

1-5-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

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

Armstrong, Thomas S., "Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter" (1863). *Harvey Collection Letters*. 203.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/harvey-letters/203>

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.

Winchester Frederic County Va

Jan 5th 1863

Dear

You say "Christmas Gift" I say I wish you a happy New Year. Tho' the time is past I am well. Glad to hear you are well, also that George & the Rest of your father's family are well except Baldart. Young she is unwell. So you are teaching 4 1/2 miles North East of Clinton 24 scholars! I am glad your scholars are so agreeable as to make a pleasant school. One Soldier Boy comes! Thanks he's somebody! Maybe he is & likely you think he is somebody! Yes I remember visiting a school in Hanover Licking Co Ohio! Yes I do say "O! That arithmetic class" where one quaker looking gal answered all the questions asked by the good teacher when all should have had a chance. How easy it was for the fallow of the class. How did that teacher mark those that did not answer a question wrong because they were answered by the quaker looking gal! So you had a gentleman visitor the 8 day of school. Was he a fine school master?

You had the arithmetic class trained, heh! I am glad he praised the school & made you a good speech. I think as in a lady's "média" ought to have a good husband first because she is deserving one.

2nd It would promote her happiness. 3rd She would make good the injunction that "it is not good for man to live alone." 4th "Multiply & replenish the earth"

5th and so forth or &c — "Be careful that you are not mistaken about Frank" "Yes I would love to see you too" "Would you?" I would like to see you not only see you but speak kindly to you

If I was to send for you you could not refuse to come on account of Duty, the first law of man. I would send a letter or an order to John Porter saying:

"Dear Sir you will please send me your daughter Frank & charge the same to my account J S Armistroy Norwich Vt."

Wouldn't that bring you. Then after you had come we would give your father a Receipt saying Recd of — — his daughter Frank

to have & to hold in lease so long as they do both live J S Armistroy Norwich Vt

I don't think the war will be over soon at

all. Gen Melroy Commands us here we have 3 Brigades or about 10 Regts We don't have any Festivals or Balls unless it Be Rifle Balls or Pistol Balls or Cannon Balls or some other Ball or any Body else's Ball. A Ball any how.

Dec 25 As Capn Gary Lt Black & I lay in our Beds "Christmas Gift" & "Happy Christmas" were the first sounds that greeted

our ears. (We were at Wardenoville 6 1/2 miles West of the Eastern Corner of Hardy Co Look at your map)

We lived and moved as usual. We Capn Lt & I had an invitation to eat dinner with Mess No 3 Co "I". We had chicken, chicken soup & Krent.

Most a beautiful day. At night I went out about a mile to the Pickets. 2 other men & I went out on a reconnaissance. Then went out to camp

Then after dark I with 4 men went out to the Pickets. The boys well posted in dark places in under bushes. Then I went back

to the other post. Didn't know where they were posted. Soon we were startled by the cry "Halt! Who comes there?" as we were boldly marching. "A Friend" says "What Friend Armistroy" "Advance" I say they were excited & went up when we they had

instructions to fire without halting
& they had been holding their guns sighted
on my Bell plate & were about to fire when
they took a second thought"
Now How I Spent New Years

Jan 1 New Years Day About 20 minutes
before 7 A.M. we struck our tents &
started We were 15 ³/₄ miles West of Winchester
after we had gone about 2 miles Gen
Milroy and Staff rode up He told
his horse & in quick sharp tones
said "Attention 122" This is the
the Day Old Aches Proclamation takes
effect. Three cheers for the Proc-
A Fine day. Look! What a beautiful
morning!.. Soon we saw a beautiful Mountain
Landscape We are traveling a beautiful
Turnpike A most beautiful sunny but
pleasant day. We marched gayly soon we
came to "Dotted Mt" then we passed the "Gutter
north" from here a nice rolling landscape
1/2 Past 1 P.M. we halted right on the Hill
West of Winchester O what a sight Here
to our right is Winchester up to the Right
Down to the left is the most beautiful
valley you could imagine Then beyond
the Blue Ridge into looking Blue indeed
& Winchester looks like a crown. As I write
~~below~~ "as it is". I am glad your father
is better. I want your photograph if you can
conveniently get it. Would soon I still feel
the same I ever did. My words in the past are all
renewed in this letter. I hope I may live to see
you once more. I hope to live to love and
to be true to you. as you know the past promised
my love to Frank (1000 Kisses) God Bless
you & my prayer. I may never get home
but if I don't cherish my name as one who
loved you
Fare well J.S. Armstrong



Miss Frank P. Porter,
Clinton,
Dewitt County,
Vt. -

Ms. 4^u



82

January 5, 1863

Addressed to Miss Frank P. Porter

Clinton, Dewitt County, Illinois

Winchester Frederick County Va

Jan 5th 1863

Dear

You say "Christmas Gift" I say I wish you a happy new year. Tho the time is past I am well. Glad to hear you are all well. Also that George & the rest of your father's family are well except Huldah. Sorry she is not well. So you are teaching 4 ½ miles northeast of Clinton. 24 scholars. I am glad your scholars are so agreeable as to make a pleasant school. Our soldier boy comes! Thinks he's somebody! Maybe he is & likely you think he is Somebody.

Geo I remember visiting a school in Hanover, Licking Co Ohio! Yes I do say "O! that arithmetic class when one quaker looking gal answered all the questions asked by the good teacher when all should have had a chance. How easy it was for the balance of the class. How did that teacher mark those that did not answer a question wrong because they were answered by the quaker looking gal!

So you had " gentleman visitor" the 8 day of school. Was he a fine schoolmaster? You had the arithmetic class trained, heh! I am glad he praised the school & made you a good speech. I think a fine lady like Meda ought to have a good husband first because she is deserving one. 2nd, it would promote her happiness. 3rd, she would make good the injunction that "it is not good for man to live alone." 4th, she may "multiply and replenish the earth." 5th, and so forth or etc. "Be careful that you are not mistaken about Frank." Yes I would love to see you, too. Would you? I would like to see you, not only see you but speak kindly to you.

If I was to send for you, you could not refuse to come on account of duty, the first law of man. I would send a letter or an order to John Porter saying: "Dear Sir, You will please send me your daughter Frank & charge the same to my account. T S Armstrong Norwich, O." Wouldn't that bring you. Then after you had come, we would give your father a receipt saying, Rec'd of _____ his daughter Frank (To have & to hold in lease as long as they both do live).
T S Armstrong Norwich, O.

I don't think the war will be over soon at all. Gen Milroy commands us here. We have 3 brigades or about 10 Regts. We don't have any festivals or balls unless it be rifle balls or pistol balls or cannon balls or some other ball or any body else's ball. A ball, anyhow.

Dec 25 - As Capn Gary, Lt. Black, I lay in our beds "Christmas Gift and "O Happy Christmas" were the first sounds that greeted our ears. (We were at Wardensville, 6 ½ miles west of the eastern corner of Hardy Co. Look at your map.) We lived and moved as usual. We Capn Lt & I had an invitation to eat dinner with Mess No. 3 Co. "I." We had chicken, chicken soup &

_____. Wast a beautiful day. At night I went out about a mile to the pickets. 2 other men & I went out on a reconnaissance. Then went over to camp. Then after dark, I with 4 men went out to the pickets. The boys were posted in dark places under bushes. Then I went back to the other post. Didn't know where they were posted. Soon we were startled by the cry "Halt! Who Goes There?" As we were boldly marching. "A Friend," says I. What Friend Armstrong, "Advance." I saw they were excited & went up when lo, they had instructions to fire without hailing. If they had been holding their guns sighted on any bell plate & were about to fire when they took a second thought.

Now know how I spent New Years

Jan 1 New Years Day - About 20 minutes before 7AM we struck our tents & started (we were 15 3/4 miles west of Winchester) after we had gone about 2 miles, Gen Milroy and staff rode up. He halted his horse & in quick sharp tones said "Attention 122" this is the day that Old Abe's Proclamation takes effect. Three cheers for the Proclamation. A fine day. Look what a beautiful morning.

Soon we saw a mountain landscape. We are traveling a beautiful turnpike a mist beautiful sunny but pleasant day. We marched gaily. Soon we came to "North Mt." Then we passed the "Little North", from thee a nice rolling landscape. 1/2 past 1PM we halted right on the hill west of Winchester. O what a sight. There to our right is Winchester up to the right. Down to the left is the most beautiful valley you could imagine, the sky over the Blue Ridge Mountains looking blue indeed and Winchester looks like a crown _____ as it is.

I am glad your father is better. I want your photograph & you can conveniently get it. Write soon. I still feel renewed in this letter. I hope I may live to see you once more. I hope to live to love and be true to you. As you know, the past promised my love to Frank (1000 kisses). God bless you is my prayer. I may never get home but if I don't cherish my name as one who loves you.

Fare well

T.S. Armstrong