


4-17-1865

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to William Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Annapolis Md. April 17<sup>th</sup> 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 opinions. Whether it would be best for me to stay in the service or resign & take that school in Clinton. If I stay in I will have the unpleasant feeling of being in a regiment where the men have formed attachments to other officers. I have been so long separated from them that I will be as if among strangers. I will be junior to many an old Sergeant and Corporal. My knowledge of military affairs is nearly forgotten or perhaps never was known. Then I look again at the good feeling I will have if I can go out of the service at the expiration of our term of 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.

Lieut <sup>P</sup> 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 recap-  
tured and only got 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 only as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant  
I can be mustered as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant when I  
rejoin my Regiment.

The feeling prevails here that we all will  
be mustered out of the service as President  
Johnson has said that he intends to curtail the  
expenses of the government. & also that was  
the views 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 25<sup>th</sup> Day of <sup>June</sup> May. I have  
my papers to draw my Pay and as soon as  
the Pay Master receives money from Wash-  
ington I will get my Pay & express it  
to Bro Jacob at Leesville 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) Grants forces  
into a snare & for the capture and dispersion  
of his army. I wonder if the Confederacy  
won't burn 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<sup>r</sup> Son

Thomas S. Armstrong

Annapolis Md



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.