



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Nash 60, B. 3^d Mo. ad

Benton Bles. March 12th 1864,

My Dear Mother.

I hasten once more to write you a few lines, to inform you that my health thank God is very good, and that I had the pleasure of hearing from home once more, before I leave for Dixie. I was very glad indeed to hear from you all, before I left, if it had been a few hours later I would not have got it for a while, as we leave in a few hours for New Orleans. I was sorry to think that you did not hear from me sooner, but I hope you have received my letters ere this, as I have written regular. It will not do to get too uneasy about me. After this you may not hear from me one half as often, but you must not conclude, that I am unwell, that will never do,

~~our names being as important as~~
I will write however as often as
usual, and I hope you all will
also, I wrote you a letter a day or
two ago, I was down to day (or rather
yesterday as it is after midnight) in St-
Louis, purchasing things for our use
to the amount of over \$60, I hurried
round and visited old Co. K. and bid
them all farewell, I saw C. Talbot,
who is now quite well, He will soon
leave the Hospital, It is strange he
don't get his appointment or detail,
as it is over a month since he was
examined. He was telling me of that
party of young ladies you had lately,
as I also saw, in your letter just
received, I am happy to learn that
you all had such a pleasant winter
I have enjoyed myself very much
also, and now we go to try our
hand some other place,
I trust it will all be for the better
St Louis was a pretty hard place,

as I did not leave St Louis last night
till nine o'clock, I must say it
is a great city. Night is the time for
rather pleasure and joviality here, and
as soon as night sets in the music
commences in the saloons and
theatres to attract the attention of the
idle crowd. I bought an officer's
mess chest with furniture complete
for \$28, which will be quite handy for
us. Capt Watford is Officer of the day
to-morrow, which will give me the
Command of the Company to day in going
through the streets of St Louis.
I don't want any higher honor, than
that of leading a company forward
against our present enemies.
I did not think when on furlough last
fall that to day I would march my own
Company through the streets of St Louis
on their way to Dixie, but great changes
sometimes will happen. I sent a letter
yesterday to Cousin Lockwood with my
photographs.

I send a few to you also to keep one you like best and dispose of the others as you choose. I also send you yesterday's paper with a roster of the officers of our Regt in it. He will start with about 70 men leaving over 20 behind.

I received another letter from Mr Keithly yesterday. He says he will soon be discharged. He says Bob Rhodes is married.

I also received a letter from Lt Roberts 9th Min who is well as are all the boys in his Co.

Tell Sandy I would comply with his wish about the drum, if I could. but now it is impossible as we leave so soon.

Perhaps you think that because I get big wages, I have nothing to do with it but send it home. I wish it were so,

but I have already spent more than \$120, and could not help it, without being unfitted, and they say we will pay \$1.50 per day going down on the boat, for Medical.

We will have a long trip. The 2nd Regt go with us. The 9th are enjoying themselves, but I would hate to be home idle when so much is to be done, but I can assure you,

"The hope of final victory, within my bosom burning, is mingled with sweet thoughts of thee, and of at last returning."

But should I never return again, still worth thy love though I find me dishonored breath shall never stain the name I leave behind, Love to you all, and respects to all my friends. From your affectionate son, Thomas Montgomery.