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Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Armstrong Family

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Camps hear Thinchester Va. may 20 the Wed 1863 Dear friends Albert Hammond leaves here tomorrow horning for home on a len days furlough is wife and father being very Sick in the Ery sipelas fever I feel pretty well at present. I was weighed yesterday 158 lbs. I have a good Bed with legs in it, and I have plenty of Bed dothes, Lient, Black is my Bedfellow my principal busmess is . watching The "signs of the times" I was awfully sund to hear of Hooke's reverses But pleas Ed to hear the success of Storomans Cavaly merson's great exploret in hussessifi And to night we get the news that that is in pockson & has burn the Cafeitol the other day a capitain & Orderly Ling" was that near her the lebels capiture about 30 ofour have sut our fellows Capture them Back & look a lost of the

Rebels prisoners & The Copie & Lerg 1 were Killed in The fight. On the 4 the we look a Scoul to Arew market got Bach the 9th 50 miles was the dis taver we wer pour hour. Our men ar getting sick prell fast we had & die in the sen Heaspelat in town night before last But this is nothing Compared to how -Lands falling on the Battle field. To day I went over on the hill I mil west and Drew a Nketch of The Scene loward the East you may Le Maning home ere long you'd better get it framed It shows our love flag on The forbress on The hele north four righ. That for 1 commands Hunches he and grounds arvings here, Fam Letting in my tent writing on my Bed Setting on a slool Leur. Black lies on the Bed & is play ing a game of Chess with Sergt bones Jeff is setting on the other side unding how. The Capen is out

The quarter master is playing his flut it makes think of Wilbur, He is player, Star Spangled Barner" It's have leveled our grounds about on tents graded our Streets plante out nice open a trees The huger moses he branger is promotes to frent. Col. Sunt Col. I. M. Bushfuld has resigned and goin into the peaceful walks of life There will be 12 new Commussions reques in our regt. as there has been Considerable resign ing latety, I want you to get me Six pairs of woolen Socks and Send By Al. Heammon as I must have som toon I'd rather go with a shurt than Jocks, Anever Suffered So with Sore feet as I did The last march we had Dave Lusabangh while on Picket May 4 at 4 next morning hand the fory at

Fredericksbury, The Kebs loto us Hooker had Dreven By Les across The Ruppahan nock. We Die not believe et. But When we got Back to it was too true 1 The other Brigade has com Back. WE have been Ex pre his an attackhen But I guess un are wady for than, I see By the papers that the places of this hoops on K Roads garrisons &C are to be filled By militie 2. the hoops are to take the field that is the Rennor Well you must all remen ber the in your paray ens as The prayers of the Righleon's availet much ly to all my friends. I must close wishing your to write to me soon of will Bud you an office honate and Incen how might as the time for Bid is Drawing might Thomas S. amotion Wenchester tra;

William Armotion Norwich hunskingen Co. Courtery of A. Harmonone ! . Ohing



May 20, 1863

Addressed to William Armstrong

Norwich Muskingum Co.

Ohio

Camp near Winchester Va

May 20th Wed 1863

Dear friends

Albert Hammond leaves here tomorrow morning for home on a ten days furlough -- his wife and father being very sick with evysipelas fever. I feel pretty well at present. I was weighed yesterday 158 lbs. I have a good bed with legs on it and I have plenty of bed clothes. Lieut Black is my bedfellow.

My principal business is watching the "signs of the times." I was awfully pleased to hear of Hooker's reverses but pleased to hear of the success of Stonemans Cavalry. Griersons great exploit in Mississippi and tonight we got the news that Grant is in Jackson and has burned the Capitol. The other day a captain & Orderly Sergt was shot near here, the rebels captured about 50 of our men. But our fellows captured them back & took a lot of the Rebels prisoners & the Capt & Sergt were killed in the fight.

On the 4th, we took a scout to New Market got back the 9th. 50 miles is the distance we were from home. Our men are getting sick pretty fast, we had six die in the Gen Hospital in town night before last. But this is nothing compared to thousands falling on the battle fields.

Today I went over on the hill 1 mile west and drew a sketch of the scene toward the east. You may see it coming home ere long. I better get it framed. It shows our loved flag on the fortress on the hill work of our Regt that _____ commands Winchester and grounds around here. I am sitting in my tent writing on my bed sitting on a stool. Lieut Black lies on the bed & is playing a game of chess with Sergt Jones(?). Jeff is sitting on the other side writing home. The Capn is out on picket.

The quartermaster is playing his flute. It makes me think of Wilbur. He is playing "Star Spangled Banner."

We have leveled our grounds about our tents, graded our streets, planted our nice spruce trees. The Major Moses M Granger is promoted to Lieut Col. Lieut Col J M Bushfield has resigned and gone into the peaceful walks of life. There will be 12 new commissions in our regt as there has been considerable resigning lately.

I want you to get me six pairs of woolen socks and send them by Al Hammond as I must have some soon. I'd rather go without a shirt than socks. I never suffered so with sore feet as I did the last march we had.

Dave Sensibaugh while on picket May 4 at 4 next morning heard the firing at Fredericksburg. The Rebs told us Hooker had been driven by Lee across the Rappahanock. We did not believe it, but when we got back, lo, it was true.

The other brigade has come back. We have been expecting an attack here but I guess we are ready for them. I see by the papers that the places of the troops on the R Roads garrisons etc are to be filled by militia & the troops taken to the field. That is the rumor.

Well you must all remember me in your prayers as the prayers of the righteous availeth much. Well kindly remember me kindly to all my friends. I must close wishing you to write me soon. I will _____ you an office ______ and _____. Good night as the time for bed is drawing nigh.

Thomas S. Armstrong

Winchester Va