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Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to William Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Annapolis Ind. April 19th 1865-Dear Father " I am here at anapolis. I have to pay to dollars per week for board that is as cheaps as it can be got in town. I am halling between two openions. Whether Nevould be best for me to stay in the service or resign & take that school in Clinton. A stay in I will have The impleasant feeling of being in a regenerat where The their have formed attach ments to other officers I have been so long separated from them that I will be as if among strangers. I will be funor to Thany, and old Sergement and Gor peral. They Knowledge of military affunds to mushy for gotton or perhaps never was know, Thew Hook again at the good feeling I will have if Cam go out of the Service at the sy peration of our term of service & can Say proudly I served as a folder in the army of the glorious Jepublic for I ysong and can return with the proud Salisfaction of feeling the done my duty Kint A Judson S. Paul is out of prison & is well and hearty He lift here

yesterday. I mussed him at anapolis function and did not get to See hino. He was recap-Tured and only got Exchanged very latet He is Joing homi on leave of absence. feat and erson is here and is going to he sign he has written for his popers morder to resign Furth draw pay only as 2 mulenant. I can be mustered as 1 feutruant when I rejoin my Regiment The feeling prevails here that we all will be mustered out of The service as President Johnson has save that he inlinds to Curtail the expenses of The government: & also That was The views of The late president modincola You see not are of no possible account. We are not sychanged, many think we will be whanged The 25-The Day of Heary, I have my papers to draw my Pay and as soon as. The Day Muster received money from Wash ing ton I will get my day & express et to Bro facob at Lanes orle Ohro I and no good health I and Exceeding by any congabout that Suit . I will have To first stay here and want wents

You have all the news by the papers about the sad fate of abraham Lincoln havefelt sad and gloomy ever since But may be Providence removed him at This crisis for a good and wise purpose We Cannot See it but God Knows Best-His leurney to Traitons has killed him We could ill span the good Kind hearled abraham Lincoln - But Jim well lete is The sequel - We are stronger & more united & andrew Johnson will deal. roughly with Tractors-I shall write to you as often The war is vertually at a close fof Davis issued a grand proclamation at Danville, which you have ready no doubt. But that was before Lee's Surrender, I wonder if he thinks Les's Surrenda was a strategic move to draw (up) Grants for es mito a snare & for the capture and dis persion of his army I wonder of the Confiderag wont lurn up in mexico next. Some think Jeff Davis' provements are designed only to Cover up designs of 2s cope.

. Jare will Write to me Loom from Goer off- Son Thomas, S. Anstrong anapolis met art all . B

April 17, 1865

Annapolis Md. April 17th 1865

Dear Father

I am here at Annapolis. I have to pay 10 dollars per week for board, that is as cheap as it can be got in town. I am halting between two options, whether it would be best for me to stay in the service or resign & take that school in Clinton. If I stay, I will have the unpleasant feeling of being in the regiment where the men have formed an attachment to other officers. I have been so long separated from them that I will be as if among strangers. I will be a junior to many an old Sergeant and Corporal. My knowledge of military affairs is nearly forgotten or perhaps was never known. The I look again at the good feeling I will have if I can go out of the service & can say proudly I served as a soldier in the Army of the glorious Republic for 3 years and can return with the proud satisfaction of feeling I've done my duty.

Lt. Judson S. Paul is out of prison & is well and hearty. He left here yesterday. I missed him at Annapolis Junction and did not get to see him. He was recaptured and only go exchanged very lately. He is going home on leave of absence. Lieut Anderson is here and is going to resign. He has written for his papers in order to resign.

I will draw pay as 2nd Lieutenant. I can be mustered as 1st Lieutenant where I join my Regiment.

The feeling prevails here that we will all be mustered out of the service as President Johnson has said that he intends to curtail the expense of the government & also that was the view of the late president Mr. Lincoln. You see we are of no possible account. We are not exchanged. Many think we will be exchanged the 25th day of June. I have my papers to draw my pay and as soon as the Pay Master receives money from Washington, I will get my Pay & express it to Bro Jacob at Zanesville, Ohio.

I am in good health. I am exceedingly anxious about that suit. I will have to just stay here and wait events.

You have all the news by the papers about the sad fate of Abraham Lincoln. I have felt sad and gloomy ever since but maybe Providence removed him at this crisis for a good and wise purpose. We cannot see it but God knows best. His leniency to traitors has killed him. We could ill spare the good, kind hearted Abraham Lincoln, but time will tell us the sequel. We are stronger & more united & Andrew Johnson will deal roughly with traitors.

I shall write to you as often as convenient & I have anything to write. The war is virtually at a close. Jeff Davis issued a grand proclamation at Danville which you have read no doubt. But that was before Lee's surrender. I wonder if he thinks Lee's surrender was a strategic move to draw (up) Grant's forces into a snare & for the capture and dispersion of his army. I wonder if the Confederacy won't turn up in Mexico next. Some think Jeff Davis' movements are designed only to cover up designs of escape.

Fare well.

Write to me soon

From your aff son

Thomas. S. Armstrong

Annapolis, Md.