

7-23-1861

## Letter from Wilbur F. Armstrong to Thomas S. Armstrong

Wilbur F. Armstrong

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Washington D. C.

July 23. 1862.

Dear Bro.

You may probably be waiting to hear from me. Well I will commence by relating to you a history of my travels. On Friday morning at 7.42. I left Concord passed through Cambridge, Barnsville and arrived at Bellair 10.30 A.M. where I first saw the La Belle Riviere and on the opposite side of the river the "Sacred Soil" of Virginia. A daughter of Rev. Alex Cambell was one of our company quite an intelligent young lady.

Took the cars for Pittsburgh went up around the Penn Handle without touching Pa. passing through Steubenville Wellsville through Jefferson and Columbiana into Pennsylvania into Beaver and Alleghany counties crossed the Ohio and arrived at Pittsburgh at 4 P.M. Started immediately for Harrisburg.

(Did not go via Baltimore and Ohio R.R. as expected in consequence of the "Sheshers" who tore up the track.) Passed through Westmoreland Cambria counties and over the Alleghanies. It was getting to dark to see much when we went over the mountains so I missed one good sight. Stopped at Altoona twenty minutes for supper next took Blair Huntington Myflin Juniata and Dauphin counties in our way crossed the broad Susquehanna and arrived at Harrisburg at 1 A.M. ~~Saturday~~. changed cars and waited till 3. and started for Baltimore went through Cumberland and York counties arrived at the City of York 4.30 A.M. and on into to Baltimore county Maryland arrived at Baltimore 8.30. Got a view of Washington Monument from a distance



All along the road since we left the line of Penn. soldiers were stationed at every bridge and also along the road from Baltimore to Washington. We changed cars at Baltimore for Washington and passed through Howard and Prince George counties and entered the District of Columbia. Arrived at Washington 10.30 A.M. Saturday very tired and dirty.

I am boarding on Capitol Hill with a widow by the name of Murray. Saturday I went up to the Senate. Senator Latham of California was speaking he made quite a patriotic speech. Saw Wade Sherman Sumner Took of Vermont Preckmridge and A.S. Cox. Heel no others pointed out to me. Then took a stroll through the Capitol first went to the Rotunda saw several paintings among which were the Preservation of Capt Smith by Pocahontas the Landing of the Pilgrims, Conflict between Daniel Boone and the Indians, Lewis treat with the Indians then in addition to these are specimens of sculpture encircled with floral wreaths the heads of Columbus, Raleigh, La Salle and Cabot.

Then some of Emmule's paintings which are: The Declaration of Independence. The Surrender of Burgoyne, Surrender of the British at Yorktown, Resignation of Gen. Washington at Annapolis.

There are some others "Embarkations of the Pilgrims from Leyden" by Meir "Landing of Columbus" by Vanderlyn "Baptism of Pocahontas" by Chapman "Discovery of the Mississippi" by Soto by Powell. Then I went to the old Hall of Representatives over where the speaker's chair was is placed the model of a colossal figure of Liberty supported by an eagle which is just ready to fly. Then there is a marble statue representing

History, and outside a colossal group representing Civilization by Horatio Greenough, a statue of Washington and the Goddess of Liberty in the square east of the capital. Well I will not give any more at present.

Saturday evening went up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Treasury building and from there to the White House saw Lincoln through a window and then went to La Fayette square to see Mills Equestrian Statue of Gen Jackson quite a nice thing. Sunday a great many went from here to wither the cattle and left rather suddenly. The greatest excitement prevails here, and some even anticipate an attack on the City but I don't think there is much danger.

I have been attending the sittings of Congress and wither some very exciting times especially when the Secession Clique Burnett Vallandigham & Co. attempt to prevent the passage of a bill.

S. S. Cox sits right before Burnett and on the right side of Vallandigham, fit place for such as he. I heard Wilson, Sherman, & several other Senators speak today. I forgot to tell you I saw the God of War and Mercury. Busts of Polaski Kosciusko portraits of Washington and all the presidents of E. Randolph Osgood Hamilton Knox Franklin Mrs Brewster Columbus Despuccio Webster and several more. Today I was in the Library up at the Capitol it's a splendid affair. More books than you could count in a week. Monday I was down to the Smithsonian Institute which has more curiosities in the



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in the shape of stuffed birds & animals  
& fishes. Capt John C. Hazlett is here  
with his company along with the  
1st and 2nd Ohio Regiments  
They were an awful looking set  
when they came back here on Mon-  
day from the battle. Ellsworth's  
Grenades looked as if they had lost  
80 per cent Ellsworth's there are now  
about three hundred left out of  
all the regiments.

More troops are coming in on  
every train from the north and  
before long there will be 100,000  
men here. Gen Scott told a  
friend privately that he ought to  
be dismissed for fighting that  
battle before he was ready but  
Secretary Cameron urged him to  
go ahead and disastrous defeat  
is the consequence. Well it is too late  
now to remedy it and the only way  
will be to guard against it in  
the future.

I am getting along very well  
in my business although I can't  
tell how it may end.

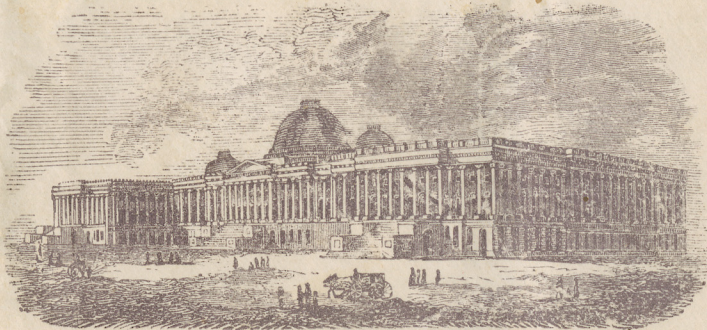
Next Tuesday I expect to attend  
the President's levee and then  
I will tell you how they do in  
society in Washington.

If you could see some of  
the realities of soldiering you  
would not want to volunteer  
even if Abe Lincoln was captain  
and I advise you to stay at  
home. You may rest assured  
I will not volunteer during this war.  
Well I could write all day but  
I guess you are getting tired of  
deciphering this.

Write just as soon as you  
receive this and anything you want  
to know about Washington I  
will tell you.

Yours truly W. F. Armstrong





THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON.



*Thos. S. Armstrong*

*Norwich*

*Ohio*

*Muskingum Co)*



Recd. from 25 July 1861



July 23, 1861

Addressed to Thos S. Armstrong

Norwich, Ohio, Muskingum Co.

Washington D.C.

July 23, 1861

Dear Bro.

You may probably be waiting to hear from me. Well I will commence by relating to you a history of my travels. On Friday morning at 7:12 I left Concord, passed through Cambridge, Zanesville, and arrived at Bellaire at 10:30AM where I first saw La Belle Riviere and on the opposite side the "sacred soil" of Virginia. A daughter of Rev. Alex Campbell was one of our company, quite an intelligent young lady. Took the cars for Pittsburgh, went up around the panhandle without touching Va. passing through Steubenville, Wellsville, through Jefferson and Columbiana into Pennsylvania into Beaver and Allegheny counties. Crossed the Ohio and arrived at Pittsburgh at 4P.M.

Started immediately for Harrisburg (did not go via Baltimore and Ohio R.R. as expected in consequence of the "sheshes" who tore up the track). Passed through Westmoreland and Cambria counties and over the Alleghenies. It was getting to dark to see much when we went over the mountains so I missed one good sight. Stopped at Altoona twenty minutes for supper. Next took the Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Dauphin counties in our way crossed the broad Susquehanna and arrived at Harrisburg at 1AM Saturday.

Changed cars and waited till 3 and started for Baltimore. Went through Cumberland and York counties. Arrived at the city of York 4:30PM and onto Baltimore county Maryland. Arrived at Baltimore 8:30. Got a view of Washington from a distance. All along the road since we left the line of Penn. soldiers were stationed at every bridge and also along the road from Baltimore to Washington.

We changed cars at Baltimore for Washington and passed through Howard and Prince George Counties and entered the District of Columbia. Arrived at Washington at 10:30AM Saturday very tired and dirty.

I am boarding on Capitol Hill with a widow by the name of Murray. Saturday I went up to the Senate. Senator Gathane(?) of California was speaking. He made quite a patriotic speech. Saw Wade, Sherman, Sumner, Foote, and Fremont -- Breckinridge and S.S. Cox. Had no others pointed out to me. Then took a stroll through the Capitol. First went to the Rotunda. Saw several paintings among which were the Preservation of Capt Smith by Pocahontas, the Landing of the Pilgrims, conflict between Daniel Boone and the Indians; then in addition to these are specimens of sculpture encircled with the heads of Columbus, Raleigh, LaSalle & Cabot.



The some of Trumbull's paintings which are: The Declaration of Independence. The Surrender of Burgoyne. Surrender of the British at Yorktown. Resignation of General Washington at Annapolis. There are some others "Embarkation of the Pilgrims from Dryden by Weir, "Landing of Columbus by Sanderlyn, "Baptism of Pochahontas" by Chapman, "Discovery of the Mississippi by de Soto" by Powell.

The I went to the old Hall of Representatives over where the speakers chair is placed a colossal figure of Liberty supported by an eagle which is just ready to fly. Then there is marble statue representing History and outside a colossal group representing Civilizations by Horatio Greenough. A statue of Washington and the goddess of Liberty in the square east of the Capitol. Well I will not give any more at present.

Saturday evening, went up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Treasury Building and from there to the White House to see Mill's equestrian statue of Gen Jackson. Quite a nice thing. Sunday a great many went from here to witness the battle and left rather suddenly. The greatest excitement prevails here and some even anticipate an attack on the city -- but I don't think there is much danger.

I have been attending the sittings of the Congress and witness some very exciting times especially when the Secession clique, Burnett, Vallandigham & Co. attempt to prevent the passage of a bill. I heard Wilson, Sherman, and several other senators speak today. I forgot to tell you I saw the God of War and Mercury, Busts of Pulaski, Kasciuske, portraits of Washington and all the presidents, E. Randolph, Osgood, Hamilton, Knox, Franklin, Wm Brewster, Columbus, Vespucci, Webster and several more.

Today I was up at the library at the Capitol, it's a splendid affair. More books that you could count in a week. Monday I was down at the Smithsonian Institute which has more curiosities in the shape of stuffed birds & animals & fishes.

Capt John G. Hazlett is here with his company along with the 1st and 2nd Ohio Regiments. They were an awful looking set when they came back here on Monday from the battle. Ellsworth's \_\_\_\_\_ looked as if they had lost a \_\_\_\_\_. Ellsworths, there are now about three hundred left out of all the regiments.

More troops are coming in on every train from the North and before long there will be 100000 men here. Gen Scott told a friend privately that he ought to be dismissed for fighting that battle before he was ready, but Secretary Cameron urged him to go ahead and disastrous defeat is the consequence. Well it is too late now to remedy it and the only way will be to guard against it in the future.

I am getting along very well in my business although I can't tell when it will end. Next Tuesday I expect to attend the President's levee and then I will tell you how they do in society in Washington.

If you could see some of the realities of soldiering, you would not want to volunteer even if Abe Lincoln was captain. I advise you to stay at home. You may rest assured that I will not volunteer during this war. Well, I could write all day but I guess you are getting tired of deciphering this.



Write just as soon as you receive this and anything you want to know about Washington I will tell you.

Yours truly,

W.F. Armstrong