



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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27th Dec^r. 1863. On guard in the Rebel Prison

Schofield Barracks
Head Quarters, 7th Regt. Minn. Sols.
St. Louis Dec^r. 26th 1863. (36)

My Dear Mother,

I have the pleasure
of sending you a note from Aunt Mollie,
enclosed to me in a letter from Cousin Bella,
which I received on the 24th inst. I would
be pleased to send the letter entire, but
for tangent reasons cannot just now.
I will state in substance the news received.
Cousin Bella received my two letters, and the
pictures enclosed in them, which they were
very glad to receive. She says our likenesses
are often looked at both by themselves,
and by those who call there from time to
time. They sent them up to Mountcharles,
to Uncle Baskin and to Aunt Cora; yours also,
and they were rejoiced to see them. Mr. A. McCreary
read my letters & said I had some of my Mother's
nature in me. He sat a long time watching
yours, and remarked, "you were one of the best
young women he ever was acquainted with," also
Mr. F. J. Brooke read my letters, and was pleased
and glad to hear of all being well.

Cousin says Aunt Cassidy was down in
their house & her mother took her up into
the drawing room, where the Lake - neices -
(as she has it) were. She did not recognize yours,
but when told, whose it was, her joy was
great, and she pressed it many a time to her lips.
Aunt Cassidy has not heard yet from J. P. Oliver
and they are all uneasy for him, supposing
he was obliged to enter the wrong side.
Neither was there any word from Andrew
or Thomas. She wants me to find out why he
can't write, that is Thomas, as she wrote to
him twice but got no answer.

Uncle Henry got a letter from William on the
6th of November. Thomas Henry, wife had two
sons. One of them died and the other is with
a nurse, as her own health was not good.
The rest of the Brigham family are well. Aunt
is as sweet as ever. Uncle Cassidy was
not very well, but Aunt is pretty smart.
Thomas & Charles are very well.
Uncle Oliver is complaining a little. He was at
a team meeting that week at Mrs Baskins of the
Lake. Cousin Lucy was there also.

Quint Coris health has greatly improved.
Alfred Thomas Corr had a fine son. They were
all well. Mr. and Mrs. M. Chase are doing well.
The Ardara friends are getting along nicely.
Francis is getting along very well with
his business. His wife is well and his son
is growing fast. Cousin Andrew Charles
is growing tall and stout. Cousin Francis
was down in Perry and would have his
likeness taken to send to me, but the day
was dark but he will send it the first chance.
I expect Cousin Isabella's also pretty soon.
Uncle Morris' health is good but Aunt's is not
on account of the pain in her side. but she
is still active in working through the house.
Cousin Eliza Ann is living in Ardara and will
be for 6 months, learning to sew with Mrs. Scott.
This leaves Cousin Bella lonesome, as they have
no servant girl, and Ephraim James is all the
youthful company she has in the house.
She is going to put one of my small pictures
in a small locket she has. All send their
united love to you all, and wish you a pleasant
Christmas & a happy New Year, as I also do.
I have written you at length on this, knowing it will
please you,

I now must write some local news.
Sergt Williams returned to the Company on
the 22nd inst, and, bunked with me.
Sergeant Proctor is transferred, to be Sergt Major
of the 1st Ill. Col. Reg' Vols. Hoyt and Chapman
were removed to the island hospital, on
account of having the small pox, but
they are doing well, the other sick are getting
better. I was extremely sorry to hear of Mr.
Jones' death, received in a letter from J. H. Her
told me you had received the draft sent.
I have applied to the Adjt Genl. at Washington
for permission to be examined for promotion.
I am as active as possible in gaining information.
The Capt. has returned from Nashville Tenn.
Christmas was duly celebrated here by the
suspension of business, firing of guns &c.
I was on guard at the Gunbatteries. The weather
is mild & damp, River open & no snow.
I hoped to have heard from you before this.
I hope this will find you all well as it
leaves me at present. Accept my love &
and give my best respects to the neighbors
& a salutation well so is Mrs. Chamberlain and all the
Cleveland boys except Hoyt. With Love to all
I remain Your affectionate son.
Thomas Montgomery