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Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Flavilla Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Petersburg Hardy County Va Dec. 12 4 1862 Dear Lister Fla How changing our life is Fam Letting in my lent on a Bleak till writing to you Freed yours of the 30 th 2nd on the 4th and waspleased to hear from you farm well and Eat heartity as you please. HE (the capsland Is Jare Enjoying ourselves very well I have a ma Bed of Straw & a nice stove on which our Contraband cooks brigama thou cake & com fullers forces in land. I we have molasses made of sugar & Beef freed and Mard crackers sleeped in water & soften 201. Owe Enjoy our selves well. To day we were out on Dull below the Hill on which we an Encampeer on the plain near to South Branch of the Polomae, & drillthe Company Both on Co & Ballalun Drill. HE will leave here for Richmond Before long I think. To might Swas making strang

to New creek for that Box of things I will let you know how it succeeds I think I can get it if I canget et Haule of that we the trouble. Will you heed not dend any hor until I write to you. Will we ry oy ourselves very well The 32 O.V. hasbunker donn of the men bers graves ander one Leich of the 32 m Righ is Burned here They were here with Fremont Our Coistra band belonged to God mason of the Keebel army Heis ham is Isaac Hinney We give him 16 dollars ken Month, Her is a real son of Ebony Black as Lambo, Jam glud you had buch a good how ut for hanks I am glad you have questions in Desloy to unswer you must Read & find out the answers Shed, Carfully Not down the turnes & principal charalis Is learn it well make notes of dates & names of Each days

also the principal thoughts That acces to you. Fam glad you had a good time of the Gamblis on hanks given " About "Leonge" Del" Dr ch. "Nanny" Jun .. "Kelly" & Barny with the Sumplion Ic Hearson is not Sout heh! Diel hother have a good him Jeary Wilburs & Jacobs Photographe Blook at their often they make he think of Medelones must have have "lots X gobs "of fun det hust he a very an ruly & an as cum fact animul Man gave her a firk the horsted"her tail "O. head Inean B wheeled round & fell off" Dies you fall of in to a spot prepared By L'an or hunerva or some other goddess or was it a cushioned seat prepare by Some frencly Cow? Was et they Courty hen or women? Then your. clies spell you Consmissary Department Lexis hus about his Photo graph

Jour had in school. So Jucoh Rilled Black How Could the? Loth Beef Twigh? Tell Frank & gus I would leke to hear from them Thank How do you like school do you know when hard Count is 2 do you see Some prountaines East & west of us Iwell well to he word how you are & how you are getting along in your Studies Tus Beve him cheld a breact crumb I soould like to look at your Ishu Eyes once here. Is you hair getting long & carly Good By E your Brother IS Comstroy Lell Mary Ill answer hers Door Good By & Morb Loon all

December 12, 1862

Petersburg Hardy County Va

December 12th 1862

Dear Sister Fla

How changing our life is. I am sitting in my tent on a bleak hill writing to you. I rec'd yours of the 30th and 2nd on the 4th and was pleased to hear from you. I am well and eat hearty as you please.

We (the captain & I) are enjoying ourselves very well. I have a nice bed of straw & a nice stove on which our contraband cooks Virginia _____ cake & corn fritters fried in lard & we have molasses made of sugar & beef fried & hard crackers steeped in water & softened. O we enjoy ourselves well.

Today we were out on Drill below the hill on which we are encamped on the plan near the South Branch of the Potomac. I drill the company both on Co. & Battalion Drill. We will leave here for Richmond before long I think. Tonight I was making arrangements with the Col to send a wagon to New Creek for that box of things. I will let you know how it succeeds. I think I can get it if I can get it hauled; that is the trouble. Well, you need not send any more until I write to you. Well, we enjoy ourselves very well.

The 32 O.V. has been here. Some of the members graves are here. One Lieut of the 32nd Regt is buried here. They were here with Fremont. Our contraband belonged to Col Mason of the Rebel Army. His name is Isaac Kinney. We give him 16 dollars per month. He is a real son of ebony, Black as Sambo.

I am glad you had such a good time at Mr. Hanks. I am glad you have questions in history to answer. You must read & find out the answer. Study carefully. Note down the times and principal characters & learn it well. Make notes of dates & names of each days studies. Also the principal thoughts that occur to you.

I am glad you had a good time at Mr. gamble's on "Thanksgiving" about "George," "Pet," "Dick," "Nanny," "June," "Kathy," & Barney with the Sumption etc. Hanson is not Lieut, heh! Did Mother have a good time. I carry Wilbur's and Jacob's Photographs & look at them often. They make me think of other days gone by. You & Will McCloud must have had "lots and gobs" of fun. Pet must be a very unruly & circumspect animal. "Mary gave her a jerk, she hoisted her tail." O! head I mean & wheeled round & I fell off." Did you fall into a spot prepared by Pan or Minerva or some other goddess or was it a cushioned seat prepared by some friendly cow? Was it my country men or women? The you did spell your Commissary Department did you? I'm glad you ______ Lew Sensibaugh my photograph.

I don't know how many less than 100 you had in school. So Jacob killed Black? How could he? Is the beef tough?

Tell Frank & Gus I would like to hear from them. Frank, how do you like school? Do you know where Hardy County is? Do you see some mountains east and west of us. I will write to you soon. I want you to send me word of how you are & how you are getting along in your studies.

Gus

"Give him child a bread crumb." Do you read any & write any? I would like to look at your blue eyes once more. Is your hair getting long & curly.

Good bye

Your brother

T S Armstrong

Tell Mary I'll answer hers soon. Good bye.

Write soon all of you