

11-26-1859

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Jacob G. Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Delaware Delaware Co.

Dear Brother,

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Nov I received yours of the 17<sup>th</sup>, and you cannot tell how it cheered my spirits. I began to think you had forgotten me. I felt like a stranger in a strange land as I had not that one thing needful. That is money; that 10 dollars was very acceptable. I paid five of it to my landlady. I get over her about ten dollars but I will save the other five for an exigency. Last Monday I mailed you a letter. It was full of complaint but you must pardon me for being so clamorous as I felt the need of what I was asking for, i.e. money.

You say that Elham is teaching I wrote him a letter but have received no answer. Tell him I should like to hear from him and his family. I wrote one to Mary also but have heard nothing so far. I suppose they have forgotten that such a man as T. C. Armstrong has a "local habitation and a name" in this "land of the free and the home of brave". I suppose Mary is so intent on learning that she cannot write. I feel sorry for Eli Hull. It will be quite a drawback on him losing so much by fire. You say Josh. "has no increase yet nor any signs of any" Increase of what? Tell me what the signs of increase are. will you? I should like to be posted. I have only got one letter of W. B. since he went to Saylorsville and that was short and unsatisfactory. I like to get a letter of some length. You say Your great Schoolmaster commences on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month. when does he end? You mean Hon William Wilson Gacey son of Stacey his father! How much ground did you go over to get 100 bus. of corn. How many acres? Does is turn out well or poorly? Potatoes are retained out here at 12 1/2 cts per peck. the farmers are holding back for higher prices and consequently



they are very high. They will be down though I think. I suppose the Elbert Bridge Coal Co. are under full blast. You have been making quite a demonstration in the Buck line since Sep to the institution I say. You say you got the Old Buck from my Father-in-law. Then hast well said Jacob! Had you much difficulty in the operation? What was father doing down to Forters a week or so ago did he go down to see the old lady? You say he saw my darling and she was in good spirits. Well I cant help that! You say you are not married yet. Why you really surprise me. A fellow "cut around" with the girls as much as you and not yet married. Why I am thinking you are an exception. You say "John Parks has got a wife". not before he wanted one I guess. Also "he got her down where his father lives". I suppose he let her up again. You say you got two cyclopaedical papers. what were they? About this chance at Lowell. who was fiddler? Was Washington Collier Esq?

The term of school is out the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December. I suppose I will be in New York on the next day. You cannot tell how bad I want to see you all once more for as well as I like the town of Delaware with its college & many good churches professors students and last though not least its Seminary. Just yet with all the home sweet home still has the uppermost place in my affection. I am better acquainted than I was and I am getting to like the place better every day. I should like to have you come out here and I would take you around and show you the Elephant. Last eve was rainy I went to the Athlon Society it is a literary society and before I left I became a member of that honorable body. Mr Samuel Manly is a member of it he made a speech and did well. I got acquainted with him he is a senior senior and will graduate

this year. There are four societies in the college they have splendid halls to meet in in the Athlon. is a good library and I wrote my name on a desk on which stands a bust of Geo Chase made of plaster of Paris and looks like the governor very much. The motto of our society is: "To honor careers" or "Retain the good". How did you pass your Thanksgiving. I will tell you how I did mine. We did not have any exercises that day in college and we had a holy day. I studied nearly all day at my lessons. At dinner we had a whopping turkey to discuss its merits was the go. Miss Brown the music teacher of the seminary helped the ladies and your humble servant helped the gentlemen to the Old gobbler. Miss Jayne the French teacher was present also the lady that paints teachers painting. Saturday we and Sunday we had turkey. we have had about a dozen turkeys this term. I tell you they have splendid board the boys maliciously say they know the reason. it is to get us back next term. for at the commencement of this term we had some pretty hard meals. I am working by myself now. I have a good time to study. Prof Mc Cabe thinks I am some student he often says (when another student is stalled) Mr Armstrong please work that question for Mr S & so. I stand well in all of my classes. I suppose the reason is I take after Pa. he thinks his very smart. Well! I think think that by the time Graduate here I will be pretty pretty well posted. they say it will take me 4 years with this if I double on one year. After I am here one year then I can teach and study and easily keep up with my clothes at the same time make money and come when I can. Tell Father and mother to write to me as I should like to have one letter from them at least. As Mary coming home from Abies to attend Prof Lacey's School? What is the date to commence Latin as he is posted!



How are Sheeps prospering? Is Preb and Nat out selling half  
floods for full floods? I presume their principles would let them  
do it. Are you going to sell any this season. Are the lambs healthy?  
My health is very good. My eyes are much better than they  
used to be. I generally study till 9 or 10 o'clock at night.  
and I believe my eyes are improving all the time. I believe  
that medicine I took in the fall has wrought the change.  
Do you still eat in the cellar? Does mother do all the work.  
I suppose Flavilla goes to the Great school master? Tell her to  
write to me. Tell up one or even two sheets about the size  
of this one and tell me all the particulars. Such as what are  
transpiring on the farm. What you do every day how all your  
stock improves what you feed them. These would be items  
that a fellow away always likes to hear about. The great  
trouble of letter and letter writers is they dont know how to  
gasp gas about little things.

I have not heard anything from W.F. —  
since I commenced writing this I received one from him dated  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> he is well but says: "I have not heard from home since  
I came here. I guess they have forgotten me. please remind them  
in your next letter home of a certain "flaxen haired Laddie" called  
Walter way down upon the "Skinjam river".

I suppose he wants you to write to him write him a long one. for is you  
hard not to hear from home. Well Jacob you must not forget to write  
to me and write in full. This morning I got up early and  
washed and dressed before breakfast. I wrote the most of this letter  
yesterday.

Give my best respects and love to Father Mother Mary  
Flavilla Frank and "Gus" reserving your own share of course.  
Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I will close by bidding  
you an affectionate farewell.

Your Brother C. S. Amstrong

I got a receipt that is dollars I suppose you may as well  
send the residue in your next as I will only be here 3 weeks.  
J. S. A.





Mr Jacob G. Armstrong,  
Newark, Livingston  
County







November 26, 1859

Addressed to: Mr. Jacob G. Armstrong

Newark, Licking County

Delaware Delaware Co.

Dear Brother

On the 24th day of Nov, I received yours of the 17th and you cannot tell how it cheered my spirits. I began to think you had forgotten me. I felt like a stranger in a strange land as I had not that one thing needful. That is money. That 10 dollars is very acceptable. I paid five of it to my landlady. I yet owe her about ten dollars but I will owe the other five as an exigency.

Last Monday I mailed you a letter. It was full of complaints but you must pardon me for being so clamorous as I felt the need of what I was asking for, i.e. money.

You say that Abram is teaching. I wrote him a letter but have received no answer. Tell him I should like to hear from him and his family. I wrote one to Mary also but have heard nothing so far. I suppose they have forgotten that a man named T.S. Armstrong has a "local habitation and a name in this land of the free and the home of the brave." I suppose Mary is so intent on learning that she cannot write. I feel sorry for Eli Hull. It will be quite a drawback on him losing so much by fire. You say Josh "has no increase yet nor any signs of any." Increase of what? Tell me what the signs of increase are. Will you? I should like to be posted. I have only gotten one letter from W.F. since he went to Taylorsville which was short and unsatisfactory. I like to get a letter of some length. You say your Great Schoolmaster commences on the 21st of this month. When does he end? You mean Hon. William Wilson Lacey son of Stacey his father!

How much ground did you go over to get 100 bushels of corn? How many acres? Does it turn out well or poorly. Potatoes are retailed out here at 12 ½ cts per peck. The farmers are holding back for higher prices and consequently are very high. They will be down though I think. I suppose the Flint Ridge Coal Co. are under full blast. You have been making quite a demonstration in the Buck line success to the institution I say. You say you got the old Buck from my \_\_\_\_\_ laws. Thou hast well said Jacob. Had you much difficulty in the operation? What was father doing down to Porters a week or so ago? Did he go down to see the old lady? You say he saw my darling and she was in good spirits. Well I can't help that. You say you are not married yet. Why you really surprise me. A fellow "cut around" with the girls as much as you and not yet married. Why I am thinking you are an exception. You say "John Parks has got a wife." Not before he wanted one I guess. And he got her down where his father lives. I suppose he let her up again. You say you got two agricultural papers, what were they? About that dance at Inlows, who was fiddler? Was Washington Colter esq.?

The time of school is out the 21st day of December. I suppose I could be in Newark on the next day. You cannot tell how much I want to see you all once more for as well as I like the town of Delaware with its College & seminary, good churches, professors, students though last but not least, its Seminary girls yet with all this home sweet home still has the uppermost place in my



affection. I am better acquainted than I was and am getting to like the place better every day. I should like to have you come out here and I could take you around and show you the Elephant. Last eve was raining and I went to the Athenium Society. It is a literary society and before I left I became a member of that honorable body. Mr. Samuel Manly is a member of it. He made a speech and did well. I got acquainted with him. He is a senior and will graduate this year. There are four societies in this college. They have splendid halls to meet in. The Athenium is a good library and I wrote my name in a desk in which stands a bust of Gov. Chase made of plaster-of-paris and looks like the governor very much. The motto of our society is "Retain the good."

How did you pass your Thanksgiving? I will tell you how I did mine. We did not have any exercises that day in college and we had a holy day. I studied nearly all of the day at my lessons. At dinner we had a whopping turkey and to discuss its merits was the go. Miss Brown, the music teacher of the seminary, helped the ladies and your humble servant helped the gentlemen to the old gobbler. Miss Jayne, the French teacher was present, also the lady that teaches painting. Saturday and Sunday we had turkey. We have had about a dozen turkeys this term. I tell you they have splendid board. The boys maliciously say they know the reason is to get us back next term for at the commencement of this term we had some pretty hard meals. I am rooming by myself for now. I have a good time to study. Prof McCabe thinks I am some student (he often says when another student is stalled, Mr. Armstrong please work that question for Mr. So & So.) I stand well in all of my classes. I suppose the reason is I take after Pa. He thinks he is very smart. Well I think that by the time I graduate here I will be fully well posted. They say it would take me four years with this if I double on one year. After I am here one year, then Team teach and study and easily keep up with my classes at the same time make money and come when I can.

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I have heard anything from W.F. Since I commenced writing this, I received one from him dated Nov. 22nd. He is well but says "I have heard from home since I came here. I guess they have forgotten me. Please remind them in your next letter home of a certain flaxen haired laddie called Wilbur, way down upon the Skingum river." I suppose he wants you to write him, write him a long one for it goes hard not to hear from home. Well Jacob you must not forget to write to me and write in full. This morning I got early and washed and dressed before breakfast. I wrote most of this letter yesterday.



Give my best respects and love to Father, Mother, Mary, Flavilla, Frank, and Gus reserving your own share of course. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I will close by bidding you an affectionate farewell.

Your Brother T.S. Armstrong

PS I received that 10 dollars. I suppose you may as well send the residue in your next and I will only be here 3 weeks.

T.S.A.