



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

## **Copyright Notice:**

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).

Baton Rouge La Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> 1865.  
 Dear Father & Mother

I sat myself this morning to hurriedly write a few lines, hoping they will find you all well. I find that it is over 10 days since I wrote last, but I have been waiting day after day to hear from you, and have not got a letter from home yet. It is 40 days since I left home, and I think it strange, that I do not hear from you. This is the sixth I have written.

I have received papers from there that gives me all the local news, up to the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. I do hope I will soon receive a letter, for I am anxious to know how you are.

I have been kept very busy, for the past week and in fact I would rather be busy than idle. My health has been very good. We have a mess of four Capt. Bailie, comdg Repl. Actg Adjutant C. B. Hutchins. Lieut Violet and myself. We live very well and the food I eat agrees well with me.

I have not been sick a single day since this month commenced, for which I am truly thankful. I feel altogether like a new man. I am getting so fleshy, that you would be astonished to see me now. We have a market in town & our boy gets fresh beef sweet potatoes, mutton, & various vegetables daily and we have good bread, meal pudding nearly every meal &c. &c.

We can get sweet potatoes in the market for \$1. a bushel while Irish potatoes cost more. In general everything is very dear here. the dearest place I ever was in! Shoes are \$10. Boots \$20. pants/cloth \$20 upwards. other clothing is in proportion. Oysters & oranges are coming on in plenty, and will soon be cheap. Apples are 15 ct. a piece for best. I sold some Army Coffee to a merchant here & got 32 ct. per lb. in cash for it. Living is very expensive, but wages are high and money is plenty, but far from being as plenty as before the war. The dried pie plant. I brought down, is very good, and we all relish it. We get butter for 50 ct. per lb. I never had such an appetite, that I can remember of as I had for the past two weeks. I relish my food, eat hearty and it agrees with me. Hominy, rice, muck & potatoes. Bread, butter, & coffee, beans & pork & fresh beef are not spared by me these times. I sometimes wonder why I could not eat any, when at home, but I feel totally different now. The weather has been very agreeable for some time past. The air has been cool and bracing, and the mornings healthy. I enjoy myself now as well, if not better than I have yet in the army. Our Quarters are excellent, and the situation fine. We see every Steamboat that passes, & the city, is only a few rods from here. I am now alone with the company. That help I expected from Lt. Violet I have to do myself, as he is now acting Regimental Quarter Master, of the Regiment.

the Quar Master has been seriously ill, & doubtless Lieut  
Boole will be 2<sup>d</sup> M. in a short time. He has moved  
over to his office, but still boards & sleeps with me.  
So far I like him very well. St. Robert is still absent  
on detached Service in the Freedman's Bureau & I  
suppose he will stay there. I am beginning to feel  
at home in my new Company. I am endeavoring to  
make a good comp out of it, and indeed it is so  
at present. Last week I drew \$2000. worth of clothing  
and issued a full supply to my company.  
I am now in my old place as 6<sup>th</sup> Capt. 2<sup>d</sup> Comp on the right.  
Capt. Hart's resigned & St. Goodwin is Captain in his place.  
The Col. is still in New Orleans and I understand is trying  
to get mustered out. It is the general belief that all  
of us will be mustered out this winter.  
On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst I was detailed as President on an important  
Board of Survey & am still on it. I reduced one of my Sergeants  
yesterday for being absent without leave, & promoted a private  
in his place. They will keep straight I think, after a few  
examples. They begin to understand me now, & I them.  
Yesterday, Lieut Kelly returned to the Regt. bringing with  
him his wife. Capt. Scholes is looked for to day.  
The Paymaster has been here from the first, but has not  
paid us yet from various causes. I think he will pay us  
4 months pay tomorrow, that will pay the men up to the first  
of July, which will bring me nothing. I will not suffer  
for the want of money, however I think. I had \$15. after paying  
my fare at St. Louis & I have ten of that yet, & can  
get plenty more after pay day.

Oct 18/65

Mr Estlin is still in the Post Hospital, but is improving rapidly. Since the cool weather commenced, all are improving, very few are sick at present. William is uneasy to hear from Elizabeth & sends his love to her.

The pillow I brought down is a great comfort to me. I had only two blankets at first & slept rough, but now I have plenty and get along very comfortably.

We have an account this morning of the rumored escape of Jeff Davis, but suppose it is only a rumor.

I think President Johnson has adopted a very conciliatory course towards the South, they certainly have been highly favored lately. It is supposed that all colored troops will be out of service before Spring, but I think Congress will have something to say in the matter, when it convenes.

I have given you all the news in these past and must close, hoping soon to hear from you, of your continued prosperity &c.

Give my best respects to all the friends and neighbors. Please write often and let me know how all are getting along. Give Elizabeth my best respects. I want her to be a good faithful girl and learn to read. I am anxious to hear the decision of the election this fall. I hope Marshall will be elected, but think it will be a close run, on account of the point at issue Negro Suffrage.

Give Jas Charles my love & tell him to write to me soon. I do sincerely hope you have heard from Bro. Sandy.

I now close, sending my best love, & hoping soon to have the pleasure of hearing how you all are.

Your Affectionate Son

Thomas Montgomery