



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Camp 65th U.S. Inf. Hd. Qrs. Co. I.
Baton Rouge La. Dec. 10th 1865.

My Dear Brother Alexander.

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Once more I undertake to write you a few lines, sincerely hoping they may find you as they leave me, in good health and doing well. I have not been sick a single day since the first of October, about 10 days after I arrived here from home. The ravenous appetite which I had in October, has left me, and I feel healthy all over. For this I am very thankful to God.

I received your letter, dated Nov. 17th and was glad to hear from you all again.

I also received a published copy of a letter I wrote to the St. Peter Advertiser, which you say you saw.

I therein saw a notice of the marriage of Mr. E. C. Jones & Miss M. A. Jones, & of Mr. John Diller & Miss Van Antwerp.

I wish them unbounded prosperity & much future happiness. Your suggestion to myself is good enough to act on, but at present I don't feel so disposed, even could I find such a character as you described.

You ask, what I will do after coming home. Impossible to tell. It is my design to attend a High School for a time, to educate myself on many things, in which I am deficient, if I am spared to get safely out of service.

Had I a West Point education, I would devote myself almost exclusively to military pursuits.

I like the army very well; but at present would like to get out of it. I think ~~Our~~ Regiment will be held in service as long as any Colored Reg. in this Department, for we have a good name, but even so I think it doubtful that we will serve out our time - yet a year. Our Regt. was closely inspected last Friday by Brig. Gen. Doolittle, Commanding the 1st, and he was highly pleased at the result. I am still on detached service, serving as a member of the General Court Martial here.

I think it will soon be dissolved. When it is I want to go to New Orleans, on a visit & to get some pay. I have not heard yet from my trial for being reported absent without leave. Other officers have heard from theirs, but I hope soon to hear from it, so that I can get paid.

I attended church to day, and heard an able sermon from Dr. Daly, formerly Pres. of the Ind. State University, now Govt. Mail Agent for La & Texas. Chaplain N. L. Brakenman, was also there. Very few attend but soldiers & officers. The church building is a fine one, but will be turned over to mission out of our hands, to the trustees of M. C. B. South. I would like to see Mr Perkins Chaplain of this Regt. but it is now too late to do so. The Regt. is being rapidly reduced by muster out of one year's men, desertions, deaths &c.

As you already know, I was assigned to a new & strange Company, and found them in bad condition. I had hard work to bring them even to a fair standard of cleanliness & discipline, but now I am proud to say, they are equal to any other company in the Regt. When I got pretty well acquainted I adopted a vigorous course, which was necessary as they were unruly, and I was alone.

Five have deserted, two for fear of punishment. My Co. now numbers 78. I have lost 20 since Aug. I will lose 15 more before March, by master out.

I imagine the weather is bitter cold now in Minnesota. It is extremely warm here.

The night of Dec. 4th was warmer than any I recollect of since I came down. I was forced finally to take off my flannel shirt & now wear none at all. The weather has been very fine, very little rain. The most of the trees are still green with verdure, flowers of all kinds may be seen in the gardens of the rich, & vegetables are extensively cultivated. Thanksgiving Day was duly observed here. The Regt. was paraded at 9 A.M. & the President's Proclamation read to them. I was on duty as Officer of the Day.

Still mess as before, at Quar. Masters. Monthly Cash \$15. I have no trouble now about messing, washing or other things. Money does the whole.

Dec 10/65

I cannot consent at present to sell that Rifle
but I will loan it to Mr. Jones when he wants
to use it. I wish Mother to send me one of
the best of her Photographs if she pleases
William Still was here to see me the other day
he desired me to write to Capt. Whitford about
the \$40. he sent to Sizzie which I accordingly done
He sends his love & regards to Elizabeth, but
he is still poorly, and looks very thin.
The general health of the Regt is good. We have
regular drill, parade & inspections, but after all the
men are not so docile & peaceable as before
Consolidation. I enjoy myself quite well and am
most contented when I have plenty to do.
We are in receipt of Congressional News and have
received the Presidents Message.
I hope this will find all well & prosperous
I think you done well to sell some stock.
I hope you will remain at home till I return
and that you will enjoy yourself, even in
the woods. I think you have seen more of
St Louis & other cities than I have. You ought
now to be content & remain at home. Try to school
if you can & try to learn fast. Give my kindest
regards to all the neighbors and friends of
both sexes. Why don't some of them write to me?
Give my love to Mother, Father, brother J.C. & Sizzie
& accept the same yourself.
Excuse my scratching and write often to
me, as I will be happy to hear all the news,
direct as before to Baton Rouge La.
I am close remaining as ever your affectionate
brother Thomas Montgomery
Mr. A. Montgomery Capt. 65th Regt. I. 65th A. C. Inf.
Cleveland
Leavenworth Co. Minn. Baton Rouge La.