1-4-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Jacob G. Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Manchester 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. These Boots do not fit me at all. I told you to get my measure in the black part of this Book of mine. I took to the Army that Mother gave me. I mean to you to have them made and sent to me as soon as you could. I don’t know what I shall do unless I can sell them and get a pair from the latter. They are too loose around the instep & to tight at the toe. They look like duty and our shoes to walk as much as I do. Boots X good damn feet are indispensible. To love since the 6th of Dec. we have marched 46 + 11 + 25 + 29 + 27 + 42 + 16 = 200 Miles. I think it not. And that in Kansas Boots, they are about gone up. Well you had not send me any more til I send you word. I am perfectly well. I have marching well as well as any of the Regiment. You will find our travels else when I will write to you. Have I am grateful for these other things you sent me. I have plenty now. We have to wear our press we did not have before. We have Slew Vankirk, Ben Nelson, Mr. McVeigh & Mr. Smith.
beside Cane Run, Lt. Black, & with Isaac. Col. 
Boy who cooked dinner, I will give you a sample 
of our meals. Here is one. This morning he had hard 
Cracker, bread, & Coffee. And my butter, best price 
Stewed peat (apples) some home Beans &c. We are 
all enjoying ourselves now. Our tents are all 
pitched on a hill overlooking Manchester. 
Will pleat of writing at noon to &. And let on my 
Person the best coat. Next Pants & new Boots. From 
I felt right as I washed well even my feet. As the 
were very much delight with Muskingum hill in a new 
pair of socks that he had sent me a clean pair. Drawers 
and that I wear an undershirt. Two pair tocks 
will not do as the whole ones feel worn & that 
would not do ++
Will I was interrupted by a violent storm of wind & 
Rain which) necessitate to blow our tent away up the junc 
was held by President the driver. Will I was going to 
Tell you that I went to church at the Methodist 
Church in Richmond, A. H., and a sermon a very good 
One. He said in the prayer. God, the present Revolu 
tion shall us when cannot bring good out of it. 
some is a street. Observe the Beautiful Woman. 

washed into the church. They are aristocratic. 
The church is elegant. A model for the future. 
To stand in back of the pulpit. Carter on the 
floor. They have taken the chandeliers down. 
Weaken them away with nothing but the brass and 
looking like a nap. That each one was suspended by (Lor us) They have wooden things 
for the candles. Last I was bathed. 6th day 
12 verse. Several lodgers were in New Melish 
came in. With the do. I took a seat near the door. 
Could see the whole congregation. Manchester 
is a noble town. It is old. It makes 
me sad to look at the waste and desola 	ion of the parlor of a country by war. 
Yesterday, the 12th of about 100 cavalry 
went to Newtown 8 miles on the R. K. 

to Strasburg; at Friendtown 4 miles 

toward Newtown We saw the ground. 
When Jackson should fight last 
Spring Jackson was wounded. We stood 
there all day as ought we came back 
Naltin with man at Newtown very 
Lincoln Proclamation made all the green 
here to decent.
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 should all be marching 18 miles North East of here. I stay the worst. 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. By and by I will get back again. Often they get well. I should like to see you all. I should like to eat with mother & get some Dutch cheese & some 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 Roel got a lot of Box 20 items into town for a Christmas dinner. But they had got spoiled by mixing up pies, cakes, broils from jelly & sausage. He all washed if you ever send me a box of provisions. If not do want Spirit. I am glad you had such a good time at the furlough & that we all are made out.

Give my love to Father & Mother, Jacob Mahlena, Elmer, Frank, Mary, Illa, Frank & all my friends. Miss Chloe, Clara & Sue.

Far well.

Yours Truly

[Signature]
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