

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.
The original letter is in the *Porter Family Papers*, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,
University of Rochester Libraries.

Hd Quarters 108th
Jan 20th '63

Dear Mother

I wrote to Father on Monday and said that if we did not move I should write to you in the evening. We did not move, but still I failed to write owing to the fact that our tent was filled with visitors. I have now time to say but few words but wish to write once more before going into the fight which now seems certain and near at hand. Troops have been defiling on our right all the afternoon, and we are now held in readiness to march at a moments order. It is a bitter cold night, one of the coldest I have experienced in Virginia, and it will be dreadful to be exposed especially if wounded. We are in hopes that our Regt will not be ordered off before morning, but it may be a vain one. A Proclamation of Burnside was read to our troops this afternoon in which he states that we are once more to meet the enemy. Port was over here the other day and will not disgrace the family I feel assured. As for myself I shall attempt to do my duty and trust in God. If we fight it will be a terrible battle and I hope a decisive one.¹
Much love to all and believe me your affect son

Saml Porter

P.S. Excuse my writing such a letter but at such a time as this one does not feel very much in the writing line.

Yours

Saml

Morning The worst night I ever knew. Troops still passing we are not ordered off yet. Mats letter came late last night please thank her.

S

Notes:

¹ The proclamation as Porter calls it was General Orders no.7 issued on Jan 20th 1862 (*O.R. 1 21*,p.127)
Porter Farley was his cousin in the 140th NY