

---

---

# Voices of the Past

---

---

The Letters of Abial Edwards

Civil War

1864

Franklin on the Byou,  
Teche, Louisiana  
Quarters on 29<sup>th</sup> Maine Veterans  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

My Dear Anna

I now take this my first opportunity to answer your kind letter which I received at Algiers. It was gladly received and I have read and reread it a great many times. We left Algiers the 20<sup>th</sup> and came as far as Bradhall City by cars then took a boat and came to this place (Franklin) got here on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> This is a very low country but If the climate agrees with me I think I shall like here. It is very warm here but we have cool nights. The trees are leaved out and the Robins and Mocking bird make music enough. As near as I can find out the is about 8,000 troops here in our Corps and the Rebel force against us is about 30,000 but they are at Red River which is quite a distance from here. The is strong talk of our going to Red River as soon as we get some more troops but I don't think we shall at present. The is quite a lot of Guerrillas about here which are some what troublesome Anna I have been sitting here and trying to make it seem to me that I am so far from home but I cant and only think for three years. Some times I have thought how much I might have enjoyed my self in Lewiston this summer as you was a going to stop there but it is no use to think any thing about it now all we must hope for is that this war will be settled before many months. And anyone that has served their Country now will never have cause to be ashamed of it The is quite a lot of Negro troops here but they are not very near us. As we was comeing here they cheered us loudly as we passed. but our boys kept very still and never returned it. The negros make a neat looking soldier and our Reg<sup>l</sup> has come to the conclusion that they can and ought to fight as well as white folks but as for cheering them they cant do it. Dear Anna I want to write you often and I will do the best I can to write to you but we have very poor accommodations. We have got the small shelter tents again. My Regards to your Brother & Sister

I will write again soon

Aff Thine  
Abial  
Co K 29<sup>th</sup> Maine  
New Orleans L-A  
Gen Banks Deps  
Anna