



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Post received from Father date Feb 28. Also glad you heard from
Sister. Can no longer attend the school. Will attend to school again
soon. Love to all. Yours &c. Y. M.

Morganza La. March 18th 1865.

My Dear Brother Alexander

Your kind letter of the 24th ult.
was received by me in due time and for
which receive my thanks. I was glad to
hear that you were all well and seeming
to enjoy the comforts of life. was pleased
that you finally succeeded in getting to
school. and hope you will improve all your
present opportunities for storing the mind
with useful knowledge.

I wrote my last in my new house. I write
this in another new house. You see I am quite
a house builder. Houses spring up as by magic
when there are plenty of hands to put them up.

The River which I spoke of as rising - in my last.
forced us out of our Camp. So we took refuge
behind the levee near our first camp, and
are now established in a respectable camp.

I have a good house, with board floor, door,
and two windows, also brick chimney. A days
work does it all. when several hands are at it.

The whole Regiment moved crossing on boats.

Our old camp is almost entirely under water
but the river is at a stand and I think
will soon fall; then we will doubtless return.

The weather is pleasant. We have cool nights but pleasant days. occasionally heavy rains.

Vegetation is very slow. It is always commencing.

The swollen condition of the Mississippi River makes it appear an imposing stream. It is only about six feet from the top of the levee. It looks strange to see Steamboats sailing on a level above us. Boats are very numerous now, a day. We have a large skiff in our Regiment, procured from the U. S. Dept.

We rigged up a sail out of four shelter tents, and the other day took it out on the wide river, and had some fine sailing without the labor of rowing. Mr and Mrs Hart, and Capt & Mrs McCoy were with us and highly enjoyed themselves. Capt. Whitford having been a sailor for five years, engineered the craft. Our former Major Casey returned from New Orleans a Lieut. Col. and well he deserves it for he is an excellent man and officer.

Lieut Krebs at his own request was relieved from Special Duty in Co. "H", and returned to duty in Co. "K". He received a furlough of forty days, and is now on his way home to see his friends, as he had not been home for nearly three years. St. Smith formerly of the 9th Minn. accompanied him. He used to be in Capt Davis' compy. He may possibly go to Waukegan. Lieut Krebs is a good officer and I have no doubt will be Capt of Co. "K" as soon as Capt Scholes is mustered Major. He has been recommended for Captain.

Leuch Roberts is still on Special duty at Reg. Hd. Qrs.
^{He has since been relieved and returned to duty in the Co.}
He and I sleep together now in one bunk and thus
have more room in our tent of 8 x 13.5 feet.
The prices of Soldier's clothing has increased of late
to a very high price. Dress coats are \$12.50. 4 coats
do. Pants \$5. Wool Blankets \$7. &c in proportion.
I hear that the pay of Comd. Officers has been raised
by an act of Congress, but am not yet positive that
such is the case. I hope it is as an Officers pay
at present is really not one half as much as it was
at the commencement of the war. However I have
no complaints to make. The support of my family
costs nothing, the principle reason being that I have
none to support.

For the first time in several months I heard a
Sermon preached last Sabbath by an old chaplain
of the 61st Regt, which came here not long since.
The Col. of the 61st commands the Brigade, but ^{being} being
unwell Col. Edgerton is now in command.
We are well supplied at present with choice
reading matter, and Magazines. I enclose
a letter written from this place. Great numbers
of the men are learning to read, and write.
I am on duty again as C. of D. I am busy in
cleaning up our rear camp, and seeing that all
goes right. I visited some of my guards to
day in a skiff. The recruits are learning
guard duty very fast, and in general are doing well.

March 18th
An execution is to take place here on the last of this month. A soldier belonging to the 20th N. Y. Cavalry, while out on a scout or some other duty, brutally shot a woman and robbed her house and person of silver &c. was found guilty by a General Court Martial, and sentenced to be hung. The sentence was approved and the poor man will expiate his crime on the gallows. The whole Command will be present to witness the execution.

The news from the war is very good. Every thing appears to be working in the right direction.

The Rebels however, are very tenacious, and if we would believe what their papers say, nothing hurts them.

But their end will soon come. I saw a couple the other day captured last Sunday. They laid in wait for our Cavalry outposts and surprised them as they were passing along between a high board fence and the River. 7 were captured and a number wounded and one man killed.

I am glad to hear that all the friends are well, and hope I may yet be spared to see them.

My health thank God is very good, and I am quite contented. I would rather be in a more active service, but have it much easier as it is.

Give my best respects to all my enquiring friends. A Kelly of this Reg. formerly of the 7th Min. was down in New Orleans last week and saw all of the old Regt. G. H. &c. They made many an enquiry about me.

A number of promotions occurred lately in the 65th among many of my old Regt.

But I must stop. With Best love to Pa, Ma, J. C. and yourself. Not forgetting Elizabeth I close Remaining as ever Your Affectionate & Devoted Son
Thos. Montgomery.