

Camp of the 108th
Near Falmouth Va
Feb 15 /63

Dear Mother

It is some time now since I have answered any of your letters, and as I have just risen from a very sumptuous repast and feel like taking time for its digestion I shall endeavor to write you a good long letter. I use the word good as relating to long and not to letter, for I write so frequently that it is difficult to find any items of interest. I sent off a letter yesterday by Geo Burrell who will doubtless see you long before this reaches you. His furlough is very short (only ten days) and we begin already to look forward to his return laden with all manner of good things. He is a nice fellow & makes himself very useful.

Our last night's mail brought me, besides my daily paper, a letter from Father. I am glad to see by it that though he does not anticipate any wonderful success from his new undertaking he feels confident of a small profit at least. That is some thing and I hope that when the ice is once fairly broken sales may become large and frequent. His letters to me are very frequent and as I write to so many others of the family I think he will have to be satisfied if I answer about every other one. I receive on the average about three letters a week from home and answer nearly all of them. I should rather judge from Father's letters that I did not receive so many as were written to me but it is impossible to tell. Charles Ayers started for home this morning in the midst of a heavy rain storm, and as it is four or five miles to the station he must have had rather a disagreeable time. However I suppose he can enjoy himself enough in the ten days allowed him to pay for all expense and trouble. He has had a hard place in the Regiment, and though he may not have done his work so willingly as he should have still he is deserving of this short respite. I hope that you and Father had a good time at Genl Gould's birth day party which you were expecting to attend when he (that is Father) wrote last. I was surprised to learn how old the General is; he certainly looks much younger.

Farley insinuated some time ago that there was a probability of a marriage in the family. If such is the case you must not fail to let me know some time before hand.

Capt Andrews who has been away from the Regiment for some returned today looking much improved by his visit. He says that Colonel Powers and Captain Fuller will rejoin the Regt on Tuesday & bring with them the express matter belonging to us. My Carpet bag will probably come with the rest. Our butter gave out yesterday and we were obliged to buy some at sixty cents a pound.¹

Yours affectionately
Sam Porter.

Notes:

¹ George Burrell, pvt, Co. F, 108th NY was a Canadian from Toronto, Upper Canada who moved to the Rochester area before the war.

Charles B. Ayers was Sgt-Major, 108th NY

General Jacob Gould was the father of Seward Gould and was born on Feb. 10, 1794.

Farley Porter was Sam's younger brother and the marriage could be Mary's and Charles Pond.

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.

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

William H. Andrews, Captain Co. C, 108th NY
Charles J. Powers at this time was still Lt. Col.
Eugene P. Fuller was Captain of Co. C, 108th NY.