4-7-1865

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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At home north of Frankfort Apr 5th 1865

Dear Frank,

Yours of March 20th 1865 I found advertised at Jamesville. You conferred upon me the title of "Capt." Truly I was a "Capt." once but now I am only the Lieutenant of the 122nd Infantry.

But never mind that now.

Apr 3rd: you remember I left your home and started home the same evening I got on the train at Penn at 10 P.M., then via Terre Haute Indianapolis Peoria Columbus Newark to Jamesville where I arrived at 1 P.M. Apr 5th. Saw my old friends in.

I took dinner with Col. Ball at his urgent request. The old Col who is Bee. B. is 52.

He confided to me as only he can. He looks well. At one P.M. I took the "Hack" for I. Here I met Dr. Reaves & his lady who confided to my charge his little daughter Mary who was going to see her uncle.
at Sterling. When we arrived at Mrs. Field's residence I dicy saw that she & her baggage were safely landed. What do you think? Arthur Hamilton is dead. He was wounded & died and his girl Marie 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 J. Porter formerly had store. Father Mother & Frank in Albany. Except excursions are well. Ex 1st Sister Mahilda is rather feeble. Ex 2nd Sister Mary has the Sterling School $1.35 per day is teaching. And last mom is not in good health looks very pale. I think she ought to travel poor girl. My dear dear I only now feel how much I love you since you are far away. You write me a good letter Frank asked me a good many questions. I presume you know all or at least as much as I do myself.

You know I'm unsettled as yet. You say you almost abandoned the idea of ever hearing from you had not heard since Sept. almost eleven months and long, long months were they to me.
to go barefoot. Would you come Frank if "that order" was sent you?

"Have you any objection to my age, dear boy? I want you to 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 traced your foot against my chair several 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— "Thank 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 J.Q. 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

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

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.