



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters Co, "B" 6th U.S. I.
Morganza La. Oct^r 22 1864.

Dear Parents and Brothers,

I need more take up my pen to
write you a few lines hoping they will find
you all well and doing well. Thank God
my own health is very good, I am gaining
flesh I think pretty fast. I was reduced
quite low, but cool weather seems to agree with
me. I feel strong and hearty, have a good appetite
and make the beans suffer, they agree well with me.
I received your kind and well filled letter
last Sunday the 16th inst, and strange to say,
did not open it for 3 or 4 hours. That was
the day our Regt. moved to the camp inside the
works just then vacated by the 62^d U.S.C.,
who went to Brazos Santiago. We have a very
good Camp, on the Mississippi River Bank, and
we will remain in it during the winter,
but Roberts & I spent three days hard work
putting up a tent or house, and have a good one,

It is decided to be the best and warmest in the line.
We first put up a frame and covered it with Rubber
Blankets, as we had plenty; then we built a fine
brick Chimney, laid a nice brick floor and built up the
Sides with small logs which were already on the ground.
We then plastered it outside & covered it, and sided
the inside with shelter tents. Our house is clean and
neat; - the nights are cool but we keep quite warm.
About 10 yards to the rear George has his cook tent
set right in the ever. I am well satisfied with all
the arrangements, inside and outside, all is convenient.
Notwithstanding we are not yet paid off, we manage
to live. I have money yet. We live cheap but well.
Lt Roberts & I are now alone in our mess. My Official
Duties at present are not burdensome. I come on duty
as Officer of the Day about once a week. We drill a little
every day. I have plenty of time to read, write, &c.
I am taking an interest in learning my boys to read.
I now have just 1/2 a Company 49 men. Other Cos are much less.
Our organization is a little changed now. Instead of
being in the Provisional Brigade, we are now in the
2^d Brigade 1st Division U.S. Troops Dept of the Gulf.

Brig Genl Andrews of Mass. Commands all the Colored
Troops in the Dept. and Brig Genl. Daniel Ullmann, Commands
our division. Col Edgerton continues in command of the Brigade.
An election for Chaplain was held last night, Lieut Roberts
received 5 out of 11 votes, the others scattering. No Election
adjourning for a week. The Major was elected President and
his Secretary of the meeting. Col Edgerton was present and
urged the importance of having a Chaplain. The Colonel is
a greatly changed man for the better. Since he was home.
The weather now is beautiful. Nights cool. The river is
rising rapidly. Guerrillas infect the neighborhood of
the post. Some of them attacked a train who were out
after lumber. They killed a soldier of the 65th U.S. Col.
Now I have told you about all the news I can think
of around here. I purpose if I can to soon visit New
Orleans, which may be the subject for another letter.
I am not sure however. In regard to your letter I was glad
to receive it as I always am letters from my friends.
The reason I did not read it till dark, was because I
was so busy with my text etc. I worked so hard that my
hands were all sore, more so than they were yet since
I enlisted. Our tool has already repaid us however in comfort.

I am glad to hear that you are all in good health
and doing so well. It's a great blessing that your
crops have been so good. I am glad also that
Lizzie is there and pleases you all so well.
I trust she will be faithful and contented.
Tell her that I think a great change has come
over William. He behaves himself much better
than he used to. He now realizes the advice I used
to give him. I hope he will be so better in the future.
I would like to go up this fall but cannot. I will try
and send another box of things home if all be well.
I am glad you have got your new preacher. I hope you
will like him & that he will do good.
Religious meetings are few now, but reading is
very plenty. This is gratifying to me, as I cannot
get along without reading. Your letters are of much con-
solation & benefit to me also. Quite a heavy draft
in Cleveland. I would like to know if all will go to war.
The Election news is cheering. I wish I had a chance to vote.
I want to vote for Lincoln. McClellan is not the man for me.
I wish you could vote for me by proxy.
I thank you all for your good wishes for my promotion.
You seem to be more interested than I do. I am content where
I am and think I have done extremely well for one so young.
I am afraid Lizzie blows too much about me & I
was well pleased with her day's work that you mentioned.
That much every day will do. She told me she could make
two plain dresses in a day. I did not at first believe it, but
I guess she can. Heister does my washing very well.
I suppose you receive many visits to see Lizzy & I hope she
will not be lonely. Give her a chance to ride on horse back.
I send her enclosed a letter from William her husband.
I send my respects to all my friends and well-wishers. I
hope all are doing well. I am always glad to hear from them.
Having filled my sheet I now close. I send my love to all
of you. If we never meet on earth, may we meet in glorious company.
Write soon. From your affectionate son, Wm. W. Montgomery.

I had the style of the letter in the box I had some more money

My position in line of Battle is in the centre right up the colors