

10-26-1862

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Armstrong Family

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Camp Union Near Parkersburg Va

Oct 26 U. S. 1862

Dear Friends

I am well. All are well except
Charley Vanhorne who has the fever & Dave Sinsabaugh
who is slightly sick or was, but is getting better
Geo McMillen was sick with ague but is better
Capt Gary Lt Black & I are in one side of a tent
Capt Sells at Work & Lt Sells " " " " the same
I have a hand bunk; all necessary things, pertaining to
camp life indeed. This day has been rainy
sleety. Last night we slept nice and warm
with our guns on some straw then put our
blankets over us. Black slept in the middle he
has a bad cold. he caught it on guard night
before last. I was down at the river watching
our stores with some men. about 10 P.M. We
got a relief & went to Camp about 2 miles
On the other side of Parkersburg from the river
We had a tall tim to day, in the rain. We chopped
woods & carried it then piled it and divided it
among the men

Yesterday Cap'n Sells lost a man. How we don't know. But he has not been heard of since we sent out scouts all round. I got a haver sack yesterday in town for \$1.50 It is made of Oil cloth & has two pockets. We have plenty to eat Yesterday some of the men killed a calf & the owner came to the Colonel & complained about it & so there was one quarter of said calf in the Colonel's tent. And also the Quartermaster got a chicken and some one stole it & he reported to Lt Col Bushfield when Lt Col had taken it & when Lt Col came to look for it Cap'n Gordon had taken it & soon another fellow stole the said chicken from said Cap'n. The men claim that they have a right to defend themselves they say they won't stand still and allow the calves pigs and hens to bite them. They claim they won't stand such things & when pullets bite them they will defend themselves against all such enemies whatsoever. Col Ball is liked Dr. Keamy is a noble fellow. Keen Tucker is a first rate fellow. Will Calletwell is get

ting along well. Dave Sinsabaugh is getting lots better. The men have no stoves. But have plenty of wood. & they have good fires. We have 5 good tents to a Company. We have one tent to Officers. The tents are called "Bell Tents". We have our camp in a nice grove with a well for our water but we do not use it now. We are in Wood County. They have a beautiful Court house in this town. We think the inhabitants are mostly Secesh. This accounts for the Bush Whackers. Our men do not get as many passes here as they did. It saves lots of paper. Cap'n Gary says "If I had staid in Janesville camp much longer I would have run out of paper which government furnished me" Well this is a hard Country. We are going to the Mountains I think. The Boys are writing many letters home to day. Milroy has telegraphed to Ball to come to the Big Rendezvous

Well I will write you soon

Write to me soon

Fare well

Thos S Armstrong
Care Col W. H. Ball
122d Reg A. V. I.
Parkersburg Va



William Armstrong Esq.
Norwich
Muskingum County
Ohio



October 26, 1862

Addressed to William Armstrong, Esq.

Norwich

Muskingum County, Ohio

Camp Union Near Parkersburg Va

Oct 26 A.D 1862

Dear Family,

I am well. All are well except Charley Vanhorne whom has the fever & Dave Sensibaugh who is slightly sick or was. But is getting better. Geo McMillen was sick with agur but is better. Capn Gary, Lt Black, & I are in one side of a tent. Capn Sells, Lt. Work, & Lt Sells are in ___ this side of the same. I have a hand trunk; all necessary things, pertaining to camp life indeed.

This day has been rainy, sleety. Last night we slept nice and warm with our guns on some straw then put our blankets over us. Black slept in the middle; he has a bad cold. He caught it on guard duty night before last.

I was down at the river watching our stores with some men about 10 P.M. We got relief & went to camp about 2 miles on the other side of Parkersburg form the river. We had a tall time today in the rain. We chopped wood & carried it, then piled it and divided among the men.

Yesterday, Capn Sells lost a man. How we don't know. But he has not been heard of since we sent out scouts all round.

I got a have sack yesterday in town for \$1.50. It is made of oil cloth & has two pockets. We have plenty to eat. Yesterday some of the men killed a calf & the owner came to the Colonel & complained about it & lo there was one quarter of said calf in the Colonel's tent. And also the quarter master got a chicken and some one stole it, he reported to Lt Col Bushfield when lo, Col had taken it & when Lt Col came down to look for it Capn Gordon has taken it & soon another fellow stole the stole the said chicken from said Capn.

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Co. Ball is liked. Dr. Reamy is a noble fellow. Heen Tucker is a first rate fellow. Will Caldwell is getting along well. Dave Sensibaugh is getting lots better. The men have no stoves, but have plenty of wood & they have good fires. We have five good tents to a company. We have one tent to 6 officers. The tents are called "Bell Tents." We have our Camp in a nice grove with a well for water but we do not use it now. We are in Wood County. They have a beautiful courthouse in this town. We think the inhabitants are mostly Secesh. This accounts for the Bush Whackers.

Our men do not get as many passes here as they did. It saves lots of paper. Capn Gary says, "If I had stayed in Zanesville Camp much longer, I would have run out of paper which government furnished me."

Well this is a hard country. We are going to the mountains I think. They boys are writing many letters home today. Milroy has telegraphed to Ball to come to the Big Rendezvous.

Well I will write more soon. Write to me soon.

Fare well

Thos S Armstrong

Care Col. W.H. Ball

122d Reg O.V.I.

Parkersburg Va