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Richard Baxter Foster Letter to his wife Sept 3 1865

Richard Baxter Foster

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Brownsville Texas

September 3rd 1865

My Dearest

I closed a letter to you today, informing you that I had offered a resignation, deeming that the time had at last come for which I had waited so long and anxiously when I could with propriety leave the service and return to the bosom of my family, and I have some hope though no confidence that I will be able to get home before the hour of your trial comes.

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My resignation and application for leave of absence have not gone from these headquarters yet and will not until I am paid which I expect to happen tomorrow. but I have written them out and put them into the hands of Captain Weaver who being my Captain is the first to act on them. They are both dated tomorrow Sept. 4.th

If my leave of absence is granted by Gen Wright at Galveston. I think in 40 days from now or less will take me to your loved presence. The shortest possible time is to Galveston & back 10 days to New Orleans 7, to St Louis 7, home 3. that brings

me home the 1st day of October beginning to count
to me now Sept 4. If I get home in ten days after
that I shall think I am fortunate and think
I shall be in time.

But perhaps my application for
leave of absence will be denied at Department Head-
quarters. I cannot deny that there is a good
deal of danger of it. In that case my resignation
will get back from New Orleans some time in Oct, and you
need not look for me before ~~the~~ November. I think the
resignation will be accepted. Gen Hertzog is now approving
resignations to some extent & he told me today that he
would approve mine. It has to go to Steuart Wright
& Sheridan after him but I don't think any of
them will disapprove it. I expect to go home on that
resignation & to get home either about the first of October
or the first of November according as my leave is
granted from Galveston or not.

You need not write any more letters to
me to Texas unless you hear something further
different from what I now expect: but I
wish you would write a note or get
somebody else to, as soon as you get this
and direct to St Louis and to Richard

B. Foster without any title as I do not expect at that time to have any. I shall go to the Post Office at St. Louis as soon as I get to that city hoping to hear from you. I shall probably hear from you once more here before starting and then about 6 of your letters will come after I go away unless I have the good luck to intercept some at New Orleans.

I am making a good deal of sacrifice in a purely military view to resign now.

The application the Colonel made a few days ago for promotions of which I spoke, was returned from Brigade headquarters and a new list will go up tomorrow. If it was not for this resignation my name would go up for Captain with almost a sure thing of getting it for I heard Gen Weitzel say today that he wanted to fill up the 62nd. Some regiments are to be broken up this fall & some men from them whose time has not expired put into other Regts. Weitzel has selected the 62nd as one to be filled up. That will not only give officers a chance to be mustered but will give us a chance for a Major in the place of

Nudson. I not only lose all that but
I run the risk ~~by~~ if my resignation is
disapproved of seeing 2 Lieutenants who
are now below me in rank, promoted
to Captain & I stay a Lieut. That I
should not like, but I cannot offer my
resignation now without taking that risk.

If I get a leave of absence I may
get paid 2 months more pay on it, to the
31st day of August. I shall in that case not
have a very big bill to settle with government.

It is getting late and I must go to bed.
The mosquitoes are very bad. I lose a good
deal of sleep by their latity, and that is
a strange thing for me. Good Night.

Monday noon. The Paymaster has been to see us and I
have got \$578. in my pocket besides the chicken feed
that I enclose for you. I want you to have a
part as soon as you can get it, here I send this
good bye for now. I shall write again.
soon

Paxton