

8-10-1863

## Letter from R.A. McGee to Jacob G. Armstrong

R.A. McGee

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### Recommended Citation

McGee, R.A., "Letter from R.A. McGee to Jacob G. Armstrong" (1863). *Harvey Collection Letters*. 239.  
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Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 1863.  
Brommoch W. Co. Ill

Kind Friend

I received Yours of the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Just in due time, was glad to hear from  
you once more. It had been so long since  
I heard from you. I thought Morgan had cap-  
tured you. The people are telling me that my  
father-in-law is in the Penitentiary at Columbus.  
Is that so? If it is I will call and see him as I go  
home. I am still enjoying myself finely - got through  
harvesting a few days since - harvested 14 days -  
liked it very well. It required a little more bodily  
exertion than teaching. My school closed the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
of July. - Spent the 4<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, Iowa  
had a very pleasant time. I am going to Iowa  
next week to spend a week or two visiting  
and don't know what I will do then - perhaps  
stay here and teach another term, as they are  
anxious I should do so. I will decide in a few



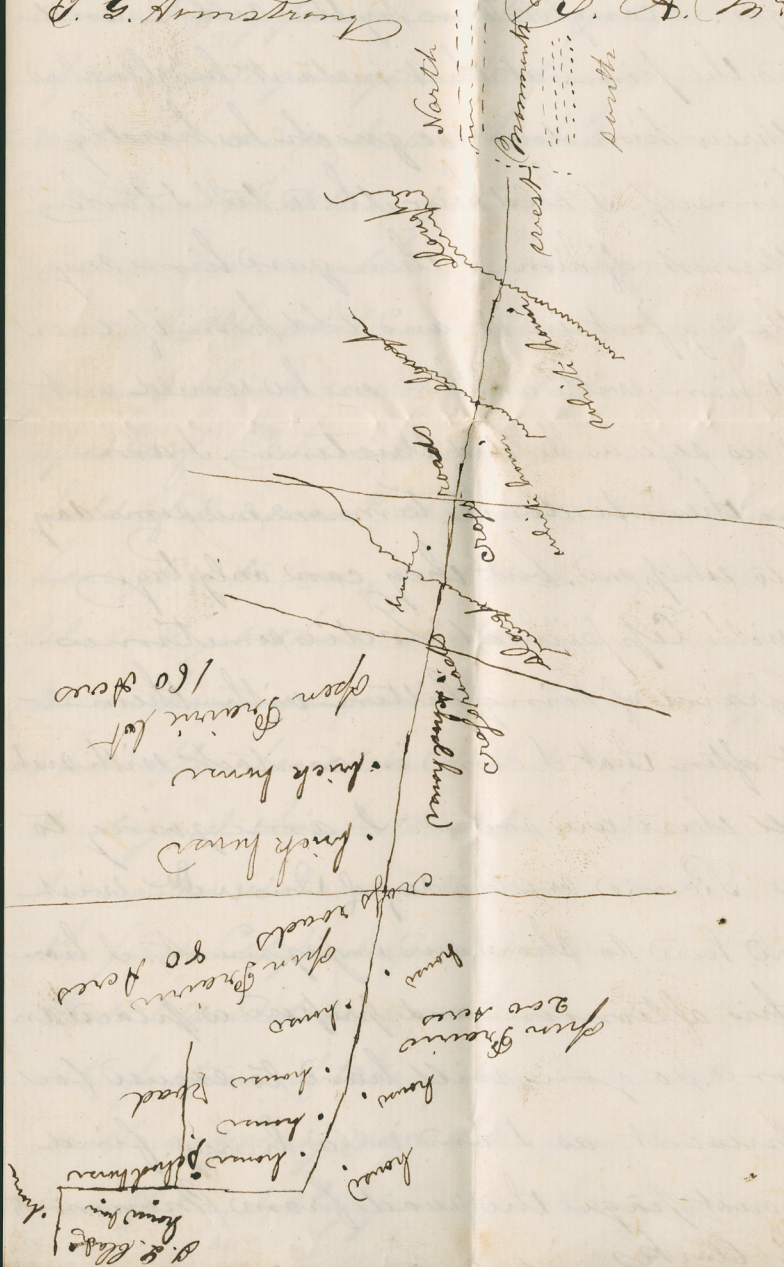
days. When you come out West. You must be  
sure and call on R. A. B. & Co. If you  
come to Brownmouth, inquire for S. J. Clarke  
almost any person can tell you where he lives  
if not I will give you directions, it is 6 miles  
west and one mile north of Brownmouth  
if I knew what time you were coming. I would meet  
you in Brownmouth. You ought to be out  
here a little while and see what Ladies. The  
time I think is not far distant that Bolacki  
speaks of. "When seven women shall take  
hold of one man". Almost all the young men  
have gone to war, and it is now with the Ladies  
who will get those remaining at home -  
We are having a great time here with "Copperheads"  
I have often heard it said, that they are blind in  
dog days. I think their time is nearly over  
I made a resolve some time since, that I would take  
the first Copperhead or butternut breastpin  
that I would see worn by any one. I had the  
satisfaction of taking one last week. I met  
with a young man who was wearing a butternut  
breastpin. I stepped up to him and told him

to take it off. I won't do it, was the answer  
If you don't, I will. You will be stronger than me  
if you do, was the answer. I could not stand it  
any longer. I caught him by the collar, and  
demanded the pin. at that instant he clinched  
me. I threw him down so quick he hardly  
knew himself. I held him there till I took  
the butternut off him. I then gave him my  
boot with my foot in it, and told him if ever  
I caught him with another on he would not  
come off as safe as he did this time. I am  
expecting them to double team one one some day  
and try to whip me. but they can only try  
I met with "Copperhead" Ladies sometimes.  
I am afraid of being bitten with them -  
It is not often that I come in contact with such  
but still there are some. I am going to  
have a Pic-nic Wednesday of this week. Wish  
you were here to share our enjoyment. I have  
to go this afternoon and prepared a place in  
the Grove. So you will have to excuse for  
the present as I am in a hurry. find  
on the next page the road from Brownmouth  
to S. J. Clarke.



J. S. Armstrong

P. A. M<sup>rs</sup> G. L.



August 10, 1863

Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863  
Monmouth \_\_\_\_ Co. Ill

Dear Friend,

I received of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst in due time. Was glad to hear from you once more. It had been so long since I heard from you. I thought Morgan had captured you. The people are telling that my father-in-law is in the Penitentiary at Columbus. Is that so? If it is I will call and see him as I go home. I am still enjoying myself finely – got through harvesting a few days since – harvested 14 days – liked it very well. It requires a little more bodily exertion than teaching. My school closed the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. Spent the 4<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, Iowa had a very pleasant time. I will decide in a few days. When you come out you must be sure to call on R.A. McGee. If you come to Monmouth inquire for J.L. Clarks almost any person can tell you where he lives, if not I will give you directions, it is 6 miles west and 1 mile north of Monmouth. If I knew what time you were coming, I would meet you in Monmouth. You ought to be out here a little while and see what Ladies. This time I think is not far distant that Balachi speaks of “when seven women take hold of one man.” Almost all the young men have gone to war, and it is now with the Ladies who will get those remaining at home. We are having a great time here with “Copperheads.” I have often heard it said that they are blind in dog days. I think their time is nearly over. I made a resolve some time since that I would take the first Copperhead Butternut breast pin that I would see worn by any one. I had the satisfaction of taking one last week. I met with a young man who was wearing a butternut breast pin. I stepped up to him and told him to take it off. I won’t do it was the answer. If you don’t I will. You will be stronger than me if you do was the answer. I could not stand it any longer. I caught him by the collar and demanded the pin. At this instant he clinched me. I threw him so quickly he hardly knew himself. I held him there till I took the butternut off him. I then gave him my boot with my foot in it and told him if ever I caught him with another on he would not come off as safe as he did this time. I am expecting them to doubleteem on me some day and try to whip me but they can only try. I meet with “Copperhead” Ladies sometimes. I am afraid of being \_\_\_\_\_ with them. It is not often that I come in contact with such but still there are some. I am going to have a Pic-nic Wednesday of this week. Wish you were here to share our enjoyment. I have to go this afternoon and prepare a place in the Grove. So you will have to excuse for the present as I am in a hurry. Find on the road on the next page the road from Monmouth to J.L. Clarks. Write soon. Give my respects to all my old friends and also young friends. These lines have me enjoying good health. Good bye.

R.A. McGee