



Antoinette Porter King and
Family Papers.

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Letter #22C

From: Antoinette Porter King

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

Batavia Aug 12th/63

Dear Sister

I have not received any answer to my last letter but I shall not be particular this time for I have some news to tell you but they are sad yes very sad. This neighborhood seems deeply afflicted. Yesterday afternoon we laid poor Albert Mallory in the cold grave. O his poor old mother is nearly distracted. You know how bad she felt when he went away. He had been home about two weeks, had been sick before he came home. Was taken worse after his return & Monday forenoon he breathed his last. Dr Eastman attended him. He called his disease at first the intermittent fever & afterwards said it was an affection of the liver & lungs. Whatever it was it made quick work with him. I think it was the Spotted fever for he turned all spotted the afternoon before he died & remained so & mortified so that he was not fit to be seen. His face was very black & he smelled very bad.

Ah Vie but the circumstances connected with that poor boy makes my heart ache. I will tell you a little. When he came home he brought a fine young boy, a contraband with him and it seemed to put the very evil one into some of the Copperheads. They said they would tar & feather both Albert & the contraband & someone told Albert of it while he was so sick & they all seem to think it helped him out of this world sooner than it would if he had never heard it. He was deranged a great part of the time. That insignificant Coates & his bosom friend Thad Langford were two of the party that was going to do the noble act. But the poor fellow is safe from their clutches. He is where tar & feathers will never trouble him more.

They were both at the funeral & Bro Mullen talked very plain to them. They knew why he meant for they never lifted up their heads. It would not seem wicked if the Lord would not strike that infernal gang dead or put some affliction upon them that would bring them to a right mind.

What a shame for any one to receive such treatment after being away going on three years fighting for his country's liberty to come back to a peaceful home to die. Is it not terrible but "vengeance saith the Lord. I will repay."

I wish you were here so I could tell you all about it. It has made a great deal of feeling in our neighborhood. I dont know how it will turn out.

Angeline Beach's little boy lies very sick with the Scarlet

fever. I dont think he will live until tomorrow morning. Poor woman, she feels awful to think his father can never see him again. O Vie I feel sad. I cannot restrain the tears. What a privilege to weep with those that weep & mourn with those who mourn. It stands us all in hand to prepare for death for we know not who will be called next to try the realities of eternity.

Lib is better than he was. The children are well as usual also the rest of the family. Lib found a bee tree the other day. He has got the bees home in a hive. They are at work nicely. There was not much honey for it was a young swarm. They feel quite proud of them[selves]. One of the bees stung William on the face near the eye. You would not know him his eye is swollen so bad.

How are you getting along with the harvest. We have so much rain. It has rained every other day for two weeks. It cannot get dry enough to stack. Lib has got one load in the barn & that is all we have secured. I expect we shall lose a great deal. Wm is cutting oats today. We have had one shower today & will soon get another.

I am in a hurry for I am going to send this by Bro Mullen.

Good bye

To my dear sister

from Nette

Batavia Aug 12th /68

Dear Sister

I have not received any answer to my last letter but I shall not be particular this time for I have some news to tell you but they are sad yes very & d. - This neighborhood seems deeply afflicted. - yesterday afternoon we laid poor Albert Hallory in the cold grave - O his poor old mother is nearly distracted - you know how bad she felt when he went away - She has been home about two weeks - had been sick before he came home - was taken worse after his return - Monday forenoon he breathed his last - Dr Chalmers attended him - he called his disease at first - the intermittent fever & afterwards said it was an affection of the liver & lungs - whatever it was it made quick work with him - I think it was the Spotted fever for he turned all spotted the afternoon before he died & remained so - & mortified so that he was not fit to be seen his face was very black & he smelled very bad Ah Va! but the circumstances connected with that poor boy makes my heart ache - I will tell you a little - When he came home he brought a fine young boy a contraband with him - and seemed to put the very evil one into some of the

it is better than we was - the children are all well as usual when the wife of the family
 she joined a bee bee she other day - he has got the bad humors in a fever & they are all well & healthy
 there has not much coming for it is a goodly woman - that feel good & happy & happy of them
 one of the two young children on the street - they are getting along well - the house - we have got
 eye is swelling & it is bad - you are getting along well - the house - we have got
 much - I am - I have named every other day for him - and well - the house - we have got
 back - I have got and well - the house - we have got
 there is a good deal - you are getting along well - the house - we have got

Copperheads - they swore they would bar & feather -
both Albert & the combatant & some one told Albert -
of it while he was so sick & they all seemed to think
it helped him out of the world sooner than it would
if he had never heard of it - he was changed a great part
of the time - that insignificant - Coates & his bosom
friend Thad Langford were two of the party - that was
going to do the obsequies - but the poor fellow is safe
from their clutches - he is where bar & feathers will never
trouble him more - they were both at the funeral & Geo
Mullen talked very plain to them they knew ^{why} he
meant for they never lifted up their heads - It would
not seem wicked if the Lord would strike that infernal
gang dead or put some affliction upon them that would
bring them to a right mind - What a shame for any
one to receive such treatment after being away going
on three years fighting for his country's liberty to come
back to a peaceful home to die is it not terrible but -
"vengeance is mine saith ^{the} Lord - I will repay"
I wish you were here so I could tell you all about it -
it has made a great deal of feeling in our neighborhood
I don't know how it will turn out -

Angelina Beach's little boy has very sick with the Scarlat
fever - I don't think he will live until tomorrow morning
poor woman she feels awful to think his father can
never see him again - O the I feel sad I cannot restrain
the tears - what a privilege to weep with those that weep & mourn
with those who mourn - I planned up all my heart to prepare for death
for we know not who will be called next to try the realities of eternity



Miss Viola L. Porter
Adams P. O.
Walworth Co
Wis

Letter #22D

From: Lib Porter

To: Miss Vie C Porter, Adams Post Office, Walworth Co, Wisconsin

Batavia Crawford Co
Sep 27th 1863

Dear sister Vie

I am so suprised! It would not be much of a wonder if that should be the very first expression that you will make use of as you open this sheet & well you might too for I must own up that I am some what ashamed of my negligence. But Vie the fact of the business is I do hate to write. Therefore I hope you will not get overly vexed about it. If you do I will just get mad too & perhaps go down there shortly & settle up with you.

Vie do you not wish it was so that I could come this fall. Now I suppose you are wondering at that. But you know I am something like father. Kinder notional especially about traveling as it is hard on corns. However before I proceed farther I would caution you to turn every thing out doors & fix up for company. Be sure & keep one eye open every night when you go to sleep for I have got my broom corn cut & am going to draw it in tomorrow. I have got my Potatoes almost all dug & then all I will have to do is to take care of two acres of corn. I have hired a boy to plow for me all the fall as my health does not permit me to accomplish much at such hard labor although my health has improved very much since father was with us.

The rest of the family are all well as usual. O how I do wish you could see our darling Zell. I am going to bring hers & Nellies likeness when I come. Nell is going to wean her this week if she does not back out. She has tried to do it twice before. I call her Cornelia most all the time. She has got 12 teeth.

Vie it seems as if I shall do nothing else but eat appels (sic) the whole time when I get down there. Save me a good big sweet potatoe.

Yesterday was Wms birth day & mine is tomorrow. Vie does it seem possible that I am 26 years old?

Vie dont you wish you were up here to pick hickory nuts. O there is such sights of them. We are going to get a lot of them.

Mr Wright is coming home on a furlough. We expect him this week. He is going to stop at Madison & bring his wife along.

We have sold all of our horses & now we have got three yoke of oxen. Do you not wish you were here to ride after them? I am

going to sell mine for beef as they are fat.

Wednesday

Well Vie it is now mail day & I must finish this letter. Mr Wright & lady are at our house. They came yesterday & Wm has gone after the oxen to go get some nuts & I have got to be off.

Vie I am in such a hur[r]y I cant think of half I wanted to write. But never mind. I will be with you soon & then you will know all. Tell father I will let him know in due season to meet me at the cars.

Give my love to all our folks & also father Kings & you must look out for your self. Now Vie be sure & write im[m]ediately so I shall know how to find thing[s] when I do come. If you dont I

Excuse this horrid writing &c & believe me your affectionate brother

Lib

Nell sends her best respects to you all & says she wants to come down there with me real bad. Zell has been sick all week cutting teeth. She is better now.

Nell syas she will send receipt for making hoecake when I come.

[Note added in Nell's handwriting] Oh Vie I am so sorry Lib is coming. It will be so lonesome but I want him to come any way.

Will says she will
send receipt for
making no cake when
I come
Batavia Crawford Co
Sep 27th 1863
Dear sister Pie

I am so
surprised! It would not be
much of a wonder if that
should be the very first expression
that you will make use of
as you open this sheet. I
well you might too for I
must own up that I am some
what ashamed of my negligence
But in the fact of the business
is I do hate to write. Therefore
I hope you will not get overly
upset about it. If you do I will
just get over too & perhaps go down
there shortly & settle up with you
O Pie do you not wish it was
so that I could come this fall
Now I suppose you are wondering at ^{all}

*any more
limits or of
the
of course he is
not to be
any more
of course he is
not to be*
But you know I am something
like father kinder notional
especially about traveling as it
is hard on (corns) However before
I proceed farther I would caution
you to turn every thing out doors
& fix up for company. Be sure &
keep one eye open every night
when you go to sleep for I have
got my broom corn cut & am
going to dress it in tomorrow
I have got my Potatoes most
all dug & then all I will have
to do is to take care of 8 acres
of corn I have hired a boy
to plow for me all the fall
as my health does not permit
me to accomplish much at such
hard labor Although my health
has improved very much since
father was with us The rest
of the family are all well as
usual O how I do wish you

could see our darling Zell
I am going to bring hers &
Kellies likenes, when I come
Kell is going to wear her this
week if she does not back out
She has tried to do it twice before
I call her Cornelia most all
the time. she has got 12 teeth
in it seems as if I shall do
nothing else but ~~eat~~ apples
the whole time when I get
down there. I saw one a good
big sweet potatoe. Yesterday
was Hons birth day & mine is
tomorrow I wonder it seems possible
that I am 26 years old? I wonder
you wish you were up here to
pick hickory nuts O there is such
sights of them. We are going to
get a lot of them. Mr Wright
is coming home on a furlough
we expect him this week he is
going to stop at Madison & bring

his wife along We have sold
all of our horses & now we have
got three yoke of oxen Do you
not wish you were here to
ride after them? I am going
to sell mine for beef as they are
fat Wednesday - Well I think it
is now ~~mail~~ dear & I must
finish this letter Mr Wright
& lady are at our house they came
yesterday & Horz has gone after the
oxen He go get some muffs &
I have got to be off I am in
such a hurry I cant think of
half I wanted to write But
never mind I will be with
you soon & then you will
know all Tell father I will
let him know in due season
to meet me at the cars
Give my love to all our folks &
also father Kinney & you must
look out for your self Now I'll
be sure & write immediately so I
shall know how to find you when
I do come if you dont ~~wont~~
Excuse this horrid writing &c I
believe me your affectionate brother
L. L.

Brown Oct 3rd 1863

Porter

Sept 4

Miss L. C. Porter
Adams Post Office
Wauworth Co
Wisconsin

Letter #23A

From: Antoinette Porter King

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

Batavia Feb 10th 1864

Dear Sister

Well do you think I have waited long enough this time for my letter to be acceptable. You have such strange fancys I hardly know what to make of you sometimes. I shall begin to think you are approaching insanity. You have really made out to write to me once since long before Christmas & you reprove me for being so delinquent. O you are a very naughty girl to give me such an awful licking as you did when I hardly think I deserved it.

Nellie G is just soft-soaping Hantie. Do you love me. Do you like me. Well I'll buy you some candy. She has been off a visiting since Friday night until last night, Tuesday. She feels pretty crank[y] after she has been abroad a few day[s]. I let her go home with Mrs Face (?) while I went to Seneca to Quarterly Meeting. I guess I will go up there to meeting tonight if Mr Beache's go. They are having such good meetings up there. You remember Uncle Elisah dont you? He preached for no (?) the other night. Gave us a very eloquent description of Heaven & when we all get there we shall sing "There is a happy land, far far away." Poor old man. I guess he thinks the folks in Batavia a queer set & so do I.

Father Mallory has withdrawn from the Church. I wonder what will become of him. I think he must feel miserable.

Zella has been quite sick but is better now. Lib is quite smart. I do not know why he does not write to the Dr. I never heard him say. He went yesterday to the prairie for the broom handles.

William is as busy as can be with his collecting. I believe I wrote you that we have sold off eighty acres to J. Mallory. Well he gave it up & Porter Young's brother has bought an eighty.

Lucinda is much better than she was. She is talking of going to Pikes Peak in the Spring. She wants us all to go too. I believe I would like to go. Would not you?

Well Vie I have got something new after awhile--a clothes wringer & a delaine (?) dress & I am taking the Ladies Repository. Isn't that good. I should like to take Peterson firstrate but I cant afford it this year.

Our love to all & do write soon

From your loving sister

Antoinette

We traded the old stove for the loring (?). I had a letter from Charlie & Wall not long ago.

I am out of envelopes & have been for some time. I guess I will borrow one of Cinda.

Wm & Lib have gone over to Krafts to an auction. He lives on McClures place. I heard Mrs Mc is coming out on her place again.

Jennie has given her consent & his Mother is going to get her a Melodeon (dutiful child).

I must hurry for I shall have to take this to the Post.

Batavia Feb 10th / 1864

Dear Sister

Well do you think I have waited long enough this time for my letter to be acceptable.

You have such strange fancies I hardly know what to make of you sometimes. I shall begin to think you are approaching insanity - you have really made out to write to me once since long before Christmas & you reprove me for being so delinquent - O you are a very naughty girl

to give me such an awful licking as you did when I hardly think I deserved it - Nellie C - is just soft-soaping Hattie - do you love me do you like me, well I'll buy you some candy - she has been off a visiting since Friday night - until last night - Tuesday - she feels pretty cranky after she has been abroad a few days - I let her go home with Mrs Face while I went to Seneca to Quarterly Meeting - I guess I will go up there to meeting tonight if Mr Beecher's go - they are having real good meetings up there. You remember Uncle Oliver don't you? he preached for us the other night - gave us a very eloquent description of Heaven & when we all get there we shall sing "There is a happy land, far far away" poor old man I guess he thinks the folks in Batavia a queer set & so do I

I am out of envelopes & have been for some time I guess I will borrow one of Caroline's & will have some over so - I wish to see another he lives in the Church place - I haven't seen the new ceremony and - or her place again - I guess he has given her command - & has that is going to go - I wish to see the new one (Maudie child)

I would have for I shall have to like the new one

The house is sold above for the Benjamin
of a letter from Charles & Mary
and Mary says

Father Mallory has withdrawn from the Church
I wonder what will become of him I think he must
feel miserable - Lella has been quite sick but is better
now - Lib is quite smart - I do not know why he does
not write to the Dr I never heard him say - he went
yesterday to the Prairie for the broom-handle - William
is as busy as a bee with his collecting - I believe I wrote
you that we had sold off eighty acres to J. Mallory
well he gave it up & Porter Young's brother has bought
an eighty - - Lucinda is much better than she was
she is talking of going to Pike's Peak in the Spring
she wants us all to go but - I believe I would like to
go would not you? Well I have got something
new after a while of clothes winger & a delaine dress
& I am taking the Ladies Repository isn't that good
I should like to take Peterson's first but I can't
afford it this year -

Our love to all & do write soon

From your loving sister
Antoinette

Miss Viola C. Porter

Adams P O

Walworth Co

Wisconsin

is Jan 10

Letter #23B

From: Lib Porter

To: Vie Porter (No envelope)

Eastman Apr 17th 1864

Dear Sister Vie

I am going to write a few lines to you now sure & I am not agoing to make any apologies for not writng sooner neither! For I believe you know my habits well enough without & if you get one so quick you may think your self well off. I dont see why you do not write me oftener. You need not be particular whether I write or not. If you are not I will try & do better in future myself.

How well I would just like to step in & see how you are all getting along. As for us we are all capable of demolishing our regular rations.

Well, Vie--do you suppose I will ever get this letter written? It is a hurrying time with us now. We have got all our wheat in but 4 acres. We have not moved yet as Lucinda is not able to go.

I am glad you think of coming out here next summer & now I'll tell you why. You see I shall have 8 acres of Broom corn to cut next fall & you know that will make your visit so much more interesting wont it? Aint I cute.

Well Vie--I'll tell you what I'll do. If you will come down & stay & help cut I will pay your fare besides giving you wages.

Lucy says tell Elisa she got her vail(*sic*) & she wants her to send a belt.

My health is better this spring than it has been for 2 years. I feel now as if I were down there I could enjoy a good visit. But Vie the Lord only knows how miserable I did feel all the time I was down home last fall.

John Wood is getting quite smart. He thinks he is going to get well.

Cinda has got Brainards photo she told me to tell you. It is a real good one.

Vie, tell father that I have got \$100.00 & I dont know as I shall want to use it under a year or perhaps two, & if he can make use of it I would like to have him take it. Let me know right away.

Nell says tell Irve she is mad at him & that she never will ask him for his picture again. She says she wont answer your

letter till you write a longer one.

Give my love to all the family. Keep a share for yourself.

I subscribe myself Yours in a hurry

Lib

Vie be sure & carry the note to Father Kings right away & dont delay.

Would you not like to see my Zell? She goes all around up to the barn & she is a darling.

Direct [letters] to Eastman as there is no Batavia now.

be sure
to carry the
note to father
Kings might
buy & don't
delay
I would
you not
like to see
my bell?
He goes
all around
up to the
barn &
she is
a darling
Apr 17th 1864
Eastman

Dear Sister Vic,
I am going to write
a few lines to you now sure
& I am not going to make
any apologies for not writing
sooner neither! For I believe
you know my habits well enough
without. & if you get one so
quick you may think your
self well off I don't see why
you do not write one often
you need not be particular
whether I write or not. If you
are not I will try & do better
in future myself. How well
I would just like to step in &
see how you are all getting
along. As for us we are all
capable of demolishing our regular

Direct to Eastman as there is no Balwin now

relations Well, Vic - do you
suppose I will ever get this
letter written? It is a hurrying
time with us now. We have
got all our wheat in but 4
acres. We have not moved yet
as Lucinda is not able to go.
I am glad you think of coming
out here next summer &
now I'll tell you why. Goy
see I shall have 8 acres of
Broom corn to cut next fall
& you know that will make
your visit so much more
interesting - wont it? Ain't I cute.
Well, Vic - I'll tell you what I'll
do. If you will come & stay &
help cut I will pay your fare
besides giving you wages. Lucy
says tell Eliza she got her veil
& she wants her to send a belt.
My health is better this spring
than it has been for 2 years.

I feel now as if I were
down there I could enjoy a
good visit. But Vic the Lord
only knows how miserable I
did feel all the time I was
down home last fall. John Wood
is getting quite smart. He thinks
he is going to get well. Cinda has
got Brainerd's photo she told me
to tell you. It is a real good one.
Vic - tell father that I have got
\$100.00 & I don't know as I shall
want to use it under a year
or perhaps two, & if I can make
use of it I would like to have
him take it. Let me know
right away. Nell says tell Irene she
is mad at him & that she never will
ask him for his picture again.
she says she won't answer your letter till
you write a longer one. Give my love to
all the family. Keep a share for yourself.
I subscribe myself Yours in a hurry Lib

Letter #23C

From: Lib Porter

To: Viola Porter (No envelope)

Eastman Crawford Co Wis
June 25th 1864

Dear sister Vie

Well Vie, for a wonder here I am again trying to write a few lines to you. But I fear that it will not interest you very much as my letter writing is so limited. However as it pleases me to get a letter from you once in awhile & knowing too, that the only alternative to be endowed with that good fortune is to write myself. So here goes.

Why in the world dont you write oftener. But perhaps you have got more favorable communicants. Vie I hardly think that it will surprise (sic) you much to tell you that we are amidst the greatest drouth that ever was yet known in the state. As I understand you are getting your share down there. I declare every thing is completely "gone up." As for small grain if we get enough to live on it will be more than we expect. Corn looks quite well. Our Broom corn will not be half crop. We have had no rain since the 7th of May.

I am mad as the devil all the damn Coates have come again. It is always my luck to have them every Sunday. Nell wrote that but I dont care it is provoking any way. They are all a set of sticking plasters.

O I must not forget to tell you I had the pleasure of meeting Geo and Albert Allens wives on board the Ferry boat last Thursday. I was crossing over to McGregor & they were on their way to see their brother in Iowa. They did not hardly recognize me, they thought I looked so much better than I did last fall.

Vie what has become of our brother Irve & why dont he write to me. Tell him I wish he would write & send me that receipt for curing spavin.

O Vie is it not to[o] bad about so many of our poor boys getting killed & wounded in this terrible war. I was so sorry to hear of Lumleys death. Was it not awful. There has [been] 8 or 10 gone to there (sic) long homes through the effects of this horrid war just from our own vicinity. I suppose you have heard of them all ere this. Poor Jack Healy & J.T. McClure are no more. But only once think of it. Where or when will it all end God only knows.

Have you had any Strawberries this year? We have had more this year than ever before. Nell has picked nearly fifty quarts.

Aint she a buster?

Vie why dont you ever write to her. When you wrote to me you never mentioned her name. It makes her feel real bad.

How long do you think it will be before you and Eliza are coming out here. Lucys school will be out in ten days. Where are you going on the Fourth & what is there going on down there. I think it quite probable we shall stay home. If we go any where I guess we will take a Steam boat-ride from the Prairie up to Harper's ferry. There is going to be great doings there.

I know we will have grand times when you & Liz come out here as I have got a Violin & Wm has got a Base Viol & take us all together wont we make things tremble.

Zell can talk real plain. She is just as I was at her age, very bashful. I am afraid you will not like her very well. She is so afraid of folks.

Well Vie there is lots I want to write but cant think of it & as Nell wants me to go horse back riding with her of course I must go. Dont you wish you were here to go with us. Now Vie write to me soon & often & oblige your brother

Lib

Give my love to all.

Nett wants to know why you dont answer her letter.

Easton and Crawford Co. Wis
June 28th / 1864

Dear sister Liz

Well Liz, (for
a wonder) here I am again
trying to write a few lines to
you. But I fear that it will
not interest you very much
as my letter writing is so limited.
However as it pleases me to get
a letter from you once in a
while & knowing too, that the
only alternative to be endowed
with that good fortune is to
write myself. So here goes.
Why in the world don't you
write oftener. But perhaps you
have got more favorable communicants.
I hardly think that it will
surprise you much to tell you
that we are amidst the greatest

mouth that ever was yet
known in the State as I understand
you are getting your share down
there. I declare every thing is
completely gone up as for small
grain if we get enough to live
on it will be more than we
expect. Corn looks quite well
our Brown corn will not be
half crop. We have had no rain
since the 7th of May I am
mad as the devil all the time
Coots have come again it is always
my luck to have them every summer.
I'll write that but I don't care it
is provoking any way. There are all
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not forget to tell you I had the
pleasure of ~~meeting~~ meeting Geo.
and Albert Allen with on
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I was crossing over to McGregor &
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I looked so much better than
I did last fall. Did what has
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why don't he write to me. Tell
him I wish he would write &
send me that receipt for curing
sprain. O Vic is it not too bad
about so many of our poor boys
getting killed & wounded in this
terrible war I was so sorry to
hear of Lumley's death was it
not awful. There has 8 or 10 gone
to their long homes through the
effects of this horrid war just
from our vicinity I suppose you
have heard of them all ere this
Poor Jack Hotaly & J. T. McClure
are no more. But only once
think of it. where or when will
it all end God only knows

Have you had any Strawberries
this year? We have had more this
year than ever before. Nell has picked
nearly fifty quarts. Aint she a buster?
Oh why dont you ever write to her.
When you wrote to me you never mentioned
her name. It makes her feel real bad.
How long do you think it will be before
you and Eliza are coming out here?
Guys school will be out in ten days.
Where are you going on the fourth?
What is there going on down there?
I think it quite probable we shall stay
at home. If we go any where I guess
we will take a Steamboat ride from
the Prairie up to Hoovers ferry. There
is going to be great doings there.
I mean we will have grand times when
you & Lizzy come out here as I have
got a Violin & Sam has got a Bass Viol
& take us all together, wont we make
things tremble. Jell can talk real plain
Oh its just as I was at her age very
bashful. I am afraid you will not
like her very well. She is so afraid
of folks. I'll be there is lots I
want to write but cant think of it
& as Nell wants me to go horse back
riding with her of course I must go.
dont you wish you were here to go
with us. Now I'll write to me soon
& often & oblige your brother
Give my love to all. Yib

(Lebbeus E. Porter to Antoinette)

Letter #26

Eastman, Crawf Co Wis

Sep 29th, 1864

Dear Sister Nette

I must say in the first place that I am as much supprized (sic) in relation to your things as you are anxious about them. As soon as I got that letter from Vie I went to the Prairie. I went a week ago today & found your trunks still in the depot. The baggage Master said the reason he did not send them was because they had not been called for & so I had him send them & they left Prairie that afternoon the 22nd & your boxes have been gone from there most two weeks. I recd your letter Tuesday stating that you had not got your things yet. So yesterday I went down expressly to see about them & now Nette if you have not got them I want you to let me know immediately for you know I have got a receipt for them & I can hold them responsible. Who ever goes for the things to Pal (?) tell them not to take their word but go rummage baggage over & see for themselves. I know they must be there. Remember the boxes are marked to father.

I guess you will think this splendid writing but I guess you will not wonder when I tell you that I am holding Zell [Zella Porter] & writing too. I asked her what I should tell you for her & she sticks out her lips & says tell Auntie "Tum home". O I never saw a little one take on so as she does about you, the children & her Uncle William. Tell Willie that Zell keeps saying "Willie tum home" all the time. "Them natty tars take Willie way off down to Grandpas".

I can tell you Nette it is lonesome enough out here now although we have lots of company. The "old crotch scraper" comes quite often. The old phule has been here three nights running. I want to hear from William so bad that it dont seem I can wait. Do not fail to write about him every day. Geo Switzer told me yesterday that he saw him last Sunday & that he was a little better. O I want to see him so bad. Nette when you write to him give him my best respects & tell him had it not been so far I surely would have been in there to see him. I came within one of going as it was.

Nette ask Vie who that picture is for she left in the gallery at the Prairie. I was in there yesterday & Brown gave it to me. He said he did not know who she intended it for.

Do you not think it advisable to not send your bed & chair until Elisa comes. Let me know when you write again.

Marshall Beach returned safe & sound last tuesday morning, him & Frank Brady. I have not been to see him yet. Bro. Mullen gave us a call last monday eve & took supper with us. He looks first rate. I suppose you have heard that his Julie (as

he calls her) has got another little girl.

Nette I want you to ask Irve how he applys that horse medicine & how much he puts on at a time. I want to know right away.

Well Nette it is now Friday morning. As I was trying to finish this letter last eve we had a supprise(sic) party. Jim Mallory came with a whole load & brought a gallon of Sorghum & O what a time we did have pullin kisses. Charlie C....& Josephine were here. You know as a matter of course that d----d old crotch scratcher had to pop in. I wish the old cuss would get to itching bad enough some time to scratch [illegible] off so he could not walk a step.

O say Nette Jack Healy home on a furlough. He has stayed one night with us. He looks quite well. The poor fellow can only open his mouth wide enough to just to put his finger between his teeth. Angeline has come with the mail so I must close. The Draft comes off for this County tomorrow. Write soon.

Yours in hast (sic)

Lib

Eastman Craft La Mo.

Sep. 29th 1864

Dear Sister Nettie.

I must say
in the first place that I am
as much surprised in relation
to your things as you are anxious
about them. As soon as I got that
letter from Pa I went to the Prarie
I went a week ago to day & found
your trunks still in the D. - & The
Baggage Master said the reason
he did not send them was because
they had not been called for &
so I had him send them & they
left Prarie that afternoon the 22nd
& your Boxes have been gone from
there most two weeks. I rec^d your
letter Tuesday stating that you had
not got your things yet.

to yesterday I went down expressly
to see about them & now Nettie if
you have not got them I want you
to let me know immediately for you
know I have got a receipt for them &
can hold them responsible. Whoever goes
for the things to Pat tell them not to take
their word but go rummage baggage over & see
for themselves I know they must be there.
Remember the Boxes are marked to father.
I guess you will think this splendid
writing but I guess you will not wonder
when I tell you that I am holding
pencil & writing too. I asked her what
I should tell you for her & she sticks
out her lips & says 'tell Auntie turn
home' & I never saw a little one take
on so as she does about you the children
& her Uncle William. Tell Willie that I
keep saying 'Willie turn home' all the time
them natty tars take Willie way off down to
Gampas I can tell you Nettie it is horrid
enough out here now although we have

lots of company - The old crotch scraper)
comes quite often. The old phule has
been here three nights running.
I want to hear from William so
bad that it dont seem I can wait
to not fail to write about him every
day Geo Switzer told me yesterday
that he saw him last Sunday &
that he was a little better & I want
to see him so bad. Kette when you
write to him give him my best respects
& tell him had it not been so far
I surely would have been in there
to see him I came within one of
going as it was. Kette ask Vic who
that picture is for she left in the
Gallery at the Prairie I was in there
yesterday & Brown gave it to me
He said he did not know who she
intended it for. Do you not think
it advisable to not send your bed
& chair until Elise comes let me
know when you write again

Marshal Brach returned home safe
& sound last Tuesday morning
him & Frank Bready. I have not been
to see him yet. Bro Muller gave
a call last Monday eve & took
supper with us he looks first rate
suppose you have heard that his
Jule (as he calls her) has got another
little girl. Kette I want you to ask I've
how she applys that horse medicine
& how much he puts on at a time
want to know right away. Well Kette
it is now Friday morning as I was trying to
finish this letter last eve. They had a suppose party
Tom Malony came with a whole load & brought a
gallon of Stoughton. & O what a time we did have
~~pulling Russes~~ Charles & Josephine were here
you know as a matter of course. That old
notch scratcher had to pop in - I wish the (old cuss)
could get to itching bad enough some time to scratch
off so he could not walk a step - O say Kette Jack
Healy home on a furlough he has stayed one night
with us. He looks quite well the poor fellow can
ly open his mouth wide enough to just to put
his finger between his teeth. Angelina has come
on the mail so I must close the Draft
mes off for this County tomorrow write
soon

Yours on host
Lib

Letter #30

From: Lebbeus Effingham Porter

To: William V. King

Eastman, Crawford Co, Wis.
Nov 17th 1864

Dear Brother Wm

For a wonder I have at last got at it again & shall endeavor to write you another letter. But I think if you were here or only knew the state of my mind for the last few weeks I [dont] think you would wonder at my long delay in writing. I'll be d---d if I have not been in a regular peck of half bushels for a long time but have at last obtained relief & thank the Lord I have now got clear sailing.

I suppose of course you have heard ere this of my being drafted. I had to report on the 11th of this month & came very near being shoved into the service. I am quite sure had it not been for Dr Gleason I certainly would have had to go. Vivean wanted to put me in for it but you see Mason knew me of old & stuck to it that I were not fit for the service & finally (sic) succeeded. (God bless his soul.) Bill between you & I, I verily believe that \$2.00 I gave him for that certificate 2 years ago was quite a big drop in the bucket towards (sic) geting (sic) me clear this time. At any rate I do not begrudge him any more.

I am only exempted for the present draft. If there is another call I presume I shall have to come up to the rack again. There was 14 of us drafted the last draft out of 29 so you see there is only 15 yet left. There was only 4 accepted out of 10 that reported. The rest run. Those taken were Jim Malory, Joe Dennis, John Gossel & Winegar but he had a sub. Charlie Lang has got his discharge. Pelton got it for him. He got it in behalf of his family.

Since I last wrote you I have disposed of your stock & have done the [line illegible] so now proceed to give you an item of what I got for them. In the first place I killed Byon & brought \$23.47. Then I killed Neddy, he brought \$33.65. Then old Sam, he brought \$28.00. Bully for him what do you say. The Hutch cow I sold to Jim Ayers for \$23.00 & got his note payable the first day of Oct next at 7 per cent. I think I sold her a little to (sic) cheap but Black & Gossel thought I could not make any more out of her so I let her [line illegible] Seneca by the name of Rathbone for \$90.00 he is going to work them. I could not sell them to the Butchers for they were not fat enough. Beef is only worth from 3 to 4 ct on foot. Every one thinks I sold them well making all together \$198.12. I am going to send the money to Father King Saturday. You know I shall have to retain a little to pay expenses. I will try & keep a strict account of every thing.

Well Bill it has now got to be Tuesday morning & I must try to get this ready & send to the Office this morning. I am not going to sell your grain quite yet as the market is not reddy (sic) but as soon as they commence buying I will pitch in and sell.

Before I go any further I want to apprise you of the glorious result of our election. The old Union has swept the board clean this time with exception of one or two & [who] those are I have not learned. But old Perry G. is completely scooped out this time. We thought we would not carry the day untill the soldiers vote [came in?] & that brought us out all right. Beacher is strongly of the opinion that the south will cease hostilities in less than sixty days.

Bill I have not got time to write much more this time but after this I am going to write oftener. This damn pen I cant do anything with. Old maid Young is married & screwed no doubt to her satisfaction. To that Hutchinson.

I were in town yesterday & found out that there had just been another draft of 6. O I can tell you it would be out of fashion not to draft every other [word] Crawford, Lewison, Henry Lang, Bill Foster, Philip Ryan & Cumskey boy is the ones who has the pleasure of trying the Bullpen for a change this time.

I will send you the Courier to day. I am afraid my letters does not reach you. Nell sends her love to you. Zell is talking about you all the time, her "Uncle Willum in the natty war sick fighting rebels."

You will excuse me this time for I will write again soon. Give my respects to the boys & will remain Yours truly

Lib

Write soon.

Easton Craigford Co. Wis
Nov 17th 1864

Dear Brother John

For a wonder. I have at last got at it again & shall endeavor to write you another letter. But I think if you were here or only knew what has been the state of my mind for the last few weeks, you would wonder at my delay in writing. I'll be candid & have been in a regular pick of half bushels for a long time - but have at last obtained relief. I thank the Lord I have now got clear sailing. I suppose of course you have heard ere this of my being drafted. I had to report on the 11th of this month & came very near being shoved in to the service. I am quite sure had it not been for Mr. Meason, I certainly would have had to go. Vivian wanted to put me in for it but Mr. Meason knew me of old. & stuck to it that I were not fit for the service & finally succeeded. God bless his soul, Bill between you & I, I verily believe that that \$2.00 I gave him for that certificate two years ago was quite a drop in the bucket towards getting me clear of time. at any rate I do not begrudge him

any more. I am only exempted for the present draft.
If there is another call I presume I shall have to
come up to the rack again. There was 14 of us
drafted the last draft out of 29 so you see there
is only 15 yet left. There was only 4 accepted out
of 10 that reported the rest run. Those taken were
John Milroy Joe Dennis John Gopel & Hinegar
but he had a sub. Charlie Long has got his
discharge. Pettor got it for him he got it in
name of his family. Since I last wrote you
I have disposed of your stock. I have done the

best I could for you and it is of what I get for them.
The first place I killed Byon I brought \$23.47 then
I killed a stray he brought \$22.65 then old Sam he brought
a Bull for his what do you say. The Hute cow
I sold to Sam Rogers for \$23.00 & gave his note payable
the first day of Oct next at 7 percent. I think I
sold her a little too cheap but Zach & Gopel thought
I could not make any more out of her so I let her
go for the \$23.00.

Since by the
exam of Reath bone for \$20.00 he is going to work
them. I could not sell them to the Butchers for they
were not fat enough. Beef is only worth from 3 to 4¢
per foot. Every one thinks I sold them well making
altogether \$128.12 I am going to send the money to
father Friday Saturday. You know I shall have to retain
a little to pay expenses. I will try to keep a strict
account of every thing.

Tell Bill it has now got to be Tuesday morning & must try to get this ready & send to the Office this morning. I am not going to sell your grain quite yet as the market is not ready. But as soon as they commence buying I will pitch in and sell. Before I go any further I want to apprise you of the glorious result of our election. The old Union has swept the board clean this time with exception of one or two & those are I have not learned. But old Perry is completely scooped out this time. We thought we would not carry the day until the soldiers were brought us out all right. But

is strongly of the opinion that the south will hostilities in less than sixty days. Bill I have not got time to write much more this time but after this I am going to write often. This damn pen I cant do any thing with. Old maid Golinez is married & screwed no doubt to her satisfaction. To what Hutchinson, I were in town yesterday & found out that there had just been another draft of 6. I can tell you it would be out of fashion not to draft some other man. Bradford. Larrison. Henry Lamy. Bill Foster, Philip Bryan & Burnskey's boy is the one who has the pleasure of trying the Bullpen for a change this time. I will send you the Courier to day. I am afraid my letters do not reach you. Nell sends her love to you. Zell is talking about you all the time. Her Uncle William in the matter war sick fighting rebels. You will please excuse me this time for I will write again soon give my respects to the boys & will remain Yours truly
write soon Lib

Letter #31

From: Lebbeus Effingham Porter

To: William V. King

Eastman Dec 6th 1864

Dear Brother Wm

Although I have not recd any answer to the letters I have sent you since you have been down in Dixie I am going to write again. For I feel quite an uneasiness in regards to your welfare on account of your health being so poorly. I have not heard directly from you since Election day. I recd your last letter that day. Mrs. Young got a letter from her man yesterday & he stated that all the boys were fat & rugged but you & that your health was very bad. He said that you could not stand it at all. Therefore I feel quite anxious to get a letter from you. Old Malory started a report all through the neighborhood that the 43rd were all cut to pieces, but it has since been contradicted. I heard yesterday that your Co had not been in any action at all as yet & then again I heard that you were stand[ing] upon a log when a shell struck the same knocking it from under you & throwing you flat upon your face. If so I imagine that you must have had a pretty close call. When you write I hope you will give me all the particulars.

As for Nell, the baby & myself, we are all right only we feel very lonesome. Bill, I hardly think I can say much to you in this letter that is in any way very interesting in regard to news for there is none. Everything is very dull. We do not get a letter from home once in a dogs age.

Have you recd an answer to your letter from Beach yet? I guess you had better write to him again & make some kind of apology for not answering his while he was in the army, for he hinted to me the other day that he guessed he would pay you off in your own coin. You know he has got, like many others, a revengeful spirit.

I have sold the Hogs for 8cts per lb on foot. Yours came to \$53.20. I am going to Prairie tomorrow & will send the money to your father. Also \$12. which I am owing you for those coats. Bill, the broom corn that we raised this year is the poorest stuff we have raised since we have been here. It does not make near as good a broom as our last years bunch. There is so much of it that the brush is so short. I have just commenced to tie. If Green comes & wants me to pay taxes I want you to write & tell me what reply I must make him.

I guess I will not wrie any more this time for I want to find out if you have recd my other letters yet or not & I have got to write a short letter to your father, too.

Little Zell talks more & more about seeing her Uncle Wilum with new pants on. Nell sends to you her love & wishes you safe return. Please accept the same from me & write often--very often.

I remain Yours truly

Lib

Eastman Dec 6th 1864
 Dear Brother John

Although I have not
 rec'd any answer to the letters I have sent you
 since you have been down in Dixie. I am going
 to write again. For I feel quite an unreasonable
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 you & throwing you flat upon your face. so
 I imagine that you must have had a pretty close
 call. When you write I hope you will give me
 all the particulars. As for Tell the baby & myself
 we are all right only we feel ~~very~~ ^{more} ~~unwell~~ ^{unwell}

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in regard to news for there is none. Everything
is very dull. He does not get a letter from home
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an apology for not answering his while he was in
the army. for he hinted to me the other day that
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you know he has got (like many others) a revengeful
spirit I have sold the Hogs for 8¢ per lb on foot
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& will send the money to your father. Also \$12.
which I am owing you for those coats. Bill the
brown corn that we raised this year is the poorest stuff
we have raised since we have been here. It does not
make near as good a broom as our last years brush
there is so much of it that the brush is so short I
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to pay taxes I want you to write & tell me what
reply I must make him I guess I will not write
any more this time for I want to find out if you have
rec'd my other letters yet or not & I have got to write
a short letter to your father too Little Nell talks
more & more about seeing her Uncle William with new
paints on. Nell sends to you her love & wishes your safe
return. Please accept the same from me. I
write after writing after. I remain Yours truly
Lib

Letter #47

From: Lebbeus Effingham Porter

To: William V. King

Eastman Crfd. Co. Wis.

May 18th 1865

Dear Brother Wm

Thinking perhaps you would like to hear once again from Crfd. & on getting tired of waiting for you to write me I have come to the conclusion to try & give you a brief account of matters & things which have occurred within the past six months.

In the first place I would say that we are all enjoying a good state of health. I have not felt as well in five years as I do this spring.

I suppose that down in Dixie where you are you will soon begin to look around for ripe melons while here we are having a backward spring. The leaves have only just begun to start on the trees. I have put in 8 acres of wheat & about 10 of oats & I have got 8 acres ready to put to Broomcorn which I shall commence planting tomorrow. I am going to plant a peck of the dwarf seed. Your father got it of Old Smith & sent it to me by Lucy. She is here teaching our school. I am going to put in all the corn I can. Nell is going to plant an acre of white beans.

I have not sold your wheat & oats yet but I think I shall sell your oats this week at 40 cts. I guess I had better hold on to the wheat until summer. I can not get but 80 or 90 cts. for it now.

No doubt you have heard ere this that Old Jeff is a prisoner. I expect there is great rejoicing among you soldier boys. Do you think that he will get his just deserts(sic)? Coates thinks it would not be right to hang him nor any of the southern leaders. I would be glad if C. & all others of his stamp had their damn necks in the rope just a little while. I mean of course just long enough to make them poop.

Have you any idea that you will be discharged soon? There is a great many of the Eastman boys on their way home. We expect them now soon.

We have just instituted a Good Templars Lodge at Batavia which I think is a pretty good thing. We have only had two meetings & have got over 30 members. They have got a lodge at Seneca of over a hundred. All the brothers are sober men.

Well Bill, are you not glad that the war is so near to a close? If you should get your discharge I dont suppose I

should see you until next fall. But by gum I would like to see & have a chat with you bully well. If any body finds me in these diggings after the middle of Nov next I recon(sic) they will have yo open their eyes. For reasons you already know & as soon as you get out of the army we must commence to cut & dry.

Say Bill, did you get that \$15.00 I sent you just before you left Keokuk? You have not written since. I shall send this short letter along & if you will answer it you may expect to hear from me again very soon.

Now Bill write immediately & oblige

Yours most affectionately

Lib

Letter #47

From: Lebbeus Effingham Porter

To: William V. King

Eastman Crfd. Co. Wis.
May 18th 1865

Dear Brother Wm

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In the first place I would say that we are all enjoying a good state of health. I have not felt as well in five years as I do this spring.

I suppose that down in Dixie where you are you will soon begin to look around for ripe melons while here we are having a backward spring. The leaves have only just begun to start on the trees. I have put in 8 acres of wheat & about 10 of oats & I have got 8 acres ready to put to Broomcorn which I shall commence planting tomorrow. I am going to plant a peck of the dwarf seed. Your father got it of Old Smith & sent it to me by Lucy. She is here teaching our school. I am going to put in all the corn I can. Nell is going to plant an acre of white beans.

I have not sold your wheat & oats yet but I think I shall sell your oats this week at 40 cts. I guess I had better hold on to the wheat until summer. I can not get but 80 or 90 cts. for it now.

No doubt you have heard ere this that Old Jeff is a prisoner. I expect there is great rejoicing among you soldier boys. Do you think that he will get his just deserts(sic)? Coates thinks it would not be right to hang him nor any of the southern leaders. I would be glad if C. & all others of his stamp had their damn necks in the rope just a little while. I mean of course just long enough to make them poop.

Have you any idea that you will be discharged soon? There is a great many of the Eastman boys on their way home. We expect them now soon.

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Well Bill, are you not glad that the war is so near to a close? If you should get your discharge I dont suppose I

should see you until next fall. But by gum I would like to see & have a chat with you bully well. If any body finds me in these diggings after the middle of Nov next I recon(sic) they will have yo open their eyes. For reasons you already know & as soon as you get out of the army we must commence to cut & dry.

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Now Bill write immediately & oblige

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letter along & if you will answer
I may expect to hear
from you again very soon.
Bill write immediately &
Yours most affectionately
Lib

Eastman Co. N.Y.
May 11th 1862

Dear Brother Sam

Think
perhaps you would like to
hear once again from Capt
& on getting tired of waiting
for you to write me I have
come to the conclusion to try
& give you a brief account
of matters & things which have
occurred within the past six
months. In the first place
I would say that we are all
enjoying a good state of health
I have not felt as well in five
years as I do this spring.
I suppose that down in Dixie
where you are you will soon
begin to look around for
ripe melons While here

We are having a very backward
spring. The leaves have only
just begun to start on the trees.
I have put in 8 acres of wheat
& about 10 of Oats & I have got
a good road to put to Brownsville
which I shall commence planting
tomorrow I am going to plant
a bush of the Dwarf seed your
father got of Old Smith &
sent it to me by Lucy she is
here teaching our school. I
am going to put in all the
corn I can Nell is going to
plant an acre of white beans
I have not sold your wheat &
Oats yet but I think I shall
sell your Oats this week at 40
cts. I guess I had better hold on
to the wheat until summer
I cannot get but 80 or 90 cts
for it now. No doubt you
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Old Jeff is a prisoner
I expect there is great rejoicing
among you soldier boys. Do
you think that he will get
his just deserts? Coates thinks
it would not be right to hang
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Leaders I would be glad if Co
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just a little while I mean
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Have you any idea that you
will be discharged soon?
There is a great many of the
Eastman boys on their way
home we expect them now
soon. We have just instituted
a Good Templars Lodge at
Bataavia which I think is
a pretty good thing we have
only had two meetings &

Letter # 48

From: Samuel Lyman Porter

To: Antoinette Porter King

Evanston Nov. 10th/65

My dear niece Nett

This is the first time I ever attempted to address you though have oft thought of doing so. Vie has kept you posted in my movements & doings generally I suppose.

Well I have been in this very quiet Village something like 5 months now, but cant say that I am pleased with living hear. It is so lonely no change the same seems day after day. The Cars pas along on their regular trips. It is different from most Vilages in as much as the Authorities allow no Saloons no places of amusements. No Circus or show of any kinde can stop hear. If the people wish to congregate they must go to some Church & go through with some Religious forme and to appearance with out the spiret dismiss go home talk about the peculiar dressis and there worldly business &c. Cant have but two Religious meetings per Sunday. Prayer meeting on Thursday Night. But few attend a formal meeting as the seats are least, a stranger must be wated upon to a seat. Why Nett it is not a Methodist Church to me. The power & spiret seames to have departed. No chearfull songs of Zion is heard in family circles or hearty Prayers any more.

Well Nett we must look to our selvs. I do not look to the Church or depend on it for my salvation. For one that spake as never man spake said Him that comith un to me I will in no wise cast off. It is a good blessed promis. Let us lay hold on it & never let go.

Pleas excuse what I have hear written for I commenced without a subject & have followed my thoughts.

I learn that you are to leave soon for a new home and shal we never meet hear again. It looks posable at least. This thought brings sadness but Hope lifts the cloud. We may. I should dearley like to see you & the Baby & Wm & Willey all together once. Well I can hope you will get a good happy Home.

Now you must write on the receipt of this or before you go at least & then when you get settled & let me know whear you are & how you like it & all about the country &c.

I may stop hear until Summer and then if able I intend to go south & look up my tools &c. But if things dont look agreeable I shant stop down there long.

My health is much better now than last winter, thanks to a kind Providence. Whear is Lebbeus now. Dos he stay at the old place at Crawford. Whear has Eliza & her Husband gone. What is his name. Pleas write to me soon of your prospects &c.

Kiss the Baby for Uncle S. What is his name. May his days be constant sunshine and Heavens blessings rest on you all is the prayer of Uncle

Samuel

Swanton Nov. 10th /65

My dear friend

This is the first time I ever attempted to address you though have oft thought of doing so. We have kept you posted of my movements & doing generally I suppose well I have been in this very quiet Village something like 5 months now but cant say that I am pleased with living here it is so badly matching the same seems day after day the bar has along on their regular trips it is different from most villages in as much as the authorities allow no saloons no places of amusement no Circus or show off any kind can stop here if the people wish to congregate they must go to some Church & go through with some religious form and to appearance without the spirit yet dismiss go home talk about the

peculiar Dress, and there worldly
business we cant have but two Religious
meetings per Sunday Prayer meeting on
Thursday Night, but few attend, a formal
meeting, as the seats are least a stra-
nger must be waited upon to a seat.
why with it is not a Methodist Church
to me, the power & spirit seems to have
departed, no hearfull songs of Zion is
heard in family circles or hearty Prayers
any more, well with us must look to
our selves I do not look to the Church
or depend on it for my salvation for
one that spake as never man spake said
Him that cometh un to me I will
in nowise cast off it is a good blessed
promis let us lay hold on it & never let
go. Please excuse what I have hear
written for I commenced without a
subject & have followed my thoughts.

I learn that you are to leave soon
for a new home and shal we never
meet hear again it looks posable at this

this thought brings sadness but Hope
lifts the Cloud, we may. I should dear-
ly like to see you & the Baby & Wm &
Willey all together once, well I can hope
you will get a good happy Home.

So you must ^{write} on the receipt of this
or before you go at least & then when
you get settled & let me know whear
you are & how you like it & all about
the country &c. I may stop hear
until Summer & then if able I intend
to go South & look up my tools or
but if things dont look agreeable I
shant stop down there long.

my health is much better now then
last winter, Thanks to a kinde Providence.
whear is Lebbus now does he stay at
the old place at Crawford. whear has
Eliza & her husband gon, what is his nam
Please write to me soon of your prospects
&c. Kiss the Baby for Uncle S. what is his
name, may his days be a constant sunshine
and Heavens blessings rest on you & all is the
prayer of Uncle S. Samuel &
D. S. 1800

Letter #49A

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Viola C Porter, Palmyra, Wisconsin

Austin Apr 12th /66

Dear Sister Vie

Your very welcome letter came to hand Monday Eve. I was truly very glad to hear from home & you. I had been wondering where you was & what you was doing. I expected you was busy packing & unpacking and arranging furniture & things in your new home. I expect Palmyra will be a very fashionable place after this. I suppose father has selected a pew in bro Parker's church & I imagine him with his swallowtail coat & beaver hat sailing up the aisle of the church every Sabbath. Do you really feel that you are creating much of a sensation. I should like to drop in & see you a few minutes.

You said you expected I was cutting quite a swell in the city of Austin but let me inform you that I have not seen the city but once & then Nell & I went up & made a few purchases. I dont know whether I shall live in the town yet or not for William is talking some of renting a farm about a mile from Libs & if he does we shall probably move on to it. The house is nearly done but I have not seen it yet. The toads are so muddy I can not go out very well.

I have seen Elisa once. When we got to C___ Charlie asked Rob if Effie was much trouble. I thought to myself he probably was capable of judging, but you know it is all in a bodys life time.

We expect the boys next week & I want you to send an ear or two of evergreen corn by Irve. I expect the boys will go right away to look up a homestead & William & Lib will go as soon as they get their crops in.

William thinks it would be better for the boys to put in some crops here so as to fetch in a little money in the fall for if we go on a homestead there will not be much money coming in for a spell. I dont know whether they will or not. I guess Rob wants to go as soon as Geo & Irve come.

We are making the childrens dresses. They are going to make up pretty. Zell says she sends grandpa a good kiss for that dress & would like to have him send her a big apple.

Tell Irve to be sure & see if my box has crossed the river for I dont want to make another journey to Conover.

I wish I could see you a little while & have a talk with

you. You say you want me to tell you what to do. Well Vie that is a hard matter. There is somethings I dont like to dictate in. I would say try as & do as near right as you can & do what you think will be best for you in the time to come. I really want your future to be more pleasant that what the past has been.

I will write to you again soon & I hope you will not be negligent about writing. Give my love to father & tell him that I heard something rather funny & that I would like to put a flea in his ear. At any rate if I was him I would keep my eye skinned.

I really did have a better opinion of some folks than I what I do now. If this is blind to you to him I guess his eyes will be opened after he has lived in Palmyra a while.

I must close now so Willie can take this to the office.

My love to all

your Sister
Nette

The children are well & baby is running around full of fun. He calls Grandpa when he gets up to the window. Tell the boys to be sure & not disappoint us. Lib sent a letter to Irve the other day but directed to Adams.

Austin Apr 12th /66

Dear Sister Vi

Your very welcome letter
came to hand Monday Eve - I was truly
very glad to hear from home & you
I had been wondering where you was
& what you was doing - I expected
you was busy packing & unpacking
and arranging furniture & things
in your new home - I expect Palmer
will be a very fashionable place after this
I suppose father has selected a pew in
bro Parker's church - & I imagine him
with his swallowtailed coat & beaver hat
sailing up the aisle of the church every
Sabbath - do you really feel that you
are creating much of a sensation
I should like to drop in & see you
a few minutes

You said you expected I was cutting
quite a swell in the city of Sualin
but let me inform you that I have not
seen the city but once & then I'll
went up & made a few purchases

I don't know whether I shall live in
town yet or not for William is talking
some of renting a farm about a mile from
Lib's & if he does we shall probably move
on to it - the house is nearly done but I
have not seen it yet - the roads are so
muddy I can not go out very well
I have seen Elsie once - then we got to C-
Charlotte asked Bob if Effie was much
trouble - I thought to myself he probably
is capable of judging - but you know it is
all in a body's life time

We expect the boys next week & I want
you to send an ever or two of evergreen
from by Love - I expect the boys will
go right away to look up a homestead
& William & Lib will go as soon as
they get their crops in

William thinks it would be better
for the boys to put in some crops here
so as to fetch in a little money in
the fall for if we go on a homestead
there will not be much money coming
in for a spell - I don't know whether
they will or not - I guess Bob wants to
go as soon as Love & I can come

We are making the childrens dresses
they are going to make up pretty - Nell
says she sends grandpa a good kiss
for that dress & would like to have him
send her a big apple - Lett Love to
be sure & see if any boy has cropped the river
for we don't want to make another journey
to Concord - I wish I could see you
a little while & have a talk with you - you
say you want me to tell you what to do
well but that is a hard matter - there is
some things I don't like to dictate in - I would
say try & do as near right as you can & do
what you think will be best for you

in the time to come - I really
want your future to be more pleasant
than what the past has been

I will write to you again soon &
I hope you will not be negligent
about writing - Give my love to
father & tell him that I heard something
rather funny & that I would like to put
a glass in his ear - at any rate if I
was him I would keep my eye skinned
I really did have a better opinion of
some folks than I what I do now
If this is blind to you to him I guess his
eyes will be opened ^{after} if he has lived in
Palm Springs a while -

I must close now, so Willie can
take this to the office

My love to all

Your sister

Kate

The children are well & baby is running
around full of fun - he calls grandfather
when he gets up to the window - tell
the boys to be sure & not disappoint us
Lib sent a letter to love the other day
but directed to Adams



Miss Viola C. Porter
Palmyra
Wisconsin

Letter # 50

To: Antoinette Porter King

~~From:~~ Samuel Lyman Porter

Evanston May 24th/66

My Dear Niece Nett

Six oclock the toyles of the day is ore. I have no little ones around [to] divert [whole line illegible] no wife to hug or to find any fault in my daley administration or pass any bills over my head. So [word] my supper & set down & think of old friends & relatives far away & my dear Niece Nett comes in for a large shair. This even being said I sit & write my thoughts.

Your good letter came to our P.O. office in [word] with one from your sister Vie which I think a little singuler. It was alittle like having you both in my company though the reading alas was not shear a pleasure. I fear I will never gladden my heart again. You apear to expect to be left again alone for a seson. Well I hope Wm. will get things fixt up by & by so that you will sit down & take real comfort. I am glad to hear from you that your trust is in a gracious God & contented to abide his Providence. He oft lifts my drooping spirets up in my lonley journey towards the unseen world. In reality we have no abiding City hear. Let us earnestly seek that City whos builder & maker is God.

I have decided to stay on at this place thru all the summer as I have aplenty of work & a good quiet boarding house situated near to the Big Lake. Can view it in its furey & contemplate its beauty in its peasfull Slumber & like whear I go. I have many friends hear & no Enemys that I know of.

Intend to visit the South in the Fall if I liv & see to my tools & Trunk &c. It will depend on sircumstances how long I shal stop. It is bed houre must say good night.

Friday morning 25th

I have just seene Old Phoebus arise from his watery bead from the Lake in all his splendore. The morning is coole but not frosty as yester[d]ay morne. The spring is cold hear & backward & I hear it is worse up your way but seed time & harvest is promist. We must trust in God.

I have the pleasure of seeing Walworth once in 2 or 3 weeks. He is still at the Collage but thinks of taking emergency to peddle a Book. The history of Wisconsin Ridgments. I suppose Irvin is in your settlement now as Vie wrote me he had left (Wis). My best wishes to him.

I think your Father had better kept his Farme but not to work it as he had been but let Irve took it with a good stiddy partner for you know your Father is pretty wel broke down & to fret & work as he has or was adoing was folley.

I am glad little Nelle is agoing to try & be a good girl & that she learns her book so well. The Lord loves good children & if she is smart she may be a schoole teacher or Mistress of the White House some day. My love to her. My little namesake with his white head & blue eyes me thinks I see him now. Kiss the little fellow for Uncle S. I may never see him more. Willey must be a good Boy now that evry boddy may love him & the Lorde will bless him.

How a large a place is your Austin. It must be some place as you talk of hearing the Bell ring. Is it the place where farmers sell there Produce. Who is going to hunt Homested Clames. All the Kings & Porters I suppose & how near is your Neighbor & do you stay alone while the Boys are gon. Rather lonesum I think. Is your Country timbered openings or prairie. Have you any Lakes or Rivers near you. Is it a new settled part of that St. or have you some Fruite. How far are you from the Miss. River.

I will close hoping to hear from you as oft as you can make it anyway covenant. I shal be anxious to hear how your Crops look and your future prospects. My best respects to Lebbeus & family. Dont know as I shal ever see him again but should like to dearly. My best wishes & respects to Wm. May the Lord bless you all and prosper you abundently in this worlds goods & fead you with the Bread of life & when lifes toyls are ore receive you to him self is the best wish of Uncle

Samuel

Grandport Aug 24th /66

My dear dear Nett

Say I wish the toyles
of the day is over I have no little ones

to hug or to find any fault in
any body's administration or pass any bills over
my head. I am so tired & sit down & think

of old friends & relatives far away & my dear
dear Nett comes in for a large share in my
thoughts & I write my thoughts

Your good letter came to our P. Office in
with one from your sisters etc. which I think
a little singular & it was a little like

you both in my company through the road
by alas was not there a pleasure I
fear will never gladden my heart again.

You appear to expect to be left again alone
for a season & I hope you will get things
settled by & by so that you will sit down

& take real comfort. I am glad to hear
from you that "Trust" is in a gracious
& contented & abiding in Providence & all

Evansville May 24th 1866

My dear Mr. Felt,

Sir I look the boy

of the day is one I have no little

and no wife to keep or to find any fault

any thing and no children or any thing

of old friends & relatives for my dear

and I come in for a large share his

and I write my thoughts

Your good letter came to me I Office in

with one from your sisters which I then

and I am a little better

you both in my company though the

by alas was not there a pleasure I

far will never gladden my heart again

you appear to expect to be left again alone

for a season well I hope you will get things

set up by & by so that you will sit down

& take real comfort I am glad to hear

from you that trust is in a gracious God

& contented to abide his Providence. I oft

21. Evansville, Ind. May 24th 1866

My dear Mr. Hall

Say I look the foggy
foggy days are I have no little

and as the day is so foggy and I have
no little and as the day is so foggy and I have

no little and as the day is so foggy and I have
no little and as the day is so foggy and I have

no little and as the day is so foggy and I have
no little and as the day is so foggy and I have

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no little and as the day is so foggy and I have
no little and as the day is so foggy and I have

no little and as the day is so foggy and I have
no little and as the day is so foggy and I have

lifts my drooping spirits up in my
lonely journey towards the unseen world.
In reality we have no abiding city here
let us earnestly seek that city whose builder
& maker is God. I have decided to
stay in this place through the summer. I
have a plenty of work & a good quiet house-
ing house situated near to the Big Lake
can view it in its fury & contemplate
its beauty in its peaceful slumbers & like
whenever I go I have many friends hear
& see Encampment that I know of.

I intend to visit the South in the fall
if I live & see to my tools & trunk in
it will depend on circumstances how long
I shall stop. it is hard to say
good night. Friday morning 25th I

have just seen Old Phoebus arise from his
watery bed from the Lake in all his splen-
dor. The morning is cool but not frosty
as yesterday morn. The spring is cold here
& backward & I hear it is worse up your way
but seed time & harvest is promised we must
trust in God. I have the pleasure of

seeing Walworth once in 2 or 3 weeks
he is still at the College but thinks of being
enough to peddle a book. The history of his
own Kidnappings. I suppose Irwin is in your
settlement now as the note one he had left
(his) says best wishes to him. I think your
father had better kept his horse but not
to work it as he had been but let Irwin take
it with a good steady partner for you know
your father is pretty well broke down & to
get & work as he has or was doing was folly.
I am glad little Belle is going to try &
be a good girl & that she learns her book so well.
The Lord loves good children & if she is smart
she may be a school teacher or mistress of the
White House some day my love to her. my little
name sake with his white head & blue eyes me
thinks I see him now. He's the little fellow for
Jesse S. I may never see him more. Willey must
be a good Boy now that every body may
love him & the Lord will bless him.
how large a place is your Austin it must
be some place as you talk of hearing the Bell
ring is it the place where farmers sell their

lift my drooping spirits up in my
lonely journey towards the unseen world.
In reality we have no abiding city here
let us earnestly seek that city whose builder
& maker is God. I have decided to
~~stay in this place through the summer~~ I
have a plenty of work & a good quiet board-
ing house situated near to the Big Lake
can view it in its fury & contemplate
its beauty in its fearful slumbers, & like
when I go I have many friends near
& no enemies that I know of.

I intend to visit the South in the Fall
if I live & see to my tools & trunk &
it will depend on circumstances how long
I shall stop. it is bad here must say
good night. Friday morning 25th I

have just seen the Phoebe rise from his
watery bed from the Lake in all his splendor.
The morning is cold but not frosty
as yesterday morn. The spring is cold here
& backward & I hear it is worse up your way
but seed time & harvest is promised we must
trust in God. I have the pleasure of

seeing Walworth once in 2 or 3 weeks
he is still at the College but thinks of taking
emergency to build a book the history of his
own Ridgmonts. I suppose Irwin is in your
settlement now as he wrote me he had left
(his) very best wishes to him. I think your
father had better kept his farm but not
to work it as he had been but let I've told
it with a good steady partner for you know
your father is pretty well broke down & to
rest & work as he has or was a doing was folly.

I am glad little Belle is going to try &
be a good girl & that she learns her book so well.
The Lord love good children. & if she is smart
she may be a school teacher or mistress of the
White House some day my love to her my little
name sake with his white head & blue eyes. me
thinks I see him now. Kiss the little fellow for
Uncle S. I may never see him more. Willey must
be a good Boy now that every body may
love him & the Lord will bless him.
how large a place is your Austin it must
be some place as you talk of having the best
ring is it the place where farmers sell there

Produce who is going to hunt
Hornsted Clarks all the things
& Porters I suppose & how near is
your Neighbor & do you stay a lone while
the Boys are gon. rather longer I think
is your Country timbered. Openings or
Prairie, have you any Lakes or Rivers near
you. Is it a new settled part of that St.
or have you some quite. how far are you
from the Miss. River. I will close hoping
to hear from you as oft as you can
make it any way convenient I shall
be anxious to hear how your crops look
and your future prospects, my best
respects to Labben & family. don't know
as I shall ever see him again but should
like to dearly. my best wishes & respects
to them. may the Lord bless you all and
prosper you abundantly in this world's goods
& lead you with the Bread of life & when
life's trials are over receive you to him self
is the best wish of Uncle

Samuel--

Preduce who is going to hunt
Hornsted Clarke all the things
& notions I suppose & how near is
your neighbor & do you stay a lone while
the boys are gone rather long I think
is your country timbered. Openings or
Prairie, have you any lakes or rivers near
you. Is it a new settled part of the State
or have you some friends. how far are you
from the Miss. River. I will close hoping
to hear from you as oft as you can
make it any way convenient I shall
be anxious to hear how your crops look
and your future prospects, my best
respects to Deborah & family. don't know
as I shall ever see him again but should
like to dearly. my best wishes & respects
to them. may the Lord bless you all and
prosper you abundantly in this world's goods
& feed you with the Bread of life & when
life's trials are over receive you to him self
in the best abode of angels

Samuel

Letter #50A

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Viola C Porter, White Water, Wisconsin

Jackson Dec 18th 1866

Dear Sister

Well really I would like to know why you do not not write to me. I dont think I have had more than one letter from you in four months. I dont know but that I have had two since Elisa came. I should think you would be ashamed of your self you hateful girl. I did not think you would serve me so mean. It makes me feel like disowning you entirely. I dont know how many letters I have written home since I came here. I wonder if you take the trouble to read them?

Now if I have scolded you enough I will try and write a letter on some other subject. I have got my work all done up, the childrens faces washed & hair combed & mine also. My hair is done up waterwheel fashion & I expect if you was here you would make lots of fun of me but never mind. You & everybody else knows that I am no dextrous hand at hair dressing.

I wish you could peep in & see how fine & comfortable I look. I have got a partition put across or partly across the house which makes me a very good buttry & a nice recess large enough for my bureau too. White curtains up which I know would remind you of old times. A little carpet down on one side just where I am sitting. O I tell you it begins to look quite home like & it is quite warm now.

It is a dark cloudy day. William has gone to the woods, will begone all day & as I am alone I feel like chatting with you a spell. I dreamed about seeing you the other night & having such a nice chat with you. It really seemed like old times. I thought father had bought him a gold watch & it was about as big as one of my sauce dishes & I thought Em carried it. O how I did laugh.

I have just had my lunch, a piece of fresh pork roasted on the coals & piece of bread & a little sling. Nellie says she knows it was whiskey.

Yesterday afternoon Zell & Juna came over to play a while with the children & I let them go up stairs & baby too & first thing they let him fall plumb down stairs. I declare I was afraid he was killed but he was not hurt any where, only stunned him. I guess they will not get a chance up stairs again in a hurry.

The floor is not laid in one corner & there is where he

fell. He is such a little darling. Tell father that I wish he could come in once in a while & take a smoke with his grandson. He likes a pipe as well as ever. Every time he can get hold of one he will start for the stove & say his seat, he means feet, are cold, get up in a chair, put one foot up over his knee, get a paper & read & smoke as old fashioned as can be. Lately he has not talked about anybody but Grandma Porter. He says grandma Porter makes apple sass. Tell her she had better send him a letter in a rag. He is getting to be a spunkey rat. He got mad at me to day & said he would spank me, said he was mad. He got the childrens spy glass the other day under his nose & took a squint over to the other house. Said he could see Juna. I wish you could see him, dont you?

Where is Uncle S L. I have not heard from him in a long time or Laura either. How do they get along.

There is a Mrs Johnson that lives here. She used to live in Baraboo. She was Anson Cornishes daughter. She knows all the Porters & Flanders. She thinks that S A F is going to have a little one if she has not already. She likes Wal a great deal better than Ale & Line F better than the other girls. Says Sarah was always rough & ready, Very proud & haughty. This she told to Elisa B. I have never seen her to speak with her. She is real good looking.

I wrote to Irve last week & told him to bring me some carpet if he could. Do you suppose he will? I want some but I dont want him to put himself out to get it. I think he could get some cheap & good Vie in Milwaukee at the brokers. I just wish I had a chance to go there. I konw I would have lots of things I want.

I forgot to tell Irve all I want. I wish he would get me one of those breastpins. Made out of a quarter. Tell him I want one real bad. Have you got one. If he will get them made I will send a quarter for you too. Tell him he can afford us that much.

I was going to write & tell you what Aunt Mary said about Grandmother but this is full. I hope you will condescend to write to me before long. My love to all & a Happy New Years.

Ever your sister

Nette

I would like to come home to New Years dinner if you are going to have anything good. What are you going to do Christmas & New Years. Write & tell me.

I would like to come home to see
 you & see if you are going to be
 anything good - what are you going
 to do & how long will you be at it

Jackson Dec 18th 1866.

Dear Sister

Well really I would
 like to know why you do not write to me.
 I don't think I have had more than one
 letter from you in four months. I don't
 know but that I have had two since Eliza
 came. I should think you would be
 ashamed of yourself you hateful girl.
 I did not think you would serve me
 so mean. It makes me feel like disowning
 you entirely - I don't know how many
 letters I have written home since I came
 here - I wonder if you take the trouble to
 read them. Now if I have scolded you
 enough I will try and write a little on
 some other subject - I have got my
 work all done up, the children's faces
 washed & hair combed & mine also
 my hair is done up waterwheel fashion.
 I expect if you was here you would make

lots of fun of me but never mind you
& everybody else knows that I am no
deplorable hand at hair dressing

I wish you could peep in & see how fine
& comfortable I look - I have got a partition
put across or partly across the house which
makes me a very good bureau & a nice
recess large enough for my bureau too
white curtains up which I know would
remind you of old times - a little carpet
down on one side just where I am sitting
Oh tell you it begins to look quite home
like & it is quite warm now

It is a dark cloudy day - William has
gone to the woods will be gone all day
& as I am alone I feel like chatting with
you a spell - I dreamed about seeing you
the other night & having such nice chat
with you - it really seemed like old
times. I thought father had bought him
a gold watch & it was about as big as one
of my sauce dishes & I thought Tom carried
it - Oh how I did laugh

I have just had my lunch - a
piece of fresh pork roasted on the coals
& a piece of bread & a little sling - Helen
says she knows it was whiskey -

Yesterday afternoon Felt & June came over
to play a while with the children & I let
them go up stairs & baby too & first thing
they let him fall plumb down stairs
I declare I was afraid he was killed
but was not hurt any where only
stunned him - I guess they will not get
a chance up stairs again in a hurry
the floor is not level in one corner &
there is where he fell - He is such a little
dorking - Tell father that I wish he could
come in once in a while & take a smoke with
his grandson - he likes a pipe as well as
ever - everytime he can get hold of one he
will start for the store & say his seat he means
feet, are cold, get up into a chair put one
foot up over his knee, get a paper & read
& smoke as old fashioned as can be
Lately he has not talked about any body

but Grandma Foster - he says grandma Foster
makes applesauce - tell her she had better send
him a little in a bag - he is getting to be a
sprinkly old - he got mad at me to day & said
he would spank me, said he was afraid
he got the childrens apples the other day, unless
his nose & took a squint over to the other house
said he could see Jane - I wish you could
see him dont you? - Where is Uncle J.?
I have not heard from him in a long
time or Lauren either how do they get
along - There is a Mrs Johnson that lives
here she used to live in Coraboo she
was Anson Cornishs daughter - she knows
all of the Fosters & Flanders - she thinks
that J. & F. is going to have a little one if
she has not already - she says she likes
Moll a great deal better than all the
other girls - better than the other girls says
Laurie was always rough & rude - Mary
proud & headstrong - This she told to Eliza
I have never seen her to speak with her
she is real good Cookin.
I wrote to Lou last week - & left him to bring
me some carpet if he could - do you suppose
he will? I want some but I dont want him to put
himself out to get it - I think he could get
some cheap & good in Milwaukee at
the brokers - I just wish I had a chance
to go there I know I would have lots of things
I want - I forgot to tell Loue all I want - I
wish he would get me one of those breakfasts
made out of a quarter - tell him to I want one
real bad - have you got one - if he will get
them made I will send a quarter for you
too - Tell him he can afford us that much
I was going to write & tell you what Aunt
Mary said about Grandmother but this
full I hope you will condescend to write
to me before long - My love to all & a happy New
Year yours truly Little

Lac du Lac du Nord

Dec 11^m 1866

Miss Viola C. Porter
White-Water
Wisconsin

Letter #50B

From: Lib Porter

To: Viola Porter (No envelope)

Demoines New Years Eve

Dec 31st 1866

Dear Sister Vie

Can you believe yourself that these few lines are coming from me. No doubt you will try to make yourself believe that you are dreaming. Nevertheless it is so. 1866 will soon be to us no more & I just thought I would improve a few of its last moments in writing to you. As Bob makes his departure for Wis tomorrow morning I will send it down by him.

Vie I presume you think that I have discarded you entirely & do not think anything more about you because I do not write you &c. But far from that No Vie I need not tell you that my affections for you are just as deep as for any brother or sister. I think of you as much & as often as anyone. But you know how I am about writing. I can only write when the fit comes on & that is hardly once in a dogs age.

Little Zell is sitting here in her little rocking chair between her Ma & Pa as happy as a clam looking at pictures. Nell sits in the big chair knitting & singing. O say Vie I have got to stop hugging her for she is getting so big around that my arms wont reach. I have to hug one side at a time. She has just read what I have written about her & O Lord you ought to be here to see how tickled she is about it. I suppose she thinks that *[two words crossed out]* (she rubbed this out) will get a present or something else.

(Following in Nell's handwriting) Well Vie Lib wants me to finish this. He is tired of writing. Aint he mean writing what he did. He is so tickled about it he cant keep it to himself so I dont care.

Well I am sure I dont know what to write. I have made Rob promise to come & see your folks & then he will tell you all you want to know about us.

Is it very cold down there. It is up here but we have got a good warm house & everything comfortable so you see we get along finely. I think it will be real pleasant here in the summer time but I cant say as I like now over & above well.

How I want some apples to eat but I dont expect to see many here. Singing School commenced last Thursday eve. Lib wants to write now.

[Back to Lib's handwriting] Wm & C.H.H. starts on a trip to Austin tomorrow to get the last of their things. I am afraid they will have a cold time of it. Bob is coming back with Irve. Vie you tell Irve I dont want him to let his claim go if he has to deed it for even if he does that he cant make a better investment

O how I would like to be down home to spend New Years with you all. Vie tell father I am going to write to him soon about some sheep. I guess he will think that is all I care about him is to get something out of him & I dont know as I can blame him but I will try & write oftener to him any way.

Well Zell has hung up her little stocking & gone to bed so I suppose I must jump down the stove pipe & fill it but poor thing I am afriad she will think old Santa Claus is about played out when morning comes.

Well Vie accept this short note & I will write again soon. I wish I could send you some thing but dear me I dont know what it would be unless I cut a chunk off my heel.

Write soon Vie & remember

brother Lib

Thompson's Mill near Eve
Dec 31st 1866

Dear Sister Fie

Can you believe yourself that these few lines are from me. No doubt you will try to make yourself believe that you are delamining. Nevertheless it is so. I will soon be to us no more & I just thought I would improve a few of its last moments in writing to you as best I could. I am leaving for this tomorrow morning I will send it down by him. I presume you think that I have discarded you entirely & do not think anything more about you because I do not write you &c but far from that to me

I need not tell you that my
affections for you are just as
deep as for any brother or sister
I think of you as much & as
often as any one. But you know
how I am about writing I can
only write when the fit comes on
& that is hardly once in a days
age. Little Belle is sitting here in
her little rocking chair between
her Ma & Pa as happy as a clown
looking at pictures Nell sits in
the big chair knitting & singing
O say Pie I have got to stop hugging
her for she is getting so big around
that my arms wont reach. I
have to hug one side at a time
She has just read what I have written
about her & O Lord you ought to
be here to see how tickled she
is about it. I suppose she thinks
that ~~the published copy will~~ will get a
present or something else

Well Mr. Lit wants me to finish
this he is tired of writing Aunt
he mean writing what he likes he
is so tickled about it he cant keep
it to himself so I dont care well
I am sure I dont know what to
write. I have made Bob promise
to come & see the girls folks
& then he will tell you all you
want to know about us is it
very cold down there it is up here
but we have got a good warm
house & everything comfortable so
you see we get along finely
I think it will be real pleasant
here in the summer time but I
cant say as I like now over
& above will show I want some
apples to eat but I dont expect
to see many here singing school
commenced last Thursday eve Mr. Lit
wants to write me

Wm & C. H. H. starts on a trip
to Austin tomorrow to get the land
of their things I am afraid they
will have a cold time of it!
Bob is coming back with Dave.
Will you tell Dave I don't want
him to let his claim go if he
has to deed it for ever if he does
that he can't make a better
investment. Oh how I would like
to be down home to spend New
Years with you all, Will tell
father I am going to write to him
soon about some sheep I guess
he will think that is all I care
about him is to get something out
of him & I don't know as I can
blame him but I will try & write
to him often anyway. Nell has
hung up her little stocking & gone to
bed so I suppose I must jump down
the stove pipe & fill it but poor thing
I am afraid she will think old
Santa Claus is about played out when
morning comes. Will kin accept this
short note & I will write again soon.
I wish I could send you something but
dear me I don't know what it would
be unless I cut a chunk off my heel.
Write soon Will & remember brother Dick

Letter #51

To: Antoinette Porter King

From: Samuel Lyman Porter

Jackson Mississippi May 5th 1867

My Dear Niece Antoinette

It has been a long time since we have corisponded but I suppose there is a reason. For my part I have never been informed of your address until yesterday received it from your Sister Vie. Thay ware all well. Vie has kept me posted to some extent of your wanderings & travils &c. Well by this time I fancy you have expearenced som of the privations of settling a new Country as that I suppose is compairitively new. But I hope it has not been all truble. Mixt in I trust you have found som pleasures & a satisfaction that you was in a way of bettering your condition in this life which would be apearent by & by iff Providence smil[e]d. I hope so.

I have had, you know, expearence in settling a new country perhaps under more trying sercumstances then yours as I left a City full & sat down in the woods. But my Dear Niece at that time at least the Candle of the Lord shown around about me I have no doubt & I was enabled to take all trubles by the smooth handle & I now think I spent many of the happiest days of my life in that little cabbin 3 miles from any boddy. But since that my Dear Niece I have travled upon a dark & boistrus ocean, tried as by fiere put confidence in mankind & they provd false and I will say my greatist enemy was that of my own Household. But thanks be to God I have never throne away my confidence in Him. Trust in God at all times my Dear Niece. Walk in the foot prints of the Savior & with our latiest breath we can sing All is well.

Well you see I am again a volenta[r]ly Exile among staingers but I rather prefer it for when up the Country it brings to mind many unpleasent reminiscence of the past & the future looks no brighter then hear. I have had stiddy work for som weeks but money is very hard to get hold of for the labor scarce enough to pay my way but liv in hopes it will com by & by iff the South vote in favor of Reconstruction times will be better.

We depend upon the North for all we eat, excep a few greens, & provisions are vary high. Flour 21 dollars bbl. Potatoes, 5 - 50 bbl. A small Cabbage Head 30 cts. Corn [illeg] - 45 bush. Meal 6 dol 75 cts barrel. Butter 60 cts lb &c, &c. So you see a man has to keep moving at sumthing to get his grub. I pay eight dollars per week for Board.

May 9th, You see I take Letter writing easy. Nights are short my time ocupied in labour finde my self weary at night

but I spend an hour in addressing friends occasionally. Our spring is back ward several week but we have it warm enough to get up many green things for the table. Will have Beans & peas in a few days.

Well how do you like your winter & spring. So far is it as cold as (Wis). I hope not. I wonder how many cows you have & how much stock of all kinds. Is there plenty of wild grass. How do you like your new far away Home on the whole. We have become so far separated I fear I shall never see it. Is little Saml Selah growing fine. Tell Miss Nelley I get her out of my trunk often and take a good look at her. The face is natural but she won't speak. Tell Willey he must pitch in & help his father all he can & get up a big farm & he must be good to his Ma & a good Boy all the time.

How I should like to pop in & say How re (?) and take a look at things. [word] but it can't be. It may be pleasing to you for me to say the colored people here are doing generally well. But some had rather steal than work & the consequence is the State Prison here holds some 300 of them. Times here are hard for the poor White & Black & the Crop prospects for this year is not promising. The people trust the Freed men just now vary well as the state is going to make an effort to Reconstruct & they want the Freed men to Vote for southern interest I guess.

Well Nett I can't think of any thing more that will interest you. I will wind up. I will say that my health has been since here quite good which is a cause of gratitude. I hope this will find you all enjoying the same Heavenly blessing & that you may live long & see good days is the Prayer of Uncle

Samuel

Jackson

Miss.

P.S. My best respect to Irve & all my acquaintances & hope Irvins Eyes are well by this time. Write me soon & the letter will find me here.

S.L.P.

Jackson Mississippi May 5th 1861

My Dear Miss Antoinette

It has been a long time since we have corresponded but I suppose there is a reason. for my part I have never been informed of your address until yesterday received it from your sister V. May were all well. V. has kept me posted to some extent of your wanderings & travels &c. well by this time I fancy you have experienced some of the privation of settling a new Country as that I suppose is comparatively new, but I hope it has not been all trouble mist in I trust you have found some pleasures & a satisfaction that you was in a way of bettering your condition in this life which would be apparent by & by if Providence should. I hope so. I have had, you know, experience in settling a new country perhaps ^{under} more trying circumstances than yours as I left a City full & sat down in the woods, but my dear Miss at that time at least the candle of the Lord shone around about me I have no doubt & I was enabled to take all troubles by the smooth handle & I now

think I spent many of the happiest days
of my life in that little Cabin 3 miles from
any body. but since that my dear wife I have
traveled upon a dark & boisterous ocean. Tried as by fire
put confidence in ~~man~~ kind & they proved false
and I will say my greatest enemy was that of
my own Household. but thank be to God I
have never thrown away my confidence in Him.
Trust in God at all times my dear wife. walk
in the foot prints of the Saviour & with our latest
breath we can sing All is well.

Well you see I am again a voluntary Exile a
mong strangers but I rather prefer it for when
up the Country it brings to mind many unplea-
sant reminiscence of the past & the future looks
no brighter then hear. I have had shiddy work
for some weeks but money is very hard to get
hold of for the labor scarce enough to pay my
way but live in hopes it will come by & by if the
South vote in favor of Reconstruction times will
be better. we depend upon the North for all we
eat except a few greens & provisions are very high
Flour 21 dollars bbl. Potatoes 5-10 bbl. a small Cabbidge

Wheat 30 cts Corn 15 bush. meal 60 cts 5 barr-
el. Butter 60 cts lb & 5. So you see a man
has to keep moving at something to get his
grab. I pay eight dollars per week for Board.

May 9th you see I take Letter writing easy
Rights are short my time occupied in labour find
my self wery at night but I spend an hour in
addressing friends occasionally. Our spring is back
ward several week but we have it warm enough
to get up many green things for the table will
have Beans & peas in a few days. Well how
do you like ^{your} winters & spring so far is it as cold
as (WV) I hope not. I wonder how many Cows
you have & how much stock of all kinds is
there plenty of wild Geese. How do you like
your new far away home on the whole. we
have become so far separated I fear I shal never
see it. Is little Sam? Selah a growing fine
tel Miss Selley I get her out of my trunk often
and take a good look at her the face is natural
but she won't speak. tel Willey he must pitch
in & help his father all he can & get up a big fire ^{time}
He must be good to his Ma & a good Boy all the

How I should like to pop in & say how we
and take a look of things but it
be. It may be pleasing to you for me to say
the colored people here are doing generally well
but some had rather steal than work & the consequence
is the State Prison here holds some 300 of
them. Times here are hard for the poor white
& black & the crop prospects for this year
just now vary well as the state is going to make
an effort to reconstruct & may want the freed
men to vote for southern interest I guess.

Well all. I can't think of any thing more
that will interest you I will write up. I will
say that my health has been since here quite good
which is a cause of gratitude. I hope this will
find you all enjoying the same heavenly blessing
& that you may live long & see good days &
the prayers of uncle

Samuel

Respectfully to you &
all my acquaintances & hope I am
as well by this time.
Write me soon & the letter will
find me here. S. L. P.

Miss

How I should like to pop in & say how we
and take a look of things but you
be. It may be pleasing to you to say
the could people hear are doing generally well.
but some had rather stay than work & the consequence
the State Prison hear holds some 300 of
them. Times hear are hard for the poor white
& black & the crop prospects for this year is

just now very well as the state is making
an effort to reconstruct & they are the good
men to vote for southern interest I guess
well with. I can't think of any thing more
that will interest you. I will write up. I will
say that my health has been since hear quite good
which is a cause of gratitude. I hope this will
find you all enjoying the same heavenly blessing
& that you may live long & see good days.
The Prayer of Uncle

Samuel

I am my dear friend, to love &
all my acquaintance & hope I will see you
as well by this time.
Write me soon & the letter will. S. L. P.
I will hear.

Letter #52B

From: Viola Porter

To: Mrs William King, Jackson, Minnesota

Whitewater Sept [1867]

(No year on letter, but contents assure the year assigned)

Dear Sister

I have neglected writing so long that I presume you are out of patience with me. But Nett if you could see how busy I am you would not blame me. Father is no better. He has been advised to go to the water cure and I guess he will either go there or start for the East before a great while. He is very poor. He was weighed again the other day and has lost more flesh, only weighs 111 lb. It discourages him a great deal.

Nellie is here & happy as can be. She has been down to Grandpa Kings & staid a week. She often speaks of you but does not want to go back to Jackson. I have been fixing her hat over & it looks very good. I had some blue velvet on a dress & I took that to trim it with.

Irve has had a queer attack of some thing. He had been to bed but a short time when he had strange feelings come over him & he grew worse so they had to send for a Dr. He lost his speach (*sic*) breath & feeling. Stoddard said it was very much like the cholera or a fit. I guess he was very much alarmed about him for Irve told him he felt another coming on & he said he must not have another one on any consideration. He is at home to day, feels quite smart.

Oh Nett I wish you could see all that is here to day. Old Rob. Romanzo Allen Mandana John Holcomb Irve & myself all staid here last night. Mandana has been here two weeks. We have had a splendid time. We went down to Wright's Mills at East Troy to a party last Wed night. Johnnie waited on Man & Bert Salsburry on my self. We just had one good time. Started away from home at four oclock in the afternoon, arrived home the next morning at 8 oclock. It is the first dance I have attended since last winter.

Friday afternoon

Do pity me for Im tired as a dog. Father will be on his way to New York before you receive this. He intends to start Tuesday next. I wish you could see him before he goes.

Geo is here & will start for Minn on the 8 oclock train. We are very busy getting Father ready for his journey & that is the

reason I did not finish this letter sooner.

Maryelt Rogers is here. Came on the noon train. Will stay untill tomorrow. She is very miserable. Weighs 73 lbs. Aint that starving. Father was weighed again & only weighs 108.

I wish I could send you some thing but wait. Nellie is all right. I let her go out to Rhodas to day. Johnie is going to bring her in tonight. She is as happy as can be. I am learning her some new songs. I like her singing very much.

Old man Allen is here. He is going East Tuesday. So is Geo Allen & wife.

Come down & stay with us while Father is gone. He will be gone untill cold weather I expect.

Lucy was here to day. She is awful poor. I am going down there while Father is gone.

I intend to go to Albany with Mrs Adams some time in October to finish my trade there. I shall set up shop myself so Father told me I could. Aint you glad I shall go into some new place near the RR so I can get goods handy.

Oh how I wish I could see you. I set for my picture to day. Write soon. My love to all. Ever your

Sis Vie

Lina has been out again.

1867

Whitewater Sep

Dear Sister

I have neglected writing
so long that I presume you are out of fa-
-ence with me but Nett if you could see
how busy I am you would not blame
me. Father is no better he has been advised
to go to the water cure and I guess he will
either go there or start for the East before
a great while. he is very poor he was
weighed again the other day and had
lost more flesh only weighs 111 lb. it
discourages him a great deal. Nellie is
here & happy as can be she has been
down to Grandpa Kings & staid a week
she often speaks of you but does not
want to go back to Jackson I have been
fixing her hat over & it looks very good
I had some blue velvet on a dress &
I took that to trim it with. I've been
had a great attack of some thing

he had been to bed but a short time when he had strange feelings come over him and he grew worse so they had to send for a Dr he lost his speech & feeling Stoddard said it was very much like the cholera or a fit I guess he was very much alarmed about him for I've told him he felt another coming on & he said he must not have another one on any consideration he is at home to day feels quite smart - oh Nell I wish you could see all that is here to day old Rob. Romango Allen Mandana John Holcomb I've & myself all staid here last night. Mandana has been here two weeks we have had a splendid time we went down to Wrights Mills at East Troy to a party last Wed night Johnnie waited on Man & Bert Salisbury on my self we just had one good time started away for home a four o'clock in the afternoon arrived home the next morning at

8 o'clock it is the first dance I have attended since last winter

Friday afternoon do pity me for I'm as tired as a dog. Father will be on his way to New York before you receive this he intends to start.

Tuesday next I wish you could see him before he goes. Geo is here & will start for Minn on the 8 o'clock train we are very busy very getting father ready for his journey & that is the reason I did not finish this letter sooner

Maryelt Rogers is here came on the noon train will stay until tomorrow she is very miserable weighs 13 lbs aint that staving. Father was weighed again & only weighs 108. I wish I could send you some thing but wait.

Nellie is all right I let her go out to Rhodas to day Johnnie is going to bring her on tonight.

she is as happy as can be I
am learning her some new
songs I like her singing very
much old man Allen is here
he is going east Tuesday so is
Geo. Allen & wife come down &
stay with us while Father is gone
he will be gone untill cold
weather I expect Lucy was here
to day she is awful poor & is
going down there while Father
is gone. I intend to go to Albany
with Mrs Adams some time in
October to finish my trade then
I shall set up shop myself & so
Father told me I could aint you
glad I shall go into some new
place near the R.R. so I can
get goods handy oh how I wish
I could see you I set for my
pictures to day write soon
my love to all ever you
Sis G.
Lina has been out again



Mrs William King
Horton
Minnesota

Letter #52C

From: S.S. Porter

To: Emeline Porter

Corfue, Sept 12th/67

Dear Wife & family

I think you will acknowledge (*sic*) me to be a punctual corresponder but as I am laying over here to-day & not able to get around much I thought I would employ a few moments in letting you know how I have progressed for the last 24 hours.

Well when I wrote you from Buffalo yesterday I was feeling rather worse for hard usage. After leaving my letter at the P.O. I went to a Hotel & took a room & lay down for about three hours, got up feeling a good deal refreshed. Took the cars for this place & arrived here about 5 O'clock. Found Nephews H.P. & Geo. A. & sister Sarah here, & I will assure you I have had a good rest so far. I staid with G.A. last night. Had a good nights rest and feel first rate to day. I have got to stay with H.P. to-night & in the morning expect to leave for Albany at 7 O'clock & shall if nothing happens arrive at Albany to-morrow eve at 8 O'clock, when I intend to take a boat down the river & shall probably get into N.Y. early in the morning & then take the L.I. cars for Belport. For I find that I cannot travel about too much to look up friends at present. So you need not expect to hear from me again until I get through.

Remember me to all friends & all accept my affectionate regard.

S.S. Porter

[Envelope postmarked N.Y., addresses to S.S. Porter, Whitewater, Wisconsin]

Corpus Sept 12th / 05
Dear wife & family

I think you will acknowledge me to be a punctual correspondent. But as I am laying over here to-day & not able to get about much I thought I would employ a few moments in letting you know how I have progressed for the last 24 hours.

Well when I wrote you from Buffalo yesterday I was feeling rather worse for hard usage, - after leaving my letter at the P. O. I went to a hotel & took a room, & lay down for about 3 hours, got up feeling a good deal refreshed, - took the cars for this place. I arrived here about 5 O'clock found nephews, H. P. & Geo. A. & sister Sarah here, & I will assure you I have had a good visit so far, - I staid with G. A. last night, - had a good nights rest and feel first rate to day, - I have got to stay with H. P.

to night, & in the morning expect to
leave for Albany at 7 o'clock & shall
if nothing happens arrive at Albany
to-morrow eve at 8 o'clock, when I intend
to take a boat down the river & shall
probably get into N.Y. early in the morning
& then take the L.I. car. for Bellport.
for I find that I cannot travel about
much to look up friends at present.
So you need not expect to hear
from me again until I get through
Remember me to all friends &
all accept my affectionate regards
S. S. Porter



S. S. Porter
Whitewater
Wisconsin

Letter #52D

From: Lib Porter

To: Irve & Vie Porter (No envelope)

Jackson Oct 29th/67

Dear Brother & Sister

It is with a sad & heavy heart that I sit me down to write you these few lines. My mind is I do not know where or how it is. But poor poor father. Can it be that I shall never see him once more again. But Oh dear I do not know what to do. I would have given all if I could have been with him. As yet we do not know but he is still alive but according to what Albert said when he come we all think that it is impossible for him to be alive now.

I will tell you what [and] why I did not come home. I never got Irve's letter until yesterday. Geo & I were off on the Prairie trapping & did not come or get home until yesterday. Wm got home with Albert last thursday night & they started out the next morning & searched high & low for us for two days but could not find us. So we all consulted together & concluded that after hearing Alberts statement that the idea of ever seeing poor father again was utterly hopeless.

O dear dear Vie & Irve I know that you can imagine my feelings. I shall come down home but I thought it would be most prudent to wait until you answer this & tell me when you think I had better come. If I was not situated just as I am I would start right off but of course you will know when I ought to come so be sure & let me know. Perhaps it will be better to wait & come back when you & Vie comes but you must let me know. I can come now or when Geo comes home.

I think some times that I am doing wrong in not coming or starting right away but you know how it is. O I do dread the next news from home so so much but be sure & write immediately.

You dont know how much it comforts me to know that fathers mind was so contented. Albert said he was perfectly reconciled & that is a great consolation.

I wish I was down there. I do want to hear so bad. It will be a week before the next mail comes. Be sure & write. Give my love to all & dont fail to write.

from brother Lib

Jackson Oct 27/67
Dear Brother & Sister.

It is with
a sad & heavy heart that I sit
me down to write you these
few lines. My mind is I
do not know where nor how
it is. But poor poor father.
can it be that I shall never
see him once more again
Oh dear I do not know what to
do. I would have given, all if
I could have been with him
As yet we ^{know} do not but he is still
alive. But according to what
Albert said when he came we
all ^{thought} that it is impossible for him
to be alive now. I will tell you
what why I did not come home
I never got Snow's letter until
yesterday. Geo & I were off on the

Prairie trapping & did not
come or get home until yesterday
We got home with Albert
last Thursday night & they
started out the next morning
& searched high & low for us
for two days but could not
find us. So we all consulted
together & concluded that after
hearing Albert's statement that
the idea of ever seeing poor father
again was utterly hopeless. O dear
dear Vic & Joe I know that you can
imagine my feelings. I shall
come down home but I thought
it would be most prudent
to wait until you answer this.
I tell me when you think I
had better come. If I was not
situated just as I am I would
start right off but of course
you will know when I ought
to come so be sure & let me

know perhaps it will be
better to wait & come back
when you & Vic comes but
you must let me know I can
come now or when Geo comes
home I think sometimes
that I am doing wrong in not
coming or starting right away
but you know how it is.
O I do dread the next news
from home so so much but be
sure I write immediately.
You don't know how much it
comforts me to know that father's
mind was so contented. Albert
said he was perfectly reconciled
& that is a great consolation.
I wish I was down there I do
want to hear so bad. It will
be a week before the next mail
comes be sure & write give
my love to all & don't fail
to write. From brother Lib

Letter #52E

From: Antoinette Porter King

To: Miss Viola C. Porter Whitewater Wisconsin

Jackson Nov 7th 1867

Dear Brother & Sister

With an aching heart I sit down to write you a few lines. We received the sad intelligence of fathers death last Saturday Eve but O I cannot realize that I shall never see him again. It seems I cannot give him up. If I could only have seen him & had him speak to me once more I could have given him up better but now it seems I cannot reconcile myself or submit to my affliction. I know it is wicked to wish him back when he suffered so terribly. Lona says he looked so white & poor & suffered so much. Poor poor father. He is freed from all his aches & pains, gone from this world of sin & sorrow and I hope to a better home. You say he was perfectly resigned & met death without any fears. Do you think his views were any different in regard to his hereafter. I would like to know very much. I hope you will not neglect to write me all the particulars.

We could not possibly [have] got home in time to have seen him if we had started the next minute after receiving your first letter. How much I regret not going with Irve. Then I could have seen poor father.

O Vie how did you stand it & how is Emeline. Did little Nellie come in time to see her grandpa before he died. I hope so. I want to know all about the funeral, who preached fathers funeral sermon & how was he burried (*sic*). Did you get him a nice coffin & was there many to his funeral.

It dont seem as though he was dead. It seems I can see him in the old log house in that old arm chair with his pipe & paper & after I had gone to bed how many times I have seen when the bedroom door had been left open after he was tired of reading, stir up the fire & then sit rather bent over & warm him by the fire & O so many ways. It seems as though it must be so now. He is constantly before my mind. How well I would like to have seen his new home. Albert says it was very pleasant.

I dont suppose he was able to tell you anything about his visit. I should like to know if he was at cousin Henry C when Irve went for him. You said he was at Corfu. It seems strange that Uncle John would let him start alone when he was so much worse. I think aunt Mary might write to me but I have not heard a word in four or five months.

Lib is waiting for a letter from Irve. Tell Irve to write to us. I would like to hear from him & dear Uncle Samuel too. Was Acors at home to attend the funeral.

I would like to know if you & Emeline are going to wear mourning. You know father always opposed it. Did he request you to.

O Vie it seems I must see some of you. I hope you will come & live with me wont you. Have father's death put in the papers & send me one or two. William is just going to town & I must hurry & send this by him. Write soon to us. Much love to all.

From your loving sister

Nette

Jackson Nov 7th 1867.

Dear Brother & Sister

With an aching heart
I sit down to write you a few lines - we received the
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him again. It seems I cannot give him up
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Bona says he looked so white & poor & suffered so
much - poor poor father he is freed from all his
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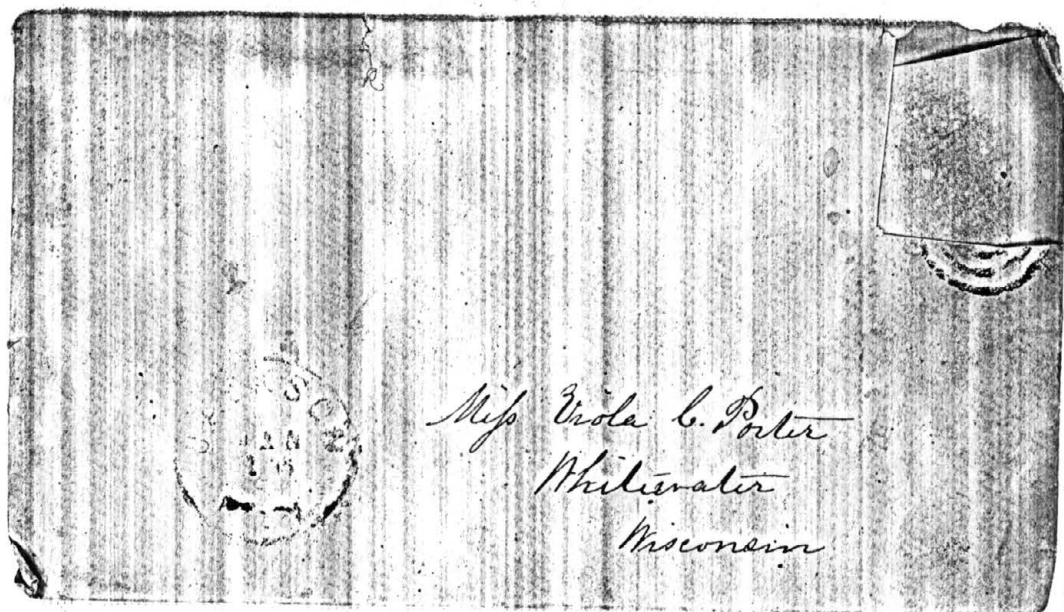
your first letter. How much I regret not going with
Love then I could have seen poor father - O but how
did you stand it & how is Caroline - did little Nellie
come in time to see her Grandpa before he died I hope so
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father's funeral sermon & how was he buried - did
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would let him stay alone when he was so much
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Lib is waiting for a letter from Jane. Tell her
to write to us. I would like to hear from her
& dear Uncle Samuel too. Was Aunt at home
to attend the funeral.

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to wear mourning. You know father always opposed
it. did he request you to? Oh it seems I must
see some of you. I hope you will come & live
with me won't you. Have father's death put in
the paper & send one or two. William is just
going to town & I must hurry & send this by him.
Write soon to us. Much love to all.

From your loving sister
Nellie



Miss Viola C. Porter
Whiterwater
Wisconsin

Letter #53A

From: Bob Coffin

To: Miss Viola C Porter, Whitewater, Walworth Co, Wisconsin

New York Arsenal

November 23, 1867

Dear Vie

Your letter received last Saturday. I watched long for its coming little dreaming the cold shaddow(*sic*) it would cast over my heart, a gloom I cannot divest myself of. Yet it was ever thus, in life we live but in death. The genial warmth of the Spring time give[s] new energy to the tiny plant. We watch its growth as day by day its beauties are developed to us, it gains upon our affections. It twines its tendrills around the heart till affection is strengthened into love, and in childish fancy forge[t]s that the hand of death is ever streached(*sic*) forth to rob us of our treasure; how grate(*sic*) the transformation, how dull the bright sky of yesterday. The warm affection is frozen to despair. Joy is turned to grief. The Spring of gladness is dry, and the dark waters of affliction burst forth in bitter tears---tears hot and scalding yet freeze the life blood, leaving a wild waste where was once the summer bloom.

Where oh! Where shall we turn for consolation. Tears come unbidden. My tongue would speak sweet consolation but my confused thoughts refuse to frame the words. Yet can I feel for you in this your hour of need, an hour that on the one hand tries the constancy of true friends, on the other shows the hollow hypocrisy(*sic*) of false ones.

One more just man, gone to be made perfect in the service of his maker. One more honest soul taken from a dishonest world to sleep the sweet sleep of the blessed. I loved that old man for his many good qualities, and it will be a life long regret with me that I could not see him once more, but we are not to judge the ways of an over ruling Providence. "He doeth all things well." Makes the heart glad with a springtime, and saddens with a wintery blast that the joy may be the greater with each renewal.

Fatherless, Motherless, Alone! No! not alone you have Parents in Heaven purcise (*sic*--?) for the change. Brothers and sisters loving Brothers and sisters and true friends whose deep soul sympathy is freely offered you; This is the winter of your life. Vie--Sister--pause! Think! Will you not have a return of the Spring. The Colder the Winter the more genial the Sun shine, the more beautiful the flowers, and sweeter the songs of the birds. Although we cannot forget, yet will the love for them strengthen in memory, the Brother and Sisterly love will increase, new and true friends will be given you, and joy will once

more rule; a calmer pure joy that will w[h]isper to the heart "Thy will be done, O! Lord not mine!" Departed; would we call them from the grave---that grave so cold and somber in its color of new earth, which as yet refuses to give forth life. Yet as the poor mourners water it with the tears of pure affection from sorrows fount, they will rejoice to find one small blade of grass to unfold itself to the sun light, soon to be followed by others as consolers to the bereaved, proving that "although dead they still live."

Mortal soul; Now Immortal, a wreath of Holy light surrounds thy brow; live on in thy purity, we ask not thy return to earth, but that thee will watch over us, lend us thy aid in our hours of need, guide us in the paths of truth and virtue and so direct us that we mourn not thy loss but that our love and reverence shall grow in thy memory.

Whence comes you pale drop , they cried! From Heaven! was all the teardrop said. Vie! what more shall I say for your comfort? My hearts deepest sympathy is yours. Friendship always true is made doubly so by your affliction. A Brothers love is truly offered and though we should never meet again I feel that with me it is omniscient, and it is with pleasure that my thoughts revert to the pleasant hours I have passed in your company. They are the oasis in my dearest life. Loves happiness is my pleasure and that these are not idle words I want you to feel that you can truly call on me in time of need and if I fail to respond then pronounce judgement.

Vie why do you reprove me for neglect. You forget I did not know of your great sorrow. I would have been but too glad to have offered such consolation as my poor brain could dictate. You see me here now and you would not think I was very full of fun. I am surprised at myself. A joyous face often covers a sad heart, and could my real thoughts and feelings be read by the world, they would say each heart has its own sorrow. But my life is not all a blank for I have loving Parents Brothers Sisters and hope I am not altogether indifferent to my friends and it is a joy and pleasure for me to feel I have them if I do not often see them. I have not visited my home but one day when I first came here my time is so occupied. I expect to go next week and pass the thanksgiven with them. Brother William will go with me. I antisipate(*sic*) a pleasant visit.

What did you do with Maria's letter. I wish you will destroy or return it to me. I hope you will enjoy your visit. Would I could be there to occasionally meet with you.

I look upon my position here as decidedly uncertain. Gen Grant has issued an order that all clerks and civilian employees in all branches of the Army are to be discharged and soldiers to take their places. I suppose this order will have to require the acting of Congress. If they approve I will once more be a rolling stone, in which case I am off for Wisconsin although my

friends are much opposed to again leaving home which is not home to me.

I look and watch for a reply little dreaming the true cause, thinking rather it arose from an indifference. Your pardon for my injustice. What made you think I did not like your picture. It did suit me. I often look at it, and long, so long to sit by the side of the original, to once more take you by the hand, to drive sorrow from your heart. But I can only look upon such thoughts as I dream that a supreme power alone can interpret. Then you have found a new friend, another Brother to supply my place. Does he do it well? I did not know him, yet if he is kind to you I can offer him my hand in friendship. You must not forget you gave one little corner of your heart to my keeping and that I still claim the privilege. I leave it with you to say.

How do I enjoy my present society. I am forced to answer hugely as they are composed of such a jolly set of fellows, read their names--Bob, Rob, Mr Coffin, I and myself. We are constant companions and our round of pleasures are as follows, to arise at seven, eat Breakfast, then repair to the Island, there deface white paper with ink till night, then go [to] Brookly[n] and work for my Brother until 10 or 1/2 past, return to the City and seek sweet sleep about 1/2 past 11. Once in a couple of weeks I go to the theater by way of a change. Now do you not think I lead a jolly life.

My Uncle Robert Stratton is Vice President of a new Insurance and Saving institution which is to go in operation next month. It will be one of the largest in the City. Brother William tells me Uncle wants to see me in relation to a situation. I shall try and get an agency for the West and if I can shall locate in Milwaukee. I intended to have gone last night but for a sudden attack of Cholera(*sic*) Morbis. I am much better to day although far from feeling well. I have had a little good luck in receiving my money from government that I have been trying for 2 years to get.

I am cheating Uncle Sam as I am writing to you when I should be at work over the returns in front of me, but I have so little time to write now days I have to infringe on my friends.

Now Vie I think my story is full as long as you will care to read. Remember me to your Brothers and sister as well as friends. Write soon and believe me as

Ever your true friend and Brother

Bob

in our hands of truth and virtue, and so direct us that
we move not they lose but that our love and
devotion shall grow in thy memory.
Where comes your pale drop, they said?
From Heaven, I was all the tear drop said.
What more shall I say for your comfort? My
heart's deep sympathy is yours - a friendship
always true is made doubly so by your
affliction - a Mother's love is truly offered
and though we should never meet again I
feel that with me it is immortal, and it
is with pleasure that my thoughts revert to the
pleasant hours I have passed in your company,
they are the basis in my dearest life. Your
happiness is my pleasure, and that there are
not idle words I want you to feel that you
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I fail to respond then pronounce judgment.
Why do you reproach me for neglect? You
forget I did not know of your great sorrow.
I would have been but too glad to have offered
such consolation as my poor brain could dictate.

was once the Summers bloom - When oh! When
shall we turn for consolation - Tears come
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the one hands tries the constancy of ^{true} friends, or
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One more just man, gone to be made perfect
in the service of his Master - One more honest
soul taken from a dishonest world - to sleep
the sweet sleep of the blessed - I loved that old
man for his many good qualities; and it
will be a life long regret with me that I
could not see him once more, but we are not
to judge the ways of our ever ruling Providence
"He doeth all things well" - Makes the heart
glad with a spring time - and saddens with
a winters blast, that the joy may be the greater
with each renewal - Fathers, Mothers, Alone! -
No! not alone you have Parents in heaven parents
for the change - Brothers and Sisters loving Brothers
and Sisters and true friends whose deep soul sympathy
is fully offered you; this is the winter of your life

Vic - Sister - pause! think! will you not have
a return of the Spring the Colours the winter
the more genial the sun shining - the more
beautiful the flowers - and sweeter the songs
of the birds - Although we cannot for yet get
will the love for their strength in memory
the Brother and sisterly love will increase - and
and true friends will be giving you, and joy will
once more enter a calmer peace joy that will
wisper to the heart - They will be dear (I hope
not miss) - Departed; would we call them
from the grove that grave so cold and dark
in is color of new earth, which as yet refuses
to give forth life - yet as the poor ^{inanimate} matter
it with the tears of pure affection from ^{our} ^{loving} ^{friends}
forever, they will rejoice to find one small state
of grove to unfold itself to the sun lights, soon
to be followed by others as comrades to the ^{loved} ^{one}
providing that although dead they still live -
Mortal soul; now Immortal - a breath of holy
light surrounds thy brow; live on in thy
purity, we ask not thy return to earth - but
that the wide watch over us, and us thy aid

