

## **Private Arthur K. Cleeland's 1862 letter (U.S. Civil War)**

The attached letter, transcript and synopsis were provided to Korn.org by Ted Karle (Theokarle@aol.com) of Mentor, Ohio. Ted is a collector of 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry materials.

## 83rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Letter

Arthur Kelty Cleeland, Company F. Enlisted at Meadville on September 3, 1861, Age 17  
Addressee is John Cleeland (of Mercer County, Perry Township, PA?)

This letter contains personal content from the son, Private Arthur K. Cleeland, to his father John, and to a younger brother (circa age 12) named John Slemmons Cleeland. A.K. Cleeland emerges as a conscientious lad with good family values. It is interesting that he discusses his present good health after being ill. It is ironic that his death seven months later (September 3, 1862) at Harrison's Landing is listed as having been caused by disease (cited as "exposure" or "typhoid" fever.) He is buried in Glendale National Cemetery, Virginia----Section B, Grave # 15.

As a result of the letter's limited Civil War content, the principal value of this **Union** letter attributes to its large and rare Civil War patriotic **Confederate** **letterhead, "Running the Blockade,"** known as a variation of #3150 listed in Walcott.

(Some punctuation and paragraphing have been added for clarity.)

(Page 1)

Head-quarters 83 Reg't Co. F  
Camp Porter 1862  
Jan the 20

Dear Father,

Received your welcome letter this evening and was glad to hear from home. I am well at present and the rest of us is the same. We're in good spirits. I would almost as brief stay here as at home but I mean to go home when all is straightened up. The talk is that we will go to the city (Washington DC) for to guard it for 3 or 4 months and if we do we will not be in any battles while we stay there.

(Page 2)

Well father we have got our pay once more. We get 20 dollars this time and I have sent you \$10 with Lieut. Smith (Joel Smith, Enl 8/19/61, Resigned 1/16/62) he has resigned because he is not able to stand it. I did hate to see him leave here. I thought I would keep the most of my money this time and I think I can make on it, but I will not spend it foolishly. I am glad you have a good coat on my expense, but I am in just fun about that. I wish I had a much more to give you. I am glad that you got that cloth made into a coat. It will suit you better than me, for my part I have good clothes. Well father I broke a good laugh to think how tip top you would look when you got dressed up. I think that Slemmons done very well if he keeps on he can soon beat me.

I have good health better than I ever had, only I eat to much, but that is a good fault. I must tell you now how I got along when I come to this camp. The first month we was here, I was sick. I

thought I would not live, I got over that a month ago and now I weigh 175 lbs and are still gaining. I intend to get my picture taken and send it to Maria (a sister, who married John Patterson ?) and I want you to give her enough out of the \$10 to get hers taken and send it to me. Now I suppose all the young men that is of the first class is gone to war and them that is left is of the lower grade of folks and a little bit cowardly to act fittingly. Lt. Smith can tell you a little how we get along, he started for home this morning and I expect he will be at home as soon as this letter will. Nothing more.

Your son AK Cleeland to John Cleeland

(Page 3)

Well Slemmons, received your little letter and I think you done very well. I think you must be carefull and not hurt your oxen and get them broke well so they will be nice to work with. I was glad to hear that you could shoot so well as to shoot a big rabbit, but you must be very careful and not shoot yourself. There has been several got their hands and fingers shot by fooling with their guns. I suppose you will be going with the girls this winter when am away. but you must look out or they will give you a piece of bread and butter and send you home. Well nothing more from your brother.

AK Cleeland to John S. Cleeland  
write soon

Information about, and a carte de visite image of Arthur K. Cleeland was found on the web from various sources. The image and information accompany this transcription of the letter.

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# RUNNING THE BLOCKADE



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83

Reg't. Co. F

Camp

Porter  
Jan the 20

1863

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