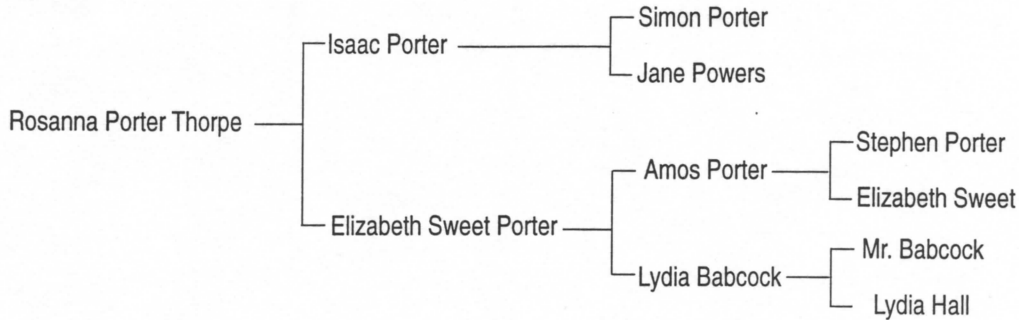


Porter Family



Note: Isaac and Elizabeth Sweet Porter were distantly related.

	Wife	Children
Simon Porter Born: 1770 Died: 1835 Buried: Cornwallis, NS	Jane Powers Born: Died: 1843 Buried: Cornwallis, NS	Isaac (see below)
Reverend Isaac Porter (Methodist minister in Hampden, ME) Born: 1804 Died: 1852 Buried: Hampden, ME in Locust Grove Cemetary	Elizabeth Sweet Porter* (distantly related to Isaac) Born: 1809 (Cornwallis, NS) Died: 1850 Buried: Hampden, ME in Locust Grove Cemetary. Probably died during child birth	Rosanna Porter Thorpe (1830-1907)** Leander Harris Porter (1832-1836) Isaac Edwin Porter (1833-?) Mary Elizabeth Porter (1835-1836) Elizabeth Porter Brackett (?) Sara Jane Porter (1838-1839) John N. Porter (1839-1863) (John served in the Civil War in the 154th NY Infantry) Lucinda H. Porter (1850, died in infancy)

*Elizabeth Sweet Porter's father was also a Porter:

Amos Porter (Moved to Cornwallis, NS from Litchfield, CT and became a wealthy and influential farmer) Born: 1769 Died: 1844 Buried: probably in Cornwallis, NS	Lydia Babcock (Originally from New Haven, CT) Born: 1760 Died: 1854 Buried: probably in Cornwallis, NS	Elizabeth Sweet Porter (1809-1850)
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**Rosanna Porter married Judah Wells Thorpe on September 16, 1847 in Hampden, ME

Judah Wells Thorpe (From Cornwallis, NS) Born: 1820 Died: 1898 Buried: North East, PA cemetary	Rosanna Porter (From Cornwallis, NS/ Hampden, ME) Born: 1830 Died: 1907 Buried: North East, PA cemetary	Llewellyn in Hampden ME (1849, died in infancy) Clara Francis in Belmont, NY (1853 - 1924) Francis Newton in Swamscott, MA (1857-1926)
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Note: Judah Wells Thorpe's grandmother (Irene Porter) was the sister of Rosanna Porter's grandfather (Amos Porter)

Porter Family



Rosanna Porter as
a younger woman



Rosanna Porter with her grand-
daughter Marion E. Thorpe



John N. Porter

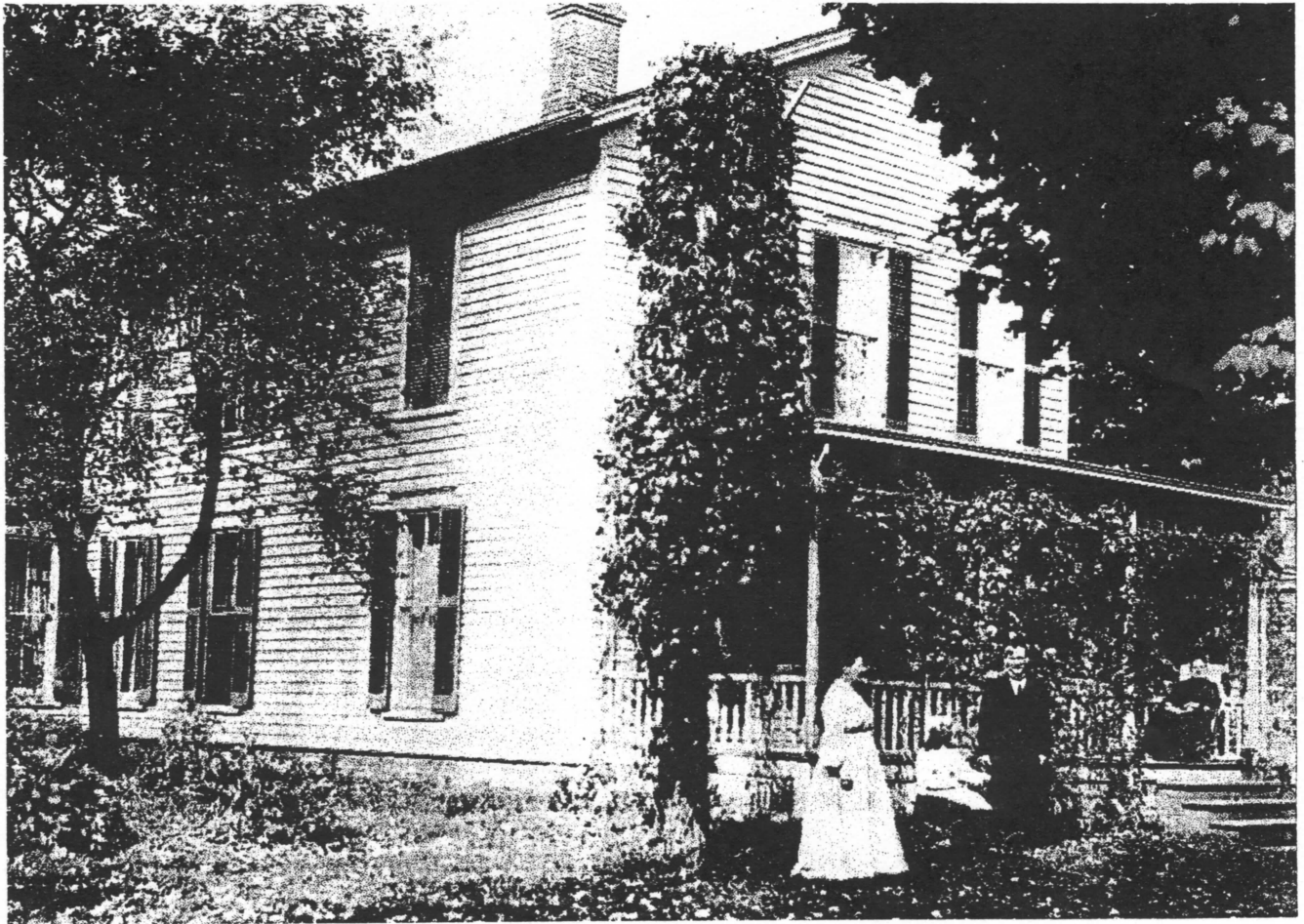


Elizabeth Porter Brackett



Porter Family

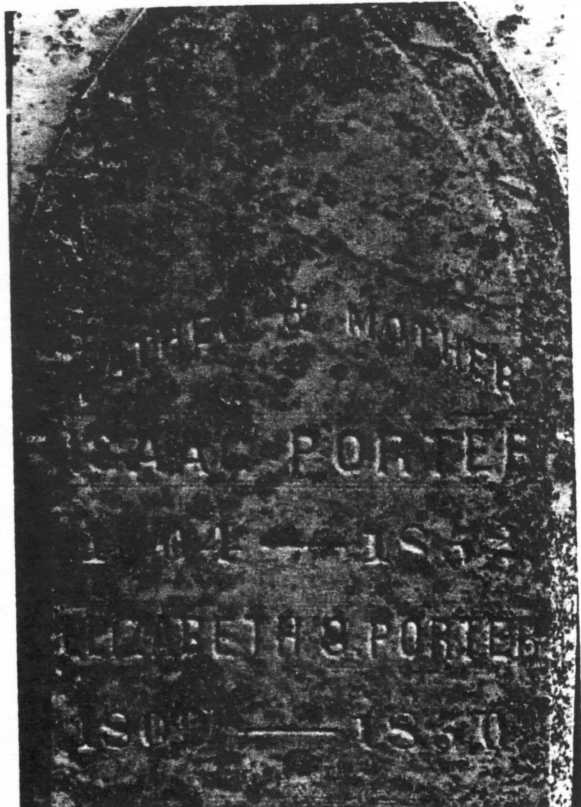
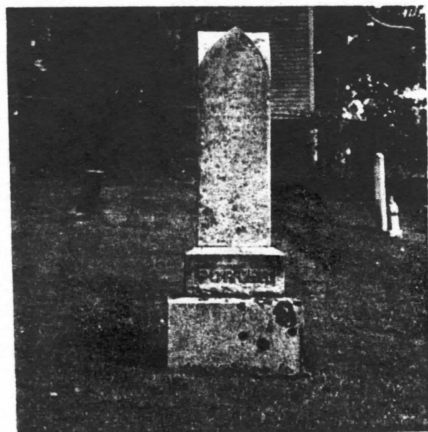
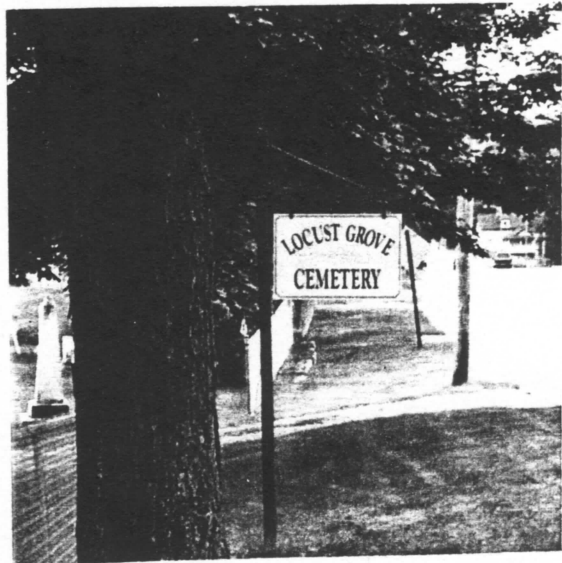
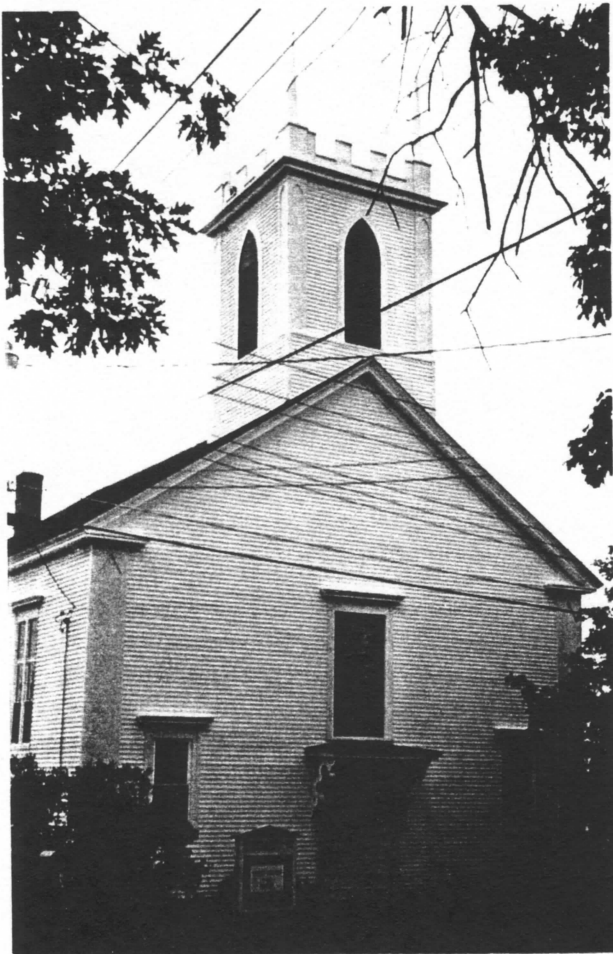
View of Judah and Rosanna Porter Thorpe's home on Park Street in North East, PA. Rosanna is on the porch, her grown children, Clara Thorpe and Francis Newton Thorpe (her brother) are standing in the foreground along with FNT's daughter, Marion E. Thorpe.



Porter Family

Pictures from Hampden, ME

The Methodist church where Isaac Porter was the pastor and the cemetery down the street where Isaac and his wife Elizabeth are buried along with four of their children.



Porter Family History

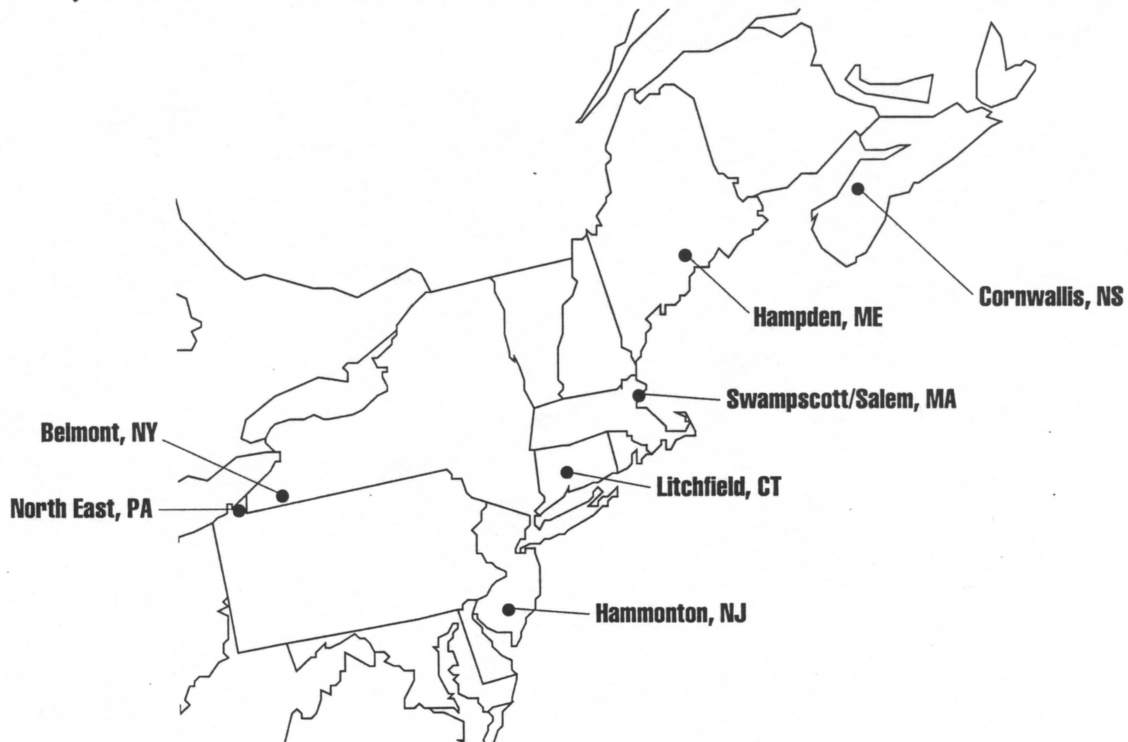
The Early Years in America and Nova Scotia, Canada

John Porter was the first of the Porter family to come to America. Born in 1596, John came in 1635 to Hingham, MA and later resided in Salem, MA. He died in 1676. There is a gap in the Porter family line until Simon Porter and Jane Powers from Cornwallis, Nova Scotia had a son Isaac in 1769 who later became a Methodist minister. He married Elizabeth Sweet Porter (a distant relative), the daughter of Amos Porter and Lydia Babcock of Cornwallis. Amos and Lydia had relocated to Nova Scotia from Litchfield, CT where he obtained a large tract of land at Cornwallis after the French peasantry had been removed from the lands of Acadia in the mid-1700's. Amos eventually became a very wealthy and influential farmer in the area.

Moving Back to the USA

Rev. Isaac Porter and his family relocated from Nova Scotia to Hampden, ME in 1845. The Methodist Church where he was pastor was started back in 1795 is still standing (as of 1998) and the Locust Grove Cemetery where the parents and most of their children are buried is still intact. The family stone is in the front left side of the cemetery. Isaac and Elizabeth Porter had eight children—only four lived past childhood (Rosanna Porter Thorpe, Elizabeth Porter Brackett, Isaac Edwin Porter and John Newton Porter). The oldest child was Rosanna (our last Porter ancestor) who was born in 1830. Her youngest brother was John Newton Porter, born in 1839. A lumberman by trade, he also served in the Civil War (see below).

Rosanna Porter married Judah Wells Thorpe in 1847 and had their first child in Hampden, ME (a son named Llewellyn) who was born in 1849 and died four days after birth. Rosanna's mother died in 1850 (most likely in child birth) and her father died in 1852, leaving her (at the age of 22) with no parents and an 11-year old brother to raise. Rosanna and Judah (and her young brother John) moved from ME to



Porter Family History

Belmont, NY where she gave birth to a daughter Clara Francis (nicknamed Fanny) in 1853. They later moved to New England where they had a son, Francis Newton Thorpe, in Swampscott, MA in 1857. Soon after they moved back to Belmont, NY via a short stint in Hammonton, NJ (in southern, NJ). In 1865, they moved to the Town of North East in western PA. At first, they lived on a small farm outside of town and later built a home on Park Steet in the center of town. Judah had a varied career taking a hand at lumbering, fruit farming (grapes) and as a carpenter building houses. The Porters were strong believing Christian people—both quoted their favorite hymns and Bible passages on their death beds.

Profile of John Newton Porter (1839 - 1863)

John Porter was Rosanna Porter's youngest brother. Just previous to his enlistment in the Civil War, he was lumbering down in Franklin, PA (near Oil City in Vernango County). He went up to Carrolton, NY (east of Jamestown) and enlisted with the 154th Regiment, New York Infantry Volunteers in September 1862. John was assigned to Company H of the 154th Regiment that was ultimately under Major General O. O. Howard's 11th Corps. Outlined below is a description of John's tour of duty that started at Camp Brown in Jamestown, NY then continues by train to Camp Seward near the nation's Capitol and then on an arduous procession throughout Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. He would never return home due to his capture the following July by Confederate troops at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was brought to Belle Isle Prison in Richmond and died November of 1863. Based on research in Richmond, John would have been buried on Belle Island and in 1868, the remains of soldiers were removed to the Richmond National Cemetery off Route 60 east of Richmond. Many of the soldiers were buried as "unknown" and there is no traceable record of John being there.

- Notes: (1) The letters presented in the following pages are based on transcripts and copies of original letters sent from John Porter to his sister Rosanna Porter Thorpe who resided in Belmont, NY at the time.
- (2) The chronology of events are extracted from the book: *The Hardtack Regiment*, An Illustrated History of the 154th Regiment, New York State Volunteers, by Mark H. Dunkelman and Michael J. Winefy, Fairleigh Dickinson Press, 1981, ISBN 0-8386-3007-3

Porter Family History

September 1862

- 29 154th NY Infantry left Camp Brown in Jamestown, NY at 5:45 pm by passenger train after 4-hr delay. The Chautauque Bible Society provided each man with a Bible and a send off from a crowd of local folks, a band and lots of tears.
- 30 Arrived in Elmira, NY at 6:00 am, where they received a belt cartridge box, Enfield rifle and 40 rounds of ammunition and boarded a box car train of the Northern Central Railroad going south.

October

- 1 In the early morning hours the train went through Harrisburg, PA and over the Susquehanna River. The train made a short stop in York, PA, passed into Maryland arriving in Baltimore at noon.
- 2 After a long ride through the night (train engineer concerned with Rebels tampering with rails) the train arrived in Washington early in the morning.

Chautauque Co. NY
Camp James M. Brown
Jamestown

Dear Sister,

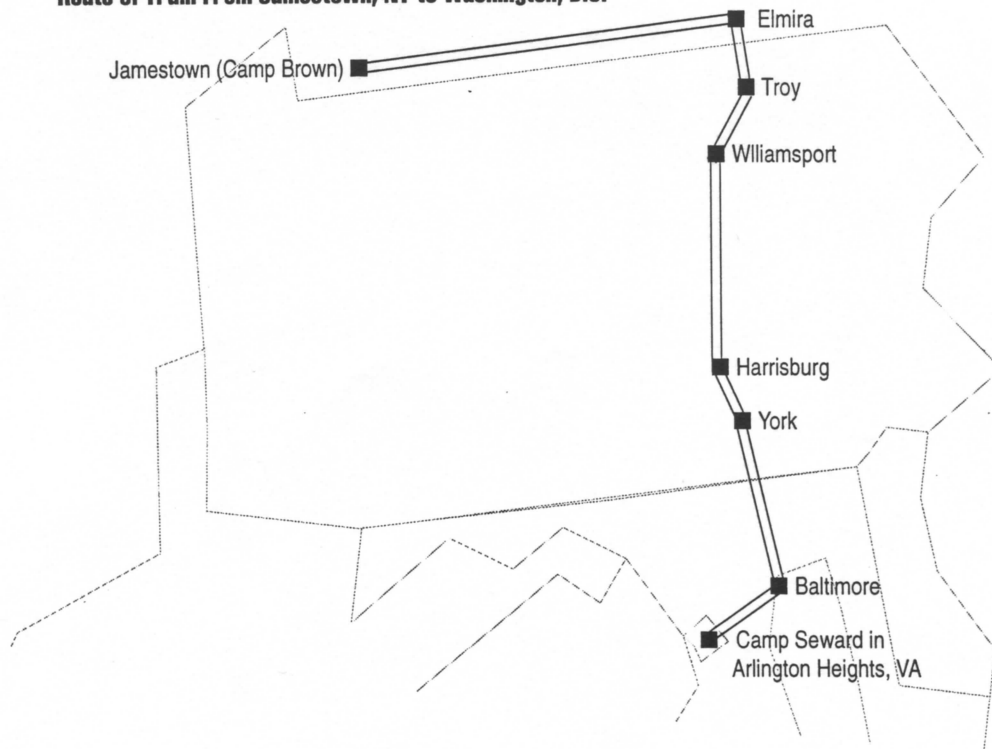
After a long silence I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well & hope you are enjoying the same blessing. I enlisted a week ago yesterday. I am in Capt. John F Nelsons Co. I enlisted in the town of Carrolton. I don't know when I shall go home but expect to get a furlough next week. I have got the promise of one.

Give my best respects to all

John N. Porter

Direct to Jamestown Chautauque Co. N.Y.

Route of Train From Jamestown, NY to Washington, D.C.



Porter Family History

Profile of John Newton Porter (cont'd)

October

- 2 (cont'd) After waiting most of the day, at 5:00 the Regiment marched about five miles from the train station, across the Long Bridge over the Potomac to Arlington Heights. The camp was near General Lee's mansion at a place called Camp Seward in honor of the Secretary of State.
- 3 The next morning the men were able to see they had an excellent view of the partially completed Capitol building and there were camp grounds as far as the eye could see. The men received tents, blankets, utensils, cups and two cook pans for a group of eight men.
- 12 Left Camp Seward and marched for a day and a half and set up camp at Fairfax Courthouse, VA.
- 13 The troops settled into Army camp life with plenty of paperwork and a daily routine with picket duty.
- 29 Struck camp and marched one mile.

November

- 2 Struck tents, delayed until noon and then marched 11 miles just past Centreville and most slept in rain and mud without tents.
- 3 The regiment marched 15 miles through Haymarket and over the Bull Run battlefield—getting their first view of the carnage of war (after the battle).
- 7 They then marched through New Baltimore and on to Thoroughfare Gap where the 11th Corps was to assist in preventing the enemy from crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains. The march took several days and during portions of the time there was a snow storm.
- 9 For the next eight days they guarded the Gap and foraged for food in the general area.

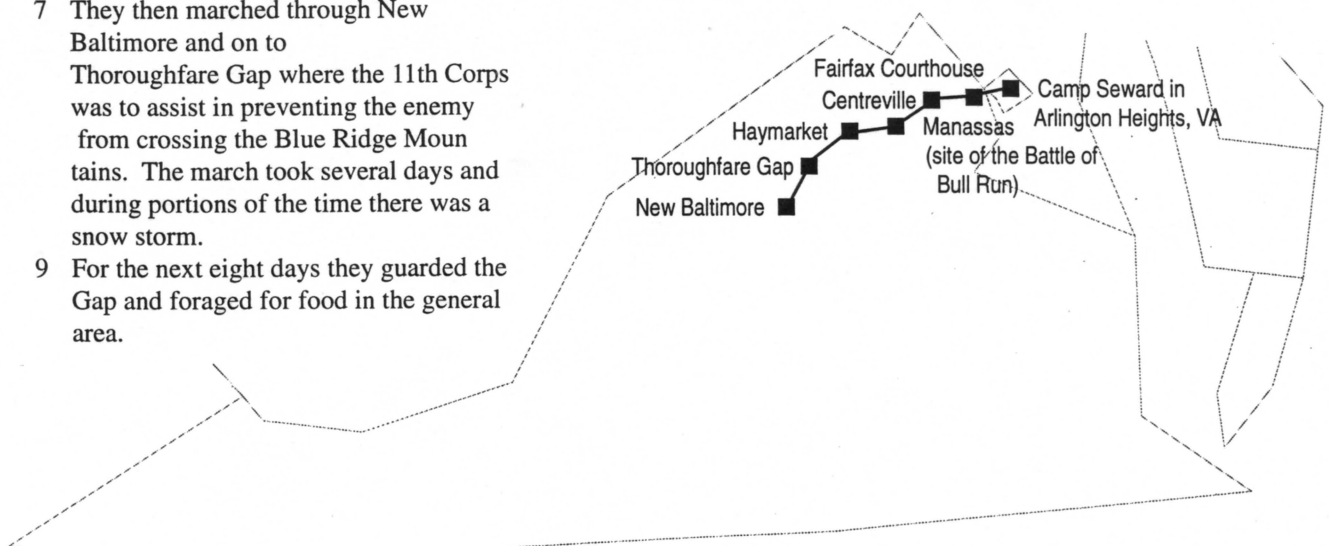
Camp Seward Va Oct 11th 1862

Dear Sister,

I take this opportunity to write you to let you know that I am still on praying ground. I am well and have been here since a week ago Thursday night. I am not homesick yet.... 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 overcoat and slept four hours very soundly. I don't like it here as well as I did at Camp Brown. We have not got as good a place to sleep... 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 will 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 Fannie 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 here 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 the rest of inquiring friends.

Your brother
J.N. Porter



Porter Family History

Profile of John Newton Porter (cont'd)
November (cont'd)

- 17 The regiment marched back to Haymarket.
- 18 Marched back to within two miles of Centreville.
- 19 Marched back to Fairfax and camped.
- 27 Celebrated Thanksgiving with boiled beef, beef soup, boiled potatoes, and cabbage with vinegar.

December

- 10 Left Fairfax and marched six days to Fredricksburg.
- 15 By the time the regiment arrived at Stafford Court House the battle was over and the Union Army was retreating over the Rappahannock River.
- 16 At 8:00 pm they were ordered to strike tents and fall in and the marched about two miles and ditched for the night.
- 17 About 3:00 pm the next day they moved a short distance. They were close to the Rappahannock and about 1.5 miles from Falmouth. The Army of Northern VA was camped right across the river and men from both sides carried on a conversation while on picket duty.
- 25 The troops spent Christmas Day in camp and the weathere was warm and pleasant. There were few drills during this time and the general tone was challenging as to why the fighting continues.
- 31 On the last day of the year the troops were mustered for pay and lay around all day.

December 22nd 1862
 Camp near Fredricksburg, VA

Dear Sister,

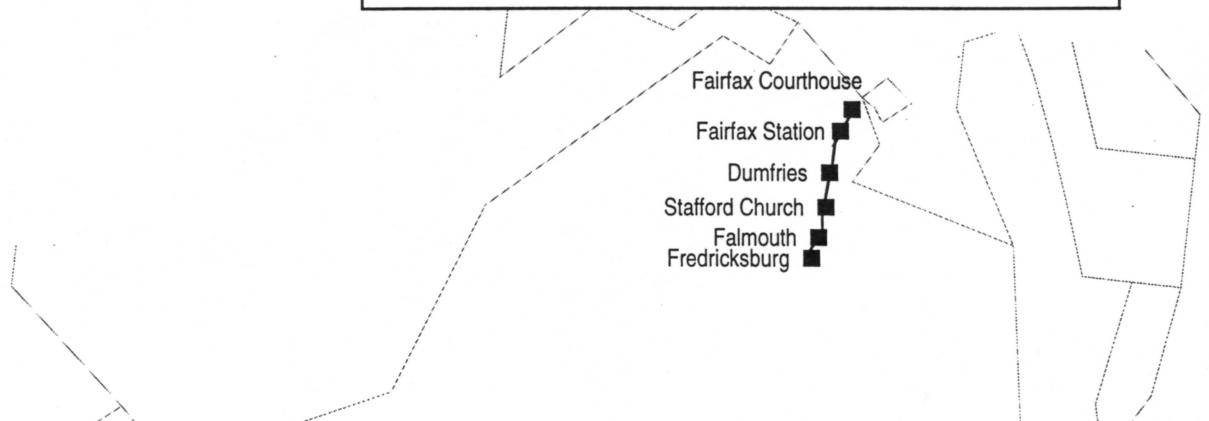
I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that I am well & hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. I have not had any letter from you since I left Camp Seward, Washington. I wrote one to you at Fairfax but have not recd. any answer. I wrote for \$25.00 in cash and \$1.00 in Postage stamps. I got one from Edwin while at Fairfax and one from Ellen at Thoroughfare Gap. We started from Fairfax on the 10th of Dec. and marched 6 days through the mud. If you would like to know anything about a forced march just strap a bureau on your back and take a meal-bag and fill it with provisions then tie two flat-irons on each foot in place of mud and start off on a double quick and you will have a faint idea of a soldiers life.

We had just put us (five) up a log house in Fairfax and made a nice fireplace in it when we were ordered to march. I was sorry to leave it but it was of no use.

I never was in better health in my life than I am now. I can eat all of my rations and more too. I have to steal or confiscate is the modern name for stealing to get enough to eat. We march two days with only two "hard tacks" (hard bread) apiece. I went into a house in Dumfries, a place where we had camped one night and got a peck of potatoes and a chicken and we had the best supper I ever ate in my life. We are encamped along the Rappahannock opposite the City of Fredricksburg. We can see the Rebel camp fires from here. Our Regt. has not been in a fight yet but we don't know how soon we shall. We started from Jamestown with 945 men and now there is not over 500 men. There was 83 men in our Company and now we can muster only 52 men for duty. There has been 8 dessertions out of this Company since we have been in Virginia. I have not any more time to write now for we have got to go-out and drill this afternoon. Send me \$25.00 and \$1.00 Postage stamps and obldige.

Your Affectionate Brother
 John N. Porter
 Direct to Washington, D.C.
 154th regt. N.Y.S.V.
 Co. H Capt John F. Nelson

Give my love to all inquiring friends. Tell them to write



Porter Family History

January 1863

- 3 The decision was made to winter at this site and they were ordered to make log huts and use tents as roofs.
- 13 General Burnside, with approval from Lincoln, began actions to prepare for a flanking offensive of the Confederate troops in the area. They worked on building a road to access the river and prepared to place a pontoon bridge across but it downpoured for days and left deep mud that was impassable.
- 22 The troops finally returned to Falmouth muddy, tired, wet, cold and sick. They pitched tents and started to build shanties thinking they would stay the winter since a snow storm came dropping six inches.

February

- 5 The troops were ordered to pack up and march through rain and snow to Potomac Creek.
- 6 After a pontoon bridge was built they crossed over the creek to a high Plateau near Stafford Court House. The troops would remain there nearly three months.

January 7th 1863
Camp near Fredricksburg, VA

Dear Sister,

I take this present opportunity to answer your letter which I rec'd on the 5th. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that the folks were well. If you only knew how glad I am to get a letter I know you would write oftener than you have done. I should have witten oftener than I have done if I have Postatge Stamps or Money to buy any with. I have had to...send to you. They are as scarce as hens teeth here money ditto. Tell Edwin that I have not forgotten him yet. I am only writing for you to send me some money now so I can write some letters and buy some tobacco and other necessities of life. I have gotten so tired of eating hardtack and pork that I think if I had some money I would get something different. I have just come off guard (duty) and I feel rather sleepy otherways I am in good health. Your wish that I would be sick enough to be sent home is not likely to be gratified just yet. I have not lost an hours duty since I enlisted on account of sickness. I weigh 177 lbs. Avoirdupois. I hope I shall not be sick enough to be sent home for I should be put into a Hospital and I don't want to go there. There have been 3 deaths since I wrote last in this Regt. That is the way they discharge soldiers down here with the exception they pay most of them off in lead.

I would like to go home better perhaps than you would would like to have me. But I must see a little bit more of the elephant than I have seen yet. I don't like our Captain as well as I did and the rest of the company are ditto. He is too cross and overbearing but I get along with him first rate. I have obeyed orders so far to the letter. He has never spoken a cross word to me yet nor have any of the officers. Tell Judah not to use up all of his Oak timber. I may be at homie next spring and I want a job of sawing (it up). I guess the war will be over by that time. We have just completed our Shanty. We have got a fire place in it and it is quite comfortable. The whole Brigade is fixing up for our winter quarters. Our Regt. have just completed their houses. We had to carry our timber about 1/2 a mile. We are cooking a kettle full of bean soup (Yorker stile). Quite a rarity for us. What are your Christmas & New Years dinners to be compared with such a dinner as ours will be? How I do pity you poor folks at home. You don't know what good living is. But you must not fail to send me that money this time so I can buy a loaf of soft bread. I am afraid I shall get accustomed to good living so I shall hate to break off if I keep on eating Hardbread. I don't know when we shall get our pay here. Can you tell me where Wm. Andrews is? Give my love to Fannie & Frank & Little Arthur. I have read this letter over an&d all the sense I can make out of it is that I want some money and am well. Hoping you are the same. Your Affectionate Brother. Good Day

John N. Porter

Co. H 154th regt. N.Y.S.V.

I have not heard from Ed. Wilkins yet

Porter Family History

Feb. 2nd 1863
Camp near Fredricksburg, VA

Dear Sister,

It is a pleasure that I take my pen to write you a few lines in answer to your very kind letter which I recd. night before last. I also got one from you a week ago last Saturday with \$5.00 in it. I was very glad to get it too. Our Regt. got paid off Saturday so I will enclose a check for twenty dollars (\$20.00) Judah will have to endorse his name on the back of the check and he can get the money for it any where. We got two months pay. We shall probably get two more months pay shortly after say about 20 days from this time. I wish you could get me a pair of boots if it would not be too much trouble and send them, you can direct them just as you would a letter. If you conclude to send them have Morseman make them by the same measure that he made the other ones. With heavy soles well nailed and the highest legs he can cut out. There are some awful mud holes here in Virginia and lots of little brooks through which we have to wade. The boots that he made before are pretty well worn out. They leak badly and hurt my feet. I don't want to wear Army shoes if I can help it. Since I wrote last we have changed our camp to another place about a mile further up the river. We had to go up the river about seven miles on the 17th of Jan. to build roads for the Pontoon bridges. We started at 2 o'clock in the morning and stayed two days. Then we came back and stayed about 3 days in camp and then went back to finish the roads and guard the bridges. We had a pretty hard time of it. It rained after they started with the bridges all the time. The bridges got lost and the Artillery got stuck and the Officers were most all of them drunk and the men were most awful wet and cold. I don't think there will be another move made before Spring. The roads are in a horrible condition now. The night we came to this campground it snowed all night and the next day. The snow has not all gone off yet. It is quite pleasant now. We had to build new shanties here. I have got a real comfortable one. It is 7 x 12 feet, with a quarter pitch on the roof, and a good mud fire-place. I shall be jack of all trades when my three years are up. I have just finished my washing. I can cook my own food too. It is the easiest thing in the world to sharpen a stick and put a piece of beef or pork on it and broil it over the fire. I like this camp life I do that is, I like to look on. There have been quite a number of resignations among the officers in this Regiment lately, and I know of a "goodly" number of Privates that would resign but for "circumstances beyond their control". Give my love to Edwin and Louisa. Tell them I have not forgotten them and I will write to them as soon as I can. There would not be much use in complaining to the Officers about the lost money. I presume it was one of them that got it. The most of them are a pack of drunken Rowdies. Capt. Nelson is going home on furlough in a few days, the most of the men hope he will stay at home. Give my love to Fannie & Frank. I was very much pleased with Fannies letter. She will soon get so she can beat her Uncle John. Her composition is better now and her writing is but a little inferior. I have not got a "Reb" skull yet but may be I shall if they don't get mine before the war is over. If I do I will send it to her.

I must close this lengthy letter epistle for I am getting tired of writing and I suppose you are tired of reading by this time. The reason I wrote so much is that I am so hoarse that I can't speak aloud and I got mad and went to writing. Otherways I am well and hope this will find you all enjoying the same blessing. Give my best respects to Judah and tell him that he could not occupy his leisure time in a more profitable manner than writing to me occasionally. I hope you will send the boots. If Morseman has not got the measure tell him to mark them No. 8. You will find out there is as much inconvenience in having relation in the Army as there is honor. I won't bother you any more this time so Good Bye.

John N. Porter

P.S. send me a few postage stamps. They are scarce here. I got them that you sent me.

Porter Family History

March 1st 1863
Camp near Stafford Court House, VA

Dear Sister,

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well. I hope you are the same. Since I wrote to you last we have moved about 10 miles from our old camp. The most of Sigel's Corps is camped around here. We are about one mile from Stafford Court House. It is a miserable looking place. There are only a few dilapidated houses in it besides the Court House & Jail. There is one very fine house built on an eminence in the town where Gen. Sigel has his Head Quarters. The Court House is where Patrick Henry the celebrated orator was wont to hold forth during the Revolution. It is now used for Commissary Stores. We were mustered for 2 months pay yesterday. There is 4 months pay due me now. We shall get it before long. I have received two letters from you, one from Lizzie & one from Charley Weaver since I wrote last. I hope you have sent the boots. I shall want them when we march again. You ought to get a receipt of the Express Agent and send it to me by mail. The weather has been very stormy lately. It will take 3 weeks of good weather to make the roads passable for Artillery & Wagons. The most of the Regt. are out on Picket to day. It is the first time that I have not been detailed when Pickets were called since I have been in the Service. But I do not feel slighted much for it rained all night and looks squally now and I (would rather) lie in my tent as on the cold ground. We have got a first-rate hut built. It is larger than the others we have built. We add new improvements every time we build. When I am discharged I am going to take a box of hard bread, knapsack and gun and go out West and settle. There is a fortune teller in the 74th Pa. Regt. says the war is going to end in 3 months. But I guess he lies a little. I hope when the war ends that slavery will end with it. I like the President's "Emancipation Proclamation". I like his Administration too. But I am getting hungry and must get some dinner. So good bye & give my love to all enquiring friends.

From your affectionate Brother,
John N. Porter

March 14th 1863
Camp near Stafford Court House

Dear Sister,

I take my pen to answer your letter which I recd. last night. It found me well as usual, as I trust this will find you and yours. I got the box the 6th of this month so it would be just as well if you hadn't sent the receipt. The Boots are a first rate fit and the Bread & Butter and apples & fried cakes were first rate too. I am sorry to say that all the "goodies" except the boots are demolished. The other boys that bunk with me got a box the same night that I did with dried fruit (apples & berries) dried beef jelly, etc. so we are having a nice time. I would have to pay \$10.00 for a pair of boots as good as these are here and they are worth all the Army Shoes Uncle Sam has got. I have been on picket 3 days this week. Yesterday we had an inspection. We are to have furloughs in 15 days. 3 men out of 100 are entitled to go home but it won't be my luck to get one. Our Capt. came back last week. But if I am to get discharged by the 23rd of April I don't want one. How glad I am that those beligerant forces didn't charge on the Zouave for then we should not have known when the peace would be declared. Tell Judah that I think you are entitled to a furlough this spring. You have been in the service long enough to have one and you have been a good soldier. I will have you promoted when I get home. I have been promoted since last Jan. to Corporal. I am destined to succeed Gen Fitz Jon. Give my love to all

John N. Porter

Porter Family History

April 2nd 1863
Camp John Manley VA

Dear Sister,

I write this to let you know that I am well & hope you are the same. I recd. a letter from you last week. We are under marching orders. We got orders yesterday to be ready to march at any time but I don't know when or where we will go. Probably it will be in the direction of the Rappahannock for the orders read that the (Rebels) had appeared in force on our front. Capt. John Nelson has resigned his commission and gone home, sometime ago, it was soon after he came back from home. We are glad the "old Mule" has left. You needn't direct any letters in his care. Simply put on the Co. and Regt. and they will come as well. Lieut. C.P. Vedder commands the Co. now. He will be Capt. He is from Co. G. We like him better than Nelson, at any rate he knows more. This is the camp that we were in when I wrote last but they named it after a man in Washington. He has done a good deal for the Regt. in forwarding boxes, etc. from Washington. He lives in Catt. Co. (Cattaraugus County) N.Y. He was here to see the Regt. a short time since and brought a Bbl. of whiskey. They cheered lustily for John Manley after drinking the whiskey. We draw whiskey quite often but luckily for me it is so bad that I can't drink it so I sell it or give it away. There is no danger of my learning to drink in the Army if they keep such poor whiskey to deal out as they have done.

One boy died out of the company last week. The Co. subscribed \$2.00 apiece and sent his remains home. It is the first death there has been in the Co. since we have been in Va.

April 6th Night before last we had a heavy snow storm. The snow fell about 6 inches deep. Our marching orders have proved to be an "April fool". Gen. O.O. Howard has command of this (11th) Corps now. I saw him day before yesterday. He has lost part of his right arm. I saluted him and he took the reins in his teeth and returned the salute. I had a letter from Lizzie last night. She was well. She had not heard anything from Janey.

Capt C.P. Vedder has recd. his commission. Our 2nd Lieut. has been promoted to 1st and the Orderly Sergt. in Co. C has been promoted to 2nd Lieut. in this Co. It will be my turn next.

I must close this letter in order to get it into the next mail. Give my love to all inquiring friends, from

John N. Porter

Porter Family History

May 9th 1863
Camp John Manley VA

Brother Thorpe,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well & hope you are the same. Since I wrote last we went across the river to visit our neighbors the Rebels and while we were over there we got into a fuss with them. It turned out to be quite a fight. The loss in this Regt. in killed, wounded and missing is over 200. We started away from this camp on the 15th of April and went up to Kellys Ford and stayed there about a fortnight and then crossed the river and marched about 25 miles in one day to a place called Chancellorsville. We got there Thursday night and Saturday we were attacked after sunset. We lay in a rifle pit and the Rebels outflanked us and we had to run. We had to run about 40 rods to a piece of woods. The bullets and shells were pouring in from 3 sides. The 11th Corps have got a bad name for running except Bushbeck's Brigade. The 154th are in that Brigade. Gen. Bushbeck said this Regt. stood longer than they ought to but we did not know when we were outflanked and supposed one Brigade could whip Jackson's whole army. Col. Jones was wounded and nothing has been heard from him. Our Adjutant was killed. Take it all round it was the worst time I ever got into. Sometime ago I wrote about staying in Dixie till I have seen the elephant. I believe I have seen all I want to now. When they have another fight I think I will get excused. I have been told that the Rebs would not fight. That we had but to show them fight and they would run but the running where I had a chance to see was all the other way. The Rebels were all drunk and marched up to our rifle pit as straight as if they had been on a Battalion drill. Whiskey and gunpowder were found in the canteens of the prisoners and their dead turned black soon after they were killed.

May 12th We have been paid four months pay today and I will enclose a check for forty dollars (\$40.00). I got a letter from Rosanna while at Kellys Ford postmarked Swampscott. Write soon and send me Postage Stamps if you please.

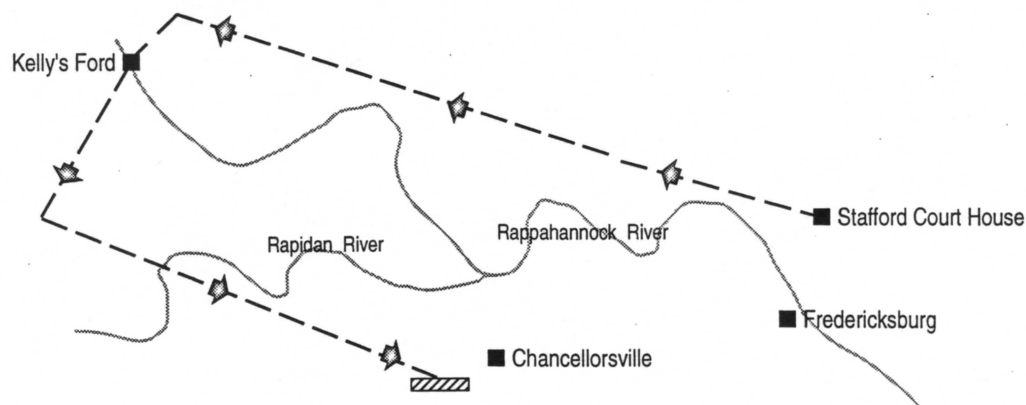
I came away from the Battle Field in such a hurry that I lost everything I had and so did all the rest of the Regt. I have stood up three nights since the battle in refreshing showers or rain without any tent or blanket.

No more at present

Yours in haste,

John N. Porter

Route of General Howard's 11th Corps to the Battle of Chancellorsville



Porter Family History

Profile of John Newton Porter (cont'd)

June

- 12 Broke camp at Stafford Court House and marched 12 miles to Hartwood Church
- 13 Got up at 4:00 am and marched 23 miles to Catletts Station
- 14 Marched 25 miles to Centreville
- 16 Marched to Goose Creek over a distance of 25 miles. Stayed at Goose Creek area about a week and did picket duty
- 24 Marched nine miles to the Potomac River and camped at Edward's Ferry
- 25 Got up very early, crossed over the Potomac on a pontoon bridge and marched 33 miles to Jefferson
- 26 Marched through Middletown to South Mountain and bivouacked to the summit and set up camp
- 28 Heard a sermon, were served food by local residents and then marched to Frederick
- 29 Marched through Utica and Creagerstown
- 30 Marched to Emmitsburg

July

- 1 Marched into Gettysburg and engaged in a major skirmish with Confederate troops. A large number of members of the 154th Regiment were either killed or taken prisoner. John Porter was taken prisoner and marched to Richmond.

June 26th 1863

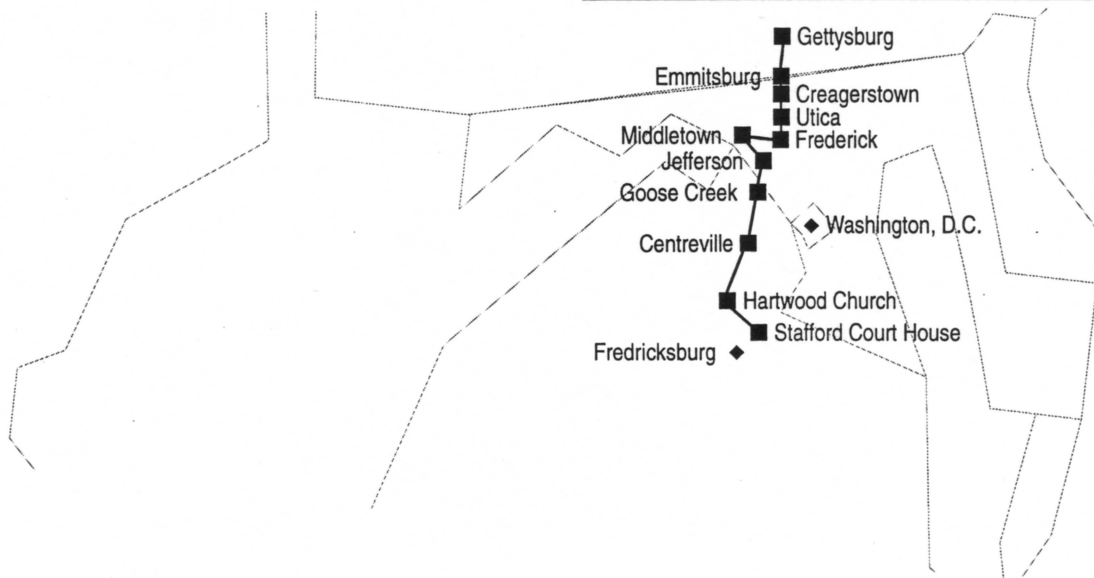
Jefferson, Frederick Co. Maryland

Dear Sister,

Having a few moments of leisure I thought I could not devote them to a better purpose than in writing you a few lines to let you know I am still alive and well hoping you are the same. I will try to tell you how we came here. We broke Camp at Stafford the 12th of June and marched to Hartwood church a distance of 12 miles in 1/2 a day. To commence on the next morning we started at 4 o'clock and marched to Catletts station 23 miles. The next morning we marched to Centreville a distance of 25 miles and stayed there one day, We marched from there to Goose Creek 25 miles further and camped there about a week and then we went out about 3 miles up the creek on Picket. Day before yesterday we started from there and marched to the Potomac River a distance of 9 miles. Yesterday morning we started again at an early hour marched to this place a distance of 33 miles and you had better believe I for one was tired on the march. There was quite a number of men died yesterday on the march. When we got here it was raining and we had to stick up our tents and lay on the wet ground but I slept as sound as I would on a feather bed. I don't know where we shall go from here or what we shall do when we get there. We have got orders to march in an hour so I must close this letter and pack up.

Give my love to all. From your Brother,
John N. Porter

This was to be his last letter before being captured at Gettysburg.



Porter Family History

W. Moore, John Porter's friend and tentmate probably wrote the letter when the 158th was on a train to Indiana after the Battle of Gettysburg was over and the Union troops were being repositioned.

There may have been a time gap in writing the letter and the "Camp at Indianapolis" was written toward the end of the train trip and just before he had to mail the letter.

Camp near Warrenton Junction
July 20 (1863)

Mrs. Thorpe

I will send you a line to let you know where your brother is. He was taken prisoner on the 1st of the month at Gettysburg. I have no place to keep his letters and I take the liberty of opening them before the Co. and burning them. It is the way we have had to serve all the boys who were taken. John will probably be in the parole. Camp at Indianapolis before long if not already there. Excuse this scribbling from your brother's friend and tentmate.

W. Moore
Co. H, 158th Regt.
N.Y. vols