park and will be home to morrow Mrs. Japp is sick with the Influenza on the Lung but not very bad and Mrs. Chutfield is sick and her children Mary and Sam are sick they did not expect he would live for 3 days but now he has got quite smart and Lucy is getting fat as he says so there was a slay riot last night but Father did not go and the old folks must go just when the young folks went and Mr. Hubbard all most got to fighting with W. H. and C. H. and Elsie went with James Batech and he got Uncle Bens car and took her so and I did not go any where or get anything Cyrus was here all day hunting with True and Father they killed 4 Quails I am all day I think we have a great sight here this morning and one laying on the floor whistling racing turkeys and on rushing in the big chair now don't you think this is beautiful I think is well I must close now well Good by

Love
To Mother

Give my love to your company

Letter # 14

From: William Henry Porter

To: Philo Albert Porter

Adams Post Office
Dec 12th/56

Dear Uncle

I received your letter the tenth & was glad to hear you were all well. You spoke of Ruth. Boy I never saw him but would be glad to for I like little children as well as any one. Tell Ruth to call him Barnabus--Barna for his christen name or if she dont like that name to call him James Buchanan Porter.

Speaking of J. Buchanan I presume you would like to know who I voted for. I voted for as good & great a man as I want & he is no more nor less than James Buchanan. But you thought I would vote so because father did, but I did not. It was this. I read the papers on both sides with an unprejudiced eye & thought the democratic party as likely as any other, & a little more so & therefore voted (*several words illegible*) yet feel no remorse of conscience for so doing.

Sabath (*sic*) morning 14th. This epistle will be wrote at diferent(*sic*) times during the week so as to get the news in the first place. Viola, my youngest sister, is 14 years old to day. Last night there blew a storm from the east, snow, & has snowed ever since. It is as hard as needs be. Our north & south roads are filled up. We have no meetings here since Election, religious ones.

My health is improving lately. I am under Dr Fitchs care now. He says I have the liver complaint. The thermometer has been down to 16 degres(*sic*) below zero this winter. Antoinette & her husband are well & so is Acors & his family & his fathers family.

Uncle H.C.P. is at Lone Rock some 120 miles west of here keeping a saloon. Aunt Ann lives in Palmyra along with her son in law Walter Palmer, he who married Laura. She done well in getting him for a husband. He is a black smith by trade & does a good (*word illegible*).

The weather is very cold this morning. Wensday(*sic*) 18th. You will see by the writing of this that I have tried to give you all the news father is collectting(*sic*) now. So I will close by bidding you good bye. Give my resects (*sic*) to all my friends from your obedient Nephew

Wm. H. Porter

P & B Porter

Letter #14

Letter #14

Adams Post Office
Dec 12th 1846

Dear Uncle

I received your letter the tenth & was glad to hear you were all well you spoke of Ruth Boy I never saw him but would be glad to for I like little children as well as any one tell Ruth to call him Barnabas Barna for his christen name or if she dont like that name to call him James Buchanan Porter speaking of J. Buchanan I presume you would like to know who I voted for I voted for as honorable good & great a man as I want & he is no more nor less than James Buchanan but you thought I would vote so because father did but I did not it was this I read the papers on both sides with an unprejudiced eye & thought the Democratic party as likely as any other, & a little more so & there fore voted
... not feel no remorse of conscience for so doing

Sabbath Morning 14th this epistle will be
wrote at diferent times during the week
so as to get the news in the first place

Viola my youngest sister is 14 years old
to day last night there blew a storm from
the east & now it has snowed ever since
it is as hard as needs be our north & south
roads are filled up we have no meetings here
since Election religious ones my health is
improving lately I am under Dr Fitchs
care now he says I have the liver com-
plaint the thermometer has been down
to 16 degrees below zero this winter Antoinette
& her husband are well & so is Sears &
his family & his fathers family Uncle
H. L. P. is at Lone Rock some 120
miles west of here keeping a saloon
Aunt Ann lives in Palmyra along
with her son in law Walter Palmer
he who married Laura she done well
in getting him for a husband he is
a black smith by trade & does a good

The weather is very cold this morning
Wednesday 18th you will see by the writing
of this that I have tried to give you
all the news father is collecting now
So I will close by bidding you
good bye give my respects to all
my friends from your obedient
Nephew

Wm H. Porter

P. H. B. Porter

To: Antoinette Porter King

From: Charles Wesley Porter

Benton Miss. Sept 26th 1854.

Dear Cousin Nette

I take my pen in hand to write you in answer to yours of the first inst. which came duley to hand. And I can assure you I was happy to hear from you all once more. I had been long expecting a letter from you, but come to the conclusion you was not a going to write me any more. So I abandoned the idea when at the time my hopes had well nigh fled here come my letter. I must however look over the like as you are now married, but if you was not yet single and free from those duties pertaining to the married people I would give you a long lecture.

Cousin Nette, I cannot express to you my feelings when I hear from the home of my boyhood where we have spent many happy days and of those our associates some are dead and others gone away and but a few are left of that once merry group that once met at the old Log School House. I often think of it while I am now roving about and cair not where I am. One place suits as well as another if I find a plenty of work and money. But of all the places I have yet seen, there is none I hold so dear as the place I spent my boyish days.

But Cousin I will turn my attention to another subject. You stated that you was having hard times visit you, and you wished to know if I had seen him down here. Well I can not say that the times are very hard here. I have a plenty to do and make good wages. I can make from \$3.00 to \$5.00 dollars per cday which was better than what I could make in Wisconsin. I tell you I wont work there when I can do better here. Tell William I pitty him poor fellow. There he is tied to a wife and one little chap and here I am, no wife no babies. Aint it consoling to the mind, no one to take cair of but I myself.

You mention of Emma Smith. You say she is waiting for Charlie. God bless her darling soul. Do for God sake tell her not to put herself to any inconvenience for me as it will be very likely she will comb an old maids head before she dies yet if she wates for Charlie. I tell you Cousin Nette I am the same wild chap and maybe worse than I used to be. I see more pleasure and beauty here among the ladies than you can imagine, and there is some that are some. I do wish William was single and here with me to night. I tell you what fine times we would have.

Has Viola got any fellow casting his eyes on her yet. Tell her to go it, not die an old maid for God sake, never leave

that name behind her, but powder her countenance, go out and cut a grape vine and wear it under her dress and carry a stiff upper lip and I tell you the fellows will come flocking no trouble then.

You was mentioning about your Father wishing to write to my Father but did not know his address. I will tell you so you can tell him. It is Lexington, Holmes County, Miss, a place thirty miles from me. I have not seen him for some time but heard from him a few days since. He was then well and at work. He talks of going to Penescola bay on the coast of Florida to spend the winter.

I can not say where I will go yet but will stop here till the first of January and perhaps later. Then I have a notion of visiting Wis. once more and will give you a call if I come. But I do not intend to stay. I will return or go some where else.

Cousin Nette I will close for fear I will weary you to read these poorly written lines. I hope to hear from you soon and tell William to write me. Give my love to all my friends and receive a good portion yourself.

From your affectionate Cousin

To Nette

Chas. W. Porter

Boston Mass. Sept 26th 1854.

Dear Cousin Nettie,

I take my pen in hand to write you in answer to yours of the first inst. which came duly to hand. And I can assure you I was happy to hear from you all once more. I had been long expecting a letter from you, but come to the conclusion you was not a going to write me any more. So I abandoned the idea when at the time my hopes had well nigh fled here come my letter. I must however look over the like as you are now married, but if you was yet single and free from those duties pertaining to the married people I would give you a long lecture;

Cousin Nettie. I can not express to you my feelings when I hear from the home of my boyhood, where we have spent many happy days and of those our associates some are dead and others gone away and but few are left of that once merry group that once met at the old Log School House. I often think of it while I am now roving about and care not where I am. one place suits as well as another if I find a plenty of work and money. But of all the

places I have yet seen, there is none I hold so dear as the place I spent my boyish days.

But cousin I will turn my attention to another subject, You stated that you was having hard times visit you. and you wished to know if I had seen him down here. Well I can not say that the times are very hard here. I have a plenty to do and make good wages. I can make from \$3.00 to \$5.00 dollars per day which was better than what I could make in Wisconsin. I tell you I wont work there when I can do better here. Tell William I pitty him poor fellow there he is tied to a wife and one little chap and here I am no wife no babies aint it consoling to the mind no one to take care of but I myself. You mention of Emma Smith you say she is waiting for Charlie. God bless her darling soul. Do for God sake tell her not to put herself to any inconvenience for me as it will be very likely she will comb an old maids head before she dies yet if she waits for Charlie. I tell you Cousin Nettie I am the same wild chap and maybe worse than I use to be I see more pleasure and beauty here among the ladies than you could imagine, and there is some that are some. I do wish William was single and here with me to night I tell you what fine times we would have.

Has Viola got any fellow casting his eyes on her yet. Tell her to go it not die an old maid for God sake, never leave that name behind her, But powder her countenance go out and cut a grape vine and wear it under her dress and carry a stiff upper lip and I tell you the fellows will come flocking no trouble then.

You was mentioning about your Father wishing to write to my Father but did not know his address. I will tell you so you can tell him it is Lexington, Holmes County Miss, a place thirty miles from me. I have not seen him for some time, but heard from him a few days since he was then well and at work. He talks of going to Pensacola bay on the coast of Florida to spend the winter.

I can not say where I will go yet but will stop here till the first of January and perhaps later then I have a notion of visiting Miss. once more and will give you a call if I come. But I do not intend to stay I will return or go some where else. Cousin Nette I will close for fear I will weary you to read these poorly written lines. I hope to hear from you soon and tell William to write me. Give my love to all my friends and receive a good portion yourself.

From your affectionate Cousin
Chas. W. Porter

C. Nette.

Letter #18

From: Lebbeus Effingham Porter

To: Nellie King

Barabooboo, Feb 4th, 1860

Dearest Nellie,

As I very well know that you are anxious to hear from Lib I will try & drop a few lines. It is now saturday night. We made our arrival at this place yesterday about 4 Oclock & we intend starting for Glen Dale tomorrow morning. We are going from here to Reedsburgh & so on up the Barraboo valley. We expect to get to (Kingdom come) as Father calls it next tuesday providing we do not have any serious drawbacks. We have got along on our journey so far without any trouble at all. Our cattle [word] is first rate. The first day we came to (Fort Atkinson 20 miles). The next day to Cambridge 12 miles. The next to a place called Tokan Creek 25 miles. The next to a place called the Okee House 20 miles. The next to Baraboo 12 miles.

O how I wish that you could have seen us coming over Baraboo bluff. We was about an hour & a half coming up one bluff through the rocks. O we was so tired & hungry but as soon as we got to the top we opened that old Boiller [?] & just laid right in to that chunk of roast beef & doughnuts.

O dearest Nellie I have had such a cold. I could hardly speak but have got nearly over with it now. O I have had such a good visit today with the Boys & last night there was a Ball in town & Wal & Al had to go & play for them so Wm & I went with them. They belong to a regular band. Wal plays on the Base Viol, Al on the fiddle. I never danced once & about half past 10 I came home & went to bed.

O dear dear Nell you dont know how much I think about you. I am thinking of you all the time & more too. O how I would like to get a good long letter & a good sweet kiss from you. Nellie you must not be disappointed with this short letter will you for you know I have not got much time to write till I get up there. O dear I want to see & hear from you so bad. You will write wont you right away.

I send my respects & best wishes to all the folks. Tell Lucy that I have got something nice to tell her when she writes [?]. This will do till I get up there & then I will give you all the particulars. Write immediately for I want to get a letter from you before I begin to get home sick & then I wont be well. Nellie here is a thousand kisses for you my dear & a kind good night.

forever yours Lib Nellie

PS Wm wants you to tell Nette that he will write just as soon as we reach our destination.

Remember me wont
you my only love Nellie
LibNellie

Baraboo Feb 4th / 860

Dearest Nellie

Oh I very well know that you are anxious to hear from Lie & will try to drop us a few lines it is now Saturday night we made our arrival at this place yesterday about 4 O'clock & we are about starting for Glen Dale tomorrow morning we are going from here to Reddishburg & so on up the Baraboo valley we expect to get to (Kingdom come) as Father calls it next Tuesday providing we do not have any serious drawbacks we have got along on our journey so far without any trouble at all. Our entire train is (first rate) the first day we came to (Fort Atkinson 20 miles) the next day to Cambridge 12 miles the next to a place called Tokan Creek 25 miles the next to a place called the Oak House 20 miles the next to Baraboo 12 miles I how I wish that you could have seen us coming over Baraboo bluffs we was about an hour & a half coming up one bluff through the rocks I was ever so tired & hungry but as soon as we got to the top we opened that old Miller & just laid right in to that chunk of roast beef & doughnuts O dearest Nellie I have had such a cold I could hardly speak but have got nearly over with it now I have had such a good visit today with the Boys & last night there was a Ball in town & Lie & Ed had to go & play

for them so I went with them they belong to
regular band. But plays on the P. & B. Vint. O'Brien the
fiddle. I went down once & about half past 10 I came
home & went to bed. O dear dear I'll you don't know
how much I think about you I am thinking of you
all the time & more too. O how I would like to get a
good long letter & a good sweet kiss from you. I'll
you must not be disappointed with this short letter
will you for you know I have not got much time
to write till I get up there. O dear I want to see & hear
from you so back you will write won't you right away
I send my respects & best wishes to all the folks. Tell
Lucy that I have got something nice to tell her when
she comes. This will do till I get up there & then I will
give you all the particulars write immediately for I want
to get a letter from you before I begin to get home
sick & then I won't be well. I'll here is a thousand
kisses for you my dear & a hundred good night
Forever yours Lie O'Brien

DPV

I want you to tell O'Brien that he will write
just as soon as we reach our destination

I Remember me to
you my only love O'Brien
Lieber

Letter #18A

From: Unsigned, undated note

To: Viola Porter

Est. date February 1860

Vie

Eliza wanted me to tell her who to send Valentines to.

Tell her to send to Joe A Ellis

Joe Dennis

Charlie Iverson

to Fred Miller at the Prairie. He has just been jilted. He has been engaged a long time to Perry Genlets (?) daughter but she run away to LaCrosse the other day & was married to a[n] Episcopal Min. She invited Fred to the wedding and he was to[o] late for the cars so he took a pair of skates and skated from the P. to LaCrosse in seven hours. Came back by the cars which took 36 hours.

Come up to my school to night. We have quite a crowd every evening. Head singers are Nell, Mrs Kenyon, Bailey, Blandberg & Eliza Allen. You wouldnt (*sic*) be any where.

Keep cool.

Ellis's come here quite often. I like them first rate especially Joe.

But she sung away. Come up to dinner
to La Camp. The other school to night
day & was married by Rev. Guntz &
Lt. a. Episcopal Min. around even-
ing. She invited Fred to evening &
the wedding and had singers
he was to take for one - 1000, Mrs
Mrs Cars no he. Maryon, Fair-
bank, a pair of Bl. alberry &
skates & skates. Eliza Allen
from the - to 1000, got. wanted out
in - seven hours, be any where
come back by the cars keep even
which took 36 hours.

Van Eliza wanted me
to tell her when to send
Valentine's Eve
till her to send
to Joe A Ellis
Joe Dennis
Charles Brown
to Fred Miller at
the Prairie he has
just been jilted he
has been engaged
a long time to
Perry Everett
daughter

Bill's come here and
ask me for the information
I can give him. I will
be glad to help him.

24

Letter #19A

From: Irve Porter

To: Miss Viola C porter Batavia P o Crawford Co Wis

Adams Aug 28 1861

Dear Sister Vie

I received your kind letter some time a go and was very glad to hear from you but you may not think so on a count of my being so negligent in answering it. But you know that I am not mutch (sic) of a hand to write so you will have to excuse me for not writing sooner. I was glad to hear that you was all well. We are all well at present and I hope these few lines will finde (sic) you injoying (sic) the same blessing.

I supose (sic) that Nett has got into (illegible) by this time. I rote her a letter last week.

I have not commenced Thrashing yet. Will commence next week. Dick and my self has Bought Charley Out. He is mad as a March hen at me but let him runn (sic). I will hold the lines and put the strong [arm?] on to if it is needed. Tell the Boys that I would like to come up and do there (sic) thrashing but it is moste (sic) to[o] far.

I wont write mutch (sic) to night. I am very sleepy. The folks have all gon[e] to bed. I am going to a Dance tomorrow night over to Palmyra. Dont you wish you was hear (sic) to go. You said you was home sick some times. When you get very home sick take a ride down to the Missipa (sic) and go a fishing and you will get over it.

Sep 1

I have taken up my pen once more to finish this letter. I have been to Camp Meeting to day. We went over with a 4 horse team. Had a grand time. John Write (sic) told me that he was coming up thare (sic) to by (sic) a farm.

I am going to start thrashing to morrow. I should like to see you very mutch (sic). Write as soon as you can and tell the rest of the folks to do the same. Give my love to all.

Your Brother Irv



1861
Adams Aug 28

Dear Sister Vi

I received your kinde
letter some time ago and
was very glad to hear from
you y^t but you may not think
so on a count of my being so
negligent in answering it
but you know that I am not
much of a hand to write so
you will have to excuse me for
not writing sooner I was glad
to hear that you was all well
we are all well at present and I
hope these few lines ^{will} find
you enjoying the same blessing
I suppose that Nett has got into
her well by this time I rec^d
her a letter last week

I have not commenced
thrashing yet will commence
next week Dick and myself
has bought Charley and he
is mad as a March hen at me
but let him run I will hold
the lines and put the ~~string~~^{string}
on to if it is needed tell the
Boys that I would like to come
up and do there thrashing
but it is mostle to far I wont
write much to night I am very
sleepy the folks have all
gon to bed I am going to a
Dance tomorrow night over
to Palmyra dont you wish
you was here to go you said you
was home sick some times
when you get very home
sick take a ride down to
the missipa and go a fishing
and you will get over it

Sep 1

I have taken up my
pen once more to finish
this letter I have been to
Camp meeting to day we went
over with a 4 horse team
had a grand time. John White
told me that he was coming
up there to by a farm I
am going to start thrashing
to morrow I should like to
see you very much write
as soon as you can and
tell the rest of the folks
to do the same
give my love to all

Your Brother Bro

Wm

Adelens Wis
Sept 14th 1861

Miss Viola C Porter
Batavia T Co
Crawford Co
Wis

Letter #19C

From: Mr. A Hooper

To: Miss V C Porter, Present

Jan 12th (1862?)

Mr. A. Hooper sends his compliments to Miss V.C. Porter and accepts, with pleasure, her invitation of the 12th

A. Hooper

Jan, 12th,

Mr. A. Hooper, sends his compliments
to Miss. W. C. Pater, and accepts, with
pleasure, her invitation of the 12th.

A. Hooper,

Miss. W. C. Pater.

Present.

Letter #19D

From: Irve Porter

To: Viola Porter

February 1862

Dear Sister Vie

I received a letter from you some time a go but have been very negligent in answering it. I am so buisey(sic) now a days that a good hand to write letters if I write three in a year I will be doing pritty(sic) big buisiness(sic). I shal[l] halve(sic) to ask forgiveness this time and will try and do better in the future.

I received a letter from Nett and was glad to hear that she got home all safe and to here(sic) that she found you all well. I suppose that you was some what disap[p]ointed to finde(sic) me not with her but Vie we are subjects to disap[p]ointments in this world. I suppose that Nett told you the reason why I did not come with her. I should like to come up thare(sic) and see you firstrate.

We are all well at present excepting Father. He is having one of his sick spells.

I went to Milwaukee last week. Took in Pork and Wheat. Sold wheat for 73 cents and Pork for \$2.80. Went in Thursday and got home Saturday.

I have not sold old bill yet. Thare(sic) is a man coming this week to look at him and I guess that he will buy him.

It is snowing very hard to day. The snow is a bout fourteen inches deap on the level.

Sarah Drakes little Baby was burried(sic) yesterday. She was over to janes a visiting. The baby died some time in the night and she did not know that it was dead untill she woke up in the morning and then it was de[a]d as a door nail. And Mrs Peppers little baby was burried(sic) last Saturday. It was burried up to our school house.

Thare(sic) is going to be a great Lawsute(sic) next Thursday out to Whitewater. Mrs Frank has sued jule Huberd for Whipping her. I think that I shal[l] go out and see the funn(sic). I guess that the hull(sic) neighbor hood will go.

Vie I almost forgot to tell you that we had a party up to Uncle Bens. Had a good time. How I wished you had been here. It was hard work to get up a dancing party here. How we will miss you and Nell and Lib very mutch(sic) Party times.

I suppose you would like to here(*sic*) how Emeline is getting a long. Well Vie I dont think that she is any better. She has got Nancy here yet she is a perfect fool. Nett wanted me to write and tell her how Caroline was getting a long. I guess that she has got well. I have not been over to Palmyra in some time.

Tell Nett that I will write to her next Sunday with out fale(*sic*). We are having lots of Religion down here now. It is cheap as dirt. You can get through tickets for Half price. If you are in nead(*sic*) of any up there I will send you up a doce(*sic*).

Vie I guess that I have writ[t]en enough for this time. I will try and write more next time. Give my love to all. Keep a good share for your self. Write soon.

from your

Brother I B Porter

Dear Sister Elie

I received a letter from you some time ago but have been very negligent in answering it I am so buissey now a days ~~that~~ I don't finde time to write you know that I am a good hand to write letters ~~if~~ if I write three in a year I will be doing pritty big buisness I shal halve to ask forgiveness this time and will try and do better in the future I received a letter from Nett and was glad to hear that she got home all safe and to here that she found you all well I suppose that you was some what disapointed to finde me not with her but we are subjects to disapointments in this world I suppose that Nett told you the reason why I did not come with her I should like to come up thare and see you firstate we are all well at present excepting Father he is having one of his sick spells I went to Millwaukee last week took in Pork and what sold wheat for 73 cents and Pork for \$2.50 went in Thursday and got home Saturday I have not sold old bill yet Thare is a man coming this week to look at him and I guess that he will buy him it is snowing very hard to day the snow is a bout 14 inches deep on the ~~the~~ level Sarah Drakes little

Baby was burried yesterday she was over to
James a visiting the baby died some time in the
night and she did not know that it was
dead untill she woke up in the morning and
then it was ded as a door nail and Mrs Peppers
little Baby was burried last Saturday it was
buried up to our Schoolhouse there is going to be
a great Leasute next Thursday out to White
Water Mrs Frank has sued Jule Huberd for
whipping her I think that I shal go out
and see the fun I guess that the hull
neighbor hood will go 'tis I almost forgot
to tell you that we had a party up to Uncle
Bens had a good time how I wished you
had been here it was hard work to get
up a Dancing Party here how we miss
you and Nell and Lib very much Party
times I suppose you would like to here
how Emaline is getting along well 'tis I dont
think that she is any better she has got
Nancy here yet she is a perfect fool Nett
wanted me to write and tell her how Caroline
was getting along I guess that she has got
well I have not been off over to Palmyra in
some time tell Nett that I will write to her
next Sunday with out fail we are having
lots of Religion down here now it is cheap
as dirt you can get through tickets off for
half Price if you are in need of any up there
I will send you up a doze 'tis I guess that
I have written enough for this time I will
try and write more next time give my
love to all keep a good share for your self write
soon from your
Brother J B Porter

Letter #19E

From: Irve Porter

To: Antoinette Porter King (No envelope)

Feb 11/ 1862

Dear Sister Nett

I recived a letter from you some time a go that I shal[l] have to beg forgiveness on acount(sic) of not answering it sooner. I thought when I got that letter from you that I would answer it the next Sunday but the next Sunday came and went and I did not write and so it has runn(sic) a long untill(sic) the present time. I have taken up my pen to night to wright(sic) a few lines to let you know how I am getting a long.

Well Nett we are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessings. I was verry (sic) mutch(sic) disapointed(sic) in not getting a letter from som[e] of you last week. I rot(sic) a letter to Vie last week but have not received any answer yet.

Father received a letter from Vie but I did not see it. He told me that she wanted to come home. I told him that I thought she had better come and I guess that he will send for her. We have not got any [hired] girl now and he told me if Vie was coming home that he would not get a nother girl. I guess that he will write this week. I should like to have her come home.

Our Nancy had to go home. Her mother had a bad cold. I was glad to see her go. She was not good for mutch(sic).

Emaline is not any better. Aunt Ann is over her[e] now. She has been up to Heath to day. She came over with me last Wensday(sic). I guess that she will go home to mo[r]row.

The folks are all well in Palmyra at present. I suppose that you have heard that the Palmyra House is burnt up. They think that it was set on fire by some one. It was insured for \$1200 and the furniture for \$300. The man that was keeping the house was going out next Monday and a man by the name of Morison was going in.

Thare(sic) was a load of us young folks went down to Carters last Saturday. Had a good time. We came home on Sunday. I went to Meeting last night up to the Harbor. Thare(sic) is a man holding Meetings thare(sic). His name is Porter. He is a smart man. I think that he must be some Relation to us.

Mrs Heath and Julia and Elysa King got Religion last night. They are all getting Sanctifide(sic) down this way. I think that it will be my turn next. Nett dont you think that it would be a

good plan for me to get Religion. I begin to feel quite searious about my Sole (*sic*) Salvation and I think that I shal[l] pitch in for my share.

Well I guess that I have told you all the news. Tell Lib and W King that I should like to hear from them. I suppose they are in the woods yet. Tell them to Remember me in theyer (*sic*) Prayrs (*sic*).

I think some of going to jansvill (*sic*) next week to see the boys. I think that I shal[l] work to home this summer. I have not sold old bill yet.

I was looking for a girl yesterday but I did not get one.

Nett I shal have to close. I am getting tired. Pleas[e] excuse this short note and write soon. Give my love to all and also I send my best Respects to Mr and Mrs Wright.

Write soon
from Brother Irve

Feb 11/82

Dear Sister Nett

I received a letter from you some time ago but I shall have to beg forgiveness on account of not answering it sooner I thought when I got that letter from you that I would answer it the next Sunday but the next Sunday came and went and I did not write and so it has run a long untill the present time I have taken up my pen to night to write a few lines to let you know how I am getting along well Nett we are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing I was very much disappointed in not getting a letter from some of you last week I wrote a letter ~~last~~ to the last week but have not received any answer yet Father received a letter from the but I did not see it he told me that she wanted to come home I told him that ^{if I thought} she had better come and I guess that he will send for her we have not got any girl now and he told me if the was coming home that he would not get another girl I guess that he will write this week I should like to have her come home

Our Nancy had to go home her mother
had a bad cold I was glad to see her go she
was not good for much Emaline is not
any better Aunt Sam is over her now she
has been up to Heath to day she came over
with me last Wednesday I guess that she will
go home tomorrow The folks are all well in
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heard that the Palmyra House is burnt up
They think that it was set on fire by some
one it was insured for \$1200 and the furniture
for \$300 The man that was keeping the house
was going out next Monday and a man by the
name of Morrison was going in There was a load
of us young folks went down to Carters last Saturday
had a good time we came home on Sunday
I went to meeting last night up to the
Harbor there is a man holding meetings
there & his name is Porter he is a
smart man I think that he must be
some relation to us Mrs Heath and Julia
and Elysa King got Religion last night
They are all getting Sanctified down this way
I think that it will be my turn next
Nett don't you think that it would be a
good plan for me to get Religion I begin
to feel quite serious about my sole
salvation and I think that I shall pitch in

for my share well I guess that I have told
you all of the news Tell Leiby and W King that
I should like to hear from them I suppose they
are in the woods yet tell them to Rememder
me in theyer Prayers I think some of going
to Jansvill next week to see the boys
I think that I shal work to home this sumer
I have not sold old bill yet I was looking
for a girl yesterday but did not get one
Nell I shal have to close I am getting
tired pleas excuse this short note and write
soon give my love to all and also I send
my best Respects to Mr and Mrs Wright.

write soon

from Brother Prue

Letter #19F

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Vie C Porter, Adams, Walworth Co, Wis (by the politeness of Mr Coates)

Batavia March 8th/62

Dear Sister Vie

I expected a letter from you this week surely but am sadly disappointed. We have had the mail only once this week. Could not get through on account of the roads being drifted so badly. We have had an awful snowstorm since you left, very near a foot more & you know it was deep enough before. You remember old Mr Ellis prophesied we should have about a foot more & it has surely come. But it wont last long for it is thawing fast.

Mr Coates is here yet. Says he saw you so I suppose you got home safe. Did you have a pleasant time on the cars. Too bad you missed the pleasure of Brainerd's company. It dont seem as if I could wait until next Tuesday before I hear from you. O I tell you I miss you lots. I wish you could always live with me. I was so lonesome the other day I had a good cry. I was all alone & I put right in. Little Nellie got up on my lap & she felt so bad she would take her apron & wipe my face & say "Poor Ma."

Is anyone sorry you did not bring the little "darling". Coates said they were making great calculations on her coming. I am sorry to disappoint them & I would let her come anytime & stay a few weeks if there was any way to send her & get her back again. But I cannot spare her long for she is such a nice little "treasure".

I have not seen any of Mr Mc_____ folks since that Sunday we went to Prayer meeting. I guess they are all well.

Mr & Mrs Wright, Lib, Nell & myself went visiting Mrs Beach one day this week. Had a nice time & some of the best honey I ever saw or tasted. Wish you had been there.

Lib, Nell, Mrs W, Mr Coates, William & myself spent the evening at Mr R Thomas's since you left. Had a charming time. Mrs T never spoke, only when we spoke to her. "Want she nice."

Mr Beach has sent Mrs B a new cashmere dress "real pretty", a pair of undersleeves & collar & is going to send her Peterson's Magazine for a year. (Aint he good) Sent his likeness to little Ben & Elvira. Mrs B has had them framed for them in a little nice gilt frame.

I want you to go & get yours taken for me middling large & I will get it framed. Now be sure & send it as soon as you can &

44 Lib wants Irves very much.

Lib has not been well at all since he went to Grant. It was to[o] much for him. Had a hard palpitation after he got home. I am afraid he never will be able to do much hard work if he keeps having poor spells. He is getting better so he is at work today. Nell has got another hard cold. Can hardly talk. Is little better today. I gave her a good dose last night.

William is well & his mustache is growing handsome[r] every day. Willie is the same old sixpence only a little worse. Zacharia has just come in. Looks as smiling as ever.

Coates is going to rent that place where Campbell lives. Is going after his family right away. He thinks it is the nicest place in the world up here.

John Wright boards at Langfords. They have all got through in the woods. L____s have moved back. P W is going to send for sister Caroline by Coates. Is not coming down there himself for some reason or another. He is breaking his steers.

Mr & Mrs W started to go to the Citron after that little girl yesterday but could not get there. They wanted Nell to go but she could not on account of her cold. So I went (Jackety pinck). We stopped at Kenyons. Mrs Kenyon is so sorry you had to go home when she had just got acquainted with you. Kenyon talks of buying out Loyd. Hope he will dont you? I dont know where Barmem is going. I dont know whether he will give up the place to Kenyon or not. You knew that Kenyon bought that place where B_____ lives but B_____ can hold it if he sets out.

I have not seen Miss Hutchinsen since you left. Mother Mallory is bright as a dollar.

Brother Ternby has gone home on a furlough. I heard that Anthony had gone to war. Abba Hayden is quite sick yet. Aunt Sally is not very well.

Well Vie I have told you all that I know. I guess you will think so too. I cant write very good today for I feel so lazy.

Nellie G_____ likes her little bowl firstrate. Willie makes good use of that monkey.

I want you to write & tell me all you know & more too, how you found Father & Emeline, who you have seen since you got home and Vie try & send me two or three apples by Coates.

When I was home Irve said he would send Lib a pair of his old pants. Try & send them by C for Nell is trying to patch his sunday go to meetings & you know how nice they look.

I like Nells things she got firstrate. I guess Lib will get

a stove soon & then they will go to housekeeping. I suppose they will feel quite grand with so many nice new things. She got a very pretty looking glass for \$2.00, a pretty lamp too.

Now dont you forget to write to me often. My love to all
from your ever affectionate

Sister Nette

Baravia March 8th/62

Dear Sister Tri

I expected a letter from you this week surely but am sadly disappointed - we have had the mail only once this week, could not get through on account of the roads being drifted so badly.

We have had an awful snowstorm since you left - very near a foot more & you know it was deep enough before - Don't remember old Mr Ellis' prophecy we should have about a foot more & it has surely come - but it won't last long for it is thawing fast -

Mr Coates is here yet - says he saw you so I suppose you got home safe - did you have a pleasant time on the car - to bad you missed the pleasure of Brainard's company - it don't seem as if I could wait - until next Tuesday before I hear from you - Oh I tell you I miss you lots - I wish you could always live with me - I was so lonesome the other day I had a good cry I was all alone & I put right in - little Nellie got up on my lap & she felt so bad she would take her apron & wipe my face & say 'poor Ma'

Was any one sorry you did not bring the little 'darling' Coates said they were making great calculations on her coming - I am sorry to disappoint them & I would let her come anytime & stay a few weeks if there was any way to send her & get her back again but - I cannot spare her long for she is such a nice little 'treasure'

I have not seen any of the Mc-folks since that Sunday we went to Bayers Meeting - I guess they are all well -

Mr & Mrs Wright, Lib, Nell & myself went visiting Mrs Beach one day this week - had a nice time & some of the best honey I ever saw or tasted - wish you had been there

Lib, Nell, Mrs W., Mr Coates, William & myself spent the evening at Mr B Thomas's since you left - had a charming time - Mrs B - never spoke only when we spoke to her - "want she nice"

Mr Beach has sent Mrs B - a new cashmere dress "real pretty" a pair of undersleeves & collar & is going to send her Petersons Magazine for a year - (aint he good sent his likeness to little Ben & Clara - Mrs B - has had them framed for them in a little nice gilt frame

I want you to go & get your picture for me middling large & I will get it framed - now be sure & send it as soon as you can & Lib wants I've very much

Kenyon talks of buying out Loyel hope he will don't you?
I don't know where Barmen is going I don't know
whether he will give up the place to Kenyon or not - you
knew that Kenyon bought that place where B - live
but B - can hold it if he sets out -

I have not seen Mrs Hutchinson since you left
Mother Mallory is bought - as a dollar

Brother Lerby has gone home on a furlough
I heard that Anthony had gone to war
Abba Hayden is quite sick yet - Aunt Sally is not
very well - Well I have told you all that I know
I guess you will think so too I can't write very good
today for I feel so lazy.

Nellie G - likes her little bowl first-rate - Willie makes
good use of that monkey.

I want you to write & tell me all you know & more
too - how you found Father & Emeline

Who you have seen since you got home - & I'll
try & send me two or three apples by boat.

When I was home I've said he would send Ed a
pair of his old pants - try & send them by Co for Nell
is trying to patch his Sunday go to meetings & you know
how nice they look.

I like Nell's things she got first-rate I guess Ed
will get a stove soon & then they will go to housekeeping I
suppose they will feel quite grand with so many nice new things
she got a very pretty looking glass for \$1.00 a pretty lamp too

Now don't you get to work to me often my love to all - from your ever affectionate Sister H. McKee

Lib has not been well at all since he went to Grant it was too much for him - had a hard palpitation after he got home - I am afraid he never will be able to do much hard work - if he keeps having poor spells - he is getting better - so he is at work today - Nell has got another hard cold can hardly talk is little better today I gave her a good dose last night -

William is well & his mustache is growing handsomer every day - Wilbur is the same old signifier only a little worse - Zachariah has just come in looks as smiling as ever

Coates is going to rent that place where Campbell lived is going after his family right away he thinks it is the nicest place in the world up here

John Wright boards at Langfords - they have all got through in the woods - L - I have moved back

J^W is going to send for sister Caroline by Coates. John is not coming down there himself for some reason or another - he is breaking his steers

M & Mrs W started to go to the Colon after that little girl yesterday but could not get there - they wanted Nell to go but she could not on account of her cold - so I went (Jackety pink) we stopped at Keenys - Mrs Keenys is so sorry you had to go home when she had just got acquainted with you

Miss Tie B Porter
Adams
Walworth Co
Wis
A

By the politeness of
Mr Coates }

Letter #19G

From: Miss Eliza Kenyon

To: Miss V.C. Porter Present

Estimated date 1862

Miss Eliza Kenyon

At home Saturday eve

March 10th 7 oclock

[Envelope contained a double calling card, laced together with a white satin robbon. One card reads "Mr. & Mrs. Z. C. Willson; the other card reads " Miss Nellie Porter"]

Letter # 19 G

Miss. Nellie M. Porter.

Miss Eliza Kenyon
At home Saturday Eve.
March 10th 7 o'clock

Miss F. J. & Miss M. J. Ellison

Miss W. C. Porter
Present

Letter #19H

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Viola C Porter, Adams P.O., Walworth Co, Wis

Batavia Aug 8th/62

Dear Vie

Are you waiting for an answer to your very welcome letter. Well I will try & answer but some how I dont feel much like writing for I keep thinking about the war. O Vie what will become of me if William has to go. It seems I should go wild. What does Irve say about the war. I suppose some would think I am not very patriotic but if I was sure they could all come [home] safe & sound I could stand it very well. William is so discouraged. Our wheat is so poor. ome of it is hardly worth cutting. They have not hired much for they could not afford it. Jakey Conklin has been helping them a few days.

Electa has been out & stayed a week. She wishes so many times you were here. I guess Julia is thinking some of stepping off by what she, E, said. I believe she called the fellow Mayor Mud. Not a very dusty name is it.

How does father get along harvesting. Has he got most through. He must hurry up for [I] shall be awfully disappointed if he does not come up here next month.

Do you want to see the baby any. It grows like fun. Some think it looks like you. I think it looks like Lib & Father King. I guess it will resemble the Porter tribe the most.

Beaches children have got the scarlet fever & they think the youngest one wont live. Mr Campbell has lost one with it. I am so afraid the children will have it. Willie has been sick a week but I think it is worms. He looks pale and jumping. He thinks you will all be so sorry when you hear that he is sick. He has wanted you to write every day. We expect the baby has been exposed to the hooping cough. I hope she wont have it.

I guess Libbies school is out today.

Jim McClure is sick so I hear. I guess Albert has not been promoted but I am afraid his father will be if he dont look out. He is capable of performing some very neighborly tricks. You know where the boys cut grass last year down back of the barn. Well that meek & honest Methodist Disciple went & cut it all. he boys caught him going away with it & they told him to fetch it & put it in the barn. Well he brought what he had then on the wagon & dumped it down by the barn door. I dont know whether the boys will do anything about [it] or not. Dont you think it was a

mean caper.

There was a war meeting up to the Green today. Old Haley & Mr Bonney enlisted.

Willie Bailey likened to cut his sister's foot off yesterday. He let the ax glance & cut her foot very bad in the instep. We were down to see Mrs B_____ the other day. She was not at home so we went to Mrs Zanders.

I had a letter today from Sarah Hatch. Do you ever hear from Aunt Mary. I dont see why she dont answer my letter.

I have not trimmed Nellies *[illegible word]* for where you pierced it so many times. I have had to sew it all over & it ravels so badly. I think it is quite pretty.

We have had quite a shower this afternoon. Oh it has been very hot yesterday & today. Have you had any warm weather.

Lib got his pigs home all safe. I caught seven rats in the buttery this week with a steel trap. Would you like me to send them down for soup.

Has anyone enlisted lately down there. Mr Chase at the Prairie is getting up a company. Did Father or Irve go to Milwaukee for the War Meeting.

Is Aunt Ann in Baraboo yet & how is Laura & Acors folks getting along. They never send a word to us but goll[y] I am going to give her a good blessing by & by.

I wish you could see Nellie Greenwood now. Tell Father she looks like Emeline Norcross. She is tanned black as a little squaw. She has got a little bit of a dog & if she dont have great times with it. She squeezes it so sometimes I fear for its life.

Willie says you must come up here again. He says grandpa must come for he has got a big letter full of money so hurrah.

I am glad to hear Emeline is improving. Hope she will not have to [be] burnt again.

Well I must go & get the children ready for bed. Mr Wright is here. He is going to the office with a letter to Moulton to take his place back & if he does he is going to enlist. Mrs W is going to stay with Mrs Cole. She lives at the Prairie. She used to live at Viola. Her husband has enlisted.

If I knew William would have to go I would rather he would enlist but I guess he will stand the draft.

Vie I want you to write to me as soon as you can for I want

to know what you all think about the war. I dontt believe you
can read this scribbling. If you cant you must guess it out.

My love to you all

Good night

From Your Sister

A L King

Batavia Aug 9th /62

Dear Yae

Are you waiting for an answer to your very welcome letter. Well I will try & answer but some how I don't feel much like waiting for. I keep thinking about the war. Oh what will become of me if William has to go it seems I should go with. What does one say about the war. I suppose some would think I am not very patriotic but if I was sure they could all come safe & sound I could stand it very well. William is so discouraged our wheat is so poor some of it is hardly worth cutting they have not hired much for they could not afford it. Jakey Conklin has been helping them a few days.

Olivia has been out & stayed a week. she wished so many times you were here. I guess Julia is thinking some of stepping off by what she heard. I believe she called the fellow Mayor. Much not a very Austin name is it.

by the barn door I don't know whether
the boys will do anything about or not
don't you think it was a mean cop
there has been a war meeting up to Green today
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Willie Bailey liked to cut his sister's foot off the other
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I had a letter today from Sarah Hale. do you
ever hear from Aunt Mary I don't see why she don't
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for whose you peried it so many times I have had
to sew it all over & it ravel so badly - I think it is
quite pretty - we have had quite a shower this after
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Lib. got his pigs home all
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Guthrie or I go to Milwaukee to the War Meeting
do Aunt Ann in Baraboo yet & how is Laura &
Acres folks getting along - they never send a
word to no little Goll I am going to give her a good
kissing by & by

How does father get along harvesting has
he got most through he must hurry up for
shall be awfully disappointed if he does not come
up here next month -

Do you want to see the baby any it grows like
fun some think it looks like you I think it
looks like Leib & Father King I guess it will
resemble the Porter tribe the most

Beach's children have got the scarlet fever & they
think the youngest one won't live - Mr Campbell
have lost one with it - I am so afraid the children
will have it - Willie has been sick a week but
I think it is worse he looks pale & frowning
he thinks you will all be so sorry when you hear
that he is sick - he has wanted me to write every
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the whooping cough I hope she won't have it -

I guess Libbie's school is out to day
Jim McClure is sick so I hear I guess Albert
has not been promoted but I am afraid his
father will be if he don't look out - he is
capable of performing some very neighborly trick
you know where the boys cut grass last year
down back of the barn well that meek & honest
Methodist - disciple went & cut it all the boys
caught him going away with it & they told him
to fetch it & put it in the barn well he brought
what he had then on the wagon & dumped it down

I wish you could see Nellie Greenwood now tell father
she looks like Cornelia Norcross she is somewhat black
as a little squaw. she has got a little bit of a cough
& if she don't have great times with it she squeezes it so
sometimes I fear for its life

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Mr Wright is here he is going to the office with a
letter to Moulton to take his place back & if he does
he is going to enlist. Mrs W. is going to stay with
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Well I want you to write to me as soon as you
can for I want to know what you all think about
the war, I don't believe you can read this
scribbling if you can't you must guess it out
My love to you all

Good night

Love your sister

A. L. Jones

Miss Viola C. Porter

Adams P.O.

Waltham Co.

Wis.

Aug 7

Letter #21

From: Selah S. Porter

To: L. E. Porter, Batavia, Crawford Co, Wis

Sept. 18th 1862

Dear Son

I received a letter from you more than a week ago, but at that time I was in rather poor condition to write answers as I was suffering quite severely with Bilious Cholic and a touch of Liver disease, that has laid me up for more than a week. But I am now all right again with the exception of the effect of calomel, salts, and a couple (*sic*) of Blisters, which are not calculated to result in the immediate happiness of those who are obliged to make use of them. But as it is the first time in many years since I have called on a Dr. for help that I feel quite glad to get off as well as I have.

You give rather a poor account of your own state of health, of which we were very sorry to hear, as we supposed that you were getting better of your old complaint. You stated that you had some notion of coming home for a while and taking a rest, which I think would be a very good thing for you, unless you can take better care of yourself where you are, as the complaint with which you are troubled will not bear any very severe excitement.

I had contemplated making a visit to your section of the world this month, but as things have turned up I shall not be able to do so at present, but I may be able to do so in the course of two or three weeks from this time.

We have threshed out part of our grain, and it has turned out rather slim, about ten bushels to the acre, and that is called a good crop about here this season.

I have not time to write much at this time, as it is most time for the mail to be along, so you must excuse me for this time and I will try to do better the next. Give my love to all and tell them to all come down here as soon as they are a mind to and we will try to keep the Indians away, and find something to keep them from starving, as we have a plenty of Potatoes, both Irish & Sweet.

Let us know soon what your (*sic*) intend to do, so that we may govern ourselves accordingly.

from your Father

S.S. Porter

P.S. Tell Willie that he left his old wooden gun, which if put in repair I think would be an excelent (*sic*) thing to keep the Indians out of Crawford County, and I think he had better take the first chance he has and come down and get it. S.S.P.

Sept. 18th 1862

Dear Son

I received a letter from you more than a week ago, but at that time I was in rather poor condition to write answers as I was suffering quite severely with Bilious Cholera and a touch of Liver disease, that has laid me up for more than a week.

But I am now all right again, with the exception of the effect of calomel, salts, and a couple of Blisters, which are not calculated to result in the immediate happiness of those who are obliged to make use of them. - But as it is the first time in many years since I have called on a Dr. for help that I feel quite glad to get off as well as I have. - You give rather a poor account of your own state of health, of which we were very sorry to hear, as we supposed that you were getting better of your old complaint.

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do so at present, but I shall be able
to do so in the course of two or three
weeks from this time, — We have threshed
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out rather slim, about ten bushels to
the acre, and that is called a good
crop about here, this season.

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this time, as it is mast time for the
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me for this time and I will try to do
better the next. — Give my love to all
and tell them to all come down
here as soon as they are a mind to
and we will try to keep the Indians
away, and find something to keep
them from starving, as we have a plenty
of Potatoes, both Irish & Sweet, — Let
us know soon what your intend to
do, so that we may govern ourselves
accordingly; from your Father
S. S. Porter

P. L. — Tell Willie that he left his
old wooden gun, which if put in
repair I think would be an excellent
thing to keep the Indians out of
Crawford County, and I think he
had better take the first chance he
has, ~~and come down and get it~~
S. S. O.

L. E. Porter
Batarene
Crawford Co
Mo

Letter #21A

From: Julia M.V. Heath

To: Miss Vie C. Porter, Troy

[There are two identical copies of this invitation]

Julia M.V. Heath at home Wednesday

Eve at 8 o'clock

Sep. 24th 1862

Julia M. V. Heath. at home Thursd.
Eve. at 8. o'clock.

Sep. 24th 1862.

Miss. Fie C. Porter

Chap.

Letter #21B

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Viola C Porter, Adams P.O., Walworth Co, Wisconsin

Batavia Feb 6th/63

Dear Sister

As you was a very good girl to answer my letter so soon I will try & answer your questions as well as I can. The children are pretty well. Nellie's ears are not quite well but she is getting fleshy. I wish you could hear her sing. She can sing "I'll Away to the Sabbath School" & "I have a Father in the Promised Land". Baby is a little cross. She is cutting four more teeth. She can pat-a-cake real good. I took care of her all day when Nell went to the Prairie. She was just as good as a little kitten.

I have commenced to write this after nine oclock & I am just going to write what ever comes along. I went to the Prairie yesterday with Cinda in their carriage. Lib drove. Had a nice time. We went for books for the Sabbath School. Did I tell you that Lucinda acts as Superintendant & your humble Servant as assistant & Chorister Ahem.

I have got me a Balmoral. Made it out of that striped dress that you used to wear. I feel big I do. Vie I am so fat I can hardly see. I am pretty near as big as Mrs Brewster or old Mrs Dodge.

Nell has got some new furs. Cost \$6.50. Very pretty.

Mrs Kenyon has been here today. She says she wishes you were here she would shake you. They are going to Illinois on a visit next week.

Mrs Moll is just as cunning as ever for what. I know I have not seen her but once or twice this winter. She never comes here.

O I have some news for you. I guess you will stick out your eyes. Libbie Dennis was married last Thursday to Judge Brunson at the Prairie. Cinda was at the wedding. She was going[to] invite us but Gertie has the whooping cough & she knew the children had not been together & she invited C first. It was very private. C never knew that she was going to a wed[ding]. Lib asked her to come & eat roast turkey. B has grey hair & is Grandpa. He is Elder B's son. [crossed out = No great shakes of how a judgment say]

Mr Wood is no better. Mr Langford is sick. Mr Z was home & brought his lady lots of things. Quite a profusion of jewelry.

You said Lucy was mad at me. Well tell Lucy if she is mad at me she must scratch her mad place for I cant help it. If she wants me to write often she must not set such patterns. I dont like to wait 5 & ten weeks for answer & if she dont all she has got to do is to sit down & write. I am always ready to answer letters from home but I dont wish to be tiresome. Miss Eliza waited ten weeks before she wrote. I suppose she has correspondence of more interest.

William says he can get a certificate for Lucy so she can make preparations to come.

I have fixed my plaid dress. Made coatsleeves--look real good. I have not [bought] anything but shoes this winter.

Willie was pleased with his letter from Grandma. He will answer next time I write. I cant think of anything more. If you want to hear more from Batavia you must write. I wish Irve would send me a line or two.

Give my love to all & a share for yourself.

Your Sis Nette

What's your opinion of Schoolmasters.

I have not pieced up that old dress yet nor I shant till you tell me what you want of it & if you do & [if] it is satisfactory I will have it done in less than no time.

What did LSB write Cinda? I am anxious to know.

I was talking with Lucinda about her Mother the other day. Her Mother died the 19th Sep 1849, just the same day that our dear Mother left us & was buried the same day. Aint it strange. She had been an invalid twenty years.

I was getting
 with - I was
 about - her mother
 the about day
 I her mother died
 the 19th Sep 1848
 but the same
 day that she
 died - in a week
 buried the same
 day - and it
 changed
 the best been
 an incident
 twenty years
 Barania

Dear Sister

As you was a very good girl to answer my
 letter - so soon I will try & answer your questions as well as I can

The children are pretty well Nellie's ears are not quite well
 but she is getting plucky - I wish you could hear her sing
 she can sing I'll away to the Sabbath School & I have a Father
 in the promised land quite good - Budge is a little crop
 she is cutting four more teeth - she can eat a cake real good

I took care of her all day when Nell went to the Prairie she
 was just as good as a little kitten - I have commenced to
 write this after nine o'clock & I am just going to write what
 ever comes along - I went to the Prairie yesterday with Emma
 in their carriage Let drove had a nice time - we
 went for books for the Sabbath School - did I tell you that
 Lucinda acts as Superintendent & your humble servant
 as assistant & chorister - I have got me a Baltimore
 made it out of that striped dress that you used to wear - I feel
 big Lido - Well I am so fat - I can hardly see I ^{am} pretty near
 as big as Mrs Brewster or old Mrs Dodge - Nell has got some
 new furs cost \$6.50 very pretty - Mrs Kenyon has been here
 today she says she wishes you were here she would shake you
 they are going to Illinois on a visit next week - Mrs Mall
 is just as cunning as ever for what - I know I have not seen
 her but once or twice this winter she never comes here

O I have some news for you I guess you will stick out -
 your eyes

I have not found
up that old diary
but our grand-
father has the
one which you
saw of it & of
~~which~~ you do
not see either
long I will have
it done in
two hours
or less
which does
it & I will
order to have
imposed to
do more

Libbie Dennis was married last Thursday to
 Brunson at the Prairie - Corinda was at the wedding
 she was going to invite us but - Gerlie has the whooping cough
 & she knew the children had not been together & she
 invited C - first - it was very private C - never knew
 that she was going to a wed Lib asked her to come & eat
 roast - turkey - B - has grey hair & is Grindpe he is
 Elder B - son ~~no great shakes if he is fudge so they~~
 say Mr Wood is no better - Mr Langford is sick - Mr L
 was home & brought his lady lots of things quite a
 profusion of jewelry - Ben said Lucy was mad at me well
 tell Lucy if she is mad at me she must scratch her mad place for
 I cant help it if she wants me to write - often she must not set such
 patterns - I dont like to wait 8 & ten weeks for answer & if she dont
 all she has got to do is to sit down & write I am always ready to
 answer letters from home but I dont wish to be tiresome - Miss Edie
 waited ten weeks before she wrote - I suppose she has correspondents
 of more interest - William says he can get a certificate for Lucy
 so she can make preparations to come - I have fixed my flannel
 dress made coat sleeves look real good - I have not anything
 but shoes this winter - Willie was pleased with his letter from
 Grandma he will answer next time I write - I cant think of any
 thing more if you want to hear more from Bessie you
 must write - I wish I could send one a line or two

Love my love to all & a share for yourself

What's your opinion of Schoolmasters? } Your Sis' Neph-

There was no fire in the bed but I was

What's your opinion of Sen



Miss Viola E. Foster
Adams P.O.
Welmuth Co
Wisconsin

Letter #22A

From: John A McClure

To: Miss V.C. Porter, Adams PO, Walworth Co, Wis.

6th Division 16th Army Corps, Dep.Tenn.
Columbus Ky May 28th 1863

My Dear Friend Vie

Not having received any letter from you in some time I thought probibly(*sic*) my last had miscarried.

I received a letter from Jennie yesterday. Mother was in good health, also Janie. Janie wrote to mother that Miss Mary Dickens was married. Her bridegroom was a young man by the name of Winn. He was home on furlough at the time.

We have not heard from our James in over three weeks. He was in Brig Gen Shermans Division and they done some pretty hard fighting in the bat[t]les near Viksburg(*sic*).

Mr Gage is quite sick. Mr Wright is well and stands "Soger-ing" first rate. Mr Zander & Bailey are the same back fighting persons they always were and there is not a commissioned or non commissioned officer in the company that has escaped his (Zanders) notice in battling to the Col. But the "poor" fellow cannot help it. It has become almost second nature to him.

The Gov has been expected here for several days back, but I understand he passed down by here yesterday afternoon & did not have time to stop. It was reported in Camp the other day, or rather a few days ago, that Gov Salamon had called on the Government for a Regiment to be sent back to enforce the draft &c. and that our Regiment was to be the one to go. But I have not heard any thing of it for a day or two.

There is a good deal of Sickness in the Regiment at present. The state of the weather is extremely bad for fever. The Col sent out men and teams and furnished brush and young trees &c. enough to shade the tents and there by making it seem cooler inside.

There are some bushwhackers troubling our piquets at this place. One of our piquets(*sic*) was wounded night before last and one last night. The one wounded last night came just as near getting killed and escape as is profitable. A large sized musket ball tore his left cheek almost entirely away. The boys are getting so they do not fancy piquet(*sic*) as much as they did. I guess they will not be found sleeping quite as much as has been customary heretofore.

I understand that the guns (cannon) in the fort are to be fired today in celebration of the fall of Vicksburg(*sic*) as well as the success of our arms in every battle for two months. It is almost universal(*sic*) conceded in the army that the Secesh will get up some fine morning and find their great so called Southern Confederacy vanished into air never to be restored, and to occupy a space in the History of the United States as an undertaking of rashness & folly, and its Supporters as inheritors of hemp.

It will be a day of great rejoicing when that happens. But alas! how many will be missed from the family circle, and how many a poor fellow must find his home on Southern Soil with his martial garb around him?

But I am encroaching upon your kindness. With sincere wishes for your happiness & hoping to hear from you often I remain yours truly

John A McClure

Mr. Division. 16th Army Corps. Dept. Tenn.
Columbus. Ky. May. 28th 1863

My Dear Friend -

Not having received
any letter from you in some time
I thought probably my last had
miscarried.

I received a letter from Jennie
yesterday. Mother was in good health
also Fannie - Jane wrote to me that
Miss Mary Dickens was married - Her bride-
groom - was a young man by the name
of Quinn. He was home on furlough
at the time - We have not heard
from James in over three weeks
he was in Brig. Gen. Sherman's Division
and they done some pretty hard
fighting in the battle near Vicksburg.

Mr. Dag is quite sick - Mr. Wright
is well and stands - 'Sogering' first
at - Mr. Gander & Barley are

The same - backbiting persons they always
were and there is not a commissioner
or now commissariat officer in the
company that has escaped his ^(Zander) notice
in battling to the col. But the 'poor'
fellow cannot help it. It has become
almost second nature to him.

The Gov- has been expected
here for several days back - but
I understood he passed down by
here yesterday - afternoon & did ^{not} have
time to stop. It was reported - in
Camp the other day - or rather
a few days ago - that Gov. Satawon
had called on the Government
for another ~~re~~ Regiment to be sent
back to enforce the draft - &
and that our Regiment was to be
the one to go. But I have not
heard any thing of it for a day
or two. There is a good deal of
sickness in the Regiment at present.
The state of the weather is extremely

bad for fire - The col. sent
out men and teams and furnished beer
and young trees - &c - enough to shade
the tents and thereby making it so
much cooler inside.

There are some bushwhackers troubling
our piglets at this place. One of
our piglets was wounded night before
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wounded last night came just as
near getting killed and escape as
is profitable. A large sized musket
ball tore his left cheek almost entirely
away. The boys are getting so they
do not fancy piglet as much as
they did. I guess they will not
be found sleeping quite as much
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I understand that the guns (cannons)
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Confederacy vanished into air
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a space in the History of the United
States - as an illustration of
rashness & folly - and its supporters
as inheritors of hemp

It will be a day of great weeping
when that happens - But alas! how
many will be sniped from the family
circle - and how many a poor fellow
must find his home on Southern
Soil - with his martial garb around him!

But I am encroaching upon your kind-
ness - With sincere wishes for your
happiness & hoping to hear from
you - I remain Yours truly
John A. McLean



Mr. J. C. Porter.

Adams P. O.

Walworth Co.

Wis.

Letter #22B

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Viola C Porter, Adams Po, Walworth Co, Wisconsin

Batavia June 1st 1863

My Dear Sister

Have you been thinking of your absent sister today? Well I have thought of you a great many times today & I thought I would sit down & write you a few lines. I suppose you have been washing and have got all through before now. Nell has been washing but I did not wash today for I did not feel in the mood for such labor. But I have had a very pleasant visit from Brother Mullen our minister. I like him so well & I think you would too. He is no more like old Father Bronson than black is like white. He comes here quite often. He is well acquainted with all of Flanders people, Aunt Permela, and has seen Aunt Ann at Elizabeth's. He is an awful spunky little fellow.

Well I have said enough about our preacher & do you want me to tell you something else? Well Johnny Ellis is coming. He wants some tomato plants. Lucy & Willie are at school. Lucy likes her school very much but I think she gets homesick once in awhile or lonesome. I guess she expected to find more society than what there is. You know there is but very few young people here and not much going on. No little gatherings of young folks up here as you have down there. I wish there was. I think it would be much pleasanter.

We are talking about having a Sabbath School picnic in about two weeks. Do you not think that Batavia is making a great effort? I really hope it will pass off pleasant. We meet tomorrow evening to make arrangements. Would you not like to be here? I wish you were.

I suppose you have been off on a grand excursion. Did you enjoy yourself firstrate? Who done the work while you were gone? How is Emeline's limb. I dread to hear anything about it. It seems awful to have her leg taken off. Does she keep up pretty good spirits.

How is father. Why does he never send a word to me. You may kiss him forty times for me, perhaps that will waken him up a little. It seems as if you had all forgotten me. O Vie you dont know how badly I feel sometimes. What did you & father think about those photographs and the letter. Be very careful of them. Tell father that we all expect him up here this summer. I would be very glad to see him & this is the most pleasant time of the year to come. Everything is looking so beautiful now. Our wheat looks very nice--every prospect of a good crop and that is what we need. I hope he will make up his mind to come. Tell him if

he will come I will let Nellie G___ go home with him. he would be lots of company for him. I have made Willie's red dress over for her & trimmed the cape. It looks real good. She wore it yesterday.

I am expecting Mrs McClure out here this week. She has never been out to stay any since she went to the Prairie.

Vie I do not know of any news. The people in Batavia are all well as usual & jogging along in their own way.

We have received no visit as yet from FSB. What is the reason he did not come. Cinda is quite well & sends her regards also Mrs Kenyon.

I should think MLW was making smashing work among the boys. I hope IB will continue to keep sensible & you too. If you are anything like me you will not trouble two certain young ladies much.

What is the reason Irve never answered that letter. I believe I do make so many mistakes. I wrote sometime ago. I thank him very kindly for his long punctual letters. O it does seem as if he did not care about my writing to you.

I was very sorry to hear of Aunt Ann's illness. Go & see her for me & give my love to them all.

I have just been singing that very pathetic piece "To My Mother In Heaven". I do think it is so pretty. Do you ever sing it? Did I send you a piece of my new dress?

Lucy wants to know why you are flirting so desperately with Sidney & if he has had his "black pants" on when you was over there.

I wolud like to know why Rhoda never answered my letter. Tell her if she does not write soon I shall open a correspondence with Dick.

Well Vie I have filled this sheet but rather poorly. Please excuse all mistakes & write me a good long letter soon.

My love to you all and a kind good night.

From your affectionate sister

Nette

Dame Rumor says that Judge Bronson will have an "heir" to his property all in due season.

William is much obliged for the paper & will send you a "Courier" sometime.

If you have got a new white hat you may send me your old one by telegraph. I wear my old shaker yet to mill & to meeting. If I can make butter enough I believe I will get me a hat. Would you if you were me? Do you think I would look good in a hat? Angeline Beach has got one.

Lucy wants to know if Aunt Clarissa ever received a letter from Mary Mead.

We went avisiting at Lucindas Saturday. Had such a good visit. I dont know what I should do if it were not for my friend Miss L Hutchinson.

Nell says she will write to you soon, would have written today but thought she would not because I was writing.

Nellie G says tell Grandpa that she will write to him & tell him Vicksburg is taken.

Wed morn-- We all went to meeting last night. Mr Wm Hill preached.

Our picnic will come off on Sat June 13th. I have not got work folks today. Osgrew (?) & Wm Coates. We expect to go a visiting Mrs Bailey next Friday.

If you have got a new writing
 had you may send me
 some old one by express
 to mail & be much
 of them & be much
 enough. I have sent
 get some a few - would
 you of you from me?
 As you think I would
 look great in a hat -
 Angell's dress has got
 one - I have only to
 know if I can get it -
 even if I can't - I would
 have it made a better
 be made a better one
 kind - I would
 do such a good deal
 about - more what - I
 should do it at once
 not for my future
 Miss C. H. H. H.
 while some one will
 to you soon would
 have written to you
 but I thought she was
 not - because I was
 writing
 I shall be - now, let
 you know what, she
 will write to you & I
 am looking to it
 to be - I am
 for all kind of things
 (and -) - I am
 finished - I am
 will come up in 10 days
 I am not - I am
 I am not - I am
 I am not - I am

Have you been thinking of your
 absent sister today? Well I have thought of you a great
 many times today & I thought - I would sit down &
 write you a few lines. I suppose you have been washing
 and have got all through before now - Well has been
 washing but I did not wash today for I did not feel in
 the mood for such labor - but I have had a very
 pleasant visit from Brother Mullen our minister.

I like him so well & I think you would too - he is so
 more like old Father Benson than black is like white -
 he comes here quite often - he is well acquainted with all of
 Islander people - Aunt Persimela and has seen Aunt Ann
 at Elizabeth's - He is an awful spry little fellow
 Well have I said enough about our preacher & do you
 want me to tell you something else? Well Johnny Ellis
 is coming - he wants some tomato plants - Lucy & Willie
 are at school - Lucy likes her school very much but I
 think she gets homesick once in a while or lonesome - I guess
 she expects to find more society than what there is -
 you know there is but very few - many people here and
 not much going on - no little gatherings of young

folks up here as you have down there. I wish there was
I think it would be much pleasanter.

They are talking ^{about} of having a Sabbath-school picnic
on about two weeks. do you not think that Barlow is
making a great effort? I really hope it will pass off
pleasant. We meet tomorrow evening to make arrangements.

Would you not like to be here? I wish you were.

I suppose you have been off on a grand excursion. Did
you enjoy yourself perfectly? Who done the work while
you were gone? How is Emeline's work I dread to hear
anything about it. It seems awful to have her leg taken off.
Does she keep up pretty good spirits? How is father? Why
does he never send a word to me? you may kiss him
fifty times for me perhaps that will wake him up a little.

It seems as if you had all forgotten me. O but you don't
know how badly I feel sometimes. What did you & father
think about those photographs and the letter. be very careful
of them. Tell father that we all respect him up here this summer.
I would be very glad to see him & this is the ^{most} pleasant time of
the year to come everything is looking so beautiful now
our wheat looks very nice every prospect of a good crop
and that is what we need. I hope he will make up his
mind to come. Let ^{him} if he will come I will let Nellie & go
home with him. she would be lots of company for him.
I have made Willie's suit dress over for ~~her~~ & trimmed
the cape it looks real good. she wore it yesterday.

I am sure you will have a very profitable time on the excursion.

I am expecting Mrs McClure out here this week - she has never been out to stay any since she went to the Pacific

Oh I do not know of any news, the people in Batavia are all well as usual & going along in their old way

We have received no visit as yet from Ed. B. - what is the reason he did not come - Linda is quite well & sends her regards also Mrs Kenyon

I should think Mr L. W. was making smashing work among the boys - I hope J. B. will ^{continue to} keep sensible & you too - If you are anything like me you will not trouble two certain young ladies much

What is the reason I've never answered that I wrote ^{before} - I do make so many mistakes ^{some} - I thank ^{him} very kindly for his long personal letter - it does seem as if you did not care about my writing to you

I was very sorry to hear of Aunt Anne's illness - go & see her for me & give my love to them all

I have just been singing that very pathetic piece "To My Mother in Heaven" - I do think it is so pretty - do you ever sing it? - Did I send you a piece of my new dress?

Lucy wants to know why you are flirting so desperately with Lecky & if he had his "black patch" on when you was over there - I would like to know why Bobbie never answered my letter

Let her if she does not write soon I shall open a correspondence with Dick - Well I've filled this sheet - but rather poorly - please excuse all mistakes & write me a grand long letter soon

My love to you all & a kind Good night -

From your affectionate sister Nellie

William is much obliged for the paper & will send you a Carnie some time

