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Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Hunchester Frederic Comby Va Jan 3-25 1863 You Say "Christmas Gift" I Lay wish you a happy New Year. The the time is past I am well. Was to hear you are well also That Lenge & The Rest of your father funds are well ox cept Buldah. Joong the is unwill. So you are leach my 4 /2 miles Worth East of Christon 24 Scholars! I am glod your Scholars an To agreeable as to make a pleus and School One Soldier Boy Comes! Thrukes he's Dombory! Maybe he is & likely for think he is Some body! Des Frementer bisiting a school in Hearrover Licking Co Ohio! Les I do Say O! Thus arithmeho class" where one quaker looking gals assisted all the questions asked by the good teacher when all should have had a chance. How Easy it was for the ballance of the class-How Did Than leacher mark those that did not answa a question wrong Be cause They iver answered by the grake looking gal. So you had a gentle man visitor" the 8 day of School. Was he a fin School master?

You had the arithmetie class trained, heh! I am all. Den Melroy Commanos no her glad he praised the School & made you a good speech we have 3 Brigades or about 10 Regts Ithink as fin a lady as heda ought to have a good 12 dont have any Festivals or Balls un husband first because the is Deserving one. less it Be Rifle Balls or Fistol Balls or Cannon 2. It would promote her happiness. 3 on she would Balls or Some other Ball or any Body make good the injunction That it is not good for mon else's Ball. It Ball any how. to live alone " 4 th mulupy & replensh the rorts" Dec 25- As Capn Dany St Black Vel 5 The and So for the or Be _ "Be careful that you hay in our Beds" Christmas Geft" I happy are hot mislaken about Frank" "Les Iwoute Christmas" were to first Sounds Fat greeter love to see you too" Noule you? I would like to our Ears. (We wen at Wardensville 6 '- hules West See you not only See you But speak Kindly to you of the Eastern Comer of Heardy Co Look at your maps) If I was to send for you you could not refuse to come be lived and moved as usual NE Cuper DI & & on account of Duty The first law of man. I. had an envelation to Eat Am new with mess As 3 Es Ja WE had chicken . checken Soup & Krout. would Lend a letter or an order to John Porto most a beautiful day. At night I went out Layeng: Dras Lir You well please Lend me about a hele to The Peckets 2 other men & I went your day ghto Frank Kcharge the Same to out on a reconnoussance. Then went out to My account IS armshong Norwich O." Cump Then after Dark I with 4 men went out Would not That Bung you. Then after you had come Wa would give your Father a Recups to the Seckets The Boys well pasted in dark Sayons Kied of - his daughter Frank places in under Bushes Then I went Back Cothother sost Didn't Know when they were Started by If Cry "Healt" the Comes there" as we were boldly marching "a Friend" Says of What Finend armshory "advance" I say they were excited " went up when to they had To have & to hold in lease so long as they do both lever IS Armshoup Nonwich B I cloud think The was well be over soon at

Athey had been holding then guns sighted on my Bels plate & were about to fere when they book a Second shought when Lears Jan 1 Arwejeans Day about 20 humas before 7 ach we Struck our lends & Started We were 15 3/4 miles West of Muchesly after we had your about 2 miles Isin duelray and slaff rode up the hale his horse & in quick sharp lones faid allention 122" This is The Effect. Three cheers for the Procention Cook! What a beautiful Soon we faw a beautiful Mountain Landscafar ME are loavely a heartful Furnfrike a most Beautiful During but Pleas and day We marcher gayly Loon we carne to Hotelle my " Then he Paged to "Gelte northis from Lacre a mice rolly land scafe 1/a Past 1 Ah We halter right on the Hele west of Minchester O What a Light Here to our right is, wenches be up to the Kight Down to the left is the most beautiful vally you could image then beyond the Blug Ridge Into Jooking Blue included The Alie Kedge Mb looking stee Indeed of wonches be looks lets a crown selvet water to bettee a want your Photograph of going atto Con veniently get it. Words soon of Allet feel the same I were did. my words in the past are all never on ce mon this little. I hope to may live to see your once mon as four know the past promised to be true to your as four know the past promised to be true to your as four know the past promised By love to Frank (1000 Kisser) Doe Bless four Is huy paray or I may never get Horne Part of clock you who loved you fare well IS. armittory

Clinton. Comity,



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. ½ 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