



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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The U. S. Christian Commission
sends this as the soldier's messenger to his home.
Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings.

(71)

"There is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Morganza La. Sept^r 16th - 1864.

My Dear Father.

Your very kind and humorous letter of August 30th was received by me yesterday and I hasten to reply. It afforded me much pleasure to read of the successful campaign which your company had this summer in meeting (not the enemy but) your dearest friends and slaying them in the prime of life with any mercy. I was pleased to hear that your crops were so good this season, and that you were all blessed with good health to harvest them, without any outside assistance. I have an idea that you must have had some weeks of very hard work, but will be well repaid for all, by getting such high prices for your surplus produce, and high prices are needed to meet the increased
rise in store goods & taxes

My own tax is about \$70. this year.
The farmers will surely make it pay
better now than any other class of
people. because they can live within
themselves to a greater extent.

I hope you will have time to put up
a sufficient quantity of hay.

It does me good to know that your
health is so good. I sometimes wish
I was up there myself to recruit my
health. I am not to say sick. for I do
duty constantly. but either the care
devolving on me, or the unhealthy
climate is reducing me somewhat
in flesh. I weigh less by 30 lbs. than
I did last spring in St Louis.

But I can have no serious reason to
complain. God has been good to me
so far and will be to the end.
What signifies trifling ailment, or
light afflictions. which are but for a
moment. will work out for us a more
abundant weight of glory —

I say I have no reason to complain when I can do duty right along, and do the duty also, of my brother officers who are too sick to do any duty.

The frightful ravages of Death in this Brigade are appalling. In our Reg. Hospital only 3 or 4 rods from my tent died yesterday 5 men, day before 5 and day before 3, only 13 in 3 days! These men die off at a wonderful rate. They will be walking along and fall down dead, they are sometimes found dead in the mornings, in or at their tents, or at the sinks, they have no tenacity of life whatever. I have ~~not~~ lost but one man since Aug 20th. The mortality in New Orleans Hospital is dreadful. Two companies are constantly at work digging graves. There is no talk of us recruiting at present. If not we will soon have no men left. There is a talk of sending us farther North for the good health of the men,

We have battation, drill now every day, and I like it well, for it is my first-chance to put in practice, what I learned by theory. But it makes me feel bad to have so few men to drill. The Regiment can't turn out more than 150 for drill. I hope the Indians, will not trouble you so far down. There seems to be an uprising among the Indians all over the country. I suppose there are 100,000 warriors now at war on the whites. I hope you have received the reinforcement sent from here, ere this. If so, I hope she will be acceptable.

I have not heard from Lt Talbot or the 7th for some time. but soon expect to as I have written to them.

So Paymaster has arrived yet, neither do we expect to be paid till next month. \$7,000,000. arrived at New Orleans but it is to pay, in the Quarter Masters Dept. \$5,000,000. were captured by the Rebels on the Electric Spark. I am at no loss however I have about \$12. left yet. Our expenses just now are not very heavy as we live quite cheap. Remember to all the friends. I hope you will raise the quota in Cleveland by volunteering. if not let the draft proceed. Write often. It does me good to receive a letter every week. From your Affectionate Son J. Montgomery