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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1862 March 2

Thomas W. Cahill

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Ship Island Mississippi March 2^d 1862

My Dear Wife Hence more take up the line of communication with Home distant - Home what Ideas the word brings up; well all is well with us at this time and tomorrow that long looked for Pay Day will arrive "Glad Tidings of Great Joy"

The last week has been one of great effort to me I have had charge of the mustering of my own Regiment for the ^{for Payment of} Muster of 28th of February; On the Muster of 31st December they were mustered by Brig^d Genl Phelps and of course all the papers were made out strictly according to his directions and under his personal supervision and the duplicate copies required by the "regulations" were by him forwarded to Washington; these were sent by the "Rhode Island" about the 8th of January; and the Paymasters left Washington about the first of February but they brought none of the Muster Rolls prepared with such labor and care with them so that we were obliged to go through all the labor prior to the 31st of December and ~~at the same time~~ when we had gone ^{through} with that; the Paymasters and the Genl got into a Clash about the form in which the December Rolls were made out; and after wasting some days in a bootless discussion it was finally agreed that I should muster the ~~Regt~~ myself for the 28th of February; and have the rolls made out to suit them; and as stated above I have just finished this labor; and tomorrow "Glad Tidings" March 3^d the men will be

Paid: and in the Aggregate the Regiment will be
a very large sum I cannot name the precise
amount as I have not yet seen the footings of
the Pay Rolls; but I think it will reach forty
thousand dollars as there is 5 months pay due the
men: Now then comes the next serious trouble
these Paymasters have not brought down their
Allotment Rolls which were made out and
forwarded to M^r Charley both from Camp Cha-
se and from Fortress Monroe, the only Roll
they have with them is the one with the names
of Capt Garveys Company B. it being the
one M^r Charley spoke of in his letter to me
as having the names and the mens signatures
all in the same handwriting; and therefore in
his opinion and also in mine incorrect: Now then
these Paymasters are going on to pay these men
without reference to the allotment Rolls: that is they
will pay the men all that is coming to them
and it is perfectly discretionary with the men
what they do with their money when they get it
fortunately Adams Express Co have opened
an Office here in the nick of time and those
that choose can forward their money to their families
or friends or for deposit; but what I fear
is that the distance may render them careless about
sending it home and that they may waste it here
however we must hope that their better feelings
may pre dominate; I shall do my best to make

them send it home And Father Mullen made
 a very Eloquent and feeling Address to them at
 my request this morning which I think will have a
 good effect I am very anxious to have them sen
 c their money and send it home; I cannot under
 stand what has become of the Allocated rolls
 Nothing particularly worthy of mention has occurred
 here since my last; The 12th Maine and The Eastern B.S.
 Reg^t with the Cavalry Companies have not yet recovered from the
 Effects of their long Confinement on board ship; I don't
 know what they would have done with themselves if
 they had to go through with the same amount of
hardship and labor which we did on our
 arrival on this sand Bank; instead of having
 every thing prepared for them (convenience after
 our three months labors; they have a great many
 sick the 12th Maine report "193" one hundred and
 ninety three sick every day since they landed &
 this was a much talked of hardy Reg^t the best of
 the State of Maine as being the tallest the best
 looking and the hardiest ^{and the most labor} most robust, Regiment
 which has left the New England States; I have
 learned to value such boastings at their just value
 and when I look over the files of Papers from home
 and read the tremendous blowing of horns wh
 ich is being made over some of the Regiments about
 to leave; I am forced to smile at how little they
 they know about what they are talking about
 and these are all splendidly Equipped Regiments

While our Men have suffered all sorts of privations
 for Clothing not a yard of which has yet
 Arrived and we have a sick list of only
 "21" twenty one, and only nine in Hospital and
 none of them serious Cases: Well beily if ^{man}
 has frowned upon us the Lord has favored us
 and if we had our Clothing and 200 recruits
 I should feel inclined to board a little
 My self,

Monday March 2^d 1862 4 P.M.

The promised payment was not made to day the weather
 yesterday morning was so warm as to be quite oppressive to me
 while going through the inspection of the Regiment but dur
 ing the afternoon and evening came up one of those
 thunder storms of this climate and it poured down
 a solid mass of water until near morning when the wind
 came out from the northward and has blown a gale
 all day and it has been the coldest day of the season
 so the paymasters did not get to work but if the
 wind goes down they will commence to morrow
 and I hope we will be all ready with the recruits
ances when the "Rhode Island" touches here on
 her way up the Coast with the return mail
 when the money will go home in a lump, the Express
 Charges are for sums of 15,00 and under 25 ^{cts} 15 to 30 dollars 50 ^{cts}
 30 to 50 dollars 75 ^{cts} 50 to 75 Dollars 1,00, 75 to 100, 1,25 100 to
 150 150, 150 to 200 4,00, for larger sums 1 per cent,
 these are the Express Charges if it be desired to insure
 the money against sea risks they charge one per cent
 additional this costs something being equal to about
 2 1/2 per cent on the small amounts but the men seem
 to be very well satisfied and I have strong hopes
 that a large amount of money will be sent home as
 there seems to be a very generous feeling in the Camp