

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

Camp 63<sup>rd</sup> Regt N.Y. Vols  
Near Petersburg (*sic*) Va  
March 14<sup>th</sup> 1865

Brig Genl T. A Smyth

Sir

Being informed by Dr. Reynolds that you would procure Capt. Porter as counsel in my defense at "courts martial" to be held this day at 10 A.M. at the Smith House situated between the picket line & breastworks of this Division I most respectfully accept of his services and am

Your Obt Svt  
John H. Gleason<sup>1</sup>  
Lt. Col. 63<sup>rd</sup> Regt N.Y.Vols.

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Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> The letter of John Hasset Gleason of the 63<sup>rd</sup> NY to Brig.Gen. Thomas Alfred Smyth accepting the services of Sam Porter was the result of his being under arrest for an offence which could not be determined. He is mentioned as still being under arrest by Robert Nugent, Colonel of the Irish Brigade on March 26,1865, nearly two weeks after the above letter.

What happened as a result of his court martial trial is not clear. The Arlington National Cemetery website reads that he was honorably 'mustered out May 18,1865'.

His record in *New York in the War of the Rebellion* reads Lt.Col. 'Sept 19, 1864: cashiered May 18, 1865'. Cashier can mean simply to disband/dismiss a group of soldiers or dismiss from a position of authority with dishonor.

Lawrence Reynolds was the surgeon of the 63<sup>rd</sup> NY.