

**VMI Archives**

**Fulkerson Family Papers**

**Manuscript#0363**

**Typescript of a portion of a letter from Samuel V. Fulkerson to his sister-in-law.**

**1862 June 14**

**Discussion of Stonewall Jackson.**

*The following text appears on a typescript manuscript located in the Fulkerson Papers.*

"Fulkerson's Estimate of Jackson. On the 14th of June, 1862, just two weeks before he was killed, Col. Fulkerson, in a letter to his sister-in-law, the wife of his brother Abram, written at Weyer's Cave, Virginia, says:

I wrote Kate a few days ago giving her an account of our late troubles and victories on the 8th and 9th instants. We are now five or six miles from the battlefields. After the rout of Shields' column on the 9th General Fremont became alarmed and retreated down the valley, and the last I heard of him he was at New Market. Jackson could have put him to total rout on the 9th if he had not been attending to Shields. This is the second day we have been at this place, but I think it is more than probable that we will be on the march again tomorrow. We thinking that two days of quiet at one place is a wonderful resting spell.

Our general will certainly not give us much time while there is an enemy to meet. He is a singular man and has some most striking military traits of character and some that are not so good. A more fearless man never lived and he is remarkable for his industry and energy. He is strictly temperate in his habits and sleeps very little. Often while near the enemy, and while every body except the guards are asleep, he is on his horse and gone, nobody knows where. I often fear that he will be killed or taken. Our men curse him for the hard marching he makes them do, but still the privates of the whole army have the most unbounded confidence in him. They say he can take them into harder places and get them out better than any other living man and that he cannot be caught asleep or taken when awake.

But they came very near getting him on the 8th. If it had not been for the promptness and boldness of my regiment the whole army would have been in a bad fix. He is an ardent Christian. On the 8th when he ordered me to charge through the bridge and take the enemy's guns at the other end, he turned his horse around, raised both hands, closed his eyes and prayed till the guns were taken and the enemy put to flight. All this has at least a good moral influence over the men."