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Thomas L. Evans letter to his brother from Youngs Point, March 1, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Dear Brother,

This is a beautiful day and we are enjoying it very well. It is perfectly clear and the sun shines brightly and just warm enough to be pleasant. So we have our tents all torn down and every thing put out to dry and air. We have had preaching to-day.

But going to church in the army is not like going at home. The very fact that we have so little distance to go takes some of the solemnity away. Then there are so many engaged in cooking getting wood and water and stirring about the camp for various things that it does not seem quiet and solemn like it should be. Then it is out doors no sooner there and what I am sorry to say there is not so much interest taken in worship as would be commendable to the Bible.

The day as you know has been a fine day. They went up the river a piece after some rebels but did not catch them. The Rebels ran. They started for a 4 days trip and were gone twelve. They got back last Thursdays say they had a fine trip. But one of them Edward Eaton of Allen Center took sick and died while they were gone. Thus twenty of Co. K. have gone to their long home. A great many are still complaining but none here are very sick though not more than half are fit for duty. Albury is still on the mend and in fact the most of them are.

John Corbett started home from here last
Monday I sent a letter by him and have written none since. My health is very good even to proveb for it has become a matter of common remark. J. Cline is not very well is troubled some with the rheumatism I don't know as I have much news to write except that the Rebels have captured the Queen of the West (our Gunboat that run the blockad) and report says one more of our Gunboats. Write soon and often and send all the news.

Your Brother
Thomas

As Sunday evening since I wrote the above I received two letters one from Rosey one from Sally and am really glad to hear that you were well and hope perhaps illness will not be long or serious but am very anxious to hear from him again. I think if all the solders got such letters from home as I do this patriotism would not lay. It does me much good to know that while I am here doing my duty my friends at home are saying "God speed and not discouraging" as the rebels at home do treat their friends here. If any of my friends write so to me so it will kindle a flame quick I am too angry to write more on that subject.
Dear Brother:

This is a beautiful day and we are enjoying it very well. It is perfectly clear and the sun shine brightly and just warm enough to be pleasant so we have our tents all torn down and everything put out to dry and air. We have had preaching to-day but going to Church in the Army is not like going at home. The very fact that we have a little distance to go, takes some of the charm away then there are so many engaged in cooking, getting wood and water and stirring about the camp for various things, that it does not seem quiet and solemn like it should be. Then it is outdoors and no women there and with all I am sorry to say, there is not so much interest taken in worship as would be commendable to the 96th. The Reg. as you know, has been on a trip. They went up the River a piece after some rebels but did not catch them. The Rebs. Run. They started for a 7 days trip and were gone twelve. They got back last Thursday and say they had a fine trip, but one of them (Edward Eaton of Allen center) took sick and died while they were gone. Thus twenty of Co. K., have gone to their long home. A great many are still complaining but none here are very sick, Though not more than half are fit for duty. Asberry is still on the mend and in fact the most of them are. John Corbett started home from here last Monday. I sent a letter by him and have written none since. My health is very good even to proverb for it has become a matter of common remark. Lt.'Cline is not very well. Is troubled some with rheumatism.

I don't know as I have much news to write except that the rebels have captured the Queen of the West, (Our
Gunboat that run the blockade) and report says one more of our gunboats. Write soon and often and send all the news.

Your brother,

Thomas.

P.S. Sunday evening.

Since I wrote the above, I received two letters, one from Rose and one from Sallie and am really glad to hear that you were well and hope Joshua's illness will not be long but am very anxious to hear from him again. I think if all the soldiers got such letters from home as I do, their patriotism would not lag. It does me much good to know that while I am here doing my duty, my friends at home are saying "God Speed" and not discouraging as the rebels at home do treat their friends here. If any of my friends write so to me, it will kindle a flame quick. I am too angry to write more on that subject.