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4-21-1862

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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In Camp, Four miles west of Pattoburg Gearding, On the left of the Battle Field, Hardin Loo Serie, April 21 1862 Vear Friend On the day or beautiful afternoon you seated yourself for the purpose of writing me afew lines our dolehers were engaged in hard fighting with the energy, & the Old 18th was 's pout' for the field. Do you always wait till sunday to write ? I'm glad you were glad to hear from me, O'm glad Hanson's letter afforded you so much pleasure, Will I was sick as a told you in the one I sent you on the 16 th day of April. & suppose I will be home before very long. I was antirely unfit for duty, and, the officers have discharged me from The service. My papers have not arrived yet, I'm waching pahently for Sen Grant to sign them. You thought strange that I did not speak of my healthin my feat & spoke of the boys being well - Well I will just say that I don't want to make the hearts of any bree founds bleed with the bleed with the uncertain news we receive from camp, I was fust able & no more to write that letter, Did you want me to tell you that I had been given up by all pryfiends and wenthe Doctors as a "gover" And they looked for me to die. But thank bod I am better. I got that letter you sent the same time that George's came I would be satisfied with soldering of I had not lost my health George likes it first rate, & he keeps hearty. has not ailed any of any accountatall, I thep why spirits as much as & can, We have got several letters from being I Aplin And he got here. That was a good foke on his I weetheart. I must rig thenry when I see him

Des ever girls other than negros. Hes & have been at least 5 white girls since left bamp Selbert, Alinean is well and good as ever, I'm glad of it, sive her my low I unote to her when I wrote to you, I hope you have a good time going those two miles to see Almada " Just want lite we boys got home. Sev. has told me when you live, If I ever "he so fortunate as to get home " I will call and Dee you in the "Brick house close to Starkey's: We hope to see John soon, Friend Gillespie is heavy latter his meals regularly & is noted for his good appelete & healthy looks & kind dis position Dolp Learch has left the bour hang & think is making his mark in the bounnessary & sportment, Mor Hear Son knows about as much about as being how the 42 of July as I do, I don't believe loe well be home til next year about may & I think you will be it to in the End, Les, Should like to come home soon, " often think of the last time you was at our house how much I was opposed to you and George going to the army " Well I'm sorry for your sake I had not the feeling to consult your happiness. But in the End Frank you will find it is all for the Bess my Dean Bro, is a sacrifice to this War & my folks think I should take good care of my self s. come home if I get sick, I know Frank & Enlisted against your well but I pray Goel we may both live till & see you & be in health, For & could never return and be rund in health I have an moaled all my life, I could not ask you to do any more than you have, All I have to say now is may back Bless you!

(So you have Meome guards: He opeyou will have a glood thim at the Reservoir with them & was Here last spring with Robert William William Kenny Arthur Anne John & Isabell Meanillon Geo & Martha Landes, Ne & had a good tim Think of me on Those rppluy dancy waters Will you? I can't come, No Chave not been put in the guard House for being drunk, "Hes & understand Will Spincer & Grafton Rankin are both gove with Seo. Leanches & Chas Black, Ver, Lookout for Spence Ships down soon too, all late good can of my self & roll write The Reason Doe not written to you offen or is doe been unwell, Ell try to love my Doce & well fray for you That does me good to think your prayers & best wishes follow he! Will give my love to my punds & worth to as soon as you receive the Our folks were all well when theard last, We are lyng her in camp the rain pouring down & has been for abours & days & mghts But the Dunis commy out. Give my love to your Father & to you nother & Healdah & The rest, Well Good By From your Friend Thos & Annothing Co B. Savannah Sennesse 78th Roza, O.V.J. lean of bol Mon de ggett 0/10 Mil Frank, P. Porter A provill Q.

I. D. Lest me tell you that Hanson is a fellow that has breated me like a fellow that don't save for expenses he will have any Think for a freed that can be bought No difference what is the bruce. He & has breated George like Brothers he is a free Rearled fellow A great admirer of the baches and is in short a real clever heartest fellow. He & is my friend & is Georges too. He is work of your especial attention, Hear North to kim it does him as much good. A you would sit believe the good it does him Good By This time Thomas I. Armstrong

April 21, 1862

In Camp, Four Miles West of Pittsburg Landing. On the

left of the Battle Field. Hardin Co. Tenn April 21st 1862

Dear Friend

On the day or beautiful afternoon you seated yourself for the purpose of writing me a few lines, our soldiers were engaged in hard fighting with the enemy. The Old 78th was "en route" for the field, Do you always wait till Sunday to write? I'm glad you were glad to hear from me. I'm glad Hanson's letter afforded you so much pleasure. Well, I was sick as I told you in the one I sent on the 16th day of April. I suppose I will be home before very long. I was entirely unfit for duty and the officers have discharged me from the service. My papers have not arrived yet. I'm waiting patiently for Gen Grant to sign them.

You thought it strange that I did not speak of my health in my last & spoke of the boys being very well. Well I will just say that I don't want to make the hearts of any true friends bleed with the uncertain news we receive from camp. I was just able & no more to write that last letter. Did you want me to tell you that I had been given up by all friends and even the Doctors as a "goner." And they looked for me to die. But thank God I am better. I got that last letter you sent the same time George's came.

I would be satisfied with soldiering if I had not lost my health. George likes it first rate & he keeps hearty, has not ailed on any account at all. I keep my spirits as much as I can. We have several letters from Henry S. Axline since he got home. That was a good joke on his sweetheart. I must rig Henry when I see him.

Yes, I've seen girls other than negros. Yes I've seen at least 5 white girls since I left Camp Gilbert. Almeda is well and good as ever. I'm glad of it. Give her my love. I wrote to her when I wrote to you. I hope you have a good time going those two miles to see Almeda. Just wait until we boys get home. Geo. had told me where you live. If I ever "be so fortunate as to get home" I will call and see you in the "brick house close to Starkey's." We hope to see John soon. Friend Gillespie is hearty, takes his meals regularly & is noted for his good appetite & healthy looks & kind disposition. Dolph Search has left the Company & I think is making his mark in the Commissary Department. Mr. Hanson knows about as much about us being home the 4th of July as I do. I don't believe we will be home till next year about May & I think you will see it so in the end.

Yes I should like to come home soon. "Often think of the last time you was at our house and how much I was opposed to you and George going to the army." Well I'm sorry for your sake I had not the feeling to consult your happiness, but in the end, Frank, you will find it is all for the best.

My dear Bro. is a sacrifice to this war & my folks think I should take good care of myself & come home if I get sick. I know Frank I enlisted against your will but I pray God we may both live till I see you & be in health. For I could never return and be ruined in health & live an

invalid all my life. I could not ask you to do any more than you have. All I have to say now is May God Bless You!

So you have Neomi guards. Hope you will have a good time at the Reservoir with them. I was there last spring with Robert, William, William, Henry, Arthur. Annie, John & Isabell ______, George, & Martha Landes, etc. & had a good time. Think of me on those rippling dancing waters will you? I can't come. I have not been put in the Guard House for being drunk. Yes I understand that Will Spencer & Grafton Rankin are both gone with George Landes & Chas. Black. Yes, look out for Spence Ships down soon too.

I'll take good care of myself & will write. The reason I've not written to you oftener is I've been unwell. I'll try to love my God & will pray for you. That does me good to think your prayers & best wishes follow me. Well, give my love to my friends & write as soon as you receive this. Our folks were all well when I heard last. We are lying here in Camp with the rain pouring down & has been for about 4 days and nights. But the sun is coming out. Give my love to your father & to you Mother & Huldah & the rest. Well Good Bye

From your friend

Thos S. Armstrong

Co. B Savannah Tennessee

78th Reg O.V.I. Care of Col.

M.D. Leggett

P.S. Let me tell you that Hanson is a fellow that has treated me like a fellow that don't care for expenses. He will have anything for a friend that can be bought. No difference what is the price. He has treated George like Brothers. He is a free-hearted fellow. A great admirer of the Ladies and is in short a real clever hearted fellow. He is my friend & George's too. He is worthy of your especial attention. Please write to him. It does him as much good. O you wouldn't believe the good it does him.

Good Bye This time

Thomas S. Armstrong