11-1-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Armstrong Family

Thomas S. Armstrong

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November 1 1863

Dear Sir & Sister, I am well & hearty. I've been cooking today, got Jacobs letter dat[ed] Oct 11[5] on 23 Oct 1863, received that glorious box Oct 29. These were all in good order — you did not send me that can I wish for. Or at least I can't tell why you did not. Have you seen Hearners. We'll write lately, I wrote to you for a box — sent them on to one with coffee sugar. Pine apple cheese. Bologna sausage. Dried beef, more cigars, but those are good. Some good chewing tobacco. Don't be afraid of a prett[y] large box. 15 or 20 lbs. of butter also other kinds of but[ter] all in 2 or 3 half cans. Send me a 2 gallon buck, dear. Did you send it for cooking use or well you know what will be — send me a coffee pot. Send me some Black pepper. I wear my new vest with my school pin. The watch feels just like my tooth brush. Black cowboys gun, 1 on this, 2 button holes in my vest. Send me some condensed milk. J. Anderson & Paul share their calves with Mrs. Taylor as sick in the hospital. But much better. Did you get Jacob's Franko Bibles. Pictures also one of Milroy in my diary. I'll think of me as she reads it by the candle light late at night. Tell her I am thankful to you all for the good things you sent me. Have commenced the new year. Dear Nov 30. I have plenty to read and study. I am learning French, German, Phonography. I have Mary & Prononce. I learned French well from a regular Parisian instructor. Charles 15-7 No. 4. Vol. I. Read German Testament in French. I read, "De Prisco." Have learned grammar. I have nearly mastered the grammar & read French but we commence to write & speak tomorrow in the camp.

My love to all.
November 1, 1863

Addressed to Jacob G. Armstrong

Norwich Muskingum Co.

Ohio

Libby Prison Richmond Va. November 1st/63

Dear Bro & Sister. I am well & hearty. I've been cooking today. I got Jacob's letter dated Oct 15 on 23 and Mary's dated Oct 18 on 27. I received that glorious Box Oct 29 Thursday night. Oh, it was acceptable. All came thro nicely packed & in good order. You did not send me that can I wrote for or at least I can't tell why you did not.

Have you seen Harper's Weekly lately? I wrote to you for a box. Send them on to me with coffee, sugar, "pine apple cheese," bologna, sausage, dried beef, more cigars, O but those are good & some good chewing tobacco. Don't be afraid of a pretty large Box. 15 or 20 lbs. of butter also other kinds of butter all in tin or earthen cans. Send me a 2 gallon bucket with lid for cooking, tin or, well, you know what will do. Send me a coffee pot. Send me some black pepper.

I wear my new vest with my diary & pencil in the watch fob. Just fits, my toothbrush stuck conspicuously in or thro two button holes in my vest. Send me some condensed milk. Anderson & Paul share their eatables with me. Taylor is sick in the hospital, but much better.

Did you get Jacobs, Franks, Wilburs pictures also one of Milroy in my diary. Tell Mother to think of me as she reads it by the candlelight late at night & tell her I am thankful to you all for the good things you sent me. I have commenced my new diary Nov 30.

I have plenty to read & study. I am studying French, German, Phonography, & Chemistry. Tell Mary I pronounce & translate French well. Have a regular Parisian for teacher. Capt Charles 157 N.Y. Vols. I read German testament; in French, I read "De Fivas." I have Levezacs Grammar. I have nearly mastered the grammar & read & translate well. We commence to write & speak tomorrow in the same.

My love to all.