



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Mexican Expedition

In the Field, Camp Stevens, August 16th 1846

Dear Brother Alexander,

Once again I seat myself to write you a few lines, as the mail leaves today, to inform you that our health is very good, and that the expedition is progressing favorably and is rapidly approaching home ward towards civilization.

I wonder at not having received answers to letters written by me since June 21st as some of my comrades have had answers to letters of July 5th. but I expect some surely next mail. I trust this will find you all enjoying good health and progressing finely with your fall work. I received no letter in last mail from home, but I received one from R. G. Rhoads from Elk River Tenn. who is getting along well. Heavy & unprecedented rains, prevented them from capturing Bragg's entire army, and stunted them to less than half rations. They had for a while nothing but corn meal but they are not that hard put to get. We have enough to eat & drink of such as Soldier's fare as, but it of late requires carefulness to prevent running short.

Marched 16 miles, passing one old camp. Crossing the
Shayenne at 1 P.M. and camped 3 miles east of
Camp Libby. The country was hilly & the day cloudy.
14th One soldier of the Cavalry died & buried last night.
Left old trail to our right and took a nearer course
in a N.E. course over Fisks trail and marched over
nice level country. 14 miles to Camp Arnold. Cool
cloudy, windy day. After camping mail arrived
15th. Put in charge of cooking & Police for a week.
Am free from guard and other duties and march or ride
as I please. Marched on Fisks trail 12 miles to Camp
St. Louis over nice level prairie. Buffalo chips scarce
as woods except on river bottoms. There was heavy timber
however round Lake Jessie, near Camp Sherman. No
prints of prairie. 4 Cavalry Co's left us at Camp Sherman &
went toward South by Snake River. They took 25 days
rations & were to report at Fort Ridgely.

There is considerable talk now in camp about
re-enlisting in the veteran volunteers. It is a fair
offer for an extra year's service but I have not
given it much consideration ^{mor. well.} till I get down below.
We received some St. Paul papers by the boat mail
which gave us much satisfactory news from the
South. I was glad to hear of Vicksburg & Port Hudson
being taken and also of Meade's successes on the Potomac.
Mr. Riggs' letters in relation to our expedition are
quite satisfactory. I suppose you will see a full
account in the press of our most active doings
before this reaches you. There is a man along with
us who is writing a history of this war in book
form and there is also a member of Co. D, 7th
& self-made artist who takes correct sketches
of the most important events and scenes.
They will be engraved and will appear in
Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie or in this book.
There are also two other artists at Head Quarters.

Capt. Fisk's expedition to the Pacific passed here
in our absence. It consisted of 33 horsemen well
armed & equipped and a 12 pound field piece &c.
Numbers of the Half Breeds came with us to camp to
trade &c. and to witness the various sights &c.
Two Little Crows son, who is closely confined by pouton.
The 3 Indians we brought down were put in with him.
11th Laid over in camp Busy fixing up for another march.
Those left behind had a nice camp well entrenched &
watered and had a fine time in our absence.
12th All again started homeward our general course
now being S.E. We marched on old trail 16 miles to Camp
port, passed one old camp. Very nice day. On guard to night
over the Indians. 13th Our Regt in advance and in line
at march at 5 A.M. Young Crow was put in my special
charge today. I rode with him all day, on the top
of a pontoon wagon, as he is unable to walk.
From what I can learn it was his father that shot
Capt. Cady & he was along at the time. He also was
with his father when shot, which I think was done by
Linson's. He followed our train from Big Stone Lake to Camp
Hayes, and was almost starved to death when found. Aged 16.
He will probably be hung also the others, I think.

Today being the Sabbath we lie over to give rest
to man and beast, according to the commandment.
I expect to reach Fort Abercrombie on Thursday.
Here probably our destination for the winter
will be informed us. If in the State I hope it will
be some decent town. Since I last wrote we have
united with the detachments left behind, and we
are all now on our way "Homeward Bound" I refer
now to my diary, - Aug 5th The 7th in front and in
time of march at 5 AM. Lieut. Col. Marshall left
with the mail carrier. Marched 12 miles. Reached
the forks of the James River and camped at 11 AM
on east bank at Camp Carter. Marched 14 of 6
Sunday 9th Laid over in camp. Fine day. Three
of us went over to the Chippewa Half Breed Camp 3 miles
up the river. Attended preaching at 4 PM by Rev M. H. H.
10th Started early intending to reach those left behind.
Marched 25 miles and reach Camp Atchison at 5 PM.
The various bands came out 2 miles to meet us and
escort us into camp. Found our boys all well, and glad
to see us. This morning we turned off the 7th and
Spapooow, giving them their pony & some provisions.