

4-17-1862

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Philisah, Near Pittsburg Landing, West of  
Tennessee River, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Frank

Once more I write you a letter, since I last saw you  
even since I last wrote I have been at Death's Door  
I have been so low that George Capt<sup>r</sup> Chandler & all  
thought I was going to die. On April 4<sup>th</sup> I weighed  
118  $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs! What do you think of that? I was at Adamsville on Apr.  
6<sup>th</sup> with the Reg. the officers sent me to Crump's Landing & I have  
been recruiting my health ever since till yesterday. When I came  
to this place. Frank I had. The Pleuris Pulmonalis a species  
of consumption in the 1<sup>st</sup> stages. by great care & the geniality of  
this Tennessee climate I am improving very fast  
yesterday I walked a mile. Frank I have been very  
sick but Thank God I will be well soon, that is, present  
circumstances indicate that turn of my case. The Capt<sup>r</sup>.  
got out My Papers of Discharge from the U.S. Service & wanted  
to get me home so that my life might be saved but the battle  
came on & we have heard nothing of The Papers. Likely  
they were lost in the fight. If I get them Do you advise me to come  
home? or stay with the Regiment? I'll tell you all in a week or two  
George is well and as hearty as you please. His face is tanned  
as an Islander from Coast of Morocco. His mustache black and long &  
looks fine. Tell Frank He was in the Great Battle & the boys  
say he stood nobly at his post at the head of the Company.  
Our Reg. Was into the fight on Monday. But there is no use of me



describing the Battle. as it will be done by more graphic  
pens than mine. We will be Lieutenant before very long.  
Well I'll give you some other news. My Sister Mary wrote me  
a letter which I got April. 9 telling me that my Dear Brother  
Wilbur was in the Land of Spirits. O Frank! How that shocked  
me! Poor fellow! He fell in youth, a martyr to his Country or Love of  
Country rather. He Died March 22nd 1862. At the Hospital in  
Cincinnati Father was with him & took him in charge & took  
care of him. He got Religion & Died happy. This is cheering.  
When he died he sent his messages of love to us all & told  
us to meet him in Heaven. I am resolved to meet him  
there, Frank. Sister Mary has a school near Abram Hells & will  
board with Abram and Keatleda. Geo tells me Frank you have  
moved below Starkey's & you think of Teaching. May God  
preserve you Frank! Excuse the manner in which I  
write. The sun is shining bright & the atmosphere is as pleas-  
ant as May or June. We have many comforts now. We have  
very good "grub". Light bread, Korming, potatoes, ham, sugar  
& coffee, & tea. Our boys cook well. Why Frank we have had dried  
peach & apple & even currant pie baked by the boys. Awful  
thick crust though. But good considering the time place and  
circumstances. Leroy A. Roberts & John W. Spring are cooks now.  
Geo does the grub justice. He keeps well. George wants me to stay  
with him thro. the Campaign & likely I would do better to  
stay in the Army — I took a walk this morning over the  
Battle ground or as much as I could in 3 hours. Then I  
Returned to camp 3 hours before my pass ran out. I saw a  
lot of dead Horses & trees riddled with balls. I got four & I got a



I send you a Johnny-Jump-Up that I got when the battle was  
thickest & several of our men fell killed & lots wounded.  
Receive it Frank as a silent memento of the contrast of  
the Battle field to the little innocent flower. Well I want  
you to Remember me kindly to all your folks. Give my love  
to all my friends. George sends his love to you all. Says  
he is well. I want you not to forget him. Write to me  
a long letter. Just now we have orders to march from  
the position we occupy here I want you to Remember  
me Frank. I often have thought of you when I was sick  
& what you would think if you could see me in my feeble  
condition. But thank my creator I am better & hope  
soon to be well. Pray for me & Give my love to Miss Knowles  
& Miss Hely. Will answer immediately.

Farewell for the present

From your friend

Thomas S. Armstrong

Co. B. Savannah Tennessee

Care Col. M. D. Leggett

98<sup>th</sup> Reg. C. V. I

(forwarded on

to 98<sup>th</sup>)

To

Frank D. Porter

Hope well

O.





April 17, 1862

Shiloah, Near Pittsburg Landing West of

Tennessee River April 17, 1862

Frank

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Farewell for the present

From your friend

Thomas S. Armstrong

Co. B. Savannah Tennessee

Care Col. M.D. Leggett

78th Reg O.V.I.

(forwarded on to 78th)