

5-20-1863

## Letter from Thomas S. Armstrong to Armstrong Family

Thomas S. Armstrong

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Camp near Winchester Va.

May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 erysipelas 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 clothes. Lieut. Black is my Bed fellow. My principal business is watching the "signs of the times" I was awfully pained to hear of Hooker's reverses. But pleased to hear the success of Stoneman's Cavalry, Greenson's great exploit in Mississippi. And to night we get the news that Grant is in Jackson & has burnt the Capital. The other day a Captain & Colonel Serg't 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 Captn & Sergt were killed in the fight. On the 4th we took a Scout to New Market got Back the 9th 50 miles was the distance we were from home. Our men are getting sick pretty fast we had 6 die in the Gen Hospital in town night before last. But this is nothing compared to thousands falling on the Battle field.

To day I went over on the hill 1 mile west and drew a sketch of the scene toward the East you may see at coming home ere long You'd better get it framed It shows our loved flag on the fortress on the hill north of our Regt. that fort commands Winchester and grounds around here. I am sitting in my tent writing on my Bed sitting on a stool Lt. Black lies on the Bed & is playing a game of Chess with Sergt. Jones Jeff is sitting on the other side writing home. The Captn is out on Picket

The Quartermaster is playing his flute it makes <sup>me</sup> think of Wilbur. He is playing "Star Spangled Banner"

We have leveled our grounds about our tents graded our streets planted out nice Spruce trees

The Major Moses M Granger is promoted to Lieut. Col.

Lieut Col. J M Bushfoto has resigned and gone into the peaceful walks of life there will be 12 new Commissions issued in our Regt. as there has been considerable resigning lately.

I want you to get me six pairs of woolen Socks and send By Lt. Keammond as I must have some soon I'd rather go with a shirt than socks. I never suffered so with sore feet as I did the last march we had. I am sure about while our Picket May 4 at 4 next morning head the ferry at.



Fredericksburg. The Rebs  
told us Hooker had <sup>been</sup> driven  
By Lee across the Rappahannock  
neck. We did not believe  
it. But when we got back so it  
was too 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 R Roads garrisons &c  
are to be filled by militia & the  
troops are to take the field  
that is the Rumor

Well you must all remem-  
ber me in your prayers as  
the prayers of the Righteous avail  
much

With Remembrance we kind-  
ly to all my friends.

I must close wishing you  
to write to me soon I  
will Bid you an affec-  
tionate and Sincere  
Good night as the time  
for Bed is drawing nigh  
Thomas S. Armstrong  
Winchester Va.

William Armstrong

Norwich

Franklin Co.

Courtesy of A. Hammond

Ohio





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