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

Thomas L. Evans
Dear Father,

Lot Sline 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 2013 days ago but I suppose you can get this more direct if 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 and cool moonlight nights that contrast finely with the nice 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 gunboats should can run through it in a few days. I was down to the X 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 the forts the rest can surely cut across. The two however that run the blockade have since been captured. The first Queen of the west, ran on a sand bar somewhere below and being closely pressed, 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, Indiana. Yesterday I went down on the point below the canal 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 back - for instance, hard potatoes, 100 lb. butter, etc. Except army rations which we get here for very little more than in Ohio. You need not send any of them.

Tell Sally she ought to date her letters none of them are dated. She writes thus to other Lieutenants. Will she say a word about the balance. I don't know what must supply.
Well we expect some pay in a few days now. I receive three months' pay which for me will be just $200 or $300 Dollars. I shall need $100 here the rest I will send home to you. Pay Paul and the Demond Moore note of $50 and interest. The rest week. 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.

Your affectionate Son,

Thomas

P.S. Tell me about the rebels up there. I often hear a little about them but give me the particular. Send me more papers. Week's a month old boy news here and furnish reading matter and part time 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 Congregational war news it what we want. Papers that contain laws as they are passed at least the conscript law. William Turner is still he died last night in the hospital. He was here 2 or 3 weeks ago and was quite unwell then. So I have not seen him since but still heard he was getting no better & now he is gone.
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.

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 - clear and pleasant days and cool moonlight nights that contrast finely with the 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 can run through it in a few days. I was down to the 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 and they think there is little danger of getting hurt. Two of our boats have run safely down by their fortifications, 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 and Vicksburg 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 greenbacks - for instance, dried peaches, 30¢ per pound, butter, 40¢, etc. Except army rations which we got 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. Don't know what might happen.

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.

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 some more papers. Weekleys a month old bring news here and furnish reading matter and past-time 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 and war news is what we want. Papers that contain Laws as they are passed, at least the conscript m$ Law.

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