

Head Quarters 3rd Brigade
2nd Div 2nd Corps
October 13th 1864

Dear Mother

Of late I have been very busy negligent in regard to my family correspondence, but intend to turn over a new leaf from today.

We are still quartered in rear of Fort Morton¹, and are very comfortably situated. General Smyth wears his star with a deal of grace and we all feel very proud of him. The officers of the brigade have raised 800 or 900 dollars to purchase a handsome outfit for the Gen and the 1st Del Regt has bought a fine horse, all of which will be presented in a few days². Hank Achilles has been staying with Parsons and me for the last few days. He is seeing what he can do for the republican party of Monroe. I met Lt Prentice the other day at City Point. He is A.D.C to Genl Patrick and lives as comfortably as possible. Parsons and I were there together, and being caught in the rain thought that we would stop and make him a call. He was very polite to us, and when we left furnished us with rubbers. The elections in the army are going even better than anticipated, and in a month from now the Democratic party will be entirely used up³. I have just received the news that Mary has actually been married, also Matties letter giving a list of presents. They must have been very fine. You say that the wedded couple have gone off on the bridal tour but give me no information as to their prospects and intentions. Do they propose keeping house or will they for the ~~future~~ present live with the Ponds⁴

Everything here goes smoothly and I think that I will remain at HdQrs while Gen Smyth commands the brigade. The Second Corps has for once been in luck, and I hope will be left in its present position until some forward move is made by the whole army. Court Martial continues and is as great a bore as ever. Col Pierce leaves in a day or two on a twenty day leave of absence. I think it very doubtful if he ever returns.⁵

Very affectionately
Your son
Sam Porter
Capt and A.A. D.C.

Endnotes:

¹ Fort Morton was located on the right flank of the Union line, north of Fort Meikel.

² Long overdue Colonel Thomas Alfred Smyth finally received his brigadier's star on Oct 1, 1864 and the 1st Delaware was his first command.

³Hank Achilles (Henry L. Achilles) –see letter from Mother, August 3, 1864.

Theron Edwards Parsons was 1st Lt. and Adjutant of the 108th NY.

Brig. Gen. Marsena Rudolph Patrick was appointed by McClellan as Provost Marshall General of the Army of the Potomac. In his diary he does not mention a Lt. Prentice but rather refers to a Parker Prentice in NY City, so the identity of Lt. Prentice must remain nebulous.

The soldier vote reflected unanimous support for Lincoln in the presidential election.

⁴Mary and Mattie were Porter's older and younger sisters respectively. With her marriage on Oct. 6 the Ponds were now Mary's in-laws.

⁵ Col Francis Edwin Pierce took command of the 108th once Powers was wounded. He did stay until the end.