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Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Up the Tennesse River, In camp, Mar 19 Hed Gen Woods Division Jenn. DEar Frank I write to you once more. Last might the must came I got no letters but I know or expect our letters are on an other Bout I feel pretty comfortable of pres ent - The have Just sater our dinner of crack en Hot coffe I we also had fresh boiled beef I soup with crackers in it - Least night over regiment landed & hitched tents on a hele overlooking the Rever Our boys cleared arony the light timber I roe fixed our tent micely. It rained all might but our tent kept the wet off- This morning the sun arose & began to frour his intense rays on us O but it is not here as harvest with is up in Thio - The bogs are busy with the Ketchen opporations- We are here making ready for a movement some where Mare in Harding le Lenn. we went up within as miles of State of Moiss we are on

HE have a nice refreshing stream of water the left Bank of the Tennessee Savannah is the county seat He cannot lell what rumoning close to camp clear & Gimpo is going on in the rist of the world hard I find Spencer Ships has got a dis charge to leave for home as he is unfit for service ly as we got no news of importance Our men are improving greatly in Some of our boys are a little removel but they are recovering be. W. is as hearty as health the cool woods breezes sum to revive Exhausted nature. We you please - Her stands the hards hips came from Betberry Hore ON the Janely - Bob Canson Lents with us now he is first rate to the sick Steumboat "Ho Choutean" Our. fourney was without any accident The country looks finely here & whatever - The boys appear anxious to shows that the soil is good Ruster day & saw a durkey gul having 7008 meet the Enemy - Agrent many pumors are prevalent in camp about the young children white guls under her Inemy - They Day Bruneguarde is charge & but she would laugh & ansabout 17 miles above here - but I don't wer guestions about them faying whom Know as rumor is rife you will get the This one & that one belonged to - The news before eve do of any movement people are scared her about no they we have been changed to several Brigthink we are going to plunde se ades you we are m bol James Wood's Others are not so flourd - Me have of Licking bot of 76.0. U.S. plenty to Eat But O these awful crackers I tell you these Cool Breezes feel good and of for some of your cakes & pres & chicken refreshing that Blow through thes trees Uncle Sam ought to give us some light These trees are like yours in Olio Bread Then we would be happy

have ofter troughts on your lotter of. Lean ser you & all my friends at home Will I must close you must write to me all the news from home. When you see our folks tell there to write to us the news also to Durch then Letter Gennesse Rever bare bol M D the 2 gett (60 B) 78 Th Reg O. V. - Will you must pray for us boys that are soldiering & ors - God Bless you all is my frag er- Remember me kindly to afe my hape is of a poor class now I'my inte out so I will with a pencil Farewell for the Present Tours as Ever Thomas Dohnus trong

March 19, 1862

Up the Tennessee River, In Camp Mar 19

Wed. Gen Woods Division Tenn

Dear Frank

I write to you once more. Last night, the mail came. I got no letters but I know or expect our letters are on another boat. I feel pretty comfortable at present. We have just eaten our dinner of crackers & hot coffee & we also had fresh boiled beef & soup with cracker in it. Last night or Regt landed and pitched tents on a hill overlooking the River. Our boys cleared away the light timber & we fixed our tents nicely. It rained all night but our tent kept the wet off.

This morning the sun arose & began to pour his intense rays on us. O but it is hot here as harvest with us up in Ohio. The boys are busy with the kitchen operations. We are here making for a movement somewhere. We are in Hardin Co. Tenn. We went up another 2 miles of Slate of _____. We are on the left bank of the Tennessee. Savannah is the county seat. We cannot tell what is going on in the rest of the world hardly as we get no news of importance. Our men are improving greatly in health, the cool woods breezes seem to revive exhausted nature. We came from Ft. Henry here on the steamboat "H Chouteau"(?). Our journey was without any accident whatever. The boys appear anxious to meet the enemy. A great many rumors are prevalent in camp about the enemy. They say Beaureguarde is about 17 miles above here, but I don't know as rumor is rife. You will get the news before we do of any movement. We have been changed to several Brigades. Now we are with Col James Wood's of Licking Co. of the 76th O.V.I.

I tell you these cool breezes feel good and refreshing that blow through these trees. These trees are like yours in Ohio. We have a nice refreshing stream of water close to camp clear & _____. I find Spencer Ships has got a discharge as he is unfit for service. Some of our boys are a little unwell, but they are recovering. Geo. W. is as hearty as you please. He stands the hardships finely. Bob Hanson tents with us now. He is first rate to the sick.

The country looks finely here and the soil is good. Yesterday, I saw a darkey girl having 7 or 8 young children, white girls, under her charge & O but she would laugh & answer questions about them saying whom this one & that one belonged to. The people are scared about us. They think we are going to plunder etc. Others are not so foolish. We have plenty to eat & But O these awful crackers, oh! for some your cakes & fries & chicken. Uncle Sam ought to give us some light bread. Then we would be happy.

Often have I ate those nice things you have often brought on your table at home. But I hope the time will soon come when this war will close then I can see you and all my friends at home. Well I must close. You must write me all the news from home. When you see our folks, tell them to write the news. Also to direct their letters: Tennessee River, care Col M.D. Leggett Co. B 78th O.V.I. Well you must pray for us boys who are soldiering & I am sure we need all to sustain us. God bless you all is my prayer. Remember me kindly to all your folks, your Father & Mother. My paper is of poor class now and my ink out so I write with pencil. Fare well for the present.

Yours as ever.

Thomas S. Armstrong