

Halifax April 9th 1901.

Dear Col. Pratt.

[Armstrong, R. F.]

Only a line or two to night
to ack. receipt of your very, very interesting
letter which I shall answer anon.

First let me congratulate you upon your
merited, but long-deferred promotion. You
sh^d. have been Maj. Gen^l. long ago, but you
were too honest ^{and} too outspoken to be per-
sona grata with the War Dep^t. authorities.
You, my dear friend, have pass^d. thro^o the
fines of persecution ^{and} come thro^o scathelaps.
Your Commⁿ. is ten times more honorable
than that of Lieut-General Miles ^{and} a
thousand times more than that of the latest
addition to the Rolls Brig-Gen^l Funston!!
Tear up, burn, destroy all the rules, regula-
tions &c of honorable warfare since Funston's
commendad, not commendable, exploit. Forget
the Treason of Benedict Arnold ^{and} make
reparation to his memory by erecting a mon-

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ument at West point! -

I wish to thank you for so cordially responding to my request for certain information respecting my ancestors. The Armstrongs in your part of the country are very numerous & I fear that I did not give you such data as wd. lead your inquiries in the right direction -

My first ancestor in America was Joseph Armstrong who came from the Co. Fermanagh, Ireland (tho' Scotch) in 1731 and settled on lands in Hamilton township Cumberland (now Franklin) County. His residence was near Fort Loudoun, and he is buried at Rocky Spring Ch. He was quite a disting^d man and like his forbears was a stalwart fighter - Commanded a Co. of independent Scouts at the battle of Kittinging and in the defeat of Braddock. In fact was engaged in most of the enterprises against the French & Indians in which his relative

3/ Maj. Gen. John Armstrong conducted.
 He was the agent of Penn. in the building of
 the Mil. road between Forts Loudoun & Pitt
 (now Pittsburg). Died in 1761 - I have a
 copy of his will dated 1760 - He disposes of a
 large estate among his wife Immot (sic)
 Sons - John, Thomas, Joseph, James
 and William. and daughters Catherine (who m.
 a Curry) and Margaret (unm. at time of his
 death). John inherited a plantation in Orange
 Co. N. C. and Wm (who m. Nancy Gibson)
 establish. himself there also. William was my
 great-grandfather and Jno. was to my great-
 uncles - Jno. was Lieut. Col. and William Cap-
 tain in the N. C. Continental troops thro' out
 the Revolution - Joseph 2^d was an officer
 in the Penn. Line during the war & quite as
 distinguish. as his father Joseph 1st had been.
 I think that Thomas was also in the N. C. Line
 and when the N. C. Reg^{ts} were consolidated after

4/ Grandyaino he commanded a force of
 Rangers in the old North State. Don't
 know much about H James, or his ser-
 vices in the Revolution - Now you have
 the history of the Line down to my grand-
 father Joseph 3rd of Orange Co. N. C. I am the
 son of his only son Maj. Gen. James W.
 Armstrong of Georgia. What I am after,
 especially, is inform. concerning the history of
 Joseph 1 (my great-great grandfather) and of
 his descendants other than John & William -
 I wd. like to know particularly about the
 marriages of my great-great uncles & aunts
 and also the maiden name of my gt. great-
 grandmother Jeanette - I thought that pos-
 sibly the records of Rocky Spring Church
 would assist me in these particulars - if
 such records exist and hence my request in re.
 I do not wish, my dear Pratt, to give you
 any trouble in this matter and above all I
 do not wish you to misunderstand my reason

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my first Am.ⁿ progenitor in 1731.
I shall be very glad of your assistance, but beg
of you not to put yourself to any trouble in
the matter.

I am very glad to learn that you were
benefitted by your trip to the Hot Springs
and trust the cure may be permanent, not-
withstanding the (Doctors) fact that your sys-
tem is deficient in --- fluid - I find
that Physicians are about as infallible as the
Pope - and no more. I cured my rheumatic
shoulder with the plates, the same as your
friend, and as there's no expense or detriment
in the two plates it is worth trying again & again.

Your acc.^t of your talk to the negroes down
South interests me very much. I took out of
my portfolio to-day the two pictures of the
Indian girls & boys upon their reception at
Carlisle & four months after, and with your
first & 2^d. interesting letters I am preparing

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for this Ancestral Search. Thank God I am
too good a Democrat to care for titles,
Societies of this, that & the other - (Do you know
that, as uncompromizing a Rebel as I am, I
am not a member of any Confederate Society or
organization? I believe all such organizations
as the Soc. of the Cin. (which I wd. never join),
D. A. R., Sons of the Rev., G. A. R. Loy.^t League,
U. C. Vol., Sons of C. V. &c. &c. contrary to the spirit
of true republicanism and contrary to the ge-
nius of the Am.ⁿ people. It is the fostering of
just such, pseudo-democratic institutions that has
bro't the country to its present deplorable state
of Military - Imperialism -)

I can connect my line back through Ireland
(1604) to the Dordus, and am a lineal de-
scendant of John Armstrong who (with 300
of his clan) was hung by King James V. of
Scotland in 1527, and in America you see
I have the direct line from the arrival of

// for a Conversation with a very close-
 thinker & good logician friend of mine -
 the Rev.^d Mr. Dobson, Methodist Minister.
 We think alike about the Boer war ^{and} the
 infamous conduct of the British in S.A.
 Ditto, ditto, the Philippine war ^{and} the
 ditto of American troops out there.
^{and} alike on the double infamy of the Christian
 Nations in China! - He is sound generally
 on the Negro-question, having had experience
 with the British free negro in the W.I., but
 is fond of quoting from Whittier, Wendell,
 Phillips & Har.^t Beecher Stowe. This he
 does to give rhetorical finish to his discourses
^{and} really does not see the hypocrisy in be-
 lieving one way & talking another. I think
 your frank, manly, letters will open his eyes.
 I started out to write only a line or two -
 Forgive me - good night.

Yr. Sincere friend, Armstrong.