

2-8-1864

Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents from Fort Vance, Texas, February 8, 1864

Thomas L. Evans

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Fort Wanez Texas
Feb. 8. 1864

Dear Parents,

I received your letter of Jan. 10th a day or two ago & was glad indeed to get it for it had been a long time since I heard from home but I cannot expect to hear from home every day now.

Texas is not very much of a paradise at least that part of it we are on.

This sandy Peninsula has the advantage of never getting muddy for we have our camp here on a "Sandy foundation". In fact we have ^{had} very little rain since we came here. We have another advantage here too, that of a most delightful

climate. Ever since we landed here. (with the exception of about two weeks the first of the year) has been just as pleasant as May & very healthy.

It was this that made me prefer to come ^{here} rather than go up the river for I know that while I have to soldier this climate ^{is} healthier for me than a colder one would be. At least I know I am far healthier since I came south than I was for a year or two before. My health is excellent now & I am getting along & enjoying life well as ever. & look forward with a high hope that this war will soon close & I will be permitted to return home, I am glad Nellie had a pleasant time in vacation. If I could only have been there what a happy time we would have had.

I got a letter from her a day or two ago and am much pleased with the studies that she is persueing & hope & believe she is improving her time well.

I should be very unhappy if she did not. I am glad Tib received her present for I feared it might be mis carried.

We are still camped in the place from which I last wrote and have built a fort here for our protection. So though we are camped 7 miles in front of the rest of the forces we dont fear the Bebs for we are well prepared for them & they dont come near us, except occasionally a few deserters come in, even the rebel officers are deserting and coming over to us. If our army were so demoralized I should think our cause

Hapelep and I think they will
soon give it up.

Hill has been quite sick but
is about well again, Shearer's
rheumatism is much better,
the best of the boys are
all well.

Since we came to this
camp we have had meeting
every night & the moral
condition of the Reg. is
very much improved.

Have you heard any thing from
Aunt Rachel lately?

My love to you all & all
enquiring friends. Your
Affectionate Son
Josephs August C. Thomas

Fort Vance, Texas,

Feb. 8, 1864.

Dear Parents:

I received your letter of Jan. 10th a day or two ago and was glad indeed to get it for it has been a long time since I heard from home but I cannot expect to hear from ^{home} every day now.

Texas is not very very much of a paradise, at least that part of it we are on. This sandy peninsula has the advantage of never getting muddy for we have our camp here on a sandy foundation. In fact we have had very little rain since we came here. We have another advantage here too, that of a most delightful climate. Ever since we landed here (with the exception of about two weeks the first of the year) has been just as pleasant as May and very healthy.

It was this that made me prefer to come here rather than go up the river for I know that while I have to soldier, this climate is healthier for me than a colder one would be. At least I know I am far healthier since I came South than I was for a year or two before. My health is excellent now and I am getting along and enjoying life well as ever and look forward with a high hope that this war will soon close and I will be permitted to return home. I am glad Sallie had a pleasant time in vacation. If I could only have been there what a happy time we would have had! I got a letter from here a day or two ago and am much pleased with the studies that she is pursuing and hope and believe she is improving her time well. I should be very unhappy if she did not. I am glad Liz received her present for I feared it might be mis-carried.

We are still camped in the place from which I last wrote and have built a fort here for our protection so though we are camped 7 miles in front of the rest of the forces,

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we don't fear the Rebs for we are well prepared for them and they don't come near us except occasionally a few deserters come in. Even the rebel officers are deserting and coming over to us. If our army were so demoralized, I should think our cause hopeless and I think they will soon give it up.

Hill has been quite sick but is about well again. Shearer's rheumatism is much better. The rest of the boys are all well.

Since we came to this camp we have had meeting every night and the moral condition of the Reg. is very much improved. Have you heard anything from Aunt Rachel lately?

My love to you all and all inquiring friends.

Your affectionate son,

Thomas.

Joseph & Margaret E.