

3-7-1863

Richard Baxter Foster Letter to his wife March 7 1863

Richard Baxter Foster

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Recommended Citation

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It is said by the officers the opinion
 St. Louis is to move on morning 8th. I am on the way
 Now, what we do must do now. Perhaps I am
 I don't know yet
 from the money I sent
 Dear Love,
 We are lying
 here yet doing nothing and
 not knowing yet what we
 are going to do. There are
 a good many rumors
 flying about Camp. none
 of them authentic yet, &
 I write to tell you what some
 of them are that you may be
 prepared for any event as
 I try to be. I have already
 informed you that the 24th &
 25th Mo which have been in our
 brigade have been sent off
 & stationed near the place where
 they were raised where they will
 have a chance to visit their
 friends & recruit their ranks.
 I hear also in a manner that
 I deem reliable that Col-

Iron Mountain Mo
 March 7/63

+ take the necessity of drafting and I right?
 Yours faithfully
 Benj

Harding who has been in com-
mand of our Division for
some weeks, reported the 2nd
Brigade - viz the 24: 25: & 1st Mo-
as unfit for duty and fit
subjects for recruiting.
It is furthermore reported by
those who ought to know that
Livingston has been nominated
for Brigadier General. If the
report is correct then will no
longer be a Colonel over us
who will try to run us to death
in order to get ~~any~~ stars
on his shoulder (a star on the
shoulder strap is a brigadier
general's mark - 2 stars a major
for generals) as Thayer &
Livingston have always done.
These signs all indicate that
we may be sent back to the
brotherhood if there is any service
there to do, or very restful

some where; but we have no or-
der yet and it altogether
uncertain. On the other hand
there are reports every day that
we are going down the river to
Vicksburg or to Rosecrans' ar-
my, but if we do not go back
to Nebraska the most probable
supposition in my opinion is that
we shall go back to Batesville, over
a road already marked by our
sufferings and hardships.
I am reliably informed that
the Iowa brigade the 21st, 22nd,
& 23rd are going that way & we
may be sent too - put into their
brigade or some other.
I write this brief note, because;
it is possible that we may
start on so short notice that
I would not have time send
you word, I suppose you
will get this letter a week from

The President calls for from Nebraska, I think if they

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That is on Sat the 14th -

When you get it I may yet
be here. I may be far on my
way over rocks & hills towards
Arkansas, I may possibly be
getting nearer home but I do not
expect that.

I shall of course write to you
as soon as I can after knowing
what we are going to do. If you
do not get a letter for a week
or ten days after this, you may
think we have gone to Edesville

I cannot say that I dread the
trip. It is a healthy country. I
have proved that I can stand
the hardship. I ~~has~~ do not like
to go where it will take so long to
hear from you, but a soldier

cannot expect everything to his
mind. I rejoice in the passage of
the conscription act. Nothing but
that act and a vigorous ~~if~~
enforcement of it could save our Army

from was this always Tell me as soon as you know how many