Thomas L. Evans letter to his sister from Youngs Point, February 3, 1863

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.ewu.edu/tlevans

Recommended Citation
Evans, Thomas L., "Thomas L. Evans letter to his sister from Youngs Point, February 3, 1863" (1863). Thomas L. Evans Civil War Correspondence and Diary. 42.
https://dc.ewu.edu/tlevans/42

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Thomas L. Evans Civil War Correspondence and Diary by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.
Dear Sister,

I received your letter a few days ago & have written one home to Aunt Old since. We are now at camp in fair view of Vicksburg. I & we are enjoying camp life as well circumstances will permit considering we have to be on duty either on picket or working on the levee about every other day.

There is quite a shift of the levee just above us that is washed away. We are engaged in rebuilding it before the river rises to overflow our camp. I said we have been on duty & mean the corn. Or I have been on the sick list for the last three or four days having a bad cold. I have been about with the corn all the time but have been exempt from all duty that I might not be exposed of nights once in the rain till I might say I am all right again, but I shall shield myself a day or two longer & make a sure thing of it if possible & the way to fail to day a day or two more will be the last I need. Yesterday morning about daylight very heavy & rapid firing was heard opposite to the river below Vicksburg which continued about a half hour then all off was quiet just then I. Cling came on off the levee (about 1000 yds from our camp) & said he had just witnessed one of our Two boats run the blockade, just what we expected from the firing half an hour before.

It had been right cool for a day or two. The ground was frozen quite hard this morning but now at 10 o'clock it is all gone still the air is very cold, crisp and the sun shines but dimly, as though a sea
The word now is that the 96th is at the landing 20 miles from here & the line has gone to see them. I hope he will find them all right. The last we heard of them before they were at Memphis is that they were in good plight & spirits.

Feb 4th. It is a rainy, sleety, stormy wind & the snow blows cold & the rain & hail falls & makes it one of the most disagreeable mornings imaginable and if there is little danger of its lasting long here that is the end of the rain may continue.

Our Com. went out on picket last night. The Capt. went with them & Mr. Cling & I have been enjoying our tent. We have a stove that makes it quite comfortable. The boys were only all well & as well fixed & could enjoy life greatly but some of them are quite unwell of their feet & are very cold without fire. This but bad luck here comes a man after our stove for it is only forecasts of course we have to give it up but we have plenty of clothes to keep us warm so will get along very well until we meet with a chance for another & then we will content ourselves with soldiers' warm hearts.

Ed. by friend. Store you have been a warm friend this morning. Samuel Blue has had the measles so is better but quite sick yet. Asbury is not very well. Will it be the strongest he has for several weeks. I don't know how long we will stay here but our division will go to Helena in a few days but you know what a liar rumor is. Tell Jack I will answer his letter sometimes. I am glad he has improved so much in his writing. He must write again. He must write. I thought I would write a whole sheet but I have nothing more to write this time only want you to send on the pay order. Quite often. The last letter I got from home was yours within one month ago. Love to all. Good By.

Thomas
Dear sister:

I received your letter a few days ago and have written one home and one to Orpha since. We are here in camp in fair view of Vicksburg and are enjoying camp life as well as circumstances will permit considering we have to be on duty either on picket or working on the levee about every other day.

There is quite a strip of the levee just above us that is washed away and we are engaged in rebuilding it before the river rises to overflow our camp. I said we have been on duty - I mean the Com. for I have been on the sick list for the last three or four days having a bad cold. I have been about with the Com. all the time but have been excused from all duty that I might not be exposed of nights or in the rain till I might say I am all right again but I shall shield myself a day or two longer and make a sure thing of it if possible and the way I feel to-day, a day or two more will be all the rest I need. Yesterday morning, about daylight, very heavy and rapid firing was heard opposite or rather below Vicksburg which continued about a half hour then all was quiet. Just then Lt.Cline came in off the levee (about 100 yds. from our camp) and said he had just witnessed one of our Gunboats run the blockade - just what we expected from the firing. Pretty good at that.

It has been right cool for a day or two. The ground was frozen quite hard this morning but now at 10 o'clock it is all gone, still the air seems damp and chill and the sun shines but dimly as through a heavy atmosphere.

The word now is that the 96th is at the landing 2 or 3 miles from here and Lt.Cline has gone to see them. I hope he will find them all right. The last we heard of them
before they were at Memphis in good plight and spirits.

Feb. 4th:

It is a rainy sleety morning, the wind blows cold and the rain and hail falls and freezes, making it one of the most disagreeable mornings imaginable but there is little danger of it lasting long here, that is the cold - the rain may continue.

Our Com. went out on picket last night, the Capt. went with them and Lt. Cline and I have been enjoying our tent. We have a stove in it that makes it quite comfortable. If the boys were only all well and as well fixed, I could enjoy life hugely but some of them are quite unwell and their tents are pretty cold without fire this morning but bad luck - here comes a man after our stove for it is only borrowed and of course we have to give it up but we have plenty of clothes to keep us warm so will get along very well until we meet with a chance for another and so will content ourselves with soldiers' luck for the present.

Samuel Blue has had the measles and is some better but quite sick yet. Asberry is not very well. Quill is the stoutest he has been for several weeks.

I don't know how long we will stay here. Rumor says our Division will go to Hellena in a few days but you know what a liar rumor is. Tell Josh I will answer his letter sometime and I am glad he had improved so much in his writing. He must write again. Rose must write. I thought I would write a whole sheet but I have nothing more to write this time only I went to call on the paymaster. Write oftener. The last letter I got from home was yours written one month ago. Love to all. Goodby,

Thomas.