

Hd Qrs 2nd Brigade¹
Feb 11th 1864

Dear Father

A recruiting detail is about to leave camp, and as one of the number Mr. Halsted Sergeant Major of the Regiment and a most particular friend of mine expects to visit Rochester I send these few lines by him. I write chiefly because he has been for the last year my intimate companion, and as such I think that you and Mother would like to make his acquaintance. Besides this he is a pleasant and gentlemanly person, and a credit to the Regiment. If convenient, I wish that you would invite him to the house, and on my account be as polite and friendly to him as possible. Since writing to Mary nothing of any importance has transpired. I am still one of Powers ADC's, but as Col Smyth of the 1st Del Vols is expected soon I shall probably not be here long. My Captain's commission is now in my own possession, but as Fellman still hangs on, I cannot be mustered in and must still act as Lieutenant². This is somewhat aggravating, but it is a great relief to have the commission and I am tolerably satisfied. My health was never better in my life and my leg is about well.

With much love to all I am

Your affectionate son
Sam Porter.

Endnotes:

¹ After the Demonstration at Morton's Ford, the 108th NY returned to its camp at Stevensburg, Va.

²Reuben H. Halsted was Sgt-Major (June 63) of Co.C, 108th NY was about twice the age of Porter at 39 yrs. old.

Col. Charles J. Powers was Colonel of the 108th NY.

Thomas Alfred Smyth, Colonel of the 1st Delaware returned with his regiment from their Veteran Furlough on Feb. 5, 1864 – see letter and note for January 10, 1864 – and as senior Colonel, Smyth re-took command of the 2nd Brigade and Powers returned to his duty as Colonel of the 108th NY.

John R. Fellman, Capt. of Co. I was wounded at Gettysburg and discharged on April 22, 1864 – see letter of Jan. 7, 1864.