

1

Headquarters 3rd Reg. Ky. S.

Camp Collier,

Lexington, Ky

May 20 1898

Mr. L. W. Thomas

Bowling Green, Ky

My dear Mother,

You have seen from the papers what progress is being made in mustering the State Guard into service. Most of us have reached a point where we would prefer a charge even if it were attended with danger. Personally I am getting along nicely, but it would be much better for a bar man to be out in the field under canvas. If we are compelled to remain here much longer the stables, where our regiment is quartered, will become unbearable and unhealthy for lack of sunlight in the stalls. Lexington is a ~~very~~ ^{pretty} town and has many

(2)

elegant homes. Those of General Preston and John Morgan are very attractive. The people are kind and pleasant, but they do not seem to measure up to the intellectual standard of towns in western Kentucky. You will remember that Uncle Eph once said they had deteriorated mentally & morally. I received the packages sent by Mr. Munkle and appreciated the things they contained. The bread was very good, and the needle cases & pin cushions not only handsome but very useful. I distributed them where I thought they would be appreciated. Please let me know who Mrs. Jameson is and I will write her a note of thanks. It was certainly very kind of her to make

(3)

them.

As yet we have had no special religious service in camp. Last evening we opened a the G. M. C. A. tent with religious services and had a large attendance. It will be of great help to the chaplains to have these tents and their secretaries along.

Mr Gladstone's life fittingly closed with a grand Amen "So let it be". I question whether the English race has ever produced a greater man measuring him from every standpoint of his personality. He has entered into Light. It is likely that I will go to Frankfort this afternoon to intercede with Gov. Bradley in behalf of Capt John Melord, Jr. He has been acting very

(4)

badly since coming here. Personally he
deserves the severest censure, but I feel
very sorry for his company, for Latham
for whom it is named, and the town
of Hopkinsville. However I shall be
guided by what the staff thinks of
the matter. What infinite harm one man
can do by getting drunk and failing to
perform his duties! Do not speak of these
things outside of the family.

Please hunt up Finley's History of Logan
County. It is an old pamphlet and is the
numbered one (1). The other pamphlet
on the History of Logan belongs to me. Please
mail No. 1 to Mr Finley at Russell
ville. I promised to return it to him and
was so hurried about leaving home that
I overlooked it.

(5)

The Methodist preachers in the city have
been very kind in offering me
their churches to hold service in.
If it is impossible to hold service in camp
Sunday I may preach at Hill St
church Sunday morning.

It is probable that the first company of
the Third Regiment will be mustered
into service and by the time next
week we may be on our way to
Washington, Chickamauga, or Tampa,
or Manila, or elsewhere.

Give my love to the members of
the family & tell them I write to
me.

Your devoted son
Frank M. Johnson

2

Camp Collier
Lexington, Ky

May 25 1878.

Mrs L. W. Thomas
Bowling Green Ky

My dear Mother,

I was glad to get your letter, though I regret that you were so much depressed last Sunday. You must try to exercise more faith in His Providence and power to keep His children.

I was examined yesterday by the surgeons and they were unable to note any defects. The whole staff passed, though some defect ~~was~~ was noted against several. It is likely that I will not be mustered in until Friday or Saturday. The Colonel and Chaplain and the Capt to take the oath of allegiance. Hence I am not sure that I will have a chance to come

(2)

Home in the regiment is ordered away. We have no intimation as to our destination. The Second Regiment leaves at noon for Chickamauga and we may follow Monday or Tuesday. Yesterday afternoon I witnessed a most impressive sight the presentation of commissions to the officers of the 2nd by Gov. Bradley. There is a description of it in the paper I mail herewith.

Later in the evening I enjoyed a most delightful ride with Mr & Mrs Milward out to the water-works, an enchanting place with its lakes stretching out in the beautiful landscape. Mr & Mrs M. have been most kind to me. I dined there last Sunday, after preaching at Hill St Church.

(3)

You ask me what I think of the bishops recently elected. They are well equipped for their high office. Dr. Rose was my choice, yet I question whether he is not of more service to the church in the editors chair. If he tires he will undoubtedly be made bishop four years hence. The conference elected a splendid lot of officers all around & settled the wangleish question beyond shadow of controversy.

Dr. Cardin is a man of very high order of ability & will make a good bishop.

Dr. Morrison ~~was~~ very much beloved by the preachers on account of his love and sympathy for them. Though lacking in scholarly qualifications he will fill the office nobly.

Colonel Smith tells me that I can

(4)

Have that blue fatigue coat which is at
 Aunt Ellis. I tried it on a week before
 I left. Please get it, take off the brass
 buttons and put on plain black ones cloth
 preferred. I will use it to lie
 around in. My regular chaplain's
 uniform came yesterday. It is a handsome
 piece of serge and very suitable for summer
 wear. The whole suit coat & pants cost
 me \$18⁰⁰.

I will let you hear from ^{me} often. I will
 write to Mrs. Jameson to day & to-morrow.
 Ask Tom why he does not answer my
 letter. I suppose that he is busy in
 court.

With much love,

Your devoted son -
 Frank M. Thomas

3

Camp Collier
Lexington, Ky
May 26th 1898.

Mr. Thos. W. Thomas,
Bowling Green, Ky

Dear Tom:

Your kind letter was received yesterday. I wish that you would place twenty five dollars to my credit. I may have to draw on it ere we get away. The mustering of the Third will be completed to-morrow and we will likely leave Monday or Tuesday - rumor says to Washington. Can you not come up and spend Sunday with us. We have an extra cot and plenty of room. It seems very unlikely that I can come home ere we leave. I will not be mustered until to-morrow & must preach to the boys on Sunday.

The going away of the Second regiment

(2)

on yesterday was a most impressive sight.

Today I met one of the famous Redd brothers - the fox hunters. He asked me to go out home with him next Sunday but that will be impossible.

Tell mother to send my clothes bag along with the coach. If you come up bring them with you.

I hope that Richard will not try to get in on this second call. Politics will be a big factor in the make-up of the regiments. Beside there is no necessity for his going. ~~Now~~ I am still undecided about a horse owing to the uncertainty of our destination. But keep your eye open - I might wire you to send one. How the little black would lance up Pennsylvania avenue!

(3)

I have been quite busy the week at one thing and another. We have had considerable sickness among the boys and I have been going to the hospitals.

Tell mother that I met Mr. Ed DeLong to-day. He seemed pleased to meet Miss Lizzie's son and asked me up to his house.

Come up if you can. You will very likely see our destination from Saturday morning's paper & can determine whether to see us at Lexington, Chuckanunga or Washington.

I did not send the film. Had the pictures developed here. Most of them ruined from some cause. Much close. With love to all.

Your devoted brother -
Frank M. Thomas

4
Headquarters 3rd Ky Vol Infy
Camp Hamilton,
Lexington, Ky
Oct 2 / 1878.

My dear Mother, No fear that you may be worried about me I write to say that I am getting along nicely and managing to keep warm. We have had some awful weather, wind, rain and snow. I had to get ~~it~~ up at two o'clock yesterday morning and peg my tent down. My little oil stove keeps my tent quite snug and warm. It has been quite hard on the men, many of whom have only two blankets and but little fire. In all probability we will leave here in the next ten or twelve days for Columbus, Ga. We have sent a detachment already ahead to lay out the camp and prepare for us. Tell Richard to hurry up with my shoes if he has not already sent them. I would also like the rest to my Sunday suit and my ivory shaving brush if it can be found. I am still making progress with my book, and about ready to begin on a new chapter. Tell Miss Sadie that I met an old friend of hers the other day - a Mrs Fletcher, who was a Miss Bright. They were room-mates at school I believe. Tell Tom that if he is coming up that he had better come quick - With much love,

Your devoted son -
Frank M. Thomas

Headquarters 3rd Ky. Vol. Infy.⁵
Camp Hamilton,
Lexington, Ky
Nov 4th 1898.

Mrs. L. W. Thomas

My dear Mother,

I regret very much that I will be unable to visit home ere our departure for the South. In all probability we will leave here about next Wednesday, I hope on the L & N, which will at least give us a glimpse of Bowling Green.

I wish to come home about Christmas in the event that we do not go to Cuba before that time. I am making such good progress with my book that I need to do some more local studying. I am glad that you wrote me about the organization of the "Orphan Bugle". I shall incorporate that into the part which treats of the war.

Last Monday I dined with Mr. Bassett's family, my new found kinpeople. We are surely related. They have an elegant home, and I spent a most pleasant evening. Tell Richard that I met his old friend Miss Spurr the other afternoon. It seems that she has been helping over at the division hospital. I was going through one afternoon & she took me for Major Freeman, the surgeon-in-charge. I carried the joke out for some time & when she found out who I was she was terribly embarrassed. I have seen her once or twice since & have a good laugh over her mistake. Her family is very wealthy & she seems

(2)

Wk a very fine young woman.

Yesterday we had a great "burgoo" dinner, given to the Third Ky, 160th Indiana and the officers of the division. It was largely attended by many who had never seen such a thing and ^{they} were back in their praise of Kentucky hospitality.

Stan has been worried about my horse. Only within the last three days has his foot commenced to improve. I was afraid that he was permanently injured. The veterinarian says that he will be all right. He has ceased to walk lame & is finely shod with a pair of rubber shoes. I anticipate no further trouble.

We now have our new G.M.B. tent up & last Wednesday evening had a tent warming. The place was packed. Dr. Stucky of Lexington made a Gospel talk & I called for men who would pledge themselves to lead a Christian life. Thirty-nine came up. We have service again to night.

I am getting back to the good health I enjoyed before Conference. I will write again in a few days. Had a nice letter from Miss Adie, and also one from Mrs. Rogers.

With much love,

Your devoted son,
Frank M. Thomas

Headquarters 3rd Ky. Inf. Div.

Pullman Palace Car. 'Gleora'

Near Montgomery, Ala

Nov. 13th 1898.

10:30 am.

My dear Mother,

We are lying on the track of the Alabama and Georgia Ry. just east of Montgomery. From the car window we can see the dome of the white capitol, where in February '61 Jefferson Davis was inaugurated President of the Confederate States. We arrived here about two hours ago after an uneventful trip, though I understand that one or two men are missing. Just before reaching Nashville a colored cook was killed by falling between two cars. I have heard that he had been drinking. This is the curse of the army as well as of society in general.

The boys speak in the highest terms of the treatment accorded to them by the people of Bowling Green. It certainly was a gracious spread. It made still more proud of the city I hold dear above all other places. I

Box 3, Folder 1

did not sleep well last night on account
 of the car being too warmly heated, and
 lay awake for some time thinking how
 grateful I ought to be for having been born
 among such kindly people, but above all
 for having been blessed with such a father and
 a mother and two noble brothers.
 I do not think the country even looked half
 so beautiful as we rolled through Warren
 Southward. The autumn foliage was rich
 beyond description. Each woodland seemed
 a veritable flower garden, where gigantic crimson
 and yellow blossoms were massed against
 the sky. Even the scrub oaks had varnished
 their leaves for gorgeous robes, and smiling
 seemed to say, "Here is a nosegay, come and get
 it." At this point of latitude the frost
 has fallen lightly and the trees are still
 dashed with bristling green.
 We will reach Columbus about four this after-
 noon. I am afraid that will have a bad
 day for unloading, - It is so rainy and disagree-

(3)

able outside.

I failed to leave that head-ache remedy with you but will mail it from Columbus. I believe it will do you good. Do not take too strong a whiff of it at first, ^{for} it is quite pungent.

I found the lunch you had prepared most tempting and palatable. I fed a part of the staff with it at supper and have enough left for one or two meals. What would earth do without its mothers?

I wish that you and Aunt Ella could visit us in Columbus. We would try to make it pleasant for you. Uncle Tom says that you two ought to come down. You have never been very far South and I am sure that you would enjoy it.

I suppose you found my note-book in one of the baskets. Please put it away with the other one in my trunk. The shells I picked up for you the last morning we were in Newport News. They were very beautiful as they caught the iridescent play of the sunrise.

4. You will also enjoy the sketch of Professor
 Drummond in his last book of sermons. That
 a rare and wonderful personality he was!
 In the magazine "Book-Buyer" you will find an
 interesting sketch of Tolstoi. Lucien Kule comple-
 ments my style by saying that it belongs
 to the Russian School - strong, simple, vivid,
 clear.

As the train has commenced to move, I will have
 to close on account of its motion. With love
 to all,

Your devoted son -

Frank H. Thomas

P.S. It is likely that we will remain on the
 train to night on account of arriving so
 late and the bad weather.

MSS. 31
 SERIES
 BOX 31

Headquarters 3rd Ky. Inf. Regt. -
Camp Concord,
Columbus, Ga
Nov 26th 1898.

My dear Mother,

Your letter came last evening at the close of what had been to me one of the most enjoyable days of my life. Colonel Smith can tell you where and how we were entertained in a style that only the South could furnish. Had your letter been unaccompanied I confess that it would have been a sad ending to a glorious day. There was another letter lying beside it when I entered my tent. It was not a fair feminine hand, as you doubtless imagine, but a short business note from a bank in Lexington telling me that one hundred (\$100⁰⁰) dollars, great big, hard earned American dollars that represented days of discomfort and weariness in camp, and which had disappeared somewhere in the books of that institution had been found and placed under my name. Tom will explain to you how the money disappeared. I was not aware that there was any trouble ~~when~~ until two days before I left Lexington, and when I ascertained that there was no apparent trace of the money, I came South with a heavy, heavy heart. What transpired at Conference, the serious condition of my noble horse, the loss of the money coupled with a few other annoyances almost took the heart out of me. I had been so anxious to wipe out a note of \$250⁰⁰ against me which Tom has been so kindly looking after, that

(2)

I felt as if I were the sport of Fate. Had I been guilty of evil practices in the past, had my life been spent out of accord with God, I would not have taken it so hard. But I saw men about me, blasphemers and debauchees with their rolls of money ending ^{some} home, and I who had tried so hard to do my duty, could only stand by and question the meaning of Providence. I realized that I had made a mistake in my method of drawing the exchange to send Tom, and yet felt that somehow Providence ought to have protected me especially when so much was involved. I felt deep within my heart that God would take care of me and bring things all right at last, but there was the note to be paid and the memory of how nobly Tom had stood by me all through the years and I was anxious to relieve the pressure on his shoulders. My heart was ground between these thoughts like corn between the upper and nether mill-stone. However my faith never wavered. Long ago I made up my mind that though it should slay me, yet would I trust Him; and last night the letter announcing the good news fell like a message from Heaven. "Be it unto you according to your faith". My dear mother, I know that you have prayed much in your life, anxiously beseeching, but as the element of child-like faith entered as fully into

(3)

your petitions as He might have done. I do not say this to chide
 or find fault, for you have been everything true in this world, but I say
 this to help you on in the struggle of life. The essence - the secret
 of Christianity is faith. Men and women who have laid violent
 hands on the kingdom of God by means of faith have worked
 wonders and wrought righteousness. The environment of our
 home, while the rest of Lones, has not been calculated to produce
 a vital and living faith. We have all been so blessed in the
 matter of ancestry and comfort that when sorrow has come
 in, we have looked upon it as an intrusion of God. I realize
 fully that you have had many and great burdens and much to
 disquiet you, that your delicately poised nature has been responsive
 to every shadow, yet you must confess that the hand of God
 has led you on your way. How different it might have been.
 Shame and disgrace have not heaped on your hearth-stone, and
 while sorrow and pain have rested there, a Storm which you
 could not see was also there commanding the agencies of your
 trials - "Thus far and no farther!" As I look back to that
 home in the wilderness, where Ann Cummings read in simple
 faith her Scotch Bible, and I see a long line of light following
 her descendants down to the close of the century. True the line
 seems quenched in a few places & glows more beautifully in other
 spots, but still this even "a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar

P.S. The newspaper clipping you ask for is not worth
 (4) pursuing. I was embarrassed by its appearance
 & knew nothing of it. The reporter obtained the facts
 from Capt. Davis, who laid out the camp, and is a
 warm friend of mine.

"I live by night." And some day when we view it from the portals
 of ~~the Grand City~~ that mansion in the city of our Father's House, we
 shall see it through all its length one undimmed radiance.
 I had no intention of writing such a letter when I sat down. My
 main purpose was to persuade you to make me a visit. It
 has been in my heart and mind for a long time, but the unfor-
 tunate misplacement of that money caused me to feel that
 I could not propose it unless I was in a position to pay
 all of your expenses. Nothing would give me more pleasure
 than have you spend two weeks here amid these Southern
 hills and their delightful inhabitants. Make your arrangements to
 come down with Colonel Smith and I am sure that you will
 remember it as one of the events of your life. There is no
 reason why you should not come. It is a short trip. You
 can leave Bowling Green at night and arrive here the next morn-
 ing at three o'clock. I am as anxious for you to come, as I was
 when you thought of visiting me at San Diego. Now it is the
 South, your own beloved Southland with its great hearted people.
 You owe it to your "wondering" son to leave those "three old
 coons" that are afraid to venture far from their nest and visit
 for awhile the lad whom the tide of war casts hither and thither.
 With much love,

Your devoted son,
 Frank M. Thomas

8
Headquarters 3rd Ky. Vol. Infy
Camp Conrad,
Columbus, Ga
Dec 12 1898.

My dear Mother,

Your gentle letter of reproach received this morning, and though quite busy I hasten to reply. I fully intended to write to you last week but was kept unusually busy by inspections, reviews etc. On Friday I was suffering with a severe bilious headache and cold, due to getting chilled on inspection by Gen. Wadsworth, and also I suppose to too freely indulging in the elegant dinners and suppers I have had set before me since my arrival in Columbus.

The people here have been excessively kind to me and I have had more invitations than I could accept.

Yesterday I preached at St. Luke's Methodist Church, and though slightly hoarse managed to edify the very large and attentive congregation. I enclose a slip to show how my ministrations were received the Sunday previous in Phoenix city, just across the river from Columbus.

Last Tuesday the brigade marched through Columbus and the little black caught the eye of the thousands assembled to see the troops pass by. In the most populous part of the city the band struck up "My Old Kentucky Home" and up his feet went into the air and how he danced while the crowd looked on in wonder. Nearly everybody

(2)

in Columbus is talking about the chaplain's horse. His foot is about well, and he is in fine brims and spirits. As to our Cuban trip we know nothing definite, save that preparations for it go on actively.

I'm more anxious than ever for you to come down. My friends here would treat you nicely, and the rail ~~roads~~ would sell you half-fare both ways. Beside I will pay all of your expenses. You can leave B.G. at six in the morning and arrive here at 9:30 in the evening, or leave at 11 at night and arrive here at 3:40 the next day.

I will look around and see what I can get you in the way of Christmas decorations. I am sure that I can secure some cotton-bolls for you.

Please excuse this scrawl as I am quite busy this morning fixing up the accounts of the regimental staff. I had a gentleman from B.G. employed in it in order to help him and his family, but found for several reasons that I could not keep him.

I will write you again in a day or two.

With much love

I received and enjoyed
Tom's letter.

Your devoted son
Frank M. Thomas

9

Headquarters 3rd Reg. Col. Infy
Camp Conrad,
Columbus, Ga
Dec 23rd 1898.

My dear Mother,

I had hoped until to-day
that I would be able to spend Christmas
with you at home, but the uncertainty of
the regiment being mustered out is so great
that I deem it unwise to incur such
an expense and then return home in a
few weeks. Moreover I feel that just
at such a time my presence is needed
here. A minister should be with his flock
when danger is near, and the holiday season
is one of peril to everybody, especially to
soldiers. The ~~boys~~ boys in the Hospital
will need cheering up on Christmas morning.
I trust that you will all have a serene
season at home. Though absent in the
flesh I will be with you in the spirit.
I send you by to-days express a
box, containing some Spanish moss, holly
and cotton. If you will pluck the

(2)

bolls of the last gently you can pull
the cotton out. I send it to you, though
you can use it in the church if you
think best.

I am still meeting many kindly people
who promise to make the holidays
pleasant for me. I would much
prefer being with you, Uncle Wm and
my brothers by the family fireside.
Still I am thankful that I have
such a home, and hope to spend many
happy days there in the future.

I have recovered from my indisposition
and feel about as well as ever. Give
my love and Christmas cheer to all. It is
a glad time. In all of earth's dark
places there is cast the radiance of the
glorious Person of Christ -

Your devoted son,
Frank M. Thomas

Box 3, Folder 1

10

Young Men's Christian Association Tent.


READING TABLES, GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE
FACILITIES, RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

PROVIDED BY THE

State Executive Committee, Kentucky Young Men's Christian Associations.

OFFICE: FOURTH AVENUE AND BROADWAY, LOUISVILLE, KY.

The Expenses of this Work are Borne Entirely by
Voluntary Contributions. Checks may be made pay-
able to
VAL P. COLLINS, Treas.,
Fourth and Broadway, Louisville, Ky.




**YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN
THE UNITED STATES.**
1,582 Associations; 250,000 members.
500 buildings owned; value \$18,000,000.
30 Associations in Kentucky; mem-
bership 5,000.

AGENCIES EMPLOYED.
SOCIAL—Reception, Social Parliors,
Entertainments, Games.
EDUCATIONAL—Reading Rooms,
Educational Classes, Practical
Talks, Lectures, Debating Societies.
PHYSICAL—Gymnasiums, Baths,
Athletics.
RELIGIOUS—Young Men's Meet-
ings, Bible and Training Classes.

**ARMY ASSOCIATION,
KENTUCKY VOLUNTEERS.**

Camp Conrad, Columbus, Ga
Dec. 28th 1898




My dear Mother,

I have been desiring to write you ever since Christmas day. It seemed rather strange for me to be spending it among strangers. It was an ideal day—full of rich Southern sunshine. I preached at St Paul's Methodist church in the morning to a seemingly well-pleased congregation and at night to the regiment.

I received the box containing the sweet meats and pair of gloves. The candy was delicious and the gloves smooth and finely finished. I appreciated very much your kind remembrance. I received two or three very nice presents in the shape of books and cards. I ate two Christmas dinners, one on Sunday at Mr. Fletcher, and another at Mr. Lumsden.

Box 3, Folder 1



**YOUNG MEN'S
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THE UNITED STATES.**
1,362 Associations; 250,000 members.
339 buildings owned; value \$18,000,000.
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Young Men's Christian Association Tent.

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Fourth and Broadway, Louisville, Ky.

**ARMY ASSOCIATION,
KENTUCKY VOLUNTEERS.**



Camp _____

189 _____

The letter is from Brooklyn Ky but has
been here for several years engaged in manu-
facturing cotton gins. To-day I am invi-
ted to dine at Mrs Gray and bring with
me three private soldiers - I shall carry
one from each battalion - Jim Hobson from
the Second.

There are plenty I suppose as to our mar-
ments but nothing definite. I find that
I acted wisely in staying with the
regiment this week. I have been of
some help to the boys in various ways.
Ward Chief is quite ill with pneumonia.
I have just written to his wife -
will write you again shortly -

Your devoted son
Frank M Thomas

11

Headquarters 3rd Ky. Vol. Infly
Camp Concord.
Columbus, Ga

Dec 30th 1878

My dear Mother, I trust that the close of the old year finds you enjoying good health, with a serene outlook toward the future. It finds me anticipating a trip to Cuba. Last evening, Genl Wiley received orders to prepare the 160th Indiana and the 3rd Ky. for an early departure. Of course we may not go, but some present indications do not much surprise me if the middle of January finds us on the island. We have been shipped around so much that we are not giving the trip very much thought save to get ready.

We have had most delightful weather all during this week - warm balmy days that reminded me of Southern California weather. On Thursday I dined in one of the finest old mansions in this section of the country - situated in the midst of a grove - the porch running about three sides of the house and formed of twigs of fourteen immense Corinthian columns which rise from the ground to the roof. The rooms were all decorated in white and the wood-work being very much carved to match the superb mantels of snowy marble. But as elegant as the home is, the dinner was superb, everything cooked so well and served so nicely.

In the morning I go on to Phoenix city to preach a

(2)

New Year Sermon for Bro Bayd, who was formerly a member of the Louisville Conference. I will preach from the text, "Behold, I make all things new" - the promise of the reformation of the world.

I have met a family here that knew Uncle Alex's family in Mississippi & in fact were quite intimate with them. As there is a charming young lady in the household I will try to cultivate their acquaintance in the short time left me - ! I will write you again, just as soon as we get definite order to leave.

Either this evening or Friday I will mail you some views of Camp Conrad. One of them is ^a beautiful picture of the kind as I have ever seen, and I am sure that you will enjoy looking at it.

I must close as it is now, and I have many things to attend to this afternoon - With love to all,

Your devoted son -

Frank M. Thomas -

P.S. I suppose you saw what Sam Small said about army chaplains. I am afraid Sam always wants a sensation (or he cannot exist). From my experience I see a vast and responsible field of work for a man associated with so many men. Ask Sam if he got my letter, containing draft -

Box 3, Folder 1

Camp Conrad. Ga ¹²
Jan. 11th 1899

Dear Mother, We are still in Columbus,
The overland path is scheduled to
arrive to. monow. I will
write or wire you the moment
we leave.
The weather here is exceedingly
disagreeable - cold & wet. We
are anxious to get out of it -
either to Cuba or back home. My
own health keeps good. I am
weigh 147 lbs. I am sorry
that the Admiral is living so
closely to his destroying two
clivies. Yours
your devoted son
Frank

Box 3, Folder 1



Box 3, Folder 1

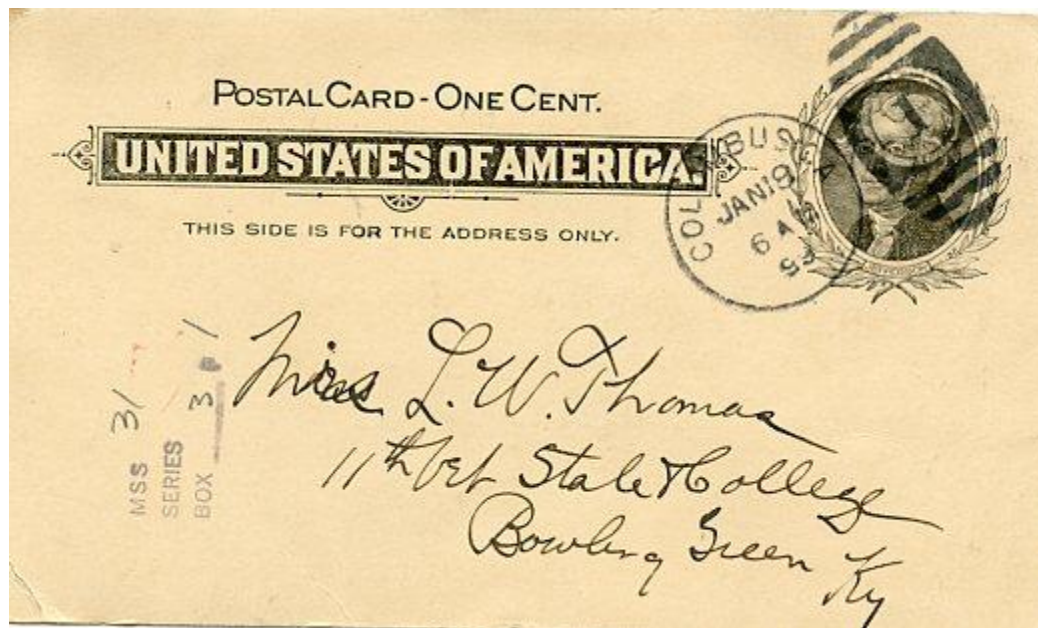
13
Camp Comad. Ga
Jan 17/1899

My dear Mother

We are now
breaking camp & expect to
leave in a few hours for
Savannah. Sam well
and the boys are in good
spirits. I shall probably
we will sail to-morrow
on the Minnewaska - a very
large transport -
Write to me at Matanzas -
With much love. In
haste -

Your devoted son -
Frank M. Thomas

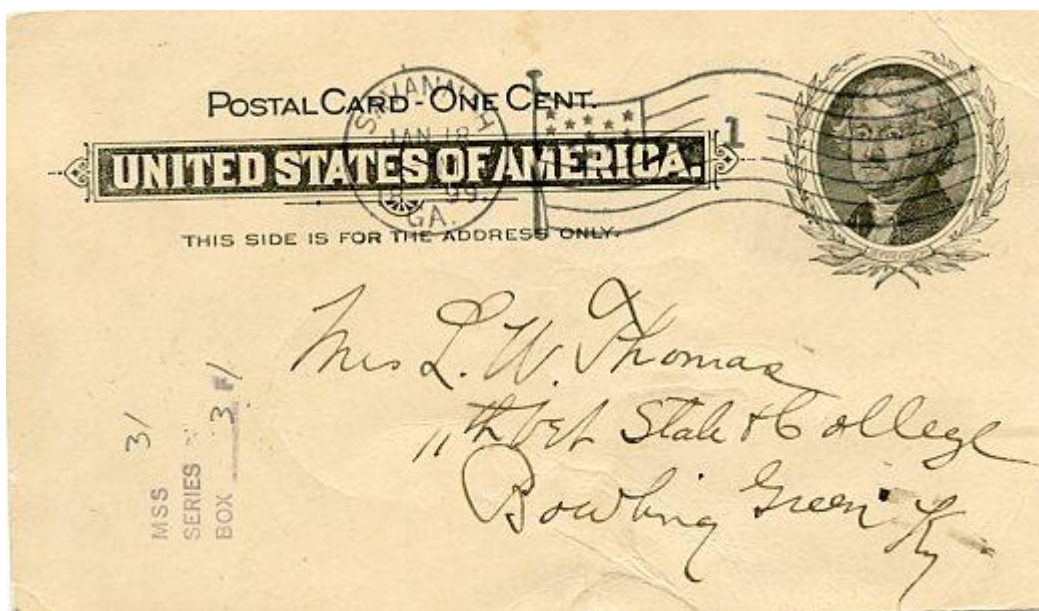
Box 3, Folder 1



Box 3, Folder 1

Savannah. Ga ¹⁴
 Jan 18th, 1899.
 Dear Mother, 8 A.M.
 We are now
 lying in the rail-road
 yards awaiting orders to
 go to the docks. In all
 probability we will sail
 this coming a to-morrow
 morning. If I get a
 chance will drop you
 another postal. I can
 see Savannah dimly thro
 the mists - a city of church
 spires and the masts of
 many vessels - all I
 will - Your devoted son,
 Frank M. Thomas

Box 3, Folder 1



Headquarters 3rd Ky. Vol. Infantry ¹⁵
 Aboard Transport "Minnewacka"
 Off Coast of Florida. Jan 19th 1889.
 Mrs L. W. Thomas
 Bowling Green Ky
 My dear Mother.

It is now eight o'clock P.M. and you can judge that I have not been very ill, as I would not now be writing. To-day has been a perfect one for a sea-voyage - calm and bright, in fact ever since leaving Columbus the weather has favored. You can judge by the paper I sent that we had a great oration on our departure from that kindly city. I have just drafted some resolutions for be adopted by our officers, and then sent to the people of Columbus.

We spent yesterday in Savannah leaving there at 11:30 P.M. I had an opportunity to get a glimpse of the city and was much impressed by its beauty. It is decidedly English in appearance and its constant contact with English vessels serves to keep up the appearance. I thought of the two lonely and character developing years John Wesley spent here, and felt that I had been brought nearer to his immortal spirit. My old class-mate Cogswold Cook, with his wife, came down to the steamer, and enjoyed his fellowship for an hour or so.

We are travelling in an immense steamer. She is 465 feet long on the water line and fifty feet

Box 3, Folder 1

My horse is standing the trip finely. This morning he looked a little sleepy but to-night is wide-awake and trying to bite his next-door neighbor. Most of our boys are standing the trip well, though a few cling close to their hammocks.

I would attempt to give you some description of the sea, but as I intend writing a letter to the Central Methodist Advocate this morning I will reserve my descriptive powers for a more elaborate article.

I have purchased a Spanish sword for you. It is from the battlefield of San Juan and was gotten there by one of the petty officers of this vessel, which arrived there soon after the fight. I will send it back by the steamer.

11 A.M. We are now skirting the southern coast of Florida. Off to our left is a large steamer also going South, while on our right a starboard are the trees and white sand of the coast, marked here and there by a snowy light-house. We are in the Gulf Stream and the water is a deep-blue, almost black.

Friday evening Jan 20 1899 - 5 P.M. This brings us to the close of another beautiful day. Since dinner we have sighted many vessels all going South. We expect to reach Matanzas some time to-night. Tomorrow I will write you just as soon as we get settled in camp. All of our boys are well with the exception a few cases of sea-sickness. With much love.

Box 3, Folder 1

Headquarters 3rd Ky. Vol. Infy -
 Head Sh. "Ginneweeka"

Matanzas Harbor -
 Jan 26th 1899.

My dear Mother,

Colonel Smith and most of his staff are still living on ship board. The regiment has been ordered divided - the first Battalion to go to Union, the second to Cardenas, and the third to Colon. Headquarters will go to Cardenas. I will try to spend my time between the three places - one of the first circuit riders in Cuba. I had a very nice letter from Bishop Granberry a few days ago, in which he relieved me of all connection with the Bowling Green Church and appointed me chaplain in the volunteer service. I wrote him while at Columbus stating that my regiment was ordered to Cuba, and to do whatever he deemed best. That I did not like to be placed in the attitude of leaving a church, when I was in reality at work elsewhere.

I also received Tom's letter Saturday evening and was much pleased with his notes on things at home. Your letter was forwarded from Columbus and I got it yesterday. It was rather amusing to read that you did not think we would reach Cuba on account of Dr. Cloudy. As I read it I looked out over

2)
 The blue waters, the green hills, the many colored
 houses of Matanzas, the soft Southern sky
 and satisfied myself that I was in Cuba.
 Though here but a few days, I have seen much
 to interest me. Everything is so different from
 what it is in the United States. The buildings are
 all of the Roman style, with large coach in the
 center, forbidding on the outside, but attractive
 and inviting within. The people seem careless
 and apathetic, though you see many handsome
 faces both among men and women.

I happened to ride into the city Sunday afternoon
 when the three days celebration of liberty was
 drawing to a close. There was quite a procession
 of men and women on horseback. Cuban generals and
 several beautiful floats highly decorated and
 bearing the chief branches of the city. Yesterday
 the four regiment encamped here paraded
 the principal streets in order, I suppose, to con-
 tract sturdy Anglo-Saxon power with Cuban
 braggadocio. Some of the people smiled at us, but
 most of them looked at us as if they did
 not understand our presence here. "Colonel,"
 my black horse caught the eye of the crowd
 as usual. I do hope that I will be
 able to get him back in safety. Caring here
 with his winter hair on makes it quite trying
 on him.

(3)
 Our regiment has a very trying duty before it. We have to maintain order in the three districts to which we are assigned, teach the people how to govern themselves, and feed the poor. It is all probably, headquarters will not reach Cardenas until the first or middle of next week. Any letter written to me after the first of February should be directed to Cardenas. It is a place of about twenty thousand inhabitants, situated on the ocean, about twenty four or thirty miles east of here.

My old Sandusky friend and ~~former~~ Sigma Chi, Will Rhea, is here as quartermaster of the Third Engineers. We have had one or two pleasant chats all ready. Tell Tom to mail me some assorted fish hooks and a very strong line in a small box. I will write to him in a few days. Mail me a paper occasionally. I like to know what is going on at home.

The weather is quite warm today, tho there is a delightful breeze. Our men are in good health. Let me hear from you as often as possible. A letter is doubly appreciated here - With much love -

Your devoted son -
 Frank M. Thomas

P.S. As to Hall Caine's religious novel - they contain as little pure religion as it is possible for them to hold. Religion concerns itself chiefly with man's relation to the Infinite, and the weak creatures who pose as religionists in his novels are of the earth, earthly. They are only valuable as transcripts of human experience and as indicators of the great fact that the drift of the world's literature is toward the higher nature of man. Hall Caine's characters never get into the great Godward current - they are mere emotional creatures clinging close to the earth and affected by the faint pulsations of that tide which off shore is setting toward Heaven.

On every side here are evidences of Spanish cruelty and tyranny - Handsome homes scarred and ruined bear awful witness to Cuba's desolation. Very few people are left in the country, having fled to the cities to escape starvation & slaughter. Yet there is a glorious future before the gem of the Antilles, if Uncle Sam acts wisely -

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SERIES
BOX 3 F1

Box 3, Folder 1

Headquarters 3rd Ky. V. S. B. 17
 Aboard S. S. "Mimewoaka",
 Matanzas Harbor
 Jan 2nd 1899
 10 A.M.

My dear Mother,

Early this morning I looked out through the mists of morning and saw in dim outline the coast of Cuba. I thought I saw a large bed of live coals on the beach but it proved to be that grand sight - sunrise at sea. About daylight we entered the harbor and are now lying a few hundred yards from shore. We will disembark some time to-day. It is understood that the battalions will be separated, the first going to Enlora, the second to Cardenas, and the third to Colon. Headquarters will go with the second. I will become a circuit rider for the first time in my life.

I send back by this steamer the machete of a Spanish soldier. It was obtained by the chief engineer on the field of San Juan. I bought it from him, and he presented me with a very handsome medal, which belonged to a Spanish soldier. It is a work of art, beside being historically valuable, the soldier having served his country several years. I have the blade of the machete scoured and rubbed up.

We can not see much of Matanzas, though many handsome buildings rise out of the trees. It is quite warm and I am shedding my winter clothes. "Colonel" stood the trip fairly. All

Box 3, Folder 1

18

Headquarters 3rd Reg. U.S.A.
Matanzas, Cuba
Jan 29th 1899

My dear Mother, Your letter of the 24th was received to-day, and I was delighted to hear from you. I wish that I had the time and strength to give you a detailed account of all that I have seen. On Thursday I rode through the valley of the Gumuri river. It is a veritable paradise filled with singing birds, wild flowers, graceful palms, and waving grass. The only scars are the ruined homes, speaking sadly of war and its awful effects - I have written two letters to the Central Methodist. The last one was finished to-day and gives a full account of my trip through the valley and also a description of the ancient fortress of San Severino, just outside of which we are encamped. To-morrow we go to Cardenas, which is said to be quite an interesting place. Colonel Smith and Dr. Bell left early this morn-

(2)
 ing in order to select a camp site. There
 are rumors of discontent among the
 Cuban soldiers, but it is difficult to
 say how much foundation they have.
 Most of the Cubans I have met have
 been courteous and kind. I believe our
 government is making a mistake in try-
 ing to pave the way for annexation.
 The natives are entitled to this fair
 island and ought to be allowed
 to work out their own destiny. I am afraid
 the Expansionist is stringing the Constitution
 of the United States out of its original shape.
 I wish that you could be here with
 me. You would be delighted with the
 scenery, the wild flowers, the quaint build-
 ings and the wonders of the Southern
 Seas. I have some shells in which the coral
 polyp has just begun his delicate work.
 The fields and hillside are covered with a
 yellow bloom not unlike our black-eyed
 Susans, only smaller. Often when riding the
 air has been laden with the odor of
 heliotrope.

③

In strong contrast to the beauty and serenity of nature is the poverty of the inhabitants. Two days ago I saw a woman holding a lace parasol over her head carrying a few sticks of wood in order to build a fire. Little children will come into camp and beg for a piece of bread or a bone. Think of people living in the beautiful Yumuri valley, now eking out a bare existence in palm-thatched huts on the outskirts of Matanzas! Many are the homes and hearts made desolate by the Spanish sword. And yet I cannot blame Spain for her desire to hold on to this island. She felt that it belonged to her, and that the insurgents had no right to take it from her. I have no doubt in the least analysis that both were to blame. "Man's inhumanity to man has made countless millions wretched." How we Americans ought to prize our liberties and rescue

Box 3, Folder 1

(4) them from the professional politician
 and the mob.
 Neither do I think the average American
 soldier a fit person to civilize Cuba. As
 a rule he can only teach vice and but
 few virtues to this people seeking for
 light. It is horrible to hear these
 young Cubans using language caught
 from soldiers and of which they have
 no idea as to its meaning. We have
 much to learn in our label ere we can
 become the teacher of mankind.
 To-day is the most disagreeable one we have
~~since~~ had since our arrival. A drizzling
 mist has covered the landscape, while the
 air has been quite chilly. It must be
 quite cold in the Stalls.
 I will write you as soon as we are
 settled in Cardenas. Until further
 notice direct your letters to that point.
 I am in good health. With love to all
 Your devoted son -
 Frank N. Thomas

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 SERIES
 BOX 31

19
Headquarters 3rd Ky. U.S.V.
Cardenas Cuba
Feb. 12th 1899



My dear Mother,

Your last two letters came at a time when they were particularly enjoyed. In a certain sense we seem so far out of the world, or rather the world to which we have been accustomed that every piece of news from home is eagerly scanned. So you can judge how much I appreciate a letter from one I hold above all others.

You say that you wish 'I were at home to help you keep up the fires.' When I read it on a warm morning a day or so ago, I could not keep from smiling, especially when here we are always shedding some of our clothing in order to keep cool. This morning, however, a little fire would not be unpleasant. Last night we had something like a tropical storm - fierce wind and rain. The ground became so soggy, that the tent legs would not hold, and I lay awake a long time, expecting to see my tent go

②
 On. I had my clothes on and my rubber
 coat nearby, so did not fear the results.
 To-day I will fix my tent so that it can
 not possibly go over, even if the legs pull
 out. These storms are uncommon here at
 this time of the year, and it is not likely
 that will have another soon.
 I have seen much more of the people since
 I last wrote. I find that the better class of
 Cubans improve on acquaintance. Capt. Herman-
 dez, Col. Smith's interpreter is as nice a gentle-
 man as I ever saw. I am more than con-
 vinced that they are capable of self-
 government, and believe that the effort
 would do them more good than to receive
 it full-fledged at the hands of the United
 States.
 Some of the residences here would delight
 your eye - embowered in banana trees,
 palms, and roses. You can have a nose-
 gay any time for the men asking. Yet
 you would have to give up one of your
 hobbies, if you resided long in Cardenas -
 I prefer the back-yard cleanliness. The

(48)
 people seem to have no conception of sanitation or the disposal of refuse matter. Colonel Smith is giving them some valuable pointers along this line, and the city council has promised to fine all property owners who fail to clean up.

You ask me how the people dress. The men mostly in linen suits and straw hats. The women wear no head-gear save now & then you see an elderly lady with a mantilla (a black lace scarf). The senoritas display great taste in dressing their raven tresses. I am not sufficiently posted to say what the prevailing style is. The hair is coiled up on the back of the head after this manner . Do not take this sketch as a sample of  then beauty. Some of the women are really very handsome regular features, ruby lips, dark eyes, olive complexion. The large majority dress in white, though they by no means eschew colors. As for the younger element of the population their

④
 variegated costumes would set Monsieur Worth crazy. Many of the smaller children prefer nature's garb to any dress devised by man. It is no uncommon sight to see a pickanunmy, as black as ebony, without a stitch of clothing playing on the sidewalk. I have not had an opportunity as yet to inspect the bill of fare in a Cuban home. The Isla de Cuba (a little here) has scared us away from inspecting Cuban cooking, when we have to pay for it. Col Smith, Major Wells and Jim Hobson stayed there two days, and the combined bill was \$43.00!!! I stayed there one night and got off easy, for about \$1.50. To the credit of the Cubans it must be said that the proprietress is a Spaniard!

We are expecting a visit from Gen. Gomez, the Cuban commander-in-chief. He is a grand old man and I am anxious to see him. I am afraid the United States has not shown the proper courtesy to either the Cubans or the Filipinos. There ought to have been from the very outset a proper understanding as the American position. Our

(5)

equivocating policy looks like double-dealing, though I believe the authorities at Washington desire to do right. Political and commercial influences have doubtless been at work in Washington.

Perry Snell is here with his wife. She seems to be a very nice woman. I wish Tom could come down here. It is not a long trip via Tampa.

The mail man is here, and I must close
Am well - with much love -

Your devoted son
Frank M. Thomas

Keep Gladstone's book. I will write
his J -

Box 3, Folder 1

20
Cardena, Cuba

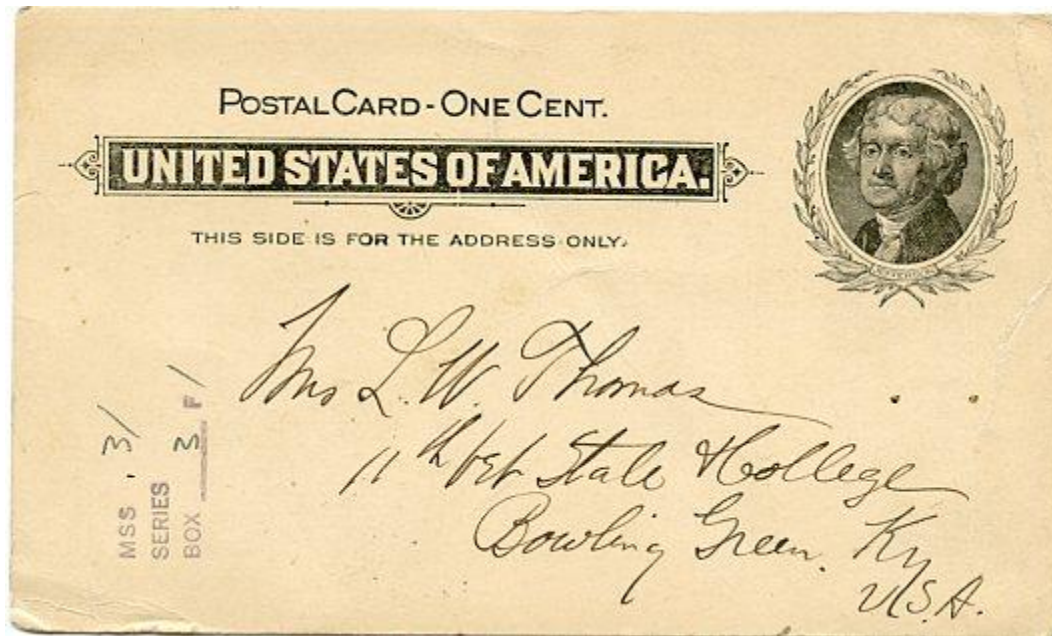
Feb 18th 1899

Dear Mother,

In my letter
to you of this date the
names of General Gomez's
generals ~~ought~~ should
be Rodriguez and
Castillo.

Gomez reviewed the
battalion this afternoon
& said that he was
highly pleased with
the treatment accorded
him. As ever
Yours
Frank

Box 3, Folder 1



Box 3, Folder 1

21

Headquarters 3rd Ky. U.S. T.
Cardenas Cuba
Feb 18, 1899

Mr Thos W. Thomas
Bowling Green Ky

My dear Tom,

I have just written Mother a long letter in which I described Gomez's visit to Cardenas. After she has read it she can turn over to the Times for publication. You or Richard please look over the paper.

The films and fishing tackle came to hand a few days ago. The assortment of hooks is a most excellent one, and as soon as I return from Union and Matanzas will try my skill in the bay. We have fine fish to catch three times a day. The fish here is of very inferior quality, so we have taken to this brain food as constant diet. Two days ago I mailed you two rolls of films. One of them, I fear, will have several spoiled pictures owing to the roll slipping off the cage and having to open

it several times in order to fix it. The other
 roll ought to have some excellent pictures.
 To-day I mail you ^{another} roll. Please have it
 carefully developed as it contains some
 snap-shots of yesterday's parade. One ^{negative} picture
 has a double exposure & I was not manipulating
 it the time. At your convenience please mail
 me two more cartridges and see that they are
 good for at least six months. I will pay
 for them when I return. I think I can
 sell "Colonel" here for a good price say
 \$300⁰⁰ in U.S. money, but I do hate to
 part with him - he is such a noble animal.
 Col. Henry, "Bob" Mitchell, Capt. Reynolds and thirty
 men have gone after bandits.
 As I must get ready to go to Union to-morrow
 I have not time to write at length. Wish that
 you could run down to Cuba and see it
 for yourself. The only draw-back to it at
 present are the mosquitoes - but they crawl
^{mostly} at night - A world of quail here, but I
 have no dog, sans gun - As soon -

Your devoted brother
 Frank R. Thomas

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 SERIES
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Box 3, Folder 1

22

*Please acknowledge
receipt of check.
M.T.*

Alquis 3rd Bah. 3rd Reg. U.S.V.
 Matanzas, Cuba
 Feb. 24th 1899

My dear Tom,

I arrived here yesterday
 after a four days stay at Union, the
 camp of the first battalion. I enjoyed
 my visit very much, though I suffered
 somewhat from dyspepsia while there,
 due I think to the water. I visited the
 famous Santa Rosa sugar plantation, which
 is about a mile from camp. Though the
 buildings are now in ruins one can
 easily picture its former magnificence.
 Back of the residence is a park, which
 for wealth of tropic bloom and beauty
 can scarcely be paralleled on the
 island. There were fountains, pools,
 grottos, fountains, bananas and countless
 trees and shrubs whose name I did not
 know, whose forms I had never seen
 before.

Major Saffarans has an ideal
 camp site, and the men are in good

Health. I reached to them Tuesday
 night on "Satan". In the distance la
 granie fue was raging and the palm
 trees stood like ghostly sentinels in the
 moonlight, forming a weird back-
 ground for such a theme. The officers
 and men seemed very glad to see me
 and treated me most kindly.
 I find the third battalion still encamped
 among the rocks overlooking the beautiful
 Matanzas Bay. They have made streets
 and are now quite comfortably fixed
 up. The view from Col. Henrichs tent
 is one of the most enhancing I have
 ever beheld. The gleaming waters of the
 bay, the mountains beyond in the far
 distance, the white tents, the vessels
 at anchor, the domes and towers of the
 city. The Colonel himself is away
 on a scout after bandits. We are
 looking for his return to day, as
 we understand that the bandits have
 been captured by the Cuban police
 after a severe fight, in which one or two

③

men were killed. So far as we have been able to ascertain our men were not engaged in the fight.

Speaking of the Cuban police I have found from personal observation that they make most excellent peace-officers, and I fully endorse Mr. Quesada's plan for the U.S. government to employ them and allow the volunteers to go home. I do not know how it is in other provinces but in Matanzas province there is no need of an army of five or six thousand men, as we have here. I am inclined to believe that regular army officers desire to keep the troops here largely for selfish ends, the adoption of the Hull Bill etc. While the health of the command is now most excellent, May and June will bring tropic rains and heat, which will necessarily produce much sickness. I find that while I enjoy good health,

(4)
 am not in as fine physical trim as I was
 at Columbus, due I suppose to the rapid
 change from winter to summer. However
 the great majority of our men seem to have
 improved by the change.

I will likely remain here until Monday, when
 I expect to return to Cardenas. I enclose
 a check for (\$100.00) one hundred dollars, which
 please place to my credit in bank. This
 is from my ~~February~~ ^{January} pay. I am glad
 to see that the severe weather at home
 has moderated. The poor much have
 suffered greatly. The quail, no doubt,
 are all frozen to death.

I intended to say that the paymaster who
 last paid me (on yesterday) is a Sigma
 Chi and a son of the present governor of Virginia.
 He is a fine fellow and was at the outbreak
 of the war retained counsel of the Western
 Union in Richmond, Va.

Don't forget to mail the films. Have
 those sent home carefully developed -
 with Corbett. Your devoted brother,
 Frank B. Thomas

SERIES
 BOX 3 P 1

23
Headquarters 3rd Ky. U.S.V.
Cardenas, Cuba
Dec. 1st 1899.

My dear Mother, I returned from my trip last Sunday. I had a most pleasant stay at both Union and Matanzas - good attendance on preaching. While at Matanzas I learned that the Headquarters of the Third and the Second Battalion were to move back to Matanzas, and our place here ~~take~~ supplied by a Battalion of the 12th New York. As yet I have been unable to learn the reason for the change, though it seems to presage an early return to the States. I trust so.

I am sure that Colonel Smith has done everything that was necessary here. In fact he has worked too hard. The City authorities yesterday telegraphed General Wilson asking that the Ky. troops be kept here, and we appreciate the compliment.

Personally I am glad that we are to return

Box 3, Folder 1

(2)
 to Matanzas. Where the camp site there
 is less malarious than this, though this has
 been healthy. There I can get a sea bath
 every day. Beside we stand a much
 better chance to get away in a hurry.
 I am not at all satisfied with the attitude
 of regular army officers here. The
 Cubans don't like them, because
 they suspect them of having selfish ends.
 Ditz Hugh Lee is the most popular man
 on the island, next to Gomez. A few evenings
 since in Havana they gave him an oration
 surpassing that ever accorded to any
 American.

My health is very good at present. I was
 not feeling quite so well when I wrote Tom,
 though I have never been sick since my
 arrival on the island. Dr. P. Wilson of Bow-
 ling Green is here - came on from Florida. He
 says that it was awful cold when he
 left home.

Will write you on my arrival ~~home~~ at
 Matanzas. You devoted son -
 Frank M. Thomas

MS
 SERIES
 BOX 3 F1

WASHINGTON HOTEL
93 PRADO ST. PHONE 1377.

MRS. FILOMENA GARCIA, PROP.

J. LOPEZ, INTERPRETER.

HAVANA, CUBA

March 15th 1899

My dear Mother, Robt Mitchell and I arrived here Wednesday morning and expect to leave this afternoon at two o'clock. Any time is so short that I can ^{not} tell you of all I have seen. This is a wonderful old city with its forts, castles, cathedral and palaces. We have visited all places of interest and in addition went aboard the Texas and Brooklyn. The new York, Chicago, Indiana and a French man of war were also in the harbor. We passed within a few feet of the main. Visited Colon cemetery and Morro Castle. The latter place was the fort where Cuttenden was confined and shot. Have several souvenirs for you. There are many Americans here sight seeing and prospecting. In six weeks there will be a rush back to the state. I hope to be home by the first of May. I will write you more fully from Guatanzas. Am well, but a little irked from so much sight seeing.

Your devoted son -
Frank M. Thomas

25
Headquarters 3rd Reg. U.S. F.
Matanzas, Cuba
Feb. 31st 1899.

My dear Mother,

When the letter reaches you I trust that we will be on our way back to the States. In all probability we will get away by next Wednesday or Tuesday. The indications are that we will be mustered out at Savannah. In company with Col. Henry and several other officers I attended the reception tendered Secretary Alger last Wednesday evening. He seems to be a kindly disposed gentleman and spoke in very complimentary terms of our regiment. He remarked that the newspapers had laid many things at his door, for which he was not responsible. He assured us that we should be mustered out ^{at} Savannah. In passing a door in Earl Williams spacious residence someone pulled the stopper out of a bottle of champagne and this chaplain caught the contents on his back & shoulders. It is the only time I have been shot at during the war. Mine enemy, whom he was, chose the deadliest weapon known to man. Death does not ensue so quickly, but it is more terrible. I have worried very little about that article in the Tribune paper. Conscious of my own integrity, I can afford

② to let such things pass. Beside if I were to attempt to explain the allusion to "the drunken forerunner", it would call attention to one whose conduct has not been above reproach & this I would not do.

Two days ago I sent some pictures of San Severino to the C. G. ~~They~~ may or ~~they~~ may not reproduce them. Those of Capt Keown & Lieut Payne were not very distinct. I did not take them, but took the others. The one showing the pictures on the cell wall is very interesting & was difficult to take in account of the light.

We are looking for Colonel Smith back every day. In my judgment he ought to wait in the States until we return. Our old friends, the 160th Indiana, left last Monday on the Minnewaukee (now the "Thomas").

I do hope that you can come down to Savannah while we are being mustered out. We will be there at least two weeks and probably three. The trip would do you good & I will pay all of your expenses, if you will only come.

I may mail you some pictures in a day or two if I find there is danger of their being injured by the fumigating process at quarantine. The health of the regiment continues remarkably good. With much love to all.

Your devoted son,
Frank M. Thomas