12-12-1862

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Flavilla Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Petersburg, Hardy County, Va.
Dec. 12th, 1862

Dear Sister Ella,

How changing our life is. I am sitting in my tent on a bleak hill writing to you. I read yours of the 30th of Dec. 2nd on the 4th and was pleased to hear from you. I am well and eat heartily, as you please. We (the Company) are enjoying ourselves very well. I have a nice bed of straw and a nice stove on which our Contraband cooks Virginia rice, cake and corn flutters. Free in land, I, we have molasses made of sugar and beef, fresh and hard crackers. Slepted in water 80 times. I like very well. Today we were out on drill below the hill on which we are encamped. On the plain near the town branch of the Potomac, I drill the Company, both on C & 8 Battalion Drill. We will leave here for Richmond. Before long I think. To night I was making a mess with the Col. & send a wagon.
to Am crew for that box of things
I will let you know how it succeeds
I think I can get it if I can get it
I've heard that to the trouble. Well
you need not send any more until
I write & you. Well we enjoy ourselves
very well. The 32 O. I. had their names
of the members engraved on ten medals
of the 32nd Kelt is burned here. They
were here with Fremont. Our center
lanes belonged to Col. Mason of the
Rebel Army. His name is Isaac
Kehnery. We give him 16 dollars per
month. He is a son of
Ebony Black as Sambo. I am
glad you had such a good time
of Mr. Kehnery. I am glad you have
questions in history to answer
you must read & find out the
answers study carefully. Note down
the times & principal characters
& learn it well. Make notes of
dates & names of each day's
studies.
Also the principal thought
that
accus to you. I am glad you had a good
time of Mr. Gamble on Thanksgiving.
About "George" "Pet" "Dick" "Tuan" "Jan" "Kitty" & Barney with the Sampson
He is Mason is not your lad.
Did they have a good time? I say
Wilbur & Jacobs Photographs look
at third of the they make the front of
the days Don't you. You will
not 4 "gob's" of fun. Pet must be
a very proud & his cmr's.
animals. "Mrs. gave her a girl she
kicked her tail off. Mrs. mean 8
wheelie round & I fell off." Did you
fall of in to a spot prepared by
Dan or Imos or some other god of
or was it a cushioned seat prepared
by some friendly Cow? Was it any
Cow before men or women? Then you:
didn't spell you Constitution? Please.
Did you? Im glad you sold
that picture to a big photograph.
I don't know how many less than 100 you had in school. So fresh Rilled Block Now could she? Is the Beef tough?

Tell Frank if you see me I would like to hear from him. Thank how do you like school do you know when Hard County is 2 do you see some mountains east or west of us I will write to you soon. I want you to send me word how you are & how you are getting along in your studies.

Yours "Give him a little bread crumb" do you read any & write any? I would like to look at your blue eyes one more. Is your hair getting long & curl.

Good By Mr.

Your Brother

J. S. Armstrong

Tell Mary I'll answer her soon. Good Bye & Work soon all of you.
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