

3-19-1862

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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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 our letters are on an other 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 crackers in it - Last night our regiment landed & pitched tents on a hill overlooking the River Our boys cleared away the light timber & we fixed our tent 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 ready for a movement somewhere near Hardin Co Tenn. we went up within 2 miles of State of Miss 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 hard-
ly 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 "McChoutran". 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 Beauregard is
about 17 miles above here - but I don't
know as rumor is ripe you will get the
news before we do of any movement
we have been changed to several Brig-
ades now we are in Col James Wood's
of Licking Col of 76th U.S.

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
running close to camp clear & limpid.
I find Spencer Shipps has got a dis charge
to leave for home as he is unfit for service.
Some of our boys are a little run well but
they are recovering Geo. W. is as hearty as
you please. Ned stands the hardships
finely. Bob Hanson tents with us now
he is first rate to the sick.

The country looks finely here &
shows that the soil is good. Yesterday
I saw a darky girl having 7 or 8
young children white girls under her
charge & O but she would laugh & ans-
wer questions about them saying whom
this one & that one belonged to. The
people are scared here about us they
think we are going to plunder &c
Others are not so foolish. We have
plenty to eat but O these awful crackers
oh! for some of your cakes & pies & chicken.
Uncle Sam ought to give us some light
Bread then we would be happy.

After have I all those nice things you
have after brought on your table at
home. But I hope the time will soon
come when this war will close then
I can see you & all my friends at
home. Well I must close you
must write to me all the news from
home. When you see our folks tell
them to write to us the news also to
Direct them. Yettis Tennessee River
Capt Col M D Baggett (Co B) 88th
Reg O.V. - Well you must pray
for us boys that are soldiering &
I am sure we need all to sustain
us - God Bless you all is my pray
er. Remember me kindly to all
your folks your father & Mother
My paper is of a poor class now
& my ink out so I write with
a pencil. Farewell for the
Present

Yours as ever

Thomas Armstrong

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 Beauregarde 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