



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Qu. Co. "H." 67th U.S. C. Inf.
 Morganza La, March 8th 1865.

My Dear Father:

I write this morning to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 1st Sept. and to let you know that I am still on the land of the living and doing well.

I write to you this morning surrounded by somewhat unusual circumstances.

I have just completed my tour of the line as Brigade Field Officer of the Day. and it is about 4 O'clock A.M. So I thought I would spend till morning in writing.

I write this also in a new house, which is built since I last wrote, and which is very comfortable. We were ordered to move our houses so as to occupy a straight line through out the Brigade. And to this end I concluded to build a new house. The 73rd U.S.C. left here last week leaving us plenty of lumber, and brick.

I have now a neat house 9 ft x 13 ft. containing a bedroom in one end 6 feet wide, leaving me an office 9 feet square inside. It is built balloon frame fashion, and has a good shingle roof; a close board floor, 3 windows. And just as nice a fireplace of brick as you could wish for. I just moved in last night, and occupy it alone leaving the Old Residence to Capt Roberts.

I expect Lieut. Kreps. back next week. and he will stay with me, until I build a new house for myself alone, that is, if lumber is furnished as promised. All Officers Quarters in the Brigade are to conform to the same size, and two are allowed to a company. And one in rear for kitchen. Our front street is a grand one. And looks well in dry weather, and in wet weather it keeps very dry also. You may undoubtedly infer from the above that we are enjoying ourselves. So we are, and intend to do so as long as we can, but alas! for human hopes. man proposes but God disposes. We have no assurance how long we may stay here, not even for a single day. The recent rise in the River has caused our camp to be entirely surrounded by the water of the Mississippi River and even different parts of the same camp are separated. It has risen very fast within a few days. And now rolls Southward in dreadful majesty at our very feet, three feet more would overflow our entire camp, but it would take twelve feet to come up to the top of the levee.

A heavy rain and thunder storm set in last night at dark and continued till after midnight without stopping. I made the rounds however without any difficulty, and without getting wet, as I had a good horse. I am on such duty once in six days. Fruit trees are covered with blossoms, grass is green.

10. A.M. Morning work is over, and I am again at
leisure. The camp is hard and perfectly dry. The rain
was so heavy. A ditch runs under my house, which
is filled with backwater, to within 18 inches of my
floor. To day is clear and bright, and I hope the
river will soon fall. If not we will fall back of
the levee, or be taken away on boats. I do not think
there is any danger for life, there may be for property.
Now for scraps of news. A national Salute was fired here
on Washington's Birth-day. The war news is cheering and
encouraging. Sherman is undoubtedly the General
of the Age! He built a schoolhouse for the use of our
Brigade as a school & Chapel. I have completed my usual
muster Rolls and other papers. All alone. At inspection
my Company was pronounced good in every respect.
I have received \$53.00 Company Savings the past month.
The order for consolidation has been rescinded, and we
will remain entire as before. We had a change of ^{the} Command
at this post since I last wrote. Gen. Ulmann, was relieved
temporarily by Gen. Davis, who was relieved in turn
by Brig. Gen. Thos. M. Keaw, who now commands.
I received a letter from St. Mores wife acknowledging
the receipt of the Box & money I sent her, also one from
Loney, my old cook, who is doing well at St. Joseph Mo.
I was glad to hear that you received the money I
sent. I am out now but I expect soon to be paid.
Boats pass here in great numbers every day.
Other local news is of little importance.

So many Regiments - March 8th here. the Christian
Commission left also. and I feared we would
be poorly supplied with Reading matter. but it is
not so yet. Yesterday the Colonel received a box of
newspapers of all kinds several hundred. to be dis-
tributed through the Reg. I was glad to receive
a few Copies of the North Western. in its new dress.
also a great number of other papers

9th March. I waited since yesterday for a mail. but
none arrived. I expect a letter from home soon
however. The River rose very little yesterday.

I am on duty to day again a Regt. Officer. Today
Capt. Wright returned and there is now ten Captains
with the Regt. doing duty. Capt. Scholes commands
the Regt. the Major being absent in New Orleans
where he expects to be mustered a Lieutenant Colonel.
Our new Recruits do very well. and learn fast.

The weather is very variable. yesterday was a warm
beautiful day. to day is raw and windy & rainy.

Religious meetings are few and far between. I have
not been in a Class meeting since I left St Louis.
and heard very few Sermons. few ever speak to me
on religion. but I enjoy myself alone very well. I have
every reason to be thankful for present privileges.
they could be much worse. I try to serve God as

well as my country. and I know I have your prayers.
May we all improve our talents to the glory of God.
and the good of mankind.

I have now spent out my letter very long and will
close Remaining Your Affectionate Son,

P. S. Love to Mother. & Brothers. I have called my friends
I heard that Joe Everett & Miss Flowers, were married for certain

Thos. Montgomery

Liz & I call my friends