



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Qrs. Co. "K" 67th U.S. I. C. 2.

Morganza La. Nov. 21st 1864.

Dear Bro. James Charles.

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I am just in receipt of your kind letter of the 1st inst. and hasten to reply.

The weather for the last week, has been very wet, and to day is quite cool, but I think the next week will be very fair weather. The River is rising very rapidly, and a greater number of large boats are passing up and down. I am on duty to day as Officer of the day. I come on about once a week. This is all my duty, aside from Co. Duties. The Regiment is now busily engaged in putting up winter quarters for the men. We are building them of logs, covering them with boards split from the cypress. They make excellent roofing. I was glad to hear from you all once more, glad to hear that you were all well and doing well, and I hope this may long continue. I know you are all anxious to see me home this fall, but I am afraid you will be disappointed. It is too far to go and come in 30 days, and enjoy myself. So I concluded to postpone a visit. Till some future time, I can see you by having your likenesses, and hear what is transpiring by your many letters.

True; I would like as well as any one to go home
and greet my friends once more, to enjoy the Society
of those I love &c. but I doubt if at present it would
be to my advantage. I suppose we will remain here all
winter, unless disturbed by our enemies, and perhaps
I may have a chance to go home next summer.
One reason and the principal one is, that we have not yet
been paid, neither is there money in the Department to
pay us. If there was money in New Orleans I would
go down and get some, as I could be paid on my
muster-out Roll as 1st Lieut. But we take the present
as it comes, and always hope for the best. We get
along very well. I have read Ancient & Middle and
am now reading Modern History. We have Officers
Schools in Regulations & Tactics, 3 times a week, and
drill when practicable. Night before last we had a
little scare. Report said the Rebels were on this side of
the Atchafala, in heavy force & would probably attack
us before morning. The men slept on their arms, but
morning came, & no Rebels, except a few who were taken
by our Cavalry. Poor fellows. I pitied them. They had
been out all day & night in the heavy rain, had on nothing
but summer rags, & stood shivering in the cold, several darkies except

A great many things transpire here. & as we know not
of till we see the news in the Southern or Northern papers.
The St. Louis Democrat of the 11th quotes from a New Orleans
correspondent of an Eastern Paper, and says, the Rebel Gen.
Buckland, attacked Morganza La, on the 27th ult, and
Captured 1900 Prisoners, all the Siege guns, and spiked them
besides a large quantity of Small arms, provisions &c,
and then retired. Now all this is news to me, for I was
here on the day specified, and saw nothing but peace
and quiet. I passed through the fort yesterday and saw
everything in good fighting trim. So, I guess you need
not apprehend any danger, for we are confident that we
can attend to them, the news from the Election is such as
we had reason to expect, Lincoln is elected! God bless him!
This is glorious news to Union loving people, and very
bad news for Copperheads & Rebels. May the Country
be saved entire, and Liberty promote Slavery entirely
abolished, and peace & union perpetuated in this land.
For this we endure hardship, toil and privation
but so the Country is saved, and the Union preserved
even at the cost of my poor life, I am contented,
I hope this may soon be the case, for the good of both parties.

tell Lizzie that 1. Spangler took Ann up to St Louis, and
left her there. He has returned. 2. William is well and sends
his love. He is glad & so am I that she is contented to stay
with you this winter at least. Capt. McCoy's wife has come
down and is here with him. Day before yesterday I expressed
another box of clothing home addressed to G. Montgomery
Cleveland & Luce Co, Minn. Freight to be collected.
It contained 2 Over coats, 1 Dress coat, 2 Blouses, 3 pairs
Trowsers, a woolen and a Rubber Blanket, besides some of
Lizzie's clothes. Her dress was not worth sending as it was
rotten. Her hat could not be sent without being mashed.
Now you will each have an overcoat and a pair of pants.
This a sacrifice to send any new clothing but I
managed to have so much surplus. They will be worth
a great deal to you. I wore the Small Lined Blouse and
the small pants myself also the 2 Blankets, they had to
be submitted to the Prov. Marshall. I managed however
to get them shipped. I have about a dozen each of over
coats & dress coats, to either give away or throw away.
I have of my own 8 R Blankets & as many woolen do. so you see
I am quite comfortable for winter. No frost here yet, I
hear it snowed in St Louis this month on the 3^d. My health is
very good thank God also the health of my company.
I had 20 men from Co K on guard yesterday. I have 39 present
all fit for duty but 4. The white troops are nearly all away
from here now. Tuesday 22^d. Very cool day. Heavy frost
last night making ice. St Roberts on Grand Guard
I am trying to fix up & plaster my house. River still rises. It
has risen 10 or 12 feet in 2 days. I expect it will be pretty cold
up there when you receive this. I am at no loss for comforts.
I have clothing in abundance, and plenty to eat & drink
although it may be plain, and plenty of Reading matter.
The Christian Commission furnishes us regularly with the
choicest literature, which is rapidly devoured by Officers
and men. They often come as a word in season. They have
my heartfelt thanks for their lively interest manifested for
the spiritual good of the Soldiers. Respects to all my friends.
Love to Mother, Mother, and Alexander & Lizzie. I enclose
remaining as ever your affectionate Bro. Thos. Montgomery