



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Brad Quarters Co. 2^d Vth U.S. C., (74)
Morgansville Va. October 6th 1864.

My Dear Father:

Your kind favor of the 17th ult. has just been received by me, in connection with a few lines each, from Mother and Bro. Alex., and for all of which I am very thankful. It is a cause of much joy and pleasure to me to hear so regularly from home. These letters are connecting links that bind me close to the old fireside.

Being censured for negligence in not writing oftener to you I will devote most of this letter to your benefit. I think I have written some separate letters to you, & in no letter have I forgotten to mention you, in sending my love & compliments. I am always glad to hear from you, of your good health, prosperity &c. and am pleased that you are similarly gladdened to hear from me. Well, since I left home, I have endeavored to do the best I could; so as to advance my temporal and spiritual interests, and have no reason to complain of the results of my efforts. To God's blessing on my efforts, however I owe all. From an enlisted man in the ranks, I have advanced to the highest position in a company. This under God I owe to my own individual efforts. Others have made similar efforts and failed, who were perhaps as capable as I was. I have in fact been very fortunate, all along, and have seen much less hardships, than others of my comrades similarly situated. I was fortunate also, in being mustered in as Captain when I was, I would not have succeeded a month later.

For these and other innumerable blessings, I have abundant reason to be thankful to my Heavenly Father. I feel that I owe all my good to God, and I feel to thank and praise him for all the blessings of the past, and to trust him in the future. I also feel that one great element of good to me, is the prayers of my dear parents and friends. May God bless them all.

At present I am doing as well as usual. As I mentioned before my 1st Lieut A. F. Krepf, is temporarily assigned to duty in Co. B, as the Captain is very sick, and Smith and Butler are detailed on the Staff of our Colonel who commands the Brigade. Our Lt. Colonel, has just received an appointment as Colonel of the 18th Regt, C. I. at St. Louis Mo. I suppose the Major (Losey) will now be Lt. Col., & either Capt. Scholes or Whitford. Major I am afraid however, there is not men enough to warrant such promotion. We are under 500 in all present.

My Co. is reduced to 50. The Scurvy is very prevalent in our Brigade, more than half the men have it.

To check it to some degree, the Sanitary Commission have given us already a barrel of onions & potatoes, to each Co. A Medical Board, was here yesterday and examined the sick in the Regt. and marked 53 for discharge, 2 from Co. B. If not soon recruited, I presume we will be consolidated. Much to our joy we have got through working on the fort. Various rumors are afloat. Some that we will be sent back to Missouri, to fight Price hence the Medical Examination & Reports. One thing however is clear, Missouri negroes, can not stand this climate,

Much of the mortality, no doubt arises from the change of food and manner of living; and that lack of vitality characteristic of whites. It would appear that they can die when they please. They make no effort to live when taken sick. Give up at once. Not a day passes but one or more funeral escorts leave this Regt. I have come to the conclusion that the present race of black men, will not be of any account; the next generation, educated in the midst of freedom, will be worth three of the present. Some are so indifferent, as to wish to go back to Missouri, even among their old masters, with no higher object apparently than to see their wives and children. For this they would risk all. Others on the contrary write back that they are willing to serve six years or more even without pay rather than let the Rebels rule. I am alone to night. Lt. Roberts is on guard. Our camp is in the same place. I have shortened my tent and fixed it more comfortable, as the weather for the past few days has been very cool. I enjoy myself firstrate. No Paymaster has yet made his appearance, but I can get along; nothing but my food to purchase. A Bakery has just been started in our Regt. and we now get plenty of soft bread, &c. &c. Our Chaplain's resignation was accepted and he is going home. He is well pleased to get away. I would like to go home too, but I can't afford to go on half pay. If I got a sick leave I would draw full pay, but I don't want such. I know I could enjoy myself right well, a few weeks this fall. I would like to make the trip via New York &c. Perhaps I will pay New Orleans a visit, soon if I don't go home.

Oct 6

I received a letter this evening from Lt Falbot, who is well. It seems he was under arrest for some time, but was cleared and the Lt. Col. his arrestor placed himself in arrest, for tyranny and cowardice. I guess he is doing well. He saw Lt Roberts that day & he was well. I was well pleased with the purchase you made, and much obliged for the present of a fine mare. I hope you will take care of them, and that they will prosper. I imagine you have had a busy time all summer and fall but you have done admirably, and have succeeded well in all your work, best of all, you had good health & good crops. I suppose there is quite a commotion there, occasioned by the prospective draft. I was pleased to see so many volunteers. Some, I suppose, will soon return to take their place, after having faithfully served out their three years, in Uncle Sam's service. I was very sorry indeed to hear of Mr. Little's death. He was a fine man, other of old Co. B. are still sick in Memphis. The war news as we receive it is of the right kind. Sheridan, the wild Irishman, has won imperishable laurels, in whipping out Early's forces, the old, Stonewall Jackson Corps, the elite of the Rebel Army. Grant I have no doubt will soon make a bold and decisive stroke. Our Colonel is in great glee over his promotion. He will start up the river to day perhaps. His wife has been with him all summer. I have no objection to his leaving as he was a drinking man, but as a military man he done pretty well. Major Losey is a fine young man, well educated. The Colonel is liked better since he returned from home. Expeditions & skirmishes with the enemy are of frequent occurrence down here. Mostly white troops are engaged. I now must draw to a close having nothing more of interest to say. I think you done well to sell the cattle. Give my respects to all my friends. I hear from some of them occasionally. I hope to hear from you regularly. My Love to Mother & Brothers. Hoping this will find you all in the enjoyment of good health, as usual, and also prospering otherwise. I close. Remaining your Affectionate Son Thomas Montgomery.
Send love to Mrs. Alex. & daughter of the place.