

Richard Baxter Foster Letters to his Wife

Unknown words or letters are represented by the lines in the brackets

[All indentions are meant to reflect those found in the original letter.]

About Sept. 1 1865

Brownsville Texas

My Dearest One,

I have got my pigeon hole of unfinished business empty. I do not mean that I have absolutely got no unfinished business on hand. If that ever happens to [] he is more fortunate than I ever was or expect to be! But having the said pigeon hole empty I feel at liberty to take time to address a communication to you, I fear my explanation will take more time than my statements. If the said pigeon hole was not empty it would make no difference. I should just as much take time to write to you about every Thursday even if I had nothing to say as appears to be the case to day for I have written so far at any rate without saying anything.

Still I can give you some camp rumors if you consider them food for contemplation worth having. In giving you rumors I always try to [] what authority they rest on so that you may

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not be deceived into thinking that a mere rumor rests on official authority. The (prevalent) rumor now is that a Paymaster will be here in 2 weeks and pay us 4 months pay. In addition to the statement in the New Orleans paper of the 11th that five [] for the army in Texas were expected by the next arrival from the North this present rumor rests mainly on the fact that an agent of Adam's Express Co. has arrived in Brownsville and set up business and says they thought in New Orleans that the Paymaster would be over here soon and pay 4 months. While this cannot be taken as conclusive proof it is evidence of some [] that we will get money by the middle of Sept.

If that happens I expect to offer a resignation as soon as paid, unless by that time I can see some likely prospect of being mustered out soon by consolidation or otherwise. I do not think I am certain to get out if I offer a resignation but Weitzel after obtaining the names of those who wished to leave the service immediately, sent back a list of those whose resignations would be accepted at this time and no officer

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of this regiment on the list. That is what I hear I did not see the list. If any officer in our regt had been on it, it would have come into my hands.

Two Wisconsin regiments at this place are awaiting transportation to go home to be mustered out. I believe there are 5 white regiments that will be left but probably not long. Gen Brown has gone home.

Wed. morning, [] mail came in ~~yesterday~~ (crossed out) last night. It was just a week since the mail came before and I ought to have got a letter from you but did not. Letters do not always get round to the right place the first time and it may be that your letters will get to me today. I got a letter from Ella dated Aug 4 12 days later than I have got any word from you.

Ella wants my advice about having a monument raised over Charles' grave. She did hope to get some assistance from some [] from his regt or from his friends in the East but both hopes have failed. She must do it alone but she is determined to do it. She does not know whether it is worth while to wait till next spring in the hopes that the same money will go further. I cannot judge at this distance as to that. She is thinking

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of a monument that will cost \$250. I wish I could help her but do not now know of any feasible plan.

The prospect brightens that we will be paid in 2 or 3 weeks. Our acting Sutter [] Hunt came from New Orleans lately, he arrived yesterday afternoon. He says the Paymaster expected to come in a short time say in 2 weeks or less. He will pay 4 months pay. Some have already gone to Galveston. The Chief Mustering Officer of Gen Sheridan's Division Col Strengeson has also come over as I hear. I suppose to muster out or consolidate somebody. He may consolidate us while he is over. I do not know. Our discharges are not through yet to reduce our number to less than 500. I think we will know something about it within 2 weeks I am some in hopes that about the 1st of Oct you will hear from me or see me.

Adamson has not heard from his resignation yet. As soon as said he will probably put [] again I think he will go home in September and I hope to go with him.

We had quite a rainy spell but it is getting dry and hot again. We have a brigade drill this afternoon the first that Col Barrett has tried & nearly the first that our regt has seen. Charles [Borrsall] got bad news from home last night. A fine young lady who had lived at his father's 4 years & was as a sister to him has been taken sick & died. Affly, Baxter