



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.

Head Quarters 7th Regt Minn. Inf.
 Schofield Barracks St. Louis, Mo. Nov^r 27th 1863.

My Dear Mother,

Your welcome letter of the 20th inst, were handed to me this morning, on coming off guard. I was down yesterday and last night, in the lower part of the city, guarding about a hundred skiffs, confiscated from private parties, to prevent steamboat burning. I had three men with me, and we had a tent and stove, and it was not so uncomfortable as it was, when there before, when we lay out on the ground.

Your letter was unlooked for so soon, but I was really glad to hear from you, and that you were all in such good health. I received a letter yesterday from Cousin S. Lockard. He and family were well. He thought on receiving the letter and seeing it marked St. Louis, that it was from Cousin J. Cassidy, and he was surprized on opening it to find that I was here. He was glad to get my small likeness, and said his children were delighted to have it, as it was the first they had received from any of their Cousins, and they said they would like to see me. I was invited to spend a few days at Christmas, or some other time with them. He said he just received one letter from you since last spring. He heard from Cousins Cassidy and Morrow, in Pike's Park, about two months ago. They were then in good health, and Cous. Cassidy talked of going home to Ireland.

He had amassed a fortune in the gold mines, and was going home to live a bachelor the balance of his days. Cousin Lockard and family send their respects to you all. I wrote to Cousin Mr. Henry also, and sent him a small likeness. Yesterday was thanksgiving here, and it was a fine day. The weather now is beautiful. It was truly a day of thanksgiving on account of the glorious news from Grant's Army. Our Army advanced, and attacked the Rebels, and in a three days fight dislodged them from their various positions, capturing over 7000 prisoners and nearly a hundred cannon. Our Army is pursuing Bragg's forces, who are still retreating. We captured Lookout Mountain & Missionary Ridge important positions. Burnside is said to be still safe and will be reinforced. He is at Knoxville, which place is invested by the forces of Rebel Gen. Longstreet. There is also good news from the Army of the Potomac. Meade is pursuing Lee's army. Lieut Manning with a sergeant, Corp., and 9 men of our Co. left here a week ago, as part of a force of 200 from the 7th & 10th Regts, to quell a disturbance in Scott Co. Vt. It seems a body of Copperheads resisted the Provost Marshall in arresting deserters, and they tore up the R. R track. We have not heard from them since they left. A number more of our boys are absent at Vicksburg and other different points. A new recruit has enlisted in our Company, a German. Sergt Williams has not arrived in this city yet, or we have not heard from him or Lieut. Bour for some time. The Regt. was paid off to day. We received two months pay. I purpose sending home \$20, as soon as I can.

is well. He says however we will creep. I Johnson. Edw. Abbott
I sold my watch to the orderly for \$12, some time ago.
but I cannot get along without one. So I must buy one.
The health of those of the Company who are present,
is now very good. Private D. Johnson is yet very low.
Corpls Wildes and Darnen have been very sick
but are now much better. Each of them will be
discharged in a few days. Their papers are made out.
This will make necessary the appointment of two and
perhaps three new Corporals. (one in Jaeger's place), and
will make one third in the list of Corporals.

Manley Grover of our compy received the appointment
of Commissary Sergeant Nov^r 3rd vice. Wood, reduced
to the ranks. Mr. Grover was Comy Clerk now for a year.
A private in Co. A. died suddenly a few nights
since. He was in good health on going to bed.
His comrades bought a costly metallic Coffin, and sent
his body home to Minn. to his friends.

I was pleased to hear of the overwhelming Union Majority
at the Minn election. I hope Col. Miller will make a good
Governor. The result in this State is even more satisfactory.
The Radical Unconditional Union party are victorious!
This was done by the soldiers votes, as without them they
were in the minority. A Union Senator was also elected.
I think a few missionaries are needed in Le Veau Co to
bring the people to a knowledge of the truth, and to teach
them true loyal principles. I was sorry that Mr. Coffin and
Mr. Talbot were not elected. But the good cause is advancing.
Missouri, Maryland and the other Border States will soon
be free.

Nov 27

Although our general fare is excellent, yesterday we had some little extras, we had at supper, oyster soup, apple sauce, pies, sweet cake, and other delicacies. We have puddings &c nearly every day. I wish I could send you a few bushels of apples. They sell here from 75 cents to a dollar per bush.
Decem^r 2nd Dear Mother. I postponed mailing this till to day, in order to enclose a check for \$24, which can be cashed at Donahower's, or any other bank. The boys of our Company present are sending home in this manner an average of \$15 a piece. Please in answer let me know if you received the check all right, and if you got it cashed without trouble. The banker ought to cash it without any charge. Corp^s Wilder & Dampier left here yesterday, the former for Minnesota and the latter for Maine, our new recruit is now mustered in.
Nov 30th was Reg^t Inspector of the District Inspector. Brig Genl Fisk is now Commander of this District, and General Schofield, Commander of the Department. The weather to day and yesterday is very fine. For a few days last week it was bitter cold. Prisoners arrive here very frequently. The Privates as they arrive are rapidly formed into Companies, officers and sent to various points to guard Rebel prisoners &c. The river here is open and trade goes on as usual. No snow at all. The boys now since payday are coming out fine, getting pictures, extra clothing &c. I have nothing to report but a watch and I bought a good new one yesterday. I have still a few dollars left for incidental expenses. We hear from time to time very able sermons and lectures. I heard a week ago last Sunday Rev. Dr. McCullough & Pastor. Presbyterians. The former was a helper of Dr. Chaffers, and the latter learned to read at 30 years of age at the Sabbath School, since then he has traveled in the U. S. and has established 2490 schools, with a scholarship of two to three hundred thousand. Dr Cox of the Union M.E. Church is an able preacher. We have fine meetings & I attend, as often as I can when off duty. I feel that my dependence is in thy glorious love, my spiritual & temporal health, and I resign myself continually in his care. I feel very grateful for your kind letters laden with blessed admonitions & advices. I hope you will keep the promise of writing to me weekly & I will be more prompt in the future. Remember me to the neighbors and friends.