

## Richard Baxter Foster Letters to his Wife

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

Brownsville, Texas

September 29, 1865

Dearest Loves

It is probable that this is the last letter that I shall address to you from this place: that before I write again I shall either go towards home or farther away and though I don't know which tonight I probably will know tomorrow & will not close this letter till I am able to inform you.

The Regiment is under marching orders to go to Fort McIntosh about 300 miles from here up the Rio Grande and my leave of absence has not come. If I do not get it before the Regt moves I must go to Fort McIntosh & in that case my [ ] owe will be delayed one month at the least perhaps two.

We expect to start Sunday, day after tomorrow, and there is a mail due at this time. If the mail comes tomorrow & brings my leave I am all right: but how if not! If the mail does not come & if it does not bring my leave. Either of these suppositions is possible. I do not know what I shall do in that case but if I go to Fort McIntosh and my discharge or resignation follows me in one or two weeks it will cause me a great loss of time and no compensating benefit that I can see will result.

There is great excitement now

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about the muster out of troops

Orders have been issued naming 11 Regts to be mustered out immediately. Ours of course is not scheduled I believe it will be soon and if I go to Ft McIntosh it is one of the likeliest things in the world that my resignation will come accepted & the order to muster out on the same day so that I will gain no time by resigning & only lose the 8 months pay & traveling home from one of the most distant posts in the United States.

I do not intend to mail the letter till I know something more than I do now. If I don't get home for a month or two after you get this letters may come addressed to me. If they do you will of course open them.

If I don't get to start home in a week I shall be sorry indeed that I told you a little more than 8 weeks ago not to write to me again. I am afraid you are already beginning to look for me.

If ~~Steele~~ Steele would have given leave of absence to go to New Orleans with it I might have been at home this night instead of being in Texas tormented with mosquitoes & tortured with anxiety on your account & with fear lest that I shall not get to go home. I don't know that I can sleep out I cannot write anything coherent & that has good sense & so good night

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October 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 o'clock P.M.

Dearest love, I trust you have been so well aware of the uncertainties of the military service that you will not be too much disappointed when I tell you that I am not coming home at present.

My application for leave sent to Galveston 4 weeks ago is returned disapproved: and the statement is on it that the resignation was forwarded disapproved.

Capt. Coffin and Lieut Adamson have put in resignations since I did and have both got leaves of absence to go to New Orleans or rather 7 days to go to Galveston with recommendations to [ ] Commander for an extension of 20 to go to New Orleans.

They do not know as they will get home but they are going to try it.

I am sending some things home by Adamson. If he succeeds in going home himself he will bring them to you if not he will express from New Orleans.

I am sending first \$150 in money next about half a trunk full of things worth I think in all about \$150. You will take the things out carefully the watch is wrapped up in a stocking The following embraces the most valuable

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of the articles		\$ [cts]	
1 silk dress	<del>worth</del> cost	41.25	
1 shawl		4.00	
1 dress		4.00	
1 do		3.00	(or 2?)
1 bolt Fr. Cal		8.00	
1 silver watch		40.00	
1 album (78 pictures)		26.00	(album [ ] 6.00)
3 or 4 old shirts			
2 or 3 old pants			
2 or 3 second hand blouses (good)			
1 doz hdkfs			

Lt Adamson has a copy of this list. I did not think to make it till after the things were packed so that I could not be so accurate as I would have been.

If he goes home he will [ ] the things, if his resignation is disapproved he will express the trunk to you and you will take out the things on top till you come to several large sheets of buff colored envelope paper (like a piece enclosed).

These are Adamson's things to be delivered to whoever his wife sends for them.

You will keep the trunk and the things at the bottom below the envelope paper.

If Adamson goes home he will keep the trunk.

I send the watch home because it is broke (the post) & I cannot get it fixed here, you will do what you think is best with it. I want you to use this money & sell the silk dress if you think best. After getting your letter

[This portion of the letter is written in the margins of the letter]  
in which you said for me not to [ ] it I had [ ] [ ] for it so that I could not back out. I am keeping \$175 & don't owe a dollar to anybody here. Govt owes me 3 months pay  
The hardest part of my disappointment after the pain to you is that I will not get any letters from you for 6 or 8 weeks. You will get this in about 3 weeks (say 24<sup>th</sup> Oct) & will then write to me & I ought to get it about the last of Nov that's pretty tough Of course I may come home. My resignation may be accepted by Sheridan tho disapproved by Wright but don't look for me till I come & keep writing if only a line once a week, Baxter