



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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2nd Mo. D. Boat "Adams," 1865.
Morgantown La. April 24

Dear Brother Alexander.

(100)

I have the pleasure of writing you a few lines this morning, to inform you that through the mercies of a kind Providence I am alive and in good health, and I sincerely hope this will find you all well also.

Lest you should be ~~for~~ anxious or uneasy in regard to my personal safety, I will state at once that fearing a break of the Levee, our Regiment moved aboard the "Adams" and are now lying here comparatively safe. The River has been rising daily, slowly but steadily until it reached the top of the Levee in some places, and required the utmost skill of the Engineers to prevent a break. Hundreds of men work on it daily, and still they only put off the evil day which I fear will soon come. If it breaks here, thirteen parishes will be inundated, as was the case three years ago, and they will remain so for many weeks.

On Saturday morning about 3 A.M. guns were discharged by the sentinel, and the alarm spread that the Levee was broken. Like the signal of fire, it aroused everyone instantly, but it was a false alarm. However we pulled up stakes and moved aboard the boat before daylight.

He had good reason to fear the breaking of the Levee, for the water was about 8 or 10 feet higher in the River than the level of our camp.

It would come in with a rush and sweep all before it. We are not afraid of it now however and we will probably remain aboard till the River falls or the Line breaks; in the latter case we may leave the Post entirely. Nearly all the game from the fort are aboard boats,

A storm of wind or a rise of six inches will be likely to force the levee most any place.

The 65th Regt. are with us on this boat. Our accommodations are fair. The officers have state rooms, and the men have reasonable accommodations. It is a fine boat, quite large.

I would not complain now if the levee would break or at least if they would move us to Baton Rouge or some other pleasant point. We think we have been long enough here. Anything for a change.

We are not so destitute of female society as you may think. Capt McCoy's wife and the Hosp. Steward's wife in our Regt. very agreeable ladies & two ladies in the 65th. are here with us.

Major General W. P. Banks passed down last week and has command of this Department again.

It seems he has put a veto on granting any more leaves of absence, except in extreme cases of sickness, so that my chances for visiting you will be very slim indeed. I have not applied however, and therefore

the will not be disappointed. If I was taken very sick I would certainly want to go home, but as long as my health continues good, I have no great desire to take such a long trip. True I would be rejoiced to see you all once more, I trust may, but, that cannot be soon unless the war ends. So you need not be too uneasy or anxious in looking for ^{me} ~~you~~. I am thankful to God to be so contented, instead of tiring at the continued monotony of camp life as some, and becoming home sick. Although formerly seldom from home homesickness never has troubled me in the Army. If I had a wife and children however, I would feel differently. I don't see how some thus situated get along as well as they do. With feelings of bitter sadness I refer to another subject, the all absorbing topic of the day and age, the horrible assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the Secy of State (Wm. B. Seward, and others. My heart grieves at every mention of the atrocious deed. I never endured such sad and mournful feelings as I did during the twenty four hours succeeding the mournful intelligence. The noble, honest, pure, patriotic & magnanimous Lincoln is no more. He has fallen in his manhood, at the height of his excellence and devotion, for the Country's best interests. Our Great and good President has been cut down in his glory and that by the devilish assassin's bullet, without any cause or provocation. Freedom has lost a champion, the oppressed their true friend.

His name goes down to posterity unsullied by any
wrong action. He will live forever in the hearts of his
countrymen. His fame is immortal. His name will
for all future time be associated with the great
and good of earth in all ages. A second Washington.
Millions of freed men look on him as their deliverer.
It was a sad affair for the nation, but will not
detract from its glory or progress. Lincoln is dead
but like the immortalized John Brown his soul
is marching on. "O what a fall was that my countrymen
If you have tears prepare to shed them now"

Edward also our greatest statesman and most skilled
diplomatist felt the keen edge of the assassins knife
but I trust not fatally. God grant that he may be
spared to assist in firmly establishing our Nation.
Others no doubt were in the plot, but providentially escaped.
How sad to think that Lincoln in the midst of his great
efforts for reestablishing the National Authority over
the conquered territory of the Rebels should thus be cut
down without reaping the reward of his labors.
But his work will follow him. President Johnson will meet
I trust the expectations of all loyal hearts.

St Kreps has just returned from his leave, had a pleasant time.
He says he would never visit home again while in the army the parting
scene casting a shadow on all the enjoyment.

A Rebel ^{steamer} ~~Rain~~ passed down by here last night from Red River.
She was fired on & pursued by our gunboats but escaped. She will surely
be met by our gunboats before she reaches New Orleans.

The Colonel goes to Baton Rouge, I think to get us moved thither.
Mail has just been received and I received father's letter with a few
lines from Bro Jas. Charles, whom I was very sorry to hear was
quite unwell. I hope he will speedily recover his health.

Give my love to Father, Mother and James Charles, and receive
a full share yourself. Remember me kindly to Lizzie. Tell
her not to think hard of me for sometimes making omissions of
her name or Williams in my letter. I can never forget her kindness to
me when sick & feeble. Tell her William is in the best of health.
And sends his love. Remember me also to all my acquaintances.
Write soon & often from your loving brother
Thomas Montgomery