



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Patuxent River, January 2^d / 66
My Dear Parents & Brothers.

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For the first time this New Year
I sit down to write to you. All my Reports, Returns,
and Tolls for the past month, Quarter and year, are
Completed, and my Company Books are all
squared up to date, and I am at leisure again.
I had all completed last night. My papers were the first in.
Yesterday was the most disagreeable day I have seen
since I came down. It was cold & chilly and
rained all day long. I was on duty as Officer of the
Day, but remained in my tent all day. I had an
invitation to dinner, but could not go, being on
duty. We have had disagreeable weather for
some time past. I caught cold, but am getting
over it. The Regt was inspected and mustered for
pay on Sunday last by Major. Moore, Commanding.
I thought I would get to visit New Orleans, but
could not being on the General Court Martial here.
We tried a Captain of this Regt, last week, and he
is to be cashiered, for misapplying money, deceit, &c.
I sent to New Orleans by Lt. Doane for my pay
I sent by him my pay accounts for six months.
Several Regiments have left here, having been
mustered out, all the rest except ours will follow
within 10 days. I think our turn will soon come.
Several officers have been assigned to this Regiment
from other Regts, but have not yet reported.

I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from Aunt
Morrow & Cousin Eliza and Morrow, last week.
It was mailed on the 7th & I received it on the 2nd of 10.

All the friends were well & doing well, except Cousin
Francis^{Morrow}. He has been unfortunate for a year or more
was heavily in debt, and is hardly on his legs yet.
Aunt says she was loth to speak of it before, she says
when he went to Ardara. He was a fine looking man
was liked & respected, got along well to all appearances,
has a nice place, but got in debt & can not get
out at present, which bears heavily on her. She says we
feel the smart of it for we have to sustain some of the
loss, on account of answering bills for him.

She thinks there was mismanagement. A scoundrel man to
whom he was indebted £16, took advantage of him and
put him in jail in Sept. 1864. So he had his own troubles.
The very Roman Catholics shed tears on account of him;
one woman to whom he owed £10, said that if he would
half kill her she would forgive him. Aunt says that
he was industrious and good natured, & it is the opinion
of his creditors, that he did not mean to defraud them.
He is now selling leather & is giving out flooring.
& hopes to get around straight yet.

Cousin Isabella, is living comfortably. Her husband has a
good farm, and a grocery, and is agent for a Sewing Co.
which brings him £40. yearly. She has two of my pictures
one in a locket Aunt has Jas. & Sandy's on her Mantle
Piece. They were all glad to hear from you &c.

They thought as the war was over, I must be at home
& were astonished to know that I was yet in the South.
Aunt Henry and family are well & doing well. She is
making the eighth peckel of butter this year.
Aunt Henry wishes me to write to Cousin William Henry
and prevail on him never to return to California.
They were so glad he had left it at last.
Uncle Baskin looks middling. Aunt Cora is middling.
Her son Thomas is doing well. Lucy is married to a good man.
Jemima & family are well. Aunt & Uncle Cassidy and
family are well, so is her daughter Mrs. Hamilton.
A letter from Jas. Oliver & Uncle Lockard ^{& families} were well.
He was up with Oliver's little daughter at Aunt Morrow's
spending a few days. They are anxious to know how much
of the gold Cousin Wm made in California, as he did not
mention it to his parents. His brother Andrew Charles
is a fine young man, so is James, who has three children.
Aunt Morrow had not heard from her son Thomas, since
he left Cous. Lockhart's neither from Cousin Andrew, C,
and was desirous of getting his address. I have given you
an epitome of Aunt's letter, now for Cousin's.
They were so sorry that I had been sick, and
so glad I had recovered, & surely thought that I
& Cousin Wm. Henry, would be over together to
visit them. They would try & make us comfortable.
His friends received a letter from Wm. when in New York.
He said he was going to see Aunt Mountjoy in
Cleveland & to write them to him.

Jan 2.
Cousin thought I was having very nice times &
was sure I must be happy & felt favored at being
my correspondent. She feels lonely since Isabella
left, & is kept busy attending to the shop. They do a
heavy business in the Leather Hardware, Iron & grocery
trade, the sabbath is occupied twice at preaching &
Sunday School & chapel meeting. She is so glad that
Uncle & Aunt enjoy good health, also Cous. Jas. C. & Sandy
wants them to write to their only single female
Cousin. She sends love to all, so also does her
Father Sister & Brothers. She wants my photograph
as they have none of mine left. Would send me
hers but has not any way of getting it taken.
Aunt was glad that Mother's health was so good, and
thought that you would take comfort having a servant
in aid, as you much needed one. She hopes Jas. C. &
Sandy are a great comfort to their Father & Mother.
The weather during the holidays being dull very little
of any interest transpired in this city. Negro balls,
dances, &c were quite common, as they are in fact all
the time. The murderers of our Asst Surgeon are being tried
here by a Military Commission. Every few nights we hear
a serenade given by the band of the 1st Ind. Hvy. Art.
Market produce is scarce & very high, so also is fuel.
We mess very well however for from \$15. to 18 dollars per week.
During the last year I have taken in over \$2400, of which I have
spent \$600. I expect in a few days 6 months pay which will make
over \$900 more, only \$300 of which I owe. I wrote 40 letters
& received 30. Wm. C. still is still in Hospital, but is not sick.
Having nothing more to write about, I will ask
you to write often & give me all the news.
Give my respects to all inquiring friends.
I send my love to all. I remain
Affectionately Yours, Thomas Montgomerie
Capt. Lehigh 16th U.S. Inf.