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On board Str. Ida Handy
near Memphis Tenn.
Sept. 17th / 1865

Dear Parents.

(110)

According to promise I seat myself to write you the particulars of my journey thus far. The day I left was cold & I was quite chilled through, but after drinking two cups of hot tea for dinner at Waterville I felt better the rest of the day. We reached Faribault about 5 P.M. passing Morristown &c & through a beautiful country. I met Rev Mr Perkins on the road. I found there was no stage leaving Faribault till next morning, when one left for Red Wing, which route was recommended. I accordingly laid over & had a good sleep. Faribault is a fine thriving town. Left for Redwing 9th at 7 a.m. & passing through a lovely country arrived there at 5 P.M. Red Wing is an important place. Visited Hamline University, a plain oblong brick building and Rev J. Brooks, Pres.^t who gave me a catalogue & other information in regard to it. They are putting up another free school to cost \$18000

from home Distance 90 miles
Fare to Red Wing exclusive of meals \$6.50.
Bought a ticket to St Louis \$30. & left same night
at 12. on St. War Eagle for Prairie du Chien.
Had a nice trip. excepting my fever. Was on her till
Monday morning 11th when I left on Pdu.C. & Milwaukee
R.R. at 7.15 a.m. passed a rough poor country &
reached Madison at 12.30. P.M. Went out in the
hot sun up to the city about a mile & felt
exhausted. Went to Commercial Coll. State Univ.
ersity & other public schools. but could find no
trace of Brother. I don't think he is there & yet
he may be in any town. & it would be hard to
find him. I done my best wherever I went. but
without avail. I left Madison at 9.15 P.M. for
Milwaukee. took berth on a sleeping car. and
was soon unconscious. Woke up in Milwaukee
at 4 a.m. 12th Had from then till 8 a.m. to look
around the city which is quite extensive
Left at 8. on M & C. R.R. for Chicago passed along
the Lake Shore. Scenery delightful. Passed by
Racine. Kenosha Waukegan Evanston. & at the
latter saw Garrett B. Ins. & N. W. University &c
Reached Chicago at noon & had to wait till
night for a train to St Louis.

Of course I had plenty of time to look around
& improved it. Left for St. Louis at 7.15 P.M. on a
sleeping car of St. L. Alton & C. R. R. Major Gen. Pope
was on the same car. Travelled slowly & did not
reach St. Louis till 5 P.M. 13th. Passed through
Springfield at 11 am. Gen^l Grant & preceded us but
two hours. Saw Lincoln's house & the direction of his
grave. Found no boat would leave till noon 14th.
Understood also that my Reg^t had left for the Gulf
so I did not know what to do. W. military fare.

I visited the Surgeons office & H.Q. As. got shaved & went
to the Lindell to see Gen^l Grant. met a friend there
& went with him to a prayer meeting in Dr Cox
church. Shook hands with Dr Cox & Gen^l Pile.
Returned to the Lindell. a large crowd collected
expecting to Serenade Grant. but they did not.
So we went up to the public parlor & to the Gen^l
Rooms & we were not alone. There I had a good
view of Gen^l Grant. Sherman & Logan with them
several staff officers. Wives children &c &c.
Also saw the English ^{capitulation} ~~capitulation~~
I went down to the boat about 11 & stayed till morning
14th visited Mrs McCoy & found out much information
about my Reg^t. They had moved to Baton Rouge
& were consolidated with the 65th.

Paid my fare to B.R. \$40, got trunk fixed, which was completely broken & left St Louis about noon River low & travelling slow, arrived at Cairo 6 P.M. 15th & laid over 24 hours. Got no pay. Left Cairo last night at 6 P.M. & are now at Memphis at 10 P.M. Sunday 17th My time is out to day, but I cant help it.

Excellent fare & accommodations, I have felt pretty well to day. We had preaching in the cabin this evening.

If Mrs Talbot enquires. Whither I found out any thing about her son's clothing &c. tell her I did not for we passed Memphis in the night. To day has been cool & pleasant I get along well in the cool, but can not stand the heat. We have a fine class of passengers & a large cargo.

I have nothing more of importance to write at present & so will draw to a close. I hope this will find you all well. Please write often directing to Baton Rouge.
With kindest Regards to friends & love to you all I close
Remaining your affectionate
son
J. Montgomery