



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Weymouth La. January 14<sup>th</sup> 1865.

My Dear Brother,

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your likeness with the enclosed lines, on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. as I was going out to the woods after timber to finish my company Quarters.

I was very glad to receive it, and look at it very often and imagine I see you present. I have now two of you and Bro Jas. Charles. Yours resembles the one I had before with the difference of age, and is a very good picture. I received another picture this week also away from Canada from Miss Maria Tolson, enclosed in a long letter from her and her sister Emily, both grown up women now I suppose. It is a very handsome picture and I prize it highly, being the only female likeness I possess except mother's. I inserted it in my album. So you and I are equal on that score. She said she received a letter from you the day after she received mine. I suppose you heard all the news in your letter. You ask advice on education. Acquire a good education by all means. Spare no pains now in youth to gain knowledge without it you can never shine in society or in the world. You have limited advantages, but remember many had worse and made their names immortal. Earnest application is required. Remember Elihu Burritt; even our noble President had as poor a chance at your age. From your Affectionate Brother  
Thomas Montgomery

My Dear Brother Jas Charles.

Your kind letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. was received by me on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst and I was glad to hear from you all once more. It pleased me to hear that you at last heard from me and I think it very strange that you should have been so long as 3 weeks without a letter. It was probably owing to the season.

I can judge of your feelings in not hearing from me, but you must not let that trouble you too much. You talk of a scarcity of water up there. I guess it all came down back out of the cold, for we had and yet have a surplus. Since I last wrote, we came nigh being inundated. The water in the river rose to within four feet of the level of the country. It had commenced to surround us from a low place in rear and was rising up to our Co. Quarters, but providentially the waters abated, the weather cleared up and the river commenced to fall, there is no danger now I think for some time, as it has not thus risen for years so high. We would be safe however if it should overflow as we could retreat behind the levee, or build rafts of our houses, but there is now no danger. It looks odd to see Steam boats sailing along all above the level of the ground, like a canal. The weather was very wet a few days, but is now dry, clear and very pleasant. I have seen no snow this season yet, and will soon see trees in blossom. Up where you are, it is so cold, I often think of the cold morning I used to go down to the stables to feed the stock.

I have just made a tour as 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Field Officer of the Day  
You may have your sleigh riding, but so can I have my  
horse back riding free of expense or care. I had a good horse  
and made the rounds four times, twice during the day  
and twice at night. I visited each of four Guard Reserves  
and each Sentinel on a Grand Guard Line of two miles  
and return in an hour and a half. One of my Sentinels killed  
a Catamount or La. Tiger, the night I was on. It attacked  
him first; the Sentinel shot it, which enraged it still more  
and between them they had a severe fight. The man bent  
his bayonet, and broke his gun to pieces in killing it.  
I am now alone. Lt. Roberts went to New Orleans, a few days  
since, & will soon return. My 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kreps. has been recommended  
for Captain. We were paid this week up to Aug. 31. Rec<sup>d</sup> \$229.75.  
I was glad of it as I thus had means to settle up my numerous  
accounts, and others with me also. We are inspected very often  
here, almost every week, by some one. Co. "K" was pronounced  
best last week, by the A. A. Insp. Genl. and the Major in his remarks  
in my Co. Muster Rolls, as the result of his inspection, the 31<sup>st</sup> of  
Aug. pronounced Co. "K" 1<sup>st</sup> Class in every thing. This pleased me very much.  
I have now my Co. fixed off, and will soon build a kitchen.  
I am glad you have bought sheep. I guess it is a good investment.  
Tell Lizzie, Mary talks of getting married to Sergt. Smith. C. Co.  
one of these nights when Lt. Roberts comes back. Tell her also  
Will. has not spoken to her for over two months.  
Tell her George still cooks for us, & Wester does our washing.  
We live very cheap but pretty well. Write soon. Accept the  
love of your affectionate Father Thomas

(89)

Morganzia Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dear Father

I seat myself this beautiful night to write you a few lines concerning my money. Mother said in her last letter that you could procure Government Bonds. 7/30's and asked my desire. I received pay last Monday up to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. I received \$229. pay as Capt. one month & 25 days. I have paid & do pay 5 per cent tax, which in a year amounts to nearly \$50. All is taxed over \$50 per month. I have sent by express to you \$200. in \$50. bonds, each one drawing one cent a day interest. I sent it by Lt. Nickerson. who went home to Ohio, on furlough and he will express it at Cairo. He left day before yesterday. I wish this laid up for me, and <sup>with</sup> all my money <sup>kind</sup> not otherwise invested. You will please purchase these same 7.30 bonds. drawing interest every six months, or 5.20's drawing interest in species. We have received them for the face of them and I would not pay any more for them, as the first six months interest is not yet due. I induced my Company to take \$1600. of them. Nearly all the men took a \$50. bond, and mean to save it till after the war. They received besides about an average of \$30. Co. "K." drew in all \$4300. They deposited all their bonds with me and some of their other money. I was very glad to be able to square up my business once more. I took in for myself about \$700. but I had some heavy bills to pay, for the men &c. I settled Lt. Moore's affairs and sent his wife \$115. and a little box of clothes &c by express. I received from the boys for sales of tobacco & bread. \$165. I have yet about \$150. left besides a Co. Fund. of \$110. but I may have to pay the most of it out soon. I think however I have enough to last me till next pay day. I have now about \$580 due me by Govt & some minor debts. I believe I will invest all my money in Govt Bonds after this unless you know of something better. They will bring me a yearly income of 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub> per cent. better than laying idle in the trunk. Govt is good security. I hope you are all well. My health is excellent. I enclose some money to Lizzie from William Estelle. I deducted what Lt. Edgerton paid on her account. I send \$15. I now close my tedious letter. I was so busy this is my first chance to write since pay day. With kindest love believe me I remain your Affectionate Son Thos. Montgomery. (Mr Alex. Montgomery sent?)