

1-4-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Jacob G. Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester Frederick Co Va.

Sunday Jan. 4 A.D. 1863

Dear Bro. Jacob.

Received your Letter with \$5.00 in on the
20th Day of Dec. Those Boots do not fit me at all I told you
to get my measure in the Back part of that Book of mine I look to
the Army that Mother gave me & I meant for you to have them made
and sent to me as soon as you could I don't know what I will
do unless I can sell them and get a pair from the latter. They
are too loose around the instep & too tight at the toes. They hurt
like sixty and one that has to walk as much as I do Boots &
good sound feet are indispensable ~~He~~ ^{have} since the 6th of
Dec we have marched $46 + 11 + 29 + 29 + 27 + 42 + 16 = 200$ miles
If I mis take not. and that in Kansons Boots they are about
gone up. Well you need not send me any more till I send
you word. I am perfectly well I stand marching well
As well as any of the Regiment. You will find our
travels else when I will write to you that I am grateful
for those other things you sent me. I have plenty now
We have 4 men in our mess we did not have before
We have Steve Vankirk Ben Nelson Wm Miles & J B Steele

besides Cap'n Gary Lt Black & I with Isaac our Colored
Boy who Cooks our Rations. I will give you a sample
of our meals Here is one. This morning we had Heated
Cracker soaked in Coffee. And Butter. Beef fried
Stewed fruit (apples) some Lima Beans &c. We are
all enjoying ourselves now Our tents are all
pitched on a hill overlooking Winchester
Well I left off writing at Eleven A.M. And got on my
Person my best Coat Vest & Pants the new Boots then
I felt right as I washed well even my feet as they
were very much dirtied with marching Put on a new
pair of socks that Mother sent me a clean pair drawers
and shirt I wear an undershirt. Two pair socks
will not do well as they make ones feet sweat & that
would not do + + +

Well I was interrupted by a violent storm of wind &
rain which threatened to blow our tent away We were jump-
ed & held her & fastened the stakes. Well I was going to
tell you that I went to Church at the Lutheran
Church in Winchester Heard a sermon a very good
one. He said in his prayer O Lord "The present Rev-
olution is our us & thou canst bring good out of it"
So he is a Secesh O but the Beautiful women

swarmed into the Church They are aristocratic
The Church is splendid & much for the Minister
to stand in back of the Pulpit Carpet on the
floor They have taken the chandeliers down
& taken them away & nothing but the Brass rod
looking like a rope that each one was sus-
pended by (there are 4) They have wooden things
for the candles This Text was Isaiah 56 Chap
12 verse Several soldiers were in Rev McChes-
cane in with the Dr I took a seat next the door
& could see the whole congregation. Winchester
is a noble town It is Old. O But it makes
me sad to look at the waste and desola-
tion of this paradise of a country by war
yesterday The 122nd & about 100 Cavalry
went to Newtown 8 miles on the Pike
to Strasburg; at Furnstown 4 miles
toward Newtown We saw the ground
where Jackson & Shields fought last
Spring Jackson was whaled We staid
there all day at night we came back
I talked with a man at Newtown says the
Lincoln's Proclamation made all the men
here secess.

I asked him when all the men were in the
valley says he, they are all in the
Southern army I should not wonder
if we staid at Martinsburg 18 miles
North East of here & stay this winter But
I will let you know as we move I
have been knowing so much that
I could not write Mother need
not be uneasy about me as I am
well now & if I get sick I am go-
ing home several of the Gentlemen
have gone home & came back again
when they got well. I should like
to see you all. I should like to
eat with Mother & get some Dutch
cheese & some nice Buckwheat cakes
Butter & lasses. Gus says he is all
right I am glad about that he is able
for his potatoes All the Boys are well
The Regt got a lot of Boxes from Zanes-
ville for a Christmas Dinner. But they had
got spoiled by mixing up pies cakes pickles
sausages &c all mashed if
you ever send me a box of provisions fix it so it
won't spoil. I am glad you had such
a good time at the Annual. It will in all
probability be paid off soon our Muster rolls
are made out

Give my love to Father Mother Jacob
Mahida Abram & Frank Mary Ella Frank
Gus & all my friends Miss Chloe Clara & Sam

Farewell

Your Bro

J S Armstrong

January 4, 1863

Winchester Frederick Co. Va.

Sunday Jan 4 A.D. 1863

Dear Bro. Jacob

Received your letter with \$5.00 in on the 20th day of Dec. Those boots do not fit me at all. I told you to get my measure in the back part of that book of mine I took to the army that mother gave me & I meant for you to have them made and sent to me as soon as you could. I don't know what I will do unless I can sell them and get a pair from the Sutler. They are too loose around the instep & too tight in the toes. They hurt like sixty and one that has to walk as much as I do, boots and good sound feet are indispensable.

Since the 6th of Dec. we have marched $46+11+29+29+27+42+16 = 200$ miles. If I mistake not, and that in Hanson's boots. They are about gone up. Well you need not send any more till I send you word. I am perfectly well. I stand marching well, as well as any of the Regiment. You will find our travels elsewhere. I will write to you that I am grateful for those other things you sent me. I have plenty now. We have 4 men in our mess we did not have before. We have Steve Van Kirk, Ben Nelson, Wm Miles, & J B Steele besides Capn Gary, Lt Black & I with Isaac our colored boy who cooks our rations.

I will give you a sample of our meals. Here is one. This morning we had hard crackers soaked in coffee. And my butter. Beef fried. Stewed fruit (apples). Some times beans etc. We are enjoying ourselves now. Our tents are all pitched on a hill overlooking Winchester.

Well I left off writing at Eleven A.M. and got on my person my best coat, vest, & pants, the new boots. Then I felt right as I washed well even my feet as they were very much dirtied with marching. Put on a new pair of socks that mother sent me, a clean pair drawers and shirt, I wear an undershirt. Two pair socks would not do well as they make ones feet sweat & that would not do.

Well I was interrupted by a violent storm of wind and rain which threatened to blow our tent away. Up we jumped & held her & fastened the stakes. Well I was going to tell you that I went to church at the Lutheran Church in Winchester. Heard a sermon, a very good one. He said in his prayer, O Lord "The present Revolution is on us & thou canst bring good out of it." So he is a Secesh. O but the beautiful women swarmed into the church. They are aristocratic. The church is splendid. A niche for the minister to stand in back of the pulpit. Carpet on the floor. They have taken the chandeliers down & taken them away & nothing but the brass rod looking like a rope that each one was suspended by (there are 4). They have wooden things for the candles. His text was Isaiah 3, 6 chap, 12 verse. Several soldiers were in.

Rev McCabe came in with the Dr. I took a seat next to the door & could see the whole congregation.

Winchester is a noble town. It is old. O but it makes me sad to look at the waste and desolation of this paradise of a country by war. Yesterday, the 122d & about 100 cavalry went to Newtown, 8 miles on the pike to Strasburg; at Kernstown, 4 miles toward Newtown, we saw the ground where Jackson and Shields fought last spring. Jackson was whaled. We stayed there all day. At night, we came back. I talked with a man at Newtown. Says he, Lincoln's Proclamation made all the men here Secesh. I asked him where all the men were in this valley, says he, They are all in the Southern army. I should not wonder.

If we stayed at Martinsburg 18 miles northeast of here & stay the winter, but I will let you know as we move. I have been moving so much that I could not write. Mother need not be uneasy about me as I am well now & if I get sick I am going home. Several of the Lieutenants have gone home & come back again when they got well. I should like to see you all. I should like to eat with mother & get some Dutch cheese and some nice buckwheat cakes, butter & lasses. Gus says he is all right. I am glad that he is able for his potatoes.

All the boys are well. The Regt got a lot of boxes from Zanesville for a Christmas dinner, but they got spoiled by mixing up pies, cakes, pickles, jams, jellies, sausage etc all mashed. If you ever send me a box of provisions, fix it so it won't spoil.

I am glad you had such a good time at the _____. We will in all probability be paid off soon. Our muster roles are made out.

Give my love to father, Mother, Jacob, Matilda, Abram, & Frank Mary Fla Gus & all my friends. Miss Chloe Clara & Sue.

Fare well

Your Bro

T S Armstrong