


12-12-1862

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Flavilla Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Petersburg Hardy County Va  
Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sister Eliza

How changing our life is

I am sitting in my tent on a Bleak Hill writing  
to you I recd yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
and was pleased to hear from you I am well  
and eat heartily 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 hoe  
cake & Corn flitters fried in lard, & we have  
molasses made of sugar & Beef fried and  
hard crackers steeped in water & softer  
ed. O we enjoy ourselves well. To day we  
were out on Drill below the Hill on which  
we are encamped on the plain 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. To night I was making arrange-  
ments 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  
hailed that is the trouble. Will  
you need not send any more until  
I write to you. Well we enjoy ourselves  
very well. The 32 O.V. has buried some  
of the members graves as here one Lieut  
of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regt is buried here they  
were here with Fremont Our contra-  
band belongs to Col Mason of the  
Rebel Army His name is Isaac  
Kinney We give him 10 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  
answers study carefully Note down  
the times & 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 Hanks on "Thanks giving"  
about "George" "Pet" "Dicks" "Nanny" "Jim"  
"Kathy" & Barney with the "Sumpton"  
&c Hanson is not lost huh!  
Diet Mother have a good time I carry  
Wilbur's & Jacobs Photographs & look  
at them after they make me think of  
other days gone by You & Will  
McCloud must have had "lots  
& gobs" of fun Pet must be  
a very unruly & am curious suspect  
animal "Mary gave her a jirk she  
hoisted" her tail "O! head I mean &  
wheeled round & I fell off" Did you  
fall of in to a spot prepared by  
Pan or Minerva or some other goddess  
or was it a cushioned seat prepared  
by some friendly Cow? Was it any  
countrymen or women? Then your  
did spell you Commissary Department  
Did you? I'm glad you built  
Lexis Hirschbach my Photo graph



I dont 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 & 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

Gus

"Give him a hild 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

J S Armstrong

Tell Mary I'll answer hers  
Soon Good Bye

Write 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