

4-7-1865

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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At Home North of Gratiot Apr 7<sup>th</sup> /65

Dear Frank

Yours of march 20<sup>th</sup> /65 I found advertised at Janesville. You conferred upon me the title of "Capt." Truly I was a "Capt." once but now I am only the Ranking 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Infantry But never mind that now.

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> you remember I left your home and started home the same evening I got on the train at Pana at 10 P.M. then via Terre Haute Indianapolis Peoria Columbus Newark to Janesville where I arrived at 1 P.M. Apr 5. Saw my old friends in I took dinner with Col. Ball at his urgent request. The old Col who is Brev. Brig Gen. received me as only he can. He looks well. at one P.M. I took the "Hack" for G— Here I met Dr Kearny & his lady who confided to my charge his little daughter Mary who was going to see her Uncle



at Sterling. When we arrived at Mr  
Field's residence I duly saw that she &  
her baggage were safely landed.  
What do you think? Arthur Hamellon  
is dead he was wounded & died and  
his girl Maxie Brown to whom he was  
engaged is nearly heart broken - she  
keeps her room. Bro Jacob & lady live  
now where Mrs Gray formerly resided  
opposite where S. Tucker formerly kept store.  
Father Mother "Ma" Frank Sus Abram &c  
except, exceptions, are well

Ex. 1<sup>st</sup> Sister Mahilda is rather feeble  
Ex 2<sup>nd</sup> Sister Mary has the Sterling School  
\$1.50 per day - is teaching - comd. last Mon.  
is not in good health - looks very pale  
I think she ought to travel, poor girl.

My own dear I only now feel  
how much I love you since you are  
far away - You wrote me a good letter  
Frank - asked me a good many questions  
But I presume you know all or at  
least as much as I do myself

You know I'm unsettled as yet.  
You say, "Had almost abandoned the idea of ever  
hearing from you had not heard since Sept.  
almost seven months and long, long months  
were they to me" poor dear!

"Can't you come soon"? "Think you can find  
us easily" "Didn't I come?"

"Hon" what makes you spell living, loving  
& "living" "loveing"? pardon me for this.  
"But I've the right" Haven't - I?

You say "I have thought too much of you to  
doubt" that "you have always been true to  
me" Said "me" being your own dear self -

You don't know of any "misunder-  
standing" between us - nor I rather  
"All is lovely and the goose hangs high"

"I don't want any thing to mar our future  
happiness" Don't you? perhaps poverty may

When I "come for" you if you "have not  
made much preparation for it" It don't  
matter Frank - for jeans for me & Linsey  
for you will do & we can find some justice  
of the peace. & also we can walk even if we



to go barefoot -

would you come Frank if "that order" was sent you?

Have you any objection <sup>to</sup> my age dear boy? wait

until you see how I've grown in mischief

Girl I think I'd better send you your letter to me for I've quoted it well

haven't I? I fancy I did see some

of your mischief - when you braced

your foot against my chair dwers times

that I've a faint recollection of now

But as for you growing "to wild" (you

meant (too wild) for me don't fear -

"I think I will stop my nonsense"

Your "nonsense" is just the kind I

like - I do not grow sober over

my pleasantry

Frank I think we know each

other <sup>as</sup> well as most people do in our

happy "fix" - as J. G. Adams said at the

approach of death "I'm content" so

can I say with truth in my heart

amen!

Frank there is one thing I feel

condemned for in reference to you

I will tell it to you when I see you

and you ask me - I shall write to

George soon my love to him your dear

father & mother Brothers & Sisters

And now farewell my "own" dear

"Frank"

T.S.

Write immediately to Annapolis

April 7, 1865

At Home North of Gratiot Apr 7th/65

Dear Frank

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Apr 3rd, you remember, I left your home and started home the same evening. I got on the train at Pana at 10 P.M. then via Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Piqua, Columbus, Newark, to Zanesville where I arrived at 1 A.M. Apr 5. Saw my old friends in Z, took dinner with Col. Ball at his urgent request. The old Col. who is \_\_\_\_\_ Brig Gen received me as only he can. He looks well. At one P.M. I took the "hack" for G(ratiot). Here I met Dr. Reamy & his lady who confided to my charge his little daughter Mary who was going to see her Uncle at Sterling. When we arrived at Mr. Field's residence, I duly saw that she & her baggage were safely inside. What do you think?

Arthur Hamilton is dead. He was wounded & died and his girl, Maxie Brown to whom he was engaged is nearly broken hearted. She keeps her room. Bro Jacob & lady live now where Mrs Gray formerly resided opposite where S. Tucker formerly kept store. Father, mother, "Fla," Frank, Gus, Abram, etc except exceptions are well. Ex. 1st, sister Matilda is rather feeble. Ex 2nd Sister Mary has the Sterling School. \$1.50 per day -- is teaching -- \_\_\_\_\_ last \_\_\_\_\_ is not in good health -- looks very pale. I think she ought to travel, poor girl.

My own dear I only now feel how much I love you since you are far away. You wrote me a good letter, Frank, asked me a good many questions. But I presume you know all or at least as much as I do myself.

You know I'm unsettled as yet. You say, "Had almost abandoned the idea of ever hearing from you had not heard since Sept., almost seven months and long, long months were they to me" poor dear! "Can't you come soon?" Didn't I come? "Hon" what makes you spell living, loving, etc. "liveing," "loveing?" pardon me for this, "But I've the right" haven't I? You say "I have thought to much of you to doubt" that "you have always been true to me" said "me" being your own dear self. You don't know of any misunderstanding between us -- nor I either. "All is lovely and the goose hangs high" "I don't want anything to mar our future happiness." Don't you? Perhaps poverty may. When I "come for" you if you "have not made much preparation for it." It don't matter Frank -- for jeans for me & linsey for you will do & we can find some justice of the peace. & also we can walk even if we to go barefoot.

Would you come, Frank, if "that order" was sent you? "Have you any objection to my age dear boy? Wait until you see how I've grown in mischief." Girl I think I'd better send your letter to me for I've quoted it well, haven't I? I fancy I did see some of your mischief when you braced your foot against my chair \_\_\_\_\_ times that I've a faint recollection of now. But as for your growing "to wild" (you mean, too wild) for me, don't fear. "Think I will stop my nonsense" your "nonsense" is just the kind I like -- now don't grow sober over my pleasantry.

Frank, I think we know each other as well as most people do in our happy "fix" -- as JQ Adams said at the approach of his death, "I'm content," so can I say with truth in my heart Amen.

Frank there is one thing I feel condemned for in reference to you. I will tell it to you when I see you and you ask me. I shall write to George soon. My love to him, your dear father & mother, brother & sisters and now farewell, my "own" dear "Frank"

T.S.

Write immediately to Annapolis.