Post of Velasco

Dec. 12th 1863.

Col. Thos. Pickard.

My dear father,

You will see by the post mark that I am at Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos. In my last letter I told you that I was ordered to Sandy Point on the Bay, I had been misinformed, however, in regard to its position, which I did not find out until I had arrived there; it is situated on the Houston and Columbia, R.R. and about six or seven miles from the Brazos River North of the line of march from there, on the night of the 5th inst. at about ten o'clock, and continued to march until three P.M. the next day. We arrived at Columbia on the 7th and took a boat for this place

A good deal of excitement has existed through the country, caused by an anticipation of a fight at this place, but from what I can see the prospects are very poor, there are no Yankees very

near us. the closest that I have seen are those on the blockading vessels.

Troops are arriving daily from every quarter, I suppose there are at least ten thousand able bodied men here at present. The place is very well fortified, there are three very fine sand forts, two at the mouth of the river, and one further up. Col. Smith is with us again, he is in command of the brigade, and did command the post for a short time. I had hoped to hear from home before this time, but either every one has neglected to write, or the mails have miscarried; for certain it is that I have not received a single line. As soon as we get settled again, I would like to have some things sent from home to me, which I need very badly. When I was starting from Atlanta I left all my surplus clothing there, in care of a friend of Dr. Stoll and's with I may want them. The Doctor has been ordered to the feild by Genl. Magruder and is with him at present, his trip to Europe is therefore put off for a

while, but not entirely abandoned

This place, although situated on a low flat ~~place~~ country, is yet very healthy, except I suppose when the yellow fever is prevalent, and then like all other coast towns it must be sickly. I hope that your health still continues to be good, and that when I hear from you, the letter will show that you are in good spirits, in spite of the times,

Give my love to Jim and regards to all enquiring friends, and believe me to be

Your Affte Son
Dudley St. Brand

P.S. Please have all letters directed
Dudley St. Brand
Co. G. 2nd Lee's Infantry
Velasco P.O.
Brazoria Co.
Texas

P.S. Please pardon apparent negligence in this letter, all my writing material was taken out of my knapsack by some of the light fingered gentry, and this

that I am now using is all borrowed, and very poor it is as you may find by examination.

D. H. W.

Yours
D. H. Ward
Delaware Dec 19. 1863.

Wants things - but don't pay what.

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