12-27-1862

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Editor

Thomas S. Armstrong

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From the 1864 Regiment
Moorings, Hardy County, Va.
Dec. 27th, 1862.

Dear Emma,

We left Petersburg at 9 A.M. Dec. 23rd, and traveled down the branch to Moorfields, the distance being 11 miles, at the head of the knapsack stage. We arrived at 5:30 in the afternoon, at the looking valley, surrounded by mountains.

General Milby and Staff passed us this forenoon while we were playing cards and drinking tea, and the regiment showed good advantage, marching to the step. Soon we passed a large field, along a sunken road, that wound around the sides of the mountains in a zigzag manner.

It was about 11 o'clock, and the camp was just about pitched. We had coffee and a good supper, for I tell you I find that hard crackers go well when I am hungry. We had a long talk with them about the subject, i.e. the cracktress. We traveled 21 miles to December 26th—Christmas Gifts.

December 24th—The regiment was fitted out to march to Mount Snow, of which I believe there were 500 miles. We were ordered to the right of the regiment, and the weather was cold and frosty.

According to order, we marched across the mountains, and came to the town called Falling Rock. Here were on the right side of the road, and the road was very bad, and we had to climb up some hills.

Toward evening we came to the town called Hanging Rock, here were on the right side of the road, and the road was very bad, and we had to climb up some hills.

One of our regiments experienced a snowstorm on the way, and the men and horses were very cold. The weather was quite cold and frosty, and we had to climb up some hills.

We arrived at Mount Snow on December 25th, and were ordered to halt and rest. We had a good supper, and went to bed early. We arrived at Mount Snow on December 25th, and were ordered to halt and rest. We had a good supper, and went to bed early.

December 26th—Christmas Gifts.

December 27th—We were at Mount Snow, and had a good supper. We went to bed early. We arrived at Mount Snow on December 25th, and were ordered to halt and rest. We had a good supper, and went to bed early.

December 28th—We were at Mount Snow, and had a good supper. We went to bed early. We arrived at Mount Snow on December 25th, and were ordered to halt and rest. We had a good supper, and went to bed early.

December 29th—We were at Mount Snow, and had a good supper. We went to bed early. We arrived at Mount Snow on December 25th, and were ordered to halt and rest. We had a good supper, and went to bed early.

M. A. ARMSTRONG.

A Serenade at Fort Lafayette Prisoners.
January 3, 1863

From the 122d Regiment

Moorefield, Hardy county, Va

December 27, 1862

Dear Editor:

We left Petersburg at 9 A.M. Dec 22d, and traveled down the south branch to Moorefield, the distance being 11 miles. We marched well, as we had left our knapsacks behind. We arrived at M. at two in the afternoon, a nice town in a splendid looking valley, surrounded by mountains. – General Milroy and staff passed us this forenoon. We passed through Moorefield with drums beating. The regiment showed, to good advantage, marching to the step. Soon we were climbing Branch mountain, passing along a splendid road that wound around the side of the mountain in a zigzag manner. At six o’clock P.M. we encamped feeling as if the 122d was about all “played out.” The men marched fast and steady all day. We soon drowned our sorrows in a good cup of coffee and a good supper, for I tell you that I find hard crackers go good when I am hungry. – Such is the experience of all I have talked with on the subject, i.e. the cracker question. We traveled 21 miles to day.

December 23d – We slept cool last night, as it was a cold night. About 8 o’clock we were on our way “left in front.” The men were somewhat used up from yesterday’s march. Not so much struggling to-day. The country still mountainous with cliffs and rocks abounding, making the scenery grand. Toward evening we came to the Pars called “Hanging Rock.” Here were on each side of the road huge jagged cliffs projecting far out and some being hundreds of feet high. Every eye of our regiment seemed to be riveted on those rocks for it was said that probably there might be bushwhackers up there. We encamped on Lost Rocks, 22 miles east of Moorefield. Soon came in four cavalrymen three of whom had been wounded in those rocks by bushwhackers firing down upon them. Two of them were wounded severely. Dr. Houston dressed their wounds. They were carrying dispatches from Gen. Clusseret. The occurrence produced quite at excitement in camp and aroused the ire of the whole regiment. It is said that this Lost River runs under ground awhile, then emerges and is called Cacapon River. We traveled twelve miles.

December 24th – At three o’clock A.M. we were aroused. Major Granger took two or three hundred men and started an advance of the regiment. About half-past five o’clock, Colonel Ball with the rest of the Regiment started. We marched along, keeping silent and nothing was to be heard but the tramp of the men and the rattling of wagons in the rear. We marched at a fair rate. The Lieutenant Colonel rode past saying, “If you see any suspicious looking persons on the mountains, put them to sleep.” At 10 o’clock we reached Wardensville, 29 miles east of Moorefield, 29 miles west of Winchester, 6 ½ miles west of the corners of Hampton, Hardy, and Shenandoah counties. We found the rest of the boys at Wardensville. We marched past the “ville” and pitched our tents in a nice grove where was fought a few days since, the battle of White Oak Point. A few ______________________________ on both sides __________________ were killed. The trees were perforated in many places by bullets. To-day we traveled 7 miles. A fine day. The people here talk about “your army” and “our army.”

1 Daily Zanesville Courier, January 3, 1863, P. 2
December 25th. – “Christmas Gift,” and a “Happy Christmas,” &c greeted us this morning. But under what different circumstances that is usual! It seemed good to the Col. to put a veto on our going to town without a pass to-day; hence we did not go down and ask some of our secesh friends to ask us to eat a Christmas dinner with said secesh friends. But for the officers of company I, we can speak of that which we do know – that Mess No. 3 invited the trio to come and help eat chicken, chicken soup, and kraut. – We did it ample service, especially your humble servant.

December 26th – Capt. Baird with a squad of cavalry came in with an order for us to return to Moorefield. We started at 8 A.M. and took three prisoners with us. Our wagons in front. We marched well today. At night we were 10 ½ miles from Moorefield.

December 27th – We were aroused at 4 A.M. Got ready and off we started “left in front.” We had no grub this morning. But soon a wagon from the 110th O.V. with provisions came. We reached Moorefield at noon. Our Regiment health is good. We stand marching very well.

T.S. ARMSTRONG