

Washington, DC.
Nov. 1862.¹

Dear Father

The boat leaves in about an hour, but as I know you will be anxious until I am safely over all difficulties, I shall devote a few minutes to letting you know how I have succeeded here. Dr. & I both started as I informed you we should at 6 o' clock last evening and taking a sleeping car reached W[ashington] without accident just in time for breakfast. Soon after we went to general M[artindale] and through his influence procured passes within the army lines so that we shall have no farther trouble.² I find that by the time I reach the Reg't I shall not have more than two or three dollars, so I wish when you can do so with safety you would send me 5 to 10 dollars.

Yours
Saml Porter

Application having been made to me by Lieut. Sam'l D Porter 108th NY Vols for a certificate by which to explain his absence from his Regiment beyond the expiration of his "Leave of Absence" – I hereby certify that the above named officer who was wounded at action of Antietam in foot, has but just recovered use of his limb, and has been in no condition to travel until now.

Dated at Rochester, NY this 18th day of November, 1862

A.Backus
U.S. Med. Officer
At Rochester NY.

Notes:

¹ The exact date of this letter / note would have to be after Nov. 18 – the date identified on the medical note (included) from Dr. Backus.

² The doctor that Porter refers to is not clear. It is highly unlikely that Backus accompanied Porter back to his regiment so the doctor could be a surgeon of Porter's acquaintance or one from the regiment returning to duty.

Brig. Gen. John Henry Martindale was the military governor of Washington D.C. from Nov. 1862 to May 1864. All military passes and personnel would be within the jurisdiction of Martindale.

By the time he would arrive the regiment would be located at Belle Plain, Va.