

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 Pittsburg Landing, On the
left of the Battle Field, Garden Geo 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 9th 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 pleas-
ure. Well I was sick as I told you in the one I sent you on the 16th
day of April. I suppose I will be home before very long. I was en-
tirely 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 strange that I did not
speak of my health in my last & spoke of the boys being well - Well
I will just say that I don't want to make the hearts of any true friends
bleed ~~with~~ the bleed with the uncertain news we receive from camp. I
was just able & no more to write that letter. Did you want me to tell
you that I had been given up by all my friends and even the Doctors
as a "goner" And they looked for me to die. But thank God I am
better. I got that letter you sent the same time that 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
any of any account at all. I keep up my spirits as
much as I can. We have got several letters from Henry
& Aline since he got here. That was a good joke on his
sweetheart. I must rig Henry when I see him

Yes I've seen girls other than negroes. Yes I have seen at
least 5 white girls since I left Camp Gilbert. Almada 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 Almada? Just wait till we boys
get home. Geo. has told me where you live. If I ever "be so for-
tunate as to get home" I will call and see you in the "Bucks
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. Swan-
son 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. "I 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 Grant 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 my self &
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 Home guards. Hope you will have
a good time at the Reservoir with them I was
there last spring with Robert William William Henry
Arthur Anne John & Isabell Neamilton Geo & Martha
Lands. &c. & had a good time. Think of me on
those rpply dancy waters Will you? I can't
come. No I have not been put in the guard house
for being drunk! Yes I understand Will Spencer &
Grafton Rankin are both gone with Geo. Landis & Chas
Black. Yes, Lookout for Spence Ships down soon
too. I'll take good care of my self & will write
The Reason I've not written to you often is I've been un-
well. I'll try to love My God & will pray for you
That does me good to think your prayers & best
wishes follow me! Will give my love to my
parents & write to as soon as you receive the
Ours folks were all well when I heard last. We are
lying here in camp the rain pouring down & has
been for about 4 days & nights. But the sun is
coming out. Give my love to your Father & to your
Mother & Huldah & the rest. Well Good Bye
From your Friend

Thos S Armstrong
Co B. Savannah Tennessee
78th Reg. O.V.I. Ban of Col
M.D. Begett

To
Miss Frank P. Porter

Hope will O.

P.S. Let me tell you that Heanson
is a fellow that has treated me
like a fellow that don't care
for expenses he will have any
thing 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 & is Georges too. He is worthy
of your especial attention. Please
write to him it does him as
much good. & you wouldnt believe
the good it does him

Good Bye this time
Thomas S. 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