



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Winnebago House, South Bend

2 A.M. April 28th 1863.

Dear Parents & Brothers

I suppose you will hear ere this reaches you that we have again left our comfortable quarters here in South Bend, to try the hardships of marching and of a camp life. We received our orders on Sunday to start today for Fort Pope, or Red Wood, to a place selected for to build a stockade, some 18 or 20 miles above Fort, Ridgely. Companies H. and I. accompany us all under command of Major Bradley. There are there at present, 3 companies of the 6th who passed up on the boat. This leaves only one company at Mantua 2 at Tiola and one at the Winnebago Agency. Some are afraid of trouble in removing the Winnebagoes, and it is said they bid defiance to those who will attempt it.

The boys in general are better prepared
now for marching, than they were the
last trip. They have lightened their
knapsacks, of all unnecessary
clothing, and either disposed of them
or sent them home.

I am taking less with me than
I first intended. I will take 2
pair pants, (although some take buttons,
2 shirts, 1 pr Drawers, 1 Blouse, 1 pr
shoes and my boots, my overcoat & blanket
which will make a load of 18 pounds
exclusive of our haversack, Canteen,
and cartridges. I put the rest of my
things in a little box, and send them
by C. Hill, to Cleveland, which you
can use as you see best. There are
several hundred dollars worth of clothing
thus got rid of from our Company.
The Culinary Department is also in better
trim. we got made a fine Mess chest
with apartments for the various articles.

I had a former letter written and sent by the messenger had sent it by the ferry, I was well as it leaves me. The boys are well.

It will probably take us 4 or 5 days to make the trip, but I guess we are able for it. The most of our men will be along. It will doubtless be some time before we return so near civilization again. A great many of the wives and friends of the soldiers were up yesterday to see us, and some still remain. Our Chaplain Rev. C. P. Light. preached to the company and others in the hall, on Sunday evening from the text. "So run that ye may obtain" He is a large fine looking man and a good preacher. He distributed tracts to all present. He has organized a Regimental Church, and has a pledge and rules drawn out, and got 13 of our company to join it. I was visiting round a little Sunday, came across two English families named Arundel & Purnell. Had dinner in the latter place, a fine respectable family, had dined there before

The family were at meeting Sunday night
and when they found we were going off
to day. Mrs Purnell sent an invitation
to go there for tea Monday evening
I attended school in the afternoon
after which I went to Purnells & spent
the evening. On leaving she presented me
with a sweet cake and some cookies.
I had a very pleasant time.
Mrs P. was raised in the vicinity of
London. Miss P. was sent some
Illustrated London papers, describing
the processions, ceremonies &c. connected
with the marriage of the Prince of Wales,
and her mother could name the various
houses, streets, pillars &c and explain all
about them. They also take Harpers Weekly
which gave me a fair insight into the war.
I am on guard to night. Have charge of it.
As I now write near 3 o'clock, I hear the call
Corporal of the Guard No 1. I go to No 1,
and find he has halted 4 or 5 of our boys who
were away all day visiting in St. Peters and
vicinity. namely Williams, Darnen, Wilds
and Capt. Burke along with them to see
us before we left. Capt. Carter & Lieut Manning
just got back before the others from Manly
where they were settling up with Dr. Martin &c
I pass them in and return to my writing. Got another
to officiate the remainder of the night.
I received a letter from Mr. Jones from Helena Arkansas
He was on the boats 24 or 25 days on the Yazoo Pass
expedition. Was tired of going round so. Was going next
day to Lake Providence. Seth had, was sick in Memphis
He'll be well. I will write again on reaching our
destination. I have nothing more at present
But with love to all I remain Yours affectionately
J. Montgomery