

1862

Feb. 14 PERSONAL LETTER from Frank Carter in Fredsburg, to his friend,  
Paul Declouet at home in St. Martinville, La.

Fredsburg, February 14, 1862

[Fredricksburg  
VoJ

Dear Paul,

Your most welcomed letter came to hand only a day or two since though I regret it had not been a little sooner. I had been to Richmond and the letter came up on the same train as I returned. I am exceedingly sorry that I had not known of your father's (Alexander Declouet) presence in Richmond, should certainly have called on him. I went down in order to get transfered to Missouri army which is the place now and Price the man for the times. I wish by the way you would go there with me, it is more easy to get a commission there now than any where else and you would meet some friends. Wright has the adjutancy of the 1st Brigade Mo. Vol. I saw his General in Richmond. Steen who says Wright is an apt and efficient soldier and spoke in high terms of him generally Mr. Snead says the same thing about him. Wouldn't you like to see the old fellas and hear him "Blow". I expect to go out sometime in March. Sam Green whom I saw in Richmond is also talking of going and several others whom we know. Sam says that Old Cimpy and the Wellfras are well and intend joining the horse artillery next time. Ned Hunter and George Ross are stationed in Richmond, the former I suppose you heard is married. We all had a talk over old times. I met quite a number of Missourians down there and all seemed in good spirits and confident of success in our state. I will make a bargain with you which I hope would be equally agreeable to us both. I will avail myself of the first part of your kind invitation and pay you a visit at "Ever Green" if you will promise in a week after to be ready to go to Missouri with me. There will be no doubt of your getting a place after getting there. I expect

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(con't.)

we will have to go by New Orleans now to get up the Arkansas River and nothing would delight me more than to run down to your home for a while. What has become of Frere and Alex (your brother). Remember me particularly to both, if they are at home.

I have heard of the awful time you had in the west and was exceedingly sorry you ever went for so many of our company received good appointments. I am still employed in the Comp department and shall stay so until just before leaving for Missouri to prevent being drafted in the militia. Your friends here are very well and all in the army except Wellington who is still at University of Virginia. Charlie Carmichael has been very ill with pneumonia I think but is fast recovering. He is a Lt. in the 30th La. Regiment stationed at this place. They have mostly reenlisted.

Indeed Paul you must excuse this scrawl. I am so nervous I can't write connectedly having sat up last night with a corpse and not sleeping a wink.

The community is somewhat agitated on account of our recruit disasters and whippings and recruiting is going bravely on. The timid are frightened badly and the militia subjects look very down in the chops. The Volunteers of this regime are just praying for the militia to be called out that they may have the pleasure seeing some shirking camps (who have not been in camp) with arms in their hands and "hep heppede!" about to the time of several hours. I hope Paul you will write me soon again and think well on the Missouri question, recollect it is in your northern border and if the yanks get Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana will stand no chance. Let me hear from you certain and when you come to Richmond if you should before I leave here let me know or come right up to see me. I shall be very happy to see you once more for there

1862 is no one of my friends for whom I entertain a higher regard than my old  
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(con't.) friend Paul.

Old Bill is expecting to be drafted and that will break up his school  
which is now only 20 scholars.

Very truly your friend,

Frank Carter