

## John R. Porter, Lieutenant/Surgeon, Co. K 29 MS Infantry, CS

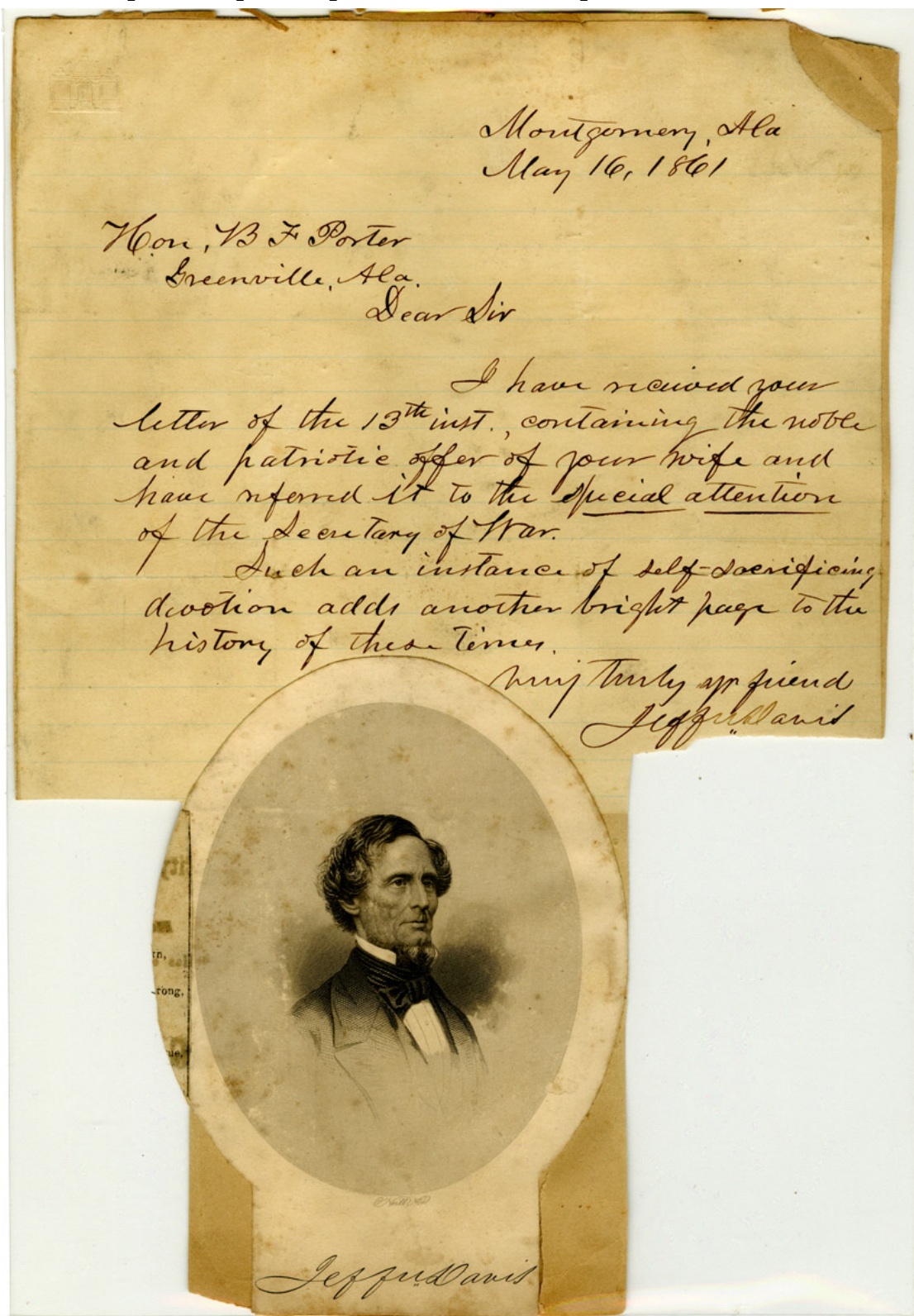
- 1829 April 18: Born to Benjamin and Eliza Kidd Porter in Claiborne, Monroe County, AL.  
*“Judge Benjamin F. Porter was a native of South Carolina. He was a member of the Butler County bar about eight years before his death. He was a man of fine culture, rare literary attainments and profound judgment, and was the peer of any man in the legal profession in Alabama at the time of his death. He represented as many as three different counties in the Legislature at different times; and was appointed Circuit Judge when quite a young man. He was Supreme Court reporter for a number of years. He died in Greenville, in 1868.”*<sup>1</sup>
- 1846 Graduated from the University of Alabama.
- 1850 August 12: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Floyd County, GA showed twenty-one-year-old John living with his parents and siblings. His father was a Lawyer. The Porter family owned seven slaves.
- 1853 Graduated from Nashville Medical College
- 1856 Married Lucy Meriwether Howard.  
*“Dr. John R. Porter, married Lucy Howard, granddaughter of Gov. Gilmer, of Georgia...”*<sup>2</sup>
- 1860 August 31 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Holmes County, MS showed John, a physician, and Lucy living with her parents. They had two young children: Robert, 2 yrs., and Sallie, 10 months.

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<sup>1</sup> History of Butler Count, Alabama, 1815-1885, part 2-Towns and Villages, Distinguished Residents, pg. 226

<sup>2</sup> Notable Men of Alabama, v.1, pg. 108, (accessed newspapers.com)

1861 Porter's parents opened up their house as a hospital for Confederate soldiers.



<sup>3</sup> Benjamin F. Porter Family Papers, Special Collections, Auburn University

1862 March 15: Enlisted in the Confederate Army and mustered into Co. K, 29th MS Infantry in Lexington, MS.

*“He enlisted as a private, but was made surgeon and commandant of the provost guard of Hindman’s Division. He fought as a private in every battle, acting as surgeon when the battle was over. At the battle of Mission Ridge the explosion of a shell made him deaf. He was complimented on the field for gallantry, at Altoona, and ordered to report for duty on the staff of the commanding general....”*<sup>4</sup>

May thru August: Company Muster Rolls. Present.

June: Regimental Report of enlisted men on extra duty, reported as “Regtl. Druggist.”

September & October: Company Muster Roll. Present. Remarks “Hospital Steward in the regiment by order of Col. Walthall, May 1, 1862.”

November & December: Company Muster Roll. Present.

1863

J. R. Porter  
2nd Lt. Co K, 29th Miss. Regt.  
Appears on a  
REPORT  
of officers, on detached duty,  
belonging to regiments relieved from  
consolidation by S. O. 102, Army  
Headquarters.  
Report dated..... Shelbyville  
Apr 25....., 1863.  
Where ordered to rept. to Gen. Pillow  
On what duty..... Recruiting Service

1864 January & February: Company Muster Roll. Present.

March & April: Company Muster Roll. Abent Remarks On conscrit duty from Jan 28/63 by Ord of Genl Bragg. No. 11 dated Jan 23/63”

August 15: Appeared on a report of Confederate Officers in Anderson’s Division in Atlanta, GA.

<sup>4</sup> Notable Men of Alabama, v.1, pg. 108, (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>5</sup> CSR/Confederate/29 MS/Porter, J.R., pg. 12 (accessed newspapers.com)

November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin, in Johnson's brigade, Lee's division. He was brigade surgeon, although he participated as a soldier in many battles including Franklin.

*"...While leading his company, in the absence of the captain, at Franklin, Tennessee, twenty yards in advance of his men, he fell pierced by fourteen balls, leaving a widow and two children."<sup>6</sup>*

1866 March: The bones of Lt. John R. Porter were identified in a battlefield grave in Franklin, TN and forward to his father in Greenville, AL. He was buried in Pioneer Cemetery on April 1, 1866.

### The Dead of Alabama.

Through the kindness of that noble gentleman, Col. John McGavock, of Franklin, who without waiting to be prompted, but anticipating all that, under such trying circumstances, a parent would naturally desire to have performed, the remains of Lieut. John R. Porter, eldest son of Judge Benjamin F. Porter, who fell leading Company N, 29th Mississippi Volunteers over the entrenchments at Franklin, were identified, exhumed and forwarded to Greenville, Alabama, where they were buried on Sunday, the 1st of April. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of citizens, and a most eloquent and impressive sermon preached by the Pastor of the Baptist Church, the Rev. Mr. Hawthorne.

It is due to Col. McGavock to say that the parents and friends of the noble and patriotic young men, who died at Franklin, owe him a lasting debt of gratitude for his generous action in collecting and giving a burial place in his Cemetery to the bones of the victims of that battle-field, which have not been removed to their homes. With the recollection of their fate, will be associated the liberal and magnanimous conduct of this generous Tennessean.

<sup>6</sup> Notable Men of Alabama, v.1, pg. 108. (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>7</sup> The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, 11 Apr 1866, Wednesday, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)



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<sup>8</sup> Findagrave.com/Greenville, AL/Pioneer Cemetery/user/Renae Carpenter