

Camp Seward Va Oct 11th 1862

Dear Sister I take this opportunity to write to you to let you know that I am still on praying ground I am well and have been since I was at home. We have been here since a week ago thursday night I am not homesick yet but if I was at home now I should not be here at the same time. We have had marching orders to march to Fairfax Courthouse. Our Captain says we shall go today or tomorrow

We are encamped on Arlington heights about 3 miles from Washington and two miles from the Potomac We can see the Capitol very plainly from here it is a splendid building. It has been very hot here until last night it commenced to rain and has been raining ever since I was on guard and I got wet some if not more when I was relieved I laid down upon the ground without any blanket only an over Coat on and slept four hours very soundly. I dont like it here as well as I did in Camp Brown we have not got as good a place to sleep or _____ we live as well as we did there but never mind it is only 3 years or during the war and then but I will not anticipate I like the Captain and the rest of the officers and men very much We all think a great deal of the Captain especially as he thinks a good deal of his men I cannot send any money home this time but I think I will in my next letter I must close this letter now for the drum is beating for Battalion drill We drill six hours per day I have learned to be quite a soldier enclosed I send Fannie a picture of our camp give my Love to her and Frank tell them to be good children tell Fanny that I have not scalped a Rebel yet but as soon as I do I will send her a lock of his hair. There is some Mass. troops camped around but I have forgotten the name of Eds Regt The 14th Mass is here Please send me his address Give my love to Nancy and all of the rest of inquiring Friends

Your Brother

J. N. Porter

(Stencilled on back page:) J. N. Porter
Co. H. 154. N. Y. S. V.

Washington D.C. Care of Capt John F Nelson Follow the Regt