6-23-1863

Thomas L. Evans letter to his father from battlefield Vicksburg, June 23, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Dear Father

I received your letter of the 8th last evening and am indeed glad to hear that you are still all well. We still occupy the same position as when we last wrote, & which we have occupied for the last three weeks. But there is something up. I don't know what it is or where it is. But I think things must come to a focus here soon. Last evening there were some troops left here for some point. Burnor says it was to join our forces on Black River, who is said to be approaching in our rear if so he is doomed to get whipped.

This morning at 2 o'clock we were ordered to be ready to march at 3 o'clock with two days rations, & now at 11 o'clock are awaiting orders to move which orders we may or
may not receive. However we are ready to move. But where we move or whether we move at all or not is another question.

If we do move I think I will have something new to write next time.

It is not to be wondered at when soldiers are in the same camp for sometime & writing a letter every day or two that they run out of news and have to fill their news letters with nonsense. But though we are a merry jovial set situated as we are we can but think of last fall & it is sad indeed to see our thinned ranks and still they fall. Reuben Clark died at Young's point on the 9th of this month. Like many other of our boys he was a faithful soldier & fine man but never was well since new years.

It is indeed too true that John Martin is dead as we have official notice of it. He died June 8th.

Love to all

Thomas
No. 21.

Battle Field near Vicksburg,

June 23, '63.

Dear Father:

I received your letter of the 5th last evening and am glad to hear that you are all still well. We still occupy the same position as when I last wrote and which we have occupied for the last three weeks.

But there is something up. I don't know what it is or where it is but I think things must come to a focus here soon. Last evening there were some troops left here for some point. Rumor says it was to join our forces on Black River to meet Johnson who is said to be approaching in our rear; if so, he is doomed to be whipped.

This morning at 2 o'clock we were ordered to be ready to march at a moment's notice with two days rations and now at 11 o'clock are waiting orders to move which orders we may or may not receive, however, we are ready to move but where we move to or whether we move at all or not, is another question. If we do move, I think I will have something new to write next time. It is not to be wondered at when soldiers are in the same camp for some time and writing a letter every day or two, that they run out of news and have to fill their letters with nonsense but though we are a merry, jovial set situated as we are, we can but think of last fall and it is sad indeed to see our thinned ranks and still they fall. Reuben Clark died at Young's Point on the 9th of this month. Like many other of our boys, he was a faithful soldier and fine man but never well since New Years.

It is indeed too true that John Martin is dead as we have official notice of it. He died June 6th.

Love to all.

Thomas.