

3-4-1863

Thomas L. Evans letter to his brother from Youngs Point, March 3, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Young's Point La. March 24th 1863

Dear Father,

✓
Lt. Cline has just got a leave of absence for a few days and is going home tomorrow so I write a few lines to night for him to take. I started a letter 2 or 3 days ago but I suppose you can get this more direct & I like to send every direct chance I have. We are getting along pretty well now but still many of the boys are not well, and one or two very sick. The weather is very fine now but clear & pleasant ^{days} & cool moonlight nights that contrast finely with the ~~we~~ gloomy weather we have had.

They seem to be just waking up on the canal question here and within the last three or four days have almost completed it. Yesterday is the first day we have worked on it in fact the first day I ever was down to it as it is about 3 miles below our camp. I am very favorably impressed with it for my part that is I think there is but little doubt but the gun boats ~~should~~ can run through it in a few days. I was down to the S. mouth of it and the rebels have heavy fortifications on the hills opposite but the Gunboats in passing out will be under fire but a very short time & they think there is

little danger of getting hurt. Two of our boats
have run safely down by all their forts
the rest can surely cut across.

The two however that run the blockade
have since been captured. The first
Queen of the west. run on a sand
bar somewhere below and being closely
pressed ^{they} spiked the guns and left her
coming up on a transport they had
captured. The rebels afterward towed her
off. I have not heard the particulars of
the loss of the other, Indianola.

Yesterday I went down on the point
below the canal ^{or rather between the canal & Dickshurg} along the river and could
see the hills lined with forts and rifle
pits. They look quite formidable. The city
looks quite respectable at a distance of
two or three miles but perhaps I can
tell you more about it when I go over
and get a better at least a nearer view
of it.

When Lt. Cline returns (if you have no earlier
chance) send me something good. The fact it
comes from home will give it a good flavor. &
Good things we get here taste a little too strong
of the green backs - for instance dried peaches
30cts per. pound butter 40 &c. Except army
rations which we get here for very little more
than in Ohio. You need not send any of them.

Tell Sallie she ought to date her letters
none of them are dated. If she writes thus to
other Lieutenants - Well she may guess
at the balance but know what might happen

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Well we expect some pay in a few days now. Two or three months pay which for me will be ~~two~~ 200 or 300 Dollars. I shall need 100 here the rest I will send home to you. Pay Paul and the Simon Moore Note of \$90 and interest. The rest ^{if any} keep. If you want it. If not do as you please with it I dont want it now. My health continues good.

Write soon and frequently

Your affectionate Son

Thomas

P.S. Tell me about the rebels up there. I often hear a little about them but give me the particulars. Send me more papers. Weeklys a month old ⁱⁿ brig news here and furnish reading matter and pastime and information for we know but little in the army and if we should stay here 3 years we will not know what has happened meanwhile unless we get more papers.

Congressional & war news ^{is} what we want. Papers that contain laws as they are passed at least the conscript law.

William Turner is ~~de~~^d he died last night in the hospital. He was here 2 or 3 weeks ago and was quite unwell then. ~~He I think~~ I have not seen him since but still heard he was getting no better & now he is gone.

Youngs Point La. March 4th, 1863.

Dear Father:

Lt.Cline has just got a leave of absence for a few days and is going home to-morrow so I write a few lines to-night for him to take, I started a letter 2 or 3 days ago but I suppose you can get this more direct and I like to send every direct chance I have.

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Well, we expect some pay in a few days now. Two or three months pay which for me will be 200 or 300 dollars. I shall need 100 here, the rest I will send home to you. Pay Paul and the Simon Moore note of \$30 and interest. The rest, if any keep if you want it. If not, do as you please with it. I don't want it now. My health continues good. Write soon and frequently.

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