

1-25-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to William Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester Va Sabbath eve.

Jan 25- 1863

Dear Father

This afternoon Capn Gary
got the mournful news that his wife
died yesterday in Gainesville. He got
a letter from her dated the 18. She was
well then. The Despatch came this after-
noon. So our tent is mournful this
evening. Last night we were all joy.
Captain is going home tomorrow, and
will leave Martinsburg at about 1 P.M.
He will reach home about 10 Tuesday.
You can see him & find how we are
prospering. The circumstances
may be so that he cannot or will not
feel like describing much to you.
But I thought I would write to
you and tell you that we are all
well. I am very well & weigh
165 lbs so you see I am real hearty.

Today I put on my first suit put
my Pistol in my pocket & went
Black & I went down to Winchester
saw our sick at the Hospital
which is in the Taylor Hotel it
is a fine Building. Our Co is small
now. Then we went at the Ringing
of the Bell to the Presbyterian
Church It is a fine frame Build-
ing The Ladies made most of
the native congregation went
Black led the way into a Pew
& we sat down. & listened to the
Preacher He read the 23 Chap
of Isaiah then they sung nearly
all the singing was done by the Ladies.
He took the Position in his prayer
for the pleasant times of Peace
to be brought on by Both Parties
then he preached from Isaiah XXV
6, 7, & 8 verses Look at them
He preached well looked about
the size of Father Lewis

Then we looked at the fortifications
& as we (Lt Black & Steve Vankirk
& myself) came back past where the
87 Pa Regt was on Dress Parade
one of our men came near & saw
"Cape Gary's Wife is Dead!"
It shocked us. I found the Cape
at the Majors weeping He takes
it very hard. She was a fine woman
yesterday one of our men yester-
day playfully came to the Cape & told
him his wife was in town. But
then said there is a man in town
who has her likeness Cape went
down & got it & we were looking
at it. It was a full length size
Today he said "If I thought my wife
was sick - well - as there are some
privates present I won't say what
I would do". It looks like as if
he had a presentiment of some thing
To night he sits with his head on his
hands & hands on his knees.

Col Ball & Coper Prach are in
here now. Col Frank this letter
Coper said just a while ago "I cant
hardly believe it is true" We have
no indication how she died
whether killed of Disease or what
I sent Jacob a letter. You can send
me some things Birtle is most
needed I have plenty here of all
clothing &c.

Write to me soon

I must close as it
is getting late well I am
shredy in considerable in my
new Book I have a Scotch
Book Call'd "Makons out Past
Duty" The paymaster is here we
will be paid off this week
upto Dec 31 I think

Well Good Bye

My love to Mother Jacob Mary
Liza Frank Gus & the Rest
I Bid you Adieu

Your Son

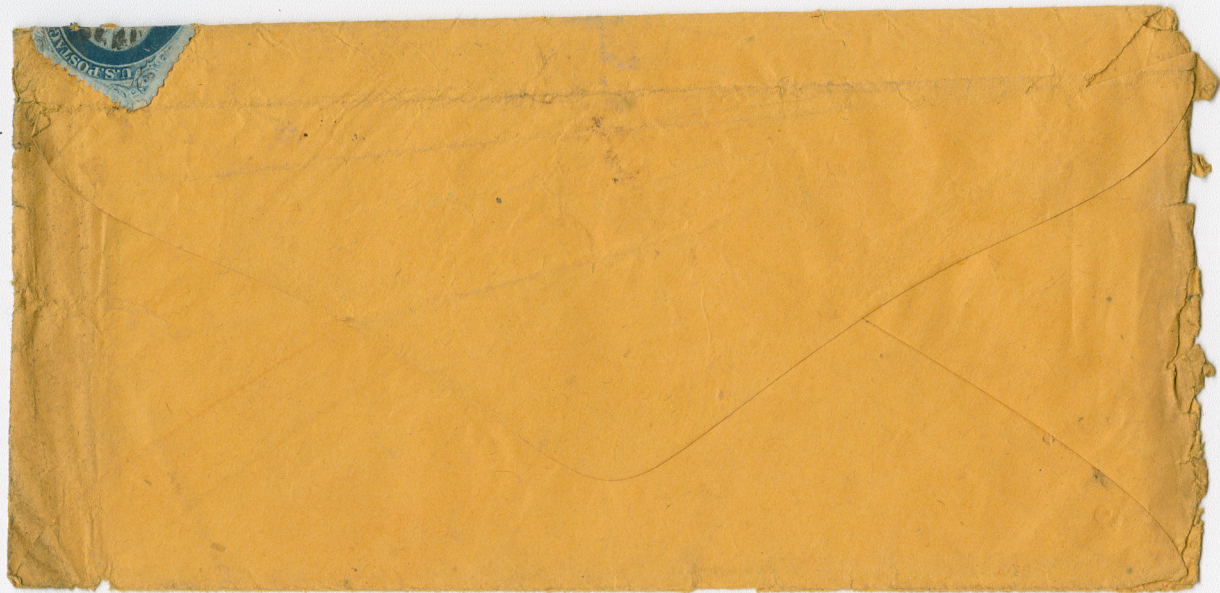
J S Armstrong
Winchester
Va



William Armstrong

Warwick

Muskingum Co.
Ohio



January 25, 1863

Addressed to William Armstrong

Norwich Muskingum Co.

Ohio

Winchester Va Sabbath Eve

Jan 25 1863

Dear Father,

This afternoon Capn Gary got the mournful news that his wife died yesterday in Zanesville. He got a letter from her dated the 18. She was well then. This dispatch came this afternoon. So our tent is mournful this evening. Last night we were all joy.

Captain is going home tomorrow and will leave Martinsburg about 1 P.M. He will reach home about 10 Tuesday. You can see him & find how we are prospering tho the circumstances may be so that he can not or will not feel like describing much to you. But I thought I would write to you and tell you. I am very well & weigh 165 lbs so you can see I am real hearty.

Today I put on my best suit, put my pistol in my pocket & Lieut Black & I went down to Winchester. Saw our sick at the hospital which is in the Taylor _____. It is a fine building. Our Co. is small now. Then we went at the ringing of the bell to the Presbyterian Church. It is a fine frame building. The ladies made most of the native congregation. Lieut Black led the way into a pew and we sat down & listened to the preacher. He read the 23 chap of Isaiah, then they sung. Nearly all the singing was done by the ladies. He took the position in his prayers for the pleasant times of peace to be brought by both parties. Then he preached from Isaiah XXV 6, 7, & 8 verses. Look at them. He preached well, looked about the size of Father Lewis.

Then we looked at the fortifications as we (Lt Black & Steve Van Kirk & myself) came back where the 87 Pa Regt was on dress parade. One of our men came near & said "Capn Gary's wife is dead!" It socked us. I found the Capn at the Major's weeping. He takes it very hard. She was a fine woman. Yesterday one of our men came to the Capn & told him his wife was in town, but then said there is a man in town who has her likeness. Capn went down and got it & we were looking at it. It was a full length size. Today he said, "If I thought my wife was sick -- well -- as there are some privates present, I won't say what I would do." It looks as if he had a presentment of something. Tonight he sits with his head on his hands and hands on his knees.

Col Ball & Col Peach are in here now. Col Franken. This letter. Capn said just a little while ago, "I can't hardly believe it's true." We have no indication of how she died whether killed of disease or what.

I sent Jacob a letter. You can send me some things. Butter is most needed. I have plenty here of all clothing etc.

Write to me soon.

I must close as it is getting late. Well I am studying considerable in my new book. I have a Secesh book called "Mahons Out Past Duty." The paymaster is here. We will be paid off this week up to Dec 31 I think.

Well good bye.

My love to Mother Jacob Mary Fla Frank Gus & the rest. I bid you fare well.

Your son

T S Armstrong

Winchester Va