



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Qrs. Co. F. 65th (U.S.) Inf.,
Fort Williams Pa, Nov. 2^d 1865.

Dear Bro. Jas. Charles.

(115)

Out of the throng of business I snatch a few moments to write you this letter.

It is now eight weeks since I left home, and strange to say, I have not had a line from any of you since. I am surprised at this, and feel very anxious to hear from you. I hope nothing is the matter. I cannot believe but what you have written, and yet I have received nothing not even a paper. I have written home to you quite often and have also sent some papers.

I receive the "Advertiser" and thus know the principal news going on in the County, but that is unsatisfactory and I don't like the principles of the paper.

I also has a letter from Rev A. B. Perkins on the 19th written on the 9th by which I learn he is on the Cleveland Circuit. We would like to get the Chaplaincy of this Regt. We have no Chaplain, and don't know whether to get one or not, as we don't expect to stay much longer in the service. However I will see about it before long.

I am in the best of health and spirit and enjoy myself very comfortably. I am so very pleasantly situated now, although alone, that I would fain remain this way for an indefinite period.

Being alone with the Company, I have all the work to do, which has kept me steady at work for the past two weeks, writing &c.

As I said before, we are in brick barracks. My office is
one of eight in the same building on the second floor.
In front & rear are long galleries, and below are the
kitchens & store rooms. The interior of my office is about
20 x 24 feet & 12 feet deep, two large windows & a double door
in front & the same in rear, and a fireplace at one side.
My bed, wardrobe & office table (4 ft by 8) & library occupy
the side opposite the fireplace. My bed is comfortable,
the wardrobe is a fine piece of furniture, double doors, 4 ft high.
My library contains over 50 bound volumes, about one half of which
are works on military subject. The mantle piece is nicely
decorated with glass-ware. My lamp &c. while above
it is suspended a beautiful photograph of the officers
of the old 67th Regt in all, in an oval gilt frame, which
cost in all \$5. I go alone candles, & now use oil altogether,
at night, I close myself from the outside world, by closing the
blinds or shutters. My mess consists of Capt Bailie, Lts, Violet
& Hutchins & myself, four of us. We can live well, and get
fat, (as I have done the past month) for 4 a week. We have
china ware to eat of. Potatoes, butter, fresh beef
tea or coffee at every meal & occasionally dainties such as
canned tomatoes, peaches, oysters, &c. &c. There being eight
Captains here my duties in the Regt are light, so you see I am
about as well, if not better situated than I ever was in
my life. The weather has been delightful, for the past month.
My front door opens to a pretty view of the interior ground
the river close by & the country beyond for miles.
Then I have a boy continually at hand to do my bidding,
make my bed, sweep the floor, black boots, cut wood, & ring dinner bell.

Since I last wrote the Regt was paid, and I have money enough
now to do me, I bought me a watch chain silver (\$10), finger ring
gold (\$5.75) pair shoes (\$10) &c. My Company drew about \$6000.
I had a visit also from Lieut. Kreps, who stayed with me
3 days. He is well, & intend going up to Fort Hudson next
week, to settle affairs there, & see the boys of my old Co.
There was a circus in this place last week attended as usual by
thousands. In my official capacity as Officer of the day
I witnessed some of the last performances, only commonplace.
A man was killed (a private of Co H) last week, for his money
it is supposed. Others I learn were killed since. A person is
not safe out late, alone & unarmed, but the boys since
pay-day will sneak out, & the above are the results.
I reduced one Sergt for this, & have had another man walk
two successive nights with a heavy knapsack & stand on
a barrel all day without a morsel to eat for the same offence.
The state of society is shameful to a person from the North.
This is the case among white & blacks, & is met with in
all populous places, on the other hand there are churches
here & meetings are well attended. A large proportion of
the people are Catholic. Yesterday was a great day with
them, they assembled a procession & marched to their
graveyard & had lighted candles on all the graves.
They went through ^{some} very interesting ceremonies & they were
all uniformed alike. Rev. H. L. Brakenan Meth Minister
preaches here every Sunday in the Methodist Church.
For want of sufficient exercise otherwise the Officers of this Regt
put up a Gymnasium & have all the apparatus for giving
us all the exercise we want.

Nov 2/65
I wrote last Friday to Cousin E. & A. Morrow and hope I
will soon get an answer. Capt. Scholes & Lieut. Allen
& Kelly returned to the Regt. from Minnesota.
The Colonel came up yesterday from New Orleans, on his
way home again, on a sick leave. He is but a shadow
of his former self & uses a cane to get about with.
On the 31st ult, the Regt. was mustered for pay. The Regt
numbers over 900. I had out in line 66. I have 75 present
and 13 absent. I will have about 20 to muster out before
February, one year men. This Post is commanded by Maj
Francis Moore of this Regt. There are besides our Regt, two
Comps. of Heavy Artillery & some comp. of Cavalry, also a
Regt. out at Clinton (7th Ky.) Tell Elizabeth that William
is yet in the Hospital, but is getting along finely.
This cool bracing weather is enough with proper care
to bring any man out from a spell of sickness.
I am thankful every thankful to God that after so
long a season of sickness, I feel so well & hearty.
Nearly all the officers & men are in good health.
I have not much more to write except that I do hope
you will not, in your throng of fall work, forget
to write to me. Surely you have pen, paper & ink
enough & it won't take much time.
I hope you are getting along well with your work.
Give my respects to all my acquaintances & tell them
I am well & hearty, & in the best of spirits, and would
like to hear from any of them. Please excuse
my hurried scribbling this time. Accept my
love & best wishes & give the same to Mother &
Father & Sizzie. and believe me I remain
Your Affectionate Brother
No J. C. Montgomery
Cleveland
Minnesota
J. Montgomery
Capt 65th W. I. Inf
Baton Rouge La