



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Head Quarters 67th U. S. Colored Infantry.

Morganza, La., April 5th 1865.

My Dear Mother -

About two weeks have elapsed since I last wrote home, so I consider it high time to again write, and inform you that I am still alive and enjoying myself very well. My reasons for not writing sooner are that I was waiting to hear from home again, also busy and exciting times.

I received a letter from you and Brother last night which informed me that you were all well and doing well. I was pleased at the cheerful tone of your letter, it done me good. Your anxiety about me is unnecessary, though not unnatural.

Do not think I can forget my own mother and the home of my youth. Neither trouble yourself about sending me a box of anything at present. I assure you I want for nothing here. I am doing well.

Your letters are always welcome and interesting. Since I last wrote, we had an armistice of ten days, during which we had free intercourse with the Rebels of Patchiff's command. The object was to enable the Rebs. to hunt down Guerrillas, but I think they were more like Guerrillas themselves. Numbers of our Officers visited the Rebel Officers, about 8 miles below here, and drank and slept with them, but I could not do that, so of course I would not visit them.

The armistice closed last Sunday week, and since then we have been in a constant alarm, alarm guns are fired every day at 2 P.M. to habituate the troops to form promptly in their allotted places. The drill now six or seven hours daily and of course are better prepared for battle than we were last summer. We are still out in the field as the River is still rising. It is now six feet or more above the level of the ground, but we apprehend no danger as the levee is pretty good. The Brigade is broken up and Col Edgerton is with the Reg. The health of the men is pretty good, I have not lost a man in my company for about six months.

The boys have come up at last to the proper standard of soldiers, and they present a fine appearance. I am happy to inform you that your fears in regard to me being my place are groundless as I was one of those chosen to remain, and I pride myself in having as good a company as there is in the Reg. It numbers 41. One of the last squad of recruits is a pure white boy, born in Minnesota, about like Mory Kingsley in appearance. I have made a drummer of him. Reading matter is plenty enough but I can't bring my mind to read closely as I used to. The morals of the men are better than the average. I seldom hear swearing, and gambling is entirely prohibited. The men are learning to read pretty fast. Religious subjects are seldom alluded to, I have no one to talk with ^{on} the subject. However I have no reason to complain, it is my own fault, if I don't read my Bible and other good books. But you see how I am situated, how different it is from what I have been used to. How meagre my privileges are. But by God's help I will fight my way through, although sorely tempted and troubled sometimes. Pray for me that my faith fail not till I once more enjoy those blessed privileges. I now close with sending you my best love.

Your Affectionate Son J. Montgomery