

# AN OLD LETTER.

The following is an exact copy of a letter written by Colonel John Armstrong to General Washington. The original is in the possession of the Rev. P. B. Stauffer, of St. Clair, Pa. The letter is given as it stands in the original. Not the least of its interest lies in the fact that it was written from the borough of Lancaster, where the writer happened to be at the time:

Lancaster June 6th 1758

Honoured sir

In consequence of your order of the 30th ult. & a letter from Gen. Forbes to Col. Bouquet respecting the Draughts for the Light Horse, I am by the Col. ordered to this town, & to Draught in the following manner

	Men
From my own Battalion.....	25
From Col. Burds.....	15
From 12 companys of the Levys at 3 men each.....	36
From 15 Do. at two each.....	30
Troopey—	106

Your Hon. will be good enough to forgive my not writing you yesterday, being hurry'd more than you can well imagine, with the applicatons &c. of those Raw Undisciplin'd people. I'm surpriz'd those Lower Countys, suffer'd their troope (tho' raise'd time enough to collect their necessarys) to march so far from their Governm't so ill supply'd. please to read a return of their wants, sent the General. To day I send Y'r Hon'r a return of the state of the Captain Stone & Clark's Companys—as I will, a full the others that may fall under my notice whilst here,

which I hope will be but a very short time, my Battalion being march'd a week.

I'm afraid our acoutrements are sent in such a manner as may occasion trouble & mistake, not being particularly mark'd, directed &c. I have heard of one case the contents not known, marked for me, I suppose its arms, the Blankets I have not heard of, I hope Drums was mentioned in the last return of my Battalion to the General.

The necessarys for the New Levys should be explicately mention'd, & directed to some particular place, I think Carlisle, as Ashton's & Singleton's Companys are at Harris's and Safes & seven of the Companys Dest (west) of Susquehanah.

Those New Castle people, I shall keep a day or two longer until I receive the Generals or your orders, but find it necessary as well to forward the service, as to avoid the growing trouble of Billets in this Town, to push forward the men from Post to Post along the chain of communication, but on this important point the Generals orders cannot come too early, with directions about tents, or at least Blankets without which its extremely difficult to march the men.

Col. Bouquet has sent me here under a complicated burthen, where I greatly miss Sir Allen McClean (who' the Gent'm here are very helpful) & Major Loy'd who shou'd have been here, I find absent.

Capt. Cammeron & myself beg leave to recommend to your Honour W. Alex. Cammeron a Cadet in the Capt's Company, for an Ensinecy in Capt. Stones Company, as its said Stone has already wrote your Honour of the foibles of his Ensign.

I am Honour'd Sir with Greatest  
Respect, your Most Obedt. Servt.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

John Armstrong was born in the north of Ireland, in 1725, and died in 1795. I do not know when he came to America. He served with credit to himself in the French War of 1755-6, and led a force against the Indians at Kittanning, destroying their town and the supplies sent them by the French. The city of Philadelphia gave him a vote of thanks, a medal and a piece of plate for that service. As this letter indicates, he was again in the service in 1758, in the expedition against Fort Duquesne. He was commissioned a Brigadier General in the Continental Army in 1776. He fought at Fort Mifflin, and commanded the Pennsylvania militia at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, but retired from the army in 1777, owing to dissatisfaction over a question of rank. He was a member of Congress in 1778 and 1780, and again in 1787-8, and held many local public offices.

His youngest son, John, born at Carlisle, in 1758, became very prominent during the Revolution, having enlisted while a student at Princeton. He was the author of the famous "Newburg Letters," which created such a sensation at the time. He was a voluminous author and a United States Senator.

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The Col. Henry Bouquet who is spoken of in this letter was an English soldier, but born in Switzerland. After seeing service in the Dutch and Sardinian armies, he entered the English army, becoming Colonel of the Sixtieth Regiment in 1762, and a Brigadier General in 1765. He cooperated with Gen. Forbes in the expedition against Fort Duquesne in 1758, and was mainly instrumental in having a new road made through Pennsylvania, instead of using the old one made memorable by the Braddock-Washington expedition. His forces were attacked at Loyal Hanna by the

French and Indians, but he repulsed them and was present when the fort was captured. In 1763 he was in command at Philadelphia, and in that year was ordered to the relief of the same fort, then called Fort Pitt, now Pittsburg. He had an army of 500 Highlanders, and, as he moved along, relieved several of the frontier forts, but his advanceguard was suddenly attacked at Bushy Run by the Indians, and for a time the command was in danger of annihilation. By a stratagem he turned the tables on his enemies and routed them utterly. Four days later he reached Fort Pitt, with supplies, relieving that important post. In 1764 he led an expedition against the Ohio Indians, compelling the Shawnees, Delawares and others to sue for peace.

F. R. D.

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