

10-4-1863

## Thomas L. Evans letter to his father from Camp 96 O.V.I. , October 4, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Camp 96. O. D. I. Oct. 4, 1865

Dear Father I received your letter two or three days ago & since then we have been on the move.

On Friday evening we received orders to be ready to move by daylight yesterday morning and we were about 4 o'clock in the evening we started & got on the boat at Carrollton a little before sun down and put off down the river arriving at Algiers opposite New Orleans just at dark. By 8 o'clock P.M. we were aboard the cars & on our way to Brashear City distant about ninety miles. We were on top of cattle cars which were loaded below with horses. The cars run very fast & the breeze created by their movement soon chilled us. We wrapped up in our blanket & lay down the sharp breeze cutting through our blanket & we constantly sliding down the smooth car roof then creeping up again to keep from sliding entirely off. Thus the cars rattled along & with a canteen for a pillow I would snatch a little nap & wake up to find myself

sliding down the car roof would creep up on my pillow again draw my blanket closer around me & try it over again. I had taken about a half dozen such naps when I was waked from one of them by the cars stopping at Brashere City about 3 o'clock this morning. By four we had got off the cars & spread our blanket on the wharf where we took a nap of perhaps an hours length.

And within the next hour got aboard the steamboat & crossed Berwick Bay which at this point is less than half a mile wide. Having ~~stacked~~ crossed the Bay we stacked arms & went into camp here where we are likely to remain for several days. The boys spend the day in carrying boards from an old camp about half a mile distant & building them shanties as their tents were all left behind. They are all very comfortably fixed to night & merry as can be.

I have my tent along which makes a good home for me Capt. Cline & Lt. Godman of his Co, & existing orders allow but one tent to three Officers.

It is said there is some danger of an attack on this point but I think not much. We are at the terminus of the

A. R. from New Orleans westward & when  
we move from here will have to  
march. In pleasant weather with a  
pleasant camp as we have here camp  
life is a pleasant one, & I enjoy it much.  
But give me action in fine weather  
It may be & often necessarily is a little  
harder But it is life.

Of course I would be glad to  
have my money bring me a little  
interest if it can be & you may loan  
it for a year or more or less where it  
will be safe. The health of my Co. is  
excellent. Every man who came with me  
fromicksburg is along & well except  
Georg Ruehlin (of New California) who has been  
very unwell but is now much better &  
has started home on a sick furlough.  
He said if he got well he would call  
at my old home & I hope he will.

This is Sunday but it seems as little like  
it as any I have since I came in the service  
we have been so busy fixing up our camp &c.  
Write very often. With my sincere love to  
you all and a hope that I may get home  
to see you I bid Good night

Your affectionate son  
Thomas

P.S. We can get fresh oyster here for  
ten cent a dozen. They are splended too  
so I eat a dozen once in a while  
for thee. Does it- do the any good if  
not I suppose I must eat more so it-  
will,

Thomas

Camp 96 O.V.I. Oct. 4, 1863.

Dear Father:

I received your letter two or three days ago and since then we have been on the move. On Friday evening we received orders to be ready to move by daylight yesterday morning and we were. About 4 o'clock in the evening we started and got on the boat at Carrollton a little before sun down and put off down the river arriving at Algiers opposite New Orleans just at dark. By 8 o'clock P.M. we were aboard the cars on our way to Brashere City distant about ninety miles. We were on top of cattle cars which were loaded with horses. The cars run very fast and the breeze created by their movement soon chilled us. We wrapped up in our blankets and lay down, the sharp breeze cutting through our blanket and we constantly sliding down the smooth car roof then creeping up again to keep from sliding off entirely.

Thus the cars rattled along and with a canteen for a pillow I would snatch a little nap and wake up to find myself sliding down the car roof - would creep up on my pillow again draw my blanket closer around me and try it over again. I had taken about a half dozen such naps when I was waked from one of them by the cars stopping at Brashere City about 3 o'clock this morning. By four we had got off the cars and spread our blankets on the wharf where we took a nap of perhaps an hours length and within the next hour got aboard the steamboat and crossed Berwick Bay which at this point is less than half a mile wide. Having crossed the Bay we stacked arms and went into camp here where we are likely to remain for several days. The boys spent the day in carrying boards from an old camp about a half a mile distant and building them shanties as their tents were all left behind. They are all very comfortably fixed to-night and merry as can be.

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#2.

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Of course I would be glad to have my money bring me a little interest if it can be and you may loan it for a year or more or less where it will be safe. The health of my Co. is excellent. Every man who came with me from Vicksburg is along and well except George Ruehlin (of New California) who has been very unwell but is now much better and has started home on a sick furlough. He said if he got well he would call at my old home and I hope he will.

This is Sunday but it seems as little like it as since any I have seen, I came in the service. We have been so busy fixing up our camp, etc. Write very often. With my sincere love to you all and a hope that I may get home to see you, I bid good night.

Your affectionate son,

Thomas.

P.S. We can get fresh oysters here for ten cents a dozen. They are splendid too so I eat a dozen once in a while for thee. Does it do thee any good? If not I suppose I must eat more so it will.