

3-23-1863

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Francis P. Porter

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester Frederick Co. Ohio

March 23rd. 1863

Dear friend, F.O.

I am still living in  
camp it is as this place. My mind is pretty  
well satisfied with Soldiering. I was glad  
to hear from you. and to hear you say that  
you liked your new home. I am sorry the  
roads are so bad in Illinois. But that is part  
of Illinois. I know something about the roads  
in Illinois. That is a characteristic of the country.  
Now I should like to see George Swonder How  
He and Munson makes it. They used to like  
each other now the best. I am in hopes that  
the 78 Boys will get off safe. Col Hanson  
has been very sick & his eyes are injured  
and Col (now Brig Gen) Leggett wrote for  
him. I am glad you recd. my photograph " &  
prize it very highly." I am glad you do. I  
know I am glad to receive your Photograph  
and prize it very highly. It represents a



a young lady sitting in a chair with  
an arm on a table and the other hand  
lying easily in the lap. The countenance  
is good. It is you, Frank, it brings  
up the memory of the past. Thank you  
for your kindness. That dress you had  
on I admire very much. The whole  
picture looks like you used to in former  
times. Don't you remember a fellow that  
used to call around. In times long gone  
and numbered among the the unchangeable past?  
fiction? "It is necessary that old Bachelors  
should know how to keep their clothes in order"  
So says Frank. I agree with you but  
I would just say that I know of one old  
Bachelor that would be after asking  
one young lady <sup>for</sup> some advice about  
the proper mode of washing, rinsing,  
Ironing, Darning &c. Will you please  
to inform my benighted mind who  
you ever saw that was so unfortunate  
as to be an old Bachelor we don't  
have any in the army. They have

at least nearly all I know some  
sweet heart at home and a man  
in that Delightful situation is  
better happier than if married  
I speak from experience because  
once I loved a dear girl who  
now quotes "Forget her, no I never  
shall, tho' unfriendly we may be"  
and the girl is just as dearly loved  
as ever. Maybe she thinks that one  
who could volunteer &  
go to war against the urgent request  
of a fair lady was or is unworthy  
the love of said lady. Hence she is  
worthy of a love that would let  
country go to the — and would  
never forsake his "dearie" May  
be that is why she quotes "tho' un-  
friendly &c"

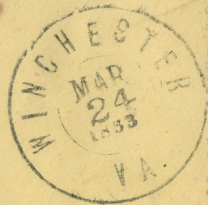
Pardon me I may be mistaken in my  
imaginations. I hope to be out  
of the army before long and see  
you Don't take any offense



from the above. I did it in fact  
I am still the same lover & c. of  
Frank I receive you love to love  
and return mine. Then Tucker  
is well he is Hospital Steward  
Dr Richards one of Brann's  
Purke-pils is here as 1<sup>st</sup>  
assistant Surgeon. I am well  
acquainted with all the  
Drs We have good health  
in our Reg't. Our folks were  
well at last acct. My love  
to your Father & Mother & the rest  
You Milroy is Mas' Gen now  
I will say this we have a force  
of about 20 thousand & are well  
fortified Hoping the war will be  
over soon I sincerely hope you  
will not forget me!

My name stands <sup>in</sup> very good repute  
at Head Quarters. That you know  
is better than if I had the ill will  
of my Superiors. I have a  
very easy position. Forget  
me not. From your friend  
& well wisher

Thos. Armstrong  
To Frank Winchester  
Va



Miss Frank P. Porter  
Clinton  
Dewett County  
Illinois Ohio





March 23, 1863

Addressed to Miss Frank P. Porter

Clinton, Dewitt County, Illinois

Winchester Frederick Co Va.

March 23rd 1863

Dear friend F.P.

I am still living in camp near this place. My mind is pretty well satisfied with soldiering. I was glad to hear from you and to hear you say that you like your new home. I am sorry the roads are so bad in Illinois, but that is part of Illinois. That is, a characteristic of the country. How I should like to see George. I wonder he and Munson makes it. They used to like each other none the best. I am in hopes they and the 78 boys will get off safe. Bob Hanson has been very sick and his eyes are injured and Col (now Brig Gen) wrote for him.

I am glad you rec'd my photograph "& prize it very highly." I am glad you do. I know I am glad to receive your Photograph and prize it very highly. It represents a young lady sitting in a chair with an arm on a table and the other hand lying easily in the lap. The countenance is good. It is you, Frank, It brings up the memory of the past. Thank you for your kindness. That dress you had on I admire very much. The whole picture looks like you used to in former times. Don't you remember a fellow that used to call around. In times long gone and numbered among the unchangeable past?

"Tis necessary that old Bachelors should know how to keep their clothes in order." So says Frank. I agree with you, but I would just say that I know of "one" old Bachelor that would be after asking one young lady for some advice about the proper mode of washing, rinsing, ironing, darning etc. Will you please to inform my benighted mind who you ever saw that was so uninformed as to be an old Bachelor. We don't have any in the army. They have at least nearly all I know some sweet heart at home and a man in that delectable situation is better happier than if married.

I speak from experience because once I loved a dear girl who now quotes "Forget thee, no I never shall, tho unfriendly we may be" and that girl is just a dearly loved as ever. Maybe she thinks this, one who could volunteer & go to war against the urgent requests of a fair lady was or is unworthy of the love of said lady. Hence she is worthy of a lover that would let the country go to the \_\_\_\_\_ and would never forsake his "dearie." Maybe that is why she quotes "tho unfriendly, etc."

Pardon me, I may be mistaken in my imaginings. I hope to be out of the army before long and see you. Don't take offense from the above. I did it in jest. I am still the same lover etc of Frank. I receive your love to Tom and return mine.

Heen Tucker is well. He is hospital steward. Dr. Richards one of Reamy's Puki-pills is here as 1st assistant surgeon. I am well acquainted with all the Drs. We have good health in our Regt. Our folks were well at last acct. My love to your Father & Mother & to the rest. Gen Milroy is Maj Gen now. I will say that we have a force of about 20 thousand & well fortified. Hoping the war will be over soon I sincerely hope you will not forget me.

My name stands in very good repute at Head Quarters. That you know is better than if I had the ill will of my superiors. I have a very easy position. Forget me not. From your friend and well wisher.

Thos. S Armstrong

Winchester Va