4-17-1865

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to William Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-letters

Part of the Military History Commons, Social History Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-letters/136

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Harvey Letters (All) at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Harvey Collection Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.
Annapolis Ind. April 19th 1865

Dear Father,

I am here at Annapolis. I have to pay $10 per week for board. That is as cheap as it can be got in town. I am half in between two opinions. Whether it would be best for me to stay in the service or resign and go to that school in Clinton. If I stay in I shall have the unpleasant feeling of being in a regiment where I have to be with a man who is in the habit of abusive talk and treatment of other officers. I have been so long separated from them that I would be more of a stranger to them than I would be if I had not been in the service. I will be just as many old sergeants and corporals. My knowledge of military affairs is nearly forgotten or perhaps never was known. Then look again at the good feeling I once had if I can go out of the service without the substitution of poor home influence and 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 have done my duty.

Lieut. F. H. Hodson

S. Price is out of prison & is well and hearty. He left here.
You have all the news by the papers about the sad fate of Abraham Lincoln. I have felt sad and gloomy ever since. But they are Providence that He allowed this crisis to happen for a good and noble purpose. We cannot see it but God knows best. This journey to Traitors has killed him. We cannot censure the good kind hearted Abraham Lincoln. But time will tell us the signal. We are stronger than ever. Mr. Andrew Johnson will deal roughly with the Traitors. I shall write to you as often as convenient. If I have anything to add the war is virtually at a close. Jeff Davis issued a grand proclamation at Danville which you have read no doubt. But Jeff Davis before Lee surrendered. I wonder if the things Lee's surrender was a strategic move to draw up a force to the train & for the capture & dispersion of his army. I wonder if the Confederacy won't turn up in Mexico next year. Some think Jeff Davis' movements are designed only to cover up designs of 25 cents.
fare well
Write to me soon.
from your off. 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.