



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters Provost Guard
Fort Hudson La. April 28th 1864.

Dear Brother James Charles,

Hearing that you were so anxious to receive a letter from me, I concluded to endeavor to gratify your wishes in that respect. And first I am pleased to acknowledge the receipt of a very interesting letter from you, dated April 5th. I received it on the 24th inst. and was glad to hear that you were well and enjoying yourself. I was glad you received my Vicksburg letter, I think you have received all I have written thus far. I write about once in 10 days. I wish I was home now to see William Jones. I hope he will enjoy himself while he stays. It is too bad that he has no father & mother to greet his return. He has seen some rough service. Give him my best respects. I suppose the 7th Min is now full. I understand that Marshall is Colonel & Bradley Lt. Col. & Cap^t Burt Major, Co. "K." must be nearly full. I trust Keithley has got his anticipated Commission by this time. You must be making a good spec^{ie} out of your potatoes. They turned out very good. I was glad you were so pleased with the Photographs I sent home. I sent Lt. Butley in my last letter. St. Mores family live in Wasingt. and the Captain's in Wisconsin. The pictures I sent were not as good as might be for they were rather hurried. I hope Jo. Davis is enjoying himself away up in Ky.

You say, you suppose I will see many new things
down here. I do, but I would have seen more, had we
went to New Orleans, but perhaps it is as well as it is.
I still command the Provost Guard of this post, but I expect
to be recalled to the regiment in a few days as Capt.
Whitford is very sick in Hospital, poor man he has
not had a well day since he came here, but two or three.
This climate don't agree with him. He wants to go home.
We moved our Camp this week and are now in a very
lovely spot, on the bank of the mighty Mississippi.
Behind us is the citadel, almost finished, on one side
is the river on the other a magazine & the public road
and before us is Gen. Almans Head Is. Our Camp is
shaded by trees and the lines of telegraph run over our
tents. Although the elements of war are visible in all
directions, yet the landscape is very beautiful.

The National Colors of the Post are close by us, and we guard it
taking care of the flag. The beautiful trees close by, the green
grass and the winding of the river in the distance, contrast
strongly with the long line of earthworks. Mounted all
along with heavy guns, the magazines & other works
for defense. Vigorous means are being used to complete the
fortifications and make this place impregnable.
Several Regts have left, so the outside line of defense is all
being levelled, and the troops are moving inside of the main
works, a space of about 100 acres. Our Regt moved to day to
a point on the River $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below the landing & outside
of the works. Some other Regts also remain outside,

The Col is anxious to get this company back again to the Reg,
and probably will succeed. We would rather stay as we
have easier times and get along nicely. I bag several every
night & take them to the Guard House, where they work out
their release by ten or more days on the fortification. The sick
from here were all taken to New Orleans yesterday, and we
are tearing down all the houses outside of the inner
line of works. It looks as if an attack was expected, but
we are confident of our ability to hold the place, as long
as the river is ours. Several boats pass here every day
all coming down being hailed by a blank shot from our guns.
Gunboats are here for escorts every now & then. Occasionally
some ocean steamship comes up to transport troops South.
I spent last Sunday with the Reg. Attended meeting in forenoon
and speaking meeting at night. The Colored Christians would
sometimes shame those of fairer complexion in their sincerity.
Several of the officers appear to be church members, one is
a local Methodist. We have a new Major now, named Lacey.
Our old Major Sears, being promoted Lt. Col. of the 5th Me. Inf.
Our Senior Captains don't like it very much, but it was unavoidable.
I visited our Reg. Hospital last Sabbath with Lt. Moore. It is indeed
a lovely place. It was the Hd. Qs of a Reg. Genl. Formerly it was
the residence of a rich planter. The various tropical trees and shrubs
abound. I saw peaches growing full size, also figs, lemons & oranges.
The rose bushes are covered with beautiful roses. I wish I could
send you a bouquet of them, as I sometimes am presented with.
I have seen peas growing four feet high. All these beautiful
places are being destroyed now, to give scope to our artillery.

The weather is clear and getting very warm. The river is rising on account I suppose of the spring thaw in the North.
I suppose when you receive this you will be hard at work, at getting in corn &c. I hope you will have good crops this year.
I am sorry Ma was feeling so unwell. I hope she will not expose herself unnecessarily, or work too hard. You must help her as much as you can, and get someone else if you have no time.
I was glad to hear that my Cleveland friends were so well. You say Mr. Gary's folks have moved away. It's well, if all I heard were true about you & Sandy. Someone requests me, as one having influence with you, to give you some advice in reference to your conduct with Miss Julia. You must beware and behave yourselves before I return, or else suffer the consequences.
I hope you have good meetings and Sunday schools. Ours are few and far between, but we manage to get some reading matter occasionally, between that and writing we pass away most of the time. My duties are mostly done at night. In ~~particular~~ ^{April 28} I have had comparatively a very easy time here, and I am loth to quit it.
I must now draw to a close having nothing more of interest to write. Please give my respects to John Jones Williams if there, and all the family, Flower, Smiths, Talbot's. When you next write direct to Mr. Montgomery 67th St. N.Y. (Ct), Port Hudson La, via Cairo, Ill. I believe I have received all sent down the river yet and I guess it is about as safe.
I hope you will write as often as usual. All your letters are very acceptable, I receive some valuable advice in all of them, which is worth gold to me here.
My health is very good and the health of the Regt is improving. I trust this will find you all enjoying good health. I often think of you all, and look at your pictures, and sometimes would like to return a short time, but I hope the end will soon come when friends will meet again.
For the present, farewell.
Your affectionate Son, Wm. Montgomery } Love to Ma, Ma, Sandy & J. A. C.