



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Qrs. Co. "E" 65th U.S.C. Inf.
Baton Rouge, La. Sept. 22^d 1865.

My Dear Parents

Once more I undertake to write to you, having through the blessing of a kind Providence, arrived safely at my destination.

This is a world of constant changes, and surely I have found that many have occurred since I left for home last June.

Still thank God, I am alive, and at present quite well, while many have passed away. Quarter Master Sergeant Harry Citchcock died only a few days after I left. He was troubled much as I was.

I arrived here in safety about 8 P.M. last night, being 8 days on the boat and 14 on the road from home. I feel in no wise tired, but rather refreshed, and enjoyed my journey very much. I believe my health is improved also. I have been quite well for the past week, having taken Quinine to break the chills & fever which attacked me on the way.

The 67th Regt. U.S.C. Inf. is no more. My old Co. "E" 65th U.S.C. Inf. is scattered far & wide, never more to be under my command. So much for being without its head. My old Lieuts are separated and gone from me also.

Exchanged for a commission to confer upon my case. I was reported absent without leave for 30 days, but my certificates have been received. I am all right & trust I want to go to Fort Hudson soon & see the boys of my old Co. who are there. I will try & soon write again. Please write often.

(111)

The 67th has been Consolidated with the 65th the new Regt. with the title of the 65th U.S. C. I. N.Y.

The officers of ~~the~~ ^{the new} Regt. were selected from those of the other two, the surplus being mustered out.

I will name who were mustered out & who retained, of the old 67th. Capt. Whitford, Hudson, Laughlin, McCoy & Nickerson, & 1st Lt. Parvin, Mann, Johnson Smith, & Quinn, were mustered out. Lt. Col. Losey;

Lt. Kreps, Wickersham & Bornarth, were transferred to the 92^d U.S. C. I. & there is in this Regt. Capt. Scholes.

Grosh, Harris & myself. 1st Lt. Doane, Miller, Spruance, & 2^d Lt. C.B. Hutchins, Kelly, Butler, Vincent, Allen & Roberts.

Of these only five are here besides myself, the rest being either home or on detached service.

Roberts was assigned to me in this Regt. but is now permanently detailed in the Freedman's Bureau, in the Tache country. So is Butler up Red River.

My present company is Co. I, 65th U.S. C. I. and is formed of the old Co. I of the 65th 48 men, 9 from Co. B, 67, 1 Serg^t from Co. C, 67, 12 men from Co. D, 67, 6 men from Co. E, 67, 4 non com^s Off. from Co. H, 67 & 18 men from Co. I, 67, numbering in all a full comp. of 98 men, & not a man of my old company, in the number, or in the Regt.

It took all of the 67th to fill this Regt up, except Co. K so it was broken up & divided among the Cos of the 92^d U.S. C. I. now in Port Hudson. This I am exceedingly sorry for & would have prevented if I had been here. The Col. tried to prevent it, but the mustering officer took the cos to fill up this Regt by letter & K was left.

However I am thankful for things as they are, & am willing to conform to circumstances, as ordered for me, & accept changes as they occur. I am not as ill off as the other numerous unfortunates, who were left out in the cold, & sent home, although I would have been satisfied to be mustered out if I had to have known it before I started back here.

As it is I am one of the four (out of ten ^{Capt.} who were retained). My 1st Lt's name is O. H. Violet, an Ohioan. He is I think a good officer. He is a fine writer & will be a great help in that line. ^{He has the books & papers in fine condition.} His wife was down here with him last winter. He like one half the other officers is at present sick. My 2^d Lt. is H. M. Roberts. He is away. My Orderly or 1st Serg. is Sam Craig, from "Co. H. 67th". He is a good Serg. & I am well acquainted with him & will like him, but I would rather have my old Orderly H. White as he could read & write well.

Now as to our situation. It is inside the fort or earthworks, which are in good condition, & nicely situated on the river bank. The Barracks are built so as to form four sides of a pentagon, the other side being open to the river. They are built of brick & two stories high. Two are occupied as Officers Quarters & two as men's. Each building has a row of ten circular columns on each side supporting the galleries. The lower rooms are used as cook, eating & store rooms & the upper as Quarters. My Office is about 20x25 ft. ceiling fully 12 ft. high. 2 double doors, 4 large windows with shutters, a beautiful fireplace, wardrobe, tables, chairs & other furniture.

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Being built of brick & well shaded, it is nice & cool. Then the galleries in front & rear are luxuries. The enclosure within the Barracks is a nice green, with walks running through it, and the flag staff in the centre, lately set up by Lt. Violet. All the grounds inside the fort is a grassy plat, with nice roads in various directions, and rows of fine shade trees finish the scene. The guns are still mounted on the works. By the way, my company is detailed as Engineer Co. performs no guard, but is engaged in keeping the fort &c in good repair. in drilling on the heavy guns &c. What think you of me with my Co. manning the guns around the fort, & being able to fire salutes &c. Such is our duty also to take care of the colors, fire the morning & evening salutes &c. We are right adjoining the town & like the situation & quarters first rate. There is a large room for school purposes & school is kept daily, also a large library of excellent books for the Officers. If we stay here this winter & I have my health I think I can enjoy myself. The town is pretty large, plenty of stores & manufactories, churches & public buildings. Of these I will speak at more length when better posted. I board at present with "Loni", a colored man who cooks for a mess at \$20. pr month, he furnishing every thing. If I had some money I would institute a mess of my own. The officers had a great job here making out transfer & other rolls. The field officers are Col. A. J. Edgerton, Lt. Col. Baldey, Maj. H. Moore, Capt. Co. A. Scholes. B. according to rank, Randolph Bailey, Scholes, Prost. Hart, Montgomery, Sheridan, Darnell & Reid. There has been rain here nearly every day lately. I will soon I hope have every thing comfortable. I have James Harvey of old Co. B. the best drummer in the Regt. Tell Lizzie that Wm is in Co. "A". He has I am sorry to say been sick for a good while & is now in Post Hospital. For want of time I have not yet seen him, but will soon & write again. He received the letter she sent, a few days since. We have a fine band now & it is beating tattoo & I must draw to a close. The Col. has been sick for a few days, but is getting well. Direct to Capt. J. M. Co. J. "65" U.S. C. S. Baton Rouge La. Respects to friends & love to you all. till next time
Your Son J. Montgomery