

5-15-1863

Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Jacob G. Armstrong

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Winchester Va

May 15th 1863

Dear Brother Jacob

Yours of the 3rd was received May 9th and tho many things and great hindering causes I at last get time to answer your letter. I had most come to the Conclusion that you had forgotten me. I was glad to hear that you are all well. And that you are doing a thriving business in the farming line 25 Acres of Corn 2 of Oats - $\frac{3}{4}$ acre taters - $\frac{1}{4}$ acre Sugar Corn the latter for "lasses for our young Cakes & Fletters" M^cMillens did not lose their Box But I have plenty of Butter to eat. Went Black & Brought a great Pot of Butter & lots o' fruit. Stephen W Van Ruck is Detached as Brigade Teamster & works in the Commissary Department & Ben Nelson is Brigade Blacksmith They have both lost their positions in the Company. I should like to see your 100 Lumb's.

While you are hauling manure & planting
corn this week. Commencing May 3rd.

"We expect to hear of some stirring times
this week of Hooker's army." Well
Jacob they did come & we did not
meet with the success we anticipated
Hooker was unsuccessful. & he was
driven back but his Cavalry did
well so has all the Ballance of
the Cavalry & "Stonewall" is dead.
& we have the news to say that
Grant has Vicksburg with 20,000
prisoners and 100 pieces of Artillery
I don't believe it however but
think it a Canard

I am very well. Was on Grand
Guard last night on out post
Duty I had the Company out
We stood on the ground & in the Rifle
Pits where Johnson lay when
Patterson came down to Bunker
Hill then wheeled & took the other
direction & Johnson surprised
made it straight for Manassas

& we lost the Battle of Bull Run
on the 21st Day of July 1861
The Day that Melvin was at
Washington & heard the firing of the
Artillery. Since I wrote to you
last I have been on a Scout
of 100 miles gone 5 Days
Started May 4 & got back May 9th
We went to New Market in the
South East Corner of Shenandoah
County Look at the map We had
5 men Captured from our Regt
Co G. I am well and hearty
The hard March gave us hard
we had to sleep on the ground
and it raining We Captured
some Rebels. Killed 1 or 2 &
got back safe Having no man
killed O But my feet were
awful sore It takes about
1800 steps for 1 mile & $1800 \times 100 = 180000$
steps I took in 5 Days which
makes it hard on ones feet

We will in all likelihood
stay here this summer & will
guard this place. I get along
fine. Have my health first
rate Have plenty of money
Have a good Bed which I
made of plank Lined Black
Sheep in it We have plenty of clothes
The Captain calls our Bed The Iron-
sides & He and Jeff have one
which they call The monitor

Well I got a letter from Malinda
write the 3rd inst I will send
a short sketch of our travels
over that soon to the Paper soon
likely Did you see the last
ones? Tell Mother I still remem-
ber her as "my Mother" I
want to see Peace return to
my distracted Country before
I return home Well you
must write me a letter
soon My love to all

Your Bro

Thos S. Amstrong

May 15, 1863

Addressed to Mr. Jacob G. Armstrong

Norwich, Muskingum Co., Ohio

Winchester Va

May 15th 1863

Dear Brother Jacob

Yours of the 3rd was received May 9th and thro many things and great hindering causes I at least get time to answer your letter. I had most come to the conclusion that you had forgotten me. I was glad to hear that you are all well and that you are doing a thriving business in the farming line. 25 acres of corn, 2 of oats, 3/4 acre taters, 1/4 acre sugar cane, the latter for "lasses for our _____ cake & fritters."

McMillens did not lose their box, but I have plenty of butter to eat. Lieut Black brought a great pot of butter & lots o' fruit. Stephen W Van Kirk is detailed as Brigade Teamster & works in the commissary Department & Ben Wilson is Brigade Blacksmith. They have both lost their positions in the company. I should like to see your 100 lambs.

While you are hauling manure & planting corn this week, commencing May 3rd, "we expect to hear of some stirring times this week of Hooker's army." Well Jacob they did come & we did not meet with the success we anticipated. Hooker was unsuccessful & he was driven back but his cavalry did well so all has the balance of the cavalry & "Stonewall" is dead & we have news of the day that Grant has Vicksburg and 100 pieces of artillery. I don't believe it however, but think it a canard.

I am very well. Was on grand guard last night or out past dark I had the company out. We stood on the ground & _____ the rifle pits where Johnson lay when Patterson came down to Bunker Hill, then wheeled & took the other direction & Johnson surprised made straight for Manassas & we lost the Battle of Bull Run on the 21st day of July 1861. The day that Wilbur was at Washington & heard the firing of the Artillery.

Since I wrote to you last, I have been on a scout of 100 miles, gone 5 days. Started May 4 & got back May 9th. We went to New Market in the South East corner of Shenandoah County. Look at the map. We had 5 men captured from our Regt Co. G.

I am well & hearty tho that march gave us _____. We had to sleep on the ground and it rained. We captured some Rebels, killed 1 or 2 & got back safe, having no man killed. O but my feet were awful sore. It takes about 1800 steps for 1 mile & $1800 \times 100 = 180000$ steps I took in five days which makes it hard on ones feet.

We will in all likelihood stay here this summer & will guard this place. I get along finely. Have my health first rate, have plenty of money, have a good bed which I made of plank. Lieut Black

sleeps in it. We have plenty of clothes. The Capn calls our bed The Ironsides & he and Jeff have one they call The Monitor. Well I got a letter from Matilda written the 3rd inst. I will send you a short sketch of our travels on that scout to the paper soon likely. Did you see the last ones? Tell mother I still remember her as "My Mother."

I want to see peace return to my distracted country before I return home. Well you must write me a letter soon. My love to all.

Your bro

Thos S. Armstrong