



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Camp, 67<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry

Morganza La Sept<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1864.

My Dear Brother James Charles:

(73)

Your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. was received by me on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. and I was very busy since, I could not answer sooner. I was glad to hear that you were well and doing well. My own health is very good. It varies very much however some days I will be quite well, and in good spirits, and other days suddenly unwell. I never am so unwell however, but that I can be around to attend to my business, which I seem to let another do for me. I am able thank God to do all my own business, and I believe I understand it as fully as the most of officers. I think in prosecuting your work, you have done nobly. It is well your health is good and that you can do all your work without outside assistance. That is the best way to prosper. I could not rest satisfied, did I not know every little thing connected with my company business, and I assure you it keeps me busy to keep track of every little thing. A captain has the entire responsibility, and he alone is held strictly accountable, if any thing goes amiss. Of course I hold my Subordinates accountable, and so far I have got along finely, and am safe on every side.

Volunteering, and the inevitable draft, seems to be the furor up there at present. Well I am glad it has awakened a spirit of even reluctant patriotism among your citizens, and that they are volunteering. I honor them for their pluck, even at the eleventh hour. I guess they will have a chance, to complete their term of service, & form some opinion of their Master "Uncle Sam". I trust that if the draft is enforced in Cleveland, those drafted will be Copperheads, not that they make the best soldiers, but to bring them to see who their enemies are, & so as to make them good Union Men.

Men must be very scarce around there now, and labor will surely be in great demand. The men got a very good bounty, and done well not to wait for the draft. I suppose Lt. Manning, is in high glee, at being rejected. I received three letters all at once the other day, the other two being from Lt. Talbot & Miss Talbot. I was glad to hear from each, it being their first letters for 3 months. Ed. is well & in good spirits, but I think would like to go home; that is my idea on the subject too, but less than 60 days would do me no good, & that is hard to get, if any. I hear we will be paid off next week. I won't object to that as all are out of money. I reserved enough to buy meal to make our mush, & have \$8 left. Much obliged for the stamps. I now close my letter to you hoping soon to hear from you again. With best love believe me, your affectionate son, Edw. Montgomery

731/2  
Morgansville Ga. Sept 30<sup>th</sup> My Dear Mother  
I will finish my letter by writing a few lines to you  
in answer to yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> instant. It appears to me you  
do more writing now, than you ever did in your life.  
So it don't hurt you too much, I am glad to have you  
write. Your letters are always read & reread, and I am  
gratefully thankful for all you write. I am afraid  
you give way to thinking too much, and it hurts you.  
I trust that before this Lizzie is with you. If she is she  
will be a great comfort to you. I know you are eager to  
get her, if she does not get there I would hire some other  
person to do the rough work. Never fear the expense,  
I expect to send home 3 or 400 dollars in a few days  
which will pay all expense. I know you would all like  
to see me up there this fall, but I fear I can't go. I would  
very much like to go, and vote for Lincoln for President.  
Fremont I guess will back out, and McClellan is no go with  
me. being nominated by traitors to the Government.  
A few more successes to our arms, will throw Lincoln far ahead,  
and be a crushing blow to the Rebels. An Expedition into  
the interior, left here a few days ago & have just returned.  
They crossed the Atchafalpa, had some brushes with the  
enemy, burned a great many houses, & returned laden  
with booty. Every man had something, every wagon was full.  
Expeditions go out frequently from here, several thousand at a time.  
You ask if I am master of my business. I would not have been  
promoted if I were not. I fully comprehend all my duties so far.  
The Turkey meetings are still kept up with much interest.  
A new Preacher (one of the privates) has come up from New Orleans  
and he preaches quite often. What powerful sermons  
& prayers he makes. They are worthy of listening to.  
The Chaplain has resigned and will I think soon go home.  
It would amuse you to see what we live on now. Mush or pudding  
is my favorite. I buy canned milk, to eat with it. Fresh beef  
and soup, I like for dinner. Our bread half the time is cold mush  
fried, which we all like well. We will soon live better however.  
Our mess is reduced to three, now I miss Lizzie very much, but I have  
no reason to complain. I now close, I hope you will live in good spirits  
and be contented. No contentment in it & over eating. Tell off half of our men. I have now  
only 53. Accept my dearest love & I send the same to Father. Your aff. son J. Montgomery

Dear Bro. Alexander, I was much pleased with  
your portion of the letter. You gave me a fine account  
of those who enlisted &c. I am glad your health is good.  
I would like to see you all again. I was at home this  
time last year. It does not seem a year since I left.  
You are anxious to be educated: that is right. I notice  
you misspell a great many words. You also write to heavy.  
I am glad you are taking care of my stock, and that they  
are doing well. Hope you will have some fine molasses.  
It seems your crops are all good, potatoes, cane & all.  
You are fortunate in not being troubled by the blackbird.  
I am getting along finely at present, have plenty to do.  
It is now the end of month & quarter & much writing doth  
make me mad. I like it however, it is my choice pursuit.  
I have only a weeks writing before me. I am on Regimental  
duty about twice a week, once as Officer of the Day, and  
again in command of the Regt. at work on the Fort.  
It is about completed, I may send you a drawing of it.  
The war news to day is good. We hear that Early is whipped.  
Gen. Banks has left for Washington. I know not that he will  
return, probably not. Gen. L. Kurland takes his place.  
I thank the friends for their good wishes. Give all my  
best respects. As the darkies say, Tell Lizzie, "howdy" for me.  
I now close. Write soon. Accept best love of your affectionate  
absent Brother. Thomas Montgomery