



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters 67th U. S. Colored Infantry.

Morganza, La., April 18th 1865.

(99)

Dear Bro. Jas. Charles.

Your long and welcome letter of the 24th Ult. came to hand last Friday, the day I mailed my last letter home. This is my first opportunity to reply. We live in momentous times. It is worth something to be alive now, when such remarkable historical events are daily transpiring around us. Who won't be proud years hence to say, he or she lived in the time of the Great American Rebellion, and took an active part in suppressing the same. We have had the official announcement of the surrender of Lee with his entire army into the hands of Grant, on terms proposed by the latter. It is glorious. Such important events, cast into the shade, other affairs of vital importance to the country. Mobile is beleaguered, and is reported to have been taken. If not it soon will be. Some of our Minus Regts. were engaged in taking Spanish Fort one of its defenses. Col. Marshall of the 7th was wounded in the neck, also several of the boys were wounded, one of Co. K. ^{Copy} J. M. Siller. By the N. O. Times of the 12th inst. I am pained to notice the death of my friend Leut. C. R. Talbot of the 68th U.S.C. He died in the Hosp. I think somewhere around Mobile.

Apr 18 1865

What a pity that so promising a youth should thus be cut down by the same destroying angel. He was a valued Comrade of mine, and besides my true friend. I mourn his loss severely, and deeply sympathize with his sorrow stricken friends. May they not mourn as those without hope. When it will be our turn God only knows. O may we be prepared and ready. Glad the summons to obey. I was pleased to hear that you and Bro Alex. made such improvement at school. You ought not to slacken any in your studies, even now. We had a Regt. Inspection last Sunday. It was very critical, but even so I have the pleasure of announcing as the Col. said that "C. L." done better than any other C in the Reg. You may be sure I felt proud of this, for there was a general competition among all the Cos. In fact the boys were as near perfect as could be. The Col. was particular in observing faults but could find none in my Co. It made the boys proud also. I defy any Company in the Vol. Service, ^{in the field} white or black to come out in better shape than my Co did last Sunday. During the Inspection a Salute in honor of the Victories in Va. & around Mobile, was fired. 200 guns were fired in a short time all heavy ~~pieces~~ ^{pieces}. It was terrific for a while. The greatest Cannonading of Course that I ever heard. For want of further space I now close hoping this will find you all in good health. My health is first rate. Love to all, your Affect. Brother L. Boutwell