



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Port Hudson La. June 4th 1865.

My Dear Bro. Jas. Charles,

This being the twentyfourth Anniversary of my birth day, I seat myself to write you a few lines.

My health to day is good. and I hope it will continue so many a day.

I have been unwell. for the last month my bowels having been deranged, but I feel now as if I was entirely well.

I was not very sick, neither was I confined to my bed, but was quite weak. I am now improving fast. to God be all the praise. The weather is quite warm, uncomfortably so. We have no shade whatever except our shelter tents, and are careless to fix any, thinking we will move in a few days.

I spoke in my last about going home at the earliest possible moment, but now I am undecided, as to what I will do. And am afraid I will not have that pleasure for a long time.

This is owing to rumors about reorganizing the Army. Some think we will be out in a few months, others think otherwise. I think all who are qualified and are disposed to remain in service can do so, provided their conduct has been good in the past. Those desirous of leaving can do so also, I think, unless their number is too great. Lists are to be made out of all Officers, stating their ability, Conduct, &c. & whether they desire to remain or leave; these to be compared with similar lists at Washington, made out by the Staff Dept. as to the officers. Returns reports, accounts & other papers.

The War Dept. will then decide, who go & who stay, at least so it is said.

The most of our Officers wish to go home. I choose to stay some time longer, unless I am refused a leave of absence, when I will ask to be mustered out.

My pay is good, being over \$5.50 per day, or over \$200.00 per year. My tax is about \$70 per year.

An officer who is mustered out honorably
with his command, receives three months
additional pay proper, being for me \$1800.
He also receives one days pay for 20 miles
travel to his place of muster in.
These are inducements to remain in service
till properly mustered out, the war being
ended. An officer resigning forfeits all this.
I think therefore unless we are sent to
Galveston, Shreveport, or some distant point
I will ask for leave to go home in a
month or so, and if I get 40 days, I will
accept it, visit home & return too willing
to serve my Country a little longer.

I am grateful to God, for sparing my
unprofitable life to the present, while
many of my comrades have fallen.
A 2^d Lt. Slocum of the 65th formerly from the
7th Minn. was shot dead last week in
Baton Rouge, while in company with other
officers, by a drunken Scoundrel of a
Rebel, who boasted he would shoot
some Federal Officers that night.

Our duties are present are quite light
We have no grand guards now. All work
on fortifications have been stopped.
The Col. went down to New Orleans
for new arms for the Regt.
The health of the men is pretty good.
We have received Johnson's Proclamation
& think now the Rebels will meet with
justice. Their day of mercy is about over.
We are enjoying life tolerably well. We
fare good. Having a commissary well
stocked with choice articles.
We'll Lizzie that Henry Hershey does all our
cooking, washing & cleaning up. and does
it up scientifically to. He is an active boy
full of fun. all the time amusing us with
his trolley. He has only one eye, but
he is death on Rebels. We have had no
mail for a long time, but expect some soon.
Mr. Estlin is doing well, but wants to get a
letter from Lizzie. He hopes she is doing well
and sends her his love & best regards.
Best wishes to friends. Give my love to
Father, Mother & Bro. Sandy, if you are in
communication with him. I hope God
willing to be home at your Birth day.
Write soon & often Directing here.
With Best wishes for the prosperity of all
Relatives. I close Remaining Yours as ever
Thos. Boutwell