

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.
Thibodaux La. March 3/64

Dear Father

Your letters of the 13th & 20th Feb. found me busily engaged making out my company muster rolls & consequently I could not answer them at once.

I advised you in regard to my draft in favor of Mr. Shields at least a week before he sailed for home. The letter must have miscarried. I have drawn on you for (\$10) Ten dollars in favor of Amos Hark, which I was obliged to do as I was in N.O. to get mustered as Captain & could get no money from the Pay master, consequently had to borrow this amount to pay my board. I hope this will be the last draft I shall draw & that I may soon be in a position to send some money home. I live on almost nothing at all as my pay is not yet forth coming.

There is no news of any consequence from this Deptmt. There is a large force concentrating at Franklin, probably to move against Texas. Comm. Farragut is pounding away at Mobile & manages to keep them pretty well stirred up. We have no advices from Texas. We are in daily expectation of marching orders & may move at any moment altho' we may be left to guard this country which I hope will be the case.

We have had a spell of cold & rainy weather of about a week's duration. It has now cleared off warm & beautiful. The planters are afraid that the cane which has been planted is frozen & will not come up. This would be the ruin of a great many of them if it should prove true, as nearly all lost largely by last years crop of sugar which did not turn out near as well as was expected.

In regard to my writing. I write as a general thing twice a week, unless some company return has to be made out which occurs pretty often, & keeps me busy, as I have to look after those things myself or they all go wrong. I received a paper (sent by you may be a month ago) in this last mail, & also letters from friends of mine mailed Feb. 3d reached me day before yesterday. As I have written before there is no regularity in the soldiers' mails & they must not expect to get ½ of the letters sent to them. In assorting the mail at the post office they often get the letters for different regiments mixed & sent off. We have received here letters directed to Washington D.C. & Morris Island, S.C. which will show how particular they are in the assorting. I suppose it is the same way in regard to letters sent from here.

We expect Genl. Birge back here every day, so we suppose he left New York about the 25th Feb. & ought to be here by this time.

Sorry to have nothing of interest to write & that this letter is so short.

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.

Love to all