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Thomas L. Evans letter to his sister from Milliken's Bend, April 5, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Mulligans Bend La. Apr. 5th 1863.

Dear Sister,

This is Sabbath afternoon
is a beautiful one it is clear &
pleasant with a cool breeze.

My health is good as can be and as
far as myself am concerned there is
nothing to disturb my happiness & the
full enjoyment of so fine a day
But there is a gloom cast upon us
by the death of one of our number,
John Blake died this morning in
Regimental hospital. He has suffered
very severely for some days with what
the Dr. says ~~is~~ very much resembled milk
sickness. His sufferings are now over and
we shall lay him to rest in a soldiers
grave far from home & friends but
near many of his brave comrades.

I deeply sympathize with poor Louise
& wish it was so some of you could
see her. He was well & faithfully cared

for from the beginning of his sickness
but care & skill would not save him
John. M. Keever was to visit him day
before yesterday but was not able to
come up yesterday.

Hull Turner is pretty sick but is getting
better. He was sent to the boat hospital
this morning & it is not likely we
will see him again until he gets well.
I don't think he is dangerous at all.
The rest of the boys with whom you
are acquainted are pretty well.

I have now exciting war news to send
but I can see some more activity
than usual in the army here.

One division has moved some fifteen
or twenty miles back in the ^{to Richmond} country
& Sherman's whole Corps is said to
have gone up the river. The first
move looks like we were going
to flank the "rebs" & the latter
would indicate that we are
going to flank the give up the
siege. So it goes. It is likely we

will move in a few days
but we dont know & can make
no guess where to, +

I saw Isaac Thompson to
day. He was here in camp.
He belongs to the 3^d Ill. Cav. The
company he is in is Gen. M. Clemons
body guard. He likes the service
very well & has had good health
until the last day or two he says
he has not been very well.

I saw Bonebrake (my Belle Co school mate)
a few days ago. He is Capt. of Co. C. 69th
Ind. Reg. He is the same jolly boy he
use to be & is now out at Richmond.
I am sorry to hear that teaching
is so low when everything else
is so high. but I suppose it will
all come out right in the end I
hope at least. you must not get
discouraged or down hearted but
keep hope up & enjoy life while
you are young by being perfectly
contented, that is my motto &

I am living by it too & expect to enjoy more pleasure from it than could be gathered in a thousand years of pretful discontent. "Make the very best of everything, then be content" is a motto very different ^{from the} "Sluggards" which is "Be content with anything".

The principal excitement now in camp is pay. The pay rolls are now in the pay masters hands & we expect four months pay tomorrow or next day. Next after pay we are pleased with the prospects of getting something good from home & have our appetites well fixed for devouring it when it comes to hand.

Wm Smith is with the Co, now & is quite unwell, he looks bad.

Write soon & often and tell me all the news. I write every few days & generally fill a sheet. Though I have but little to write & surely you can find something to say. The little trifles of home & the neighborhood such as you would tell me if I were there are worth reading though it may be tedious writing them. If nothing else tell me your dreams.

Remember me to all my friends

Love to one & all

Gallie

Your Loving Brother

Thomas

Millikens Bend, La. Apr. 5th, 1863.

Dear Sister:

This is Sabath afternoon and a beautiful one it is , clear and pleasant with a cool Breeze. My health is good as can be and as far as I myself am concerned, there is nothing to disturb my happiness and the full enjoyment of so fine a day but there is a gloom cast upon us by the death of one of our number. John Blake died this morning in Regimental hospital. He has suffered very severely for some days with what the Dr. says very much resembled milk sickness. His sufferings are now over and we shall lay him to rest in a soldiers grave far from home and friends but near many of his brave comrades. I deeply sympathize with poor Louize and wish it was so some of you could see her. He was well and faithfully cared for from the beginning of his sickness but care and skill would not save him. John McKeever was to visit him day before yesterday but was not able to come up yesterday.

Hull Turner is pretty sick but is getting better. He was sent to the boat hospital this morning and it is not likely we will see him again until he gets well. I don't think he is dangerous at all. The rest of the boys with whom you are acquainted are pretty well.

I have no exciting war news to send but I can see some more activity than usual in the army here. One division has moved some fifteen or twenty miles back in the country to Richmond and Sherman's whole Corps is said to have gone up the river. The first move looks like we were going to flank the "rebs" and the latter would indicate that we are going to give up the siege; so it goes. It is likely we will move in a few days but we don't know and can make no guess where to.

#2.

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#3.

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dreams. Remember me to all my friends.

Love to one and all,

Your loving Brother,

Thomas.

Sallie.