

## Richard Baxter Foster Letters to his Wife

[All indentions are meant to reflect those found in the original letter.]

Brownsville, Texas

September 3, 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.

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 it 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<sup>th</sup>.

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 and back 10 days \_\_\_\_ New Orleans 7, to St Louis 7, home 3. That brings

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me home the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October beginning to count tomorrow 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 Headquarters. I cannot deny that there is a good deal of danger of it. In that case my resignation will get back from New Orleans sometime [in] Oct, and you need not look for me before November. I think the resignation will be accepted. Gen. Weitzel is now approving resignations to some extent & he told me today that he would approve mine. It has to go to [Steele], Wright and 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 know expect! but I wish you would write a note or get somebody else to as soon as you get this and [\_\_\_\_] to St Louis and to Richard

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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 62<sup>nd</sup>. 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 62<sup>nd</sup> 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

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Hudson. I not only lose all that but I run the risk if my resignation is disapproved of seeing 2 lieutenants who are now below me in rank promoted to Captain and I stay a Lieut. That I should not like but I cannot offer my resignation now with taking that risk.

If I get a leave of absence I may get paid 2 months more pay on it. to [ ] 31<sup>st</sup> 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 musquitoes are very bad. I lose a good deal of sleep by [ ] lately and that is a strange thinkg for me. Good Night.

Monday noon. The Pay master 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 hence I send this. Good bye for now. I shall write again soon.

Baxter