



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Baton Rouge La, Feb 28/66.
My Dear Father,

I take this occasion to write you a few lines, although I have but little to say. I am in receipt of two letters from you since I left, the first conveying considerable censure a portion of which I think was unjust but I received it in the same spirit in which it was sent. I will try & profit thereby. I am glad to hear from time to time that you are enjoying fair health, although pressed down with many labors & cares.

I received a few days since a letter from Mother & Bro. Alex, and am glad to hear that everything is running smoothly.

I have conveyed from time to time, all the news that is worth writing about.

I have very little to send this time. Yesterday being the anniversary of Washington's Birth day, was made the occasion of a parade. The Regiment marched through the principal streets of the city, to Head Quarters, thence to the Post, Quar. Market on the levee, where we saluted the National Flag, heard some speeches cheered considerably & marched back,

The weather has been more changeable during the present month, than for the four months previous.

We have alternate days of rainy & cold weather, but the rest of the fall & winter was really delightful. We are still in our Camp south of the Penitentiary and are the only Infantry here.

There is no telling when we may get mustered out. The 68th was mustered out & went up this week.

All appears to depend on the action of Congress and from ^{what} I can learn they are very slow in settling upon any plan, in regard to the Army. At any rate the presence of troops is needed here, and we are as likely to stay as any one.

We put in our time variously. The Lieuts and men are kept on steady duty, while the Capt's only go on duty as Officer of the day.

The Regiment received six months pay last week, thereby squaring everything up to the 31st of Dec^r/65, clothing, stoppidge, &c. Of course I received nothing having been paid up to that date while in New Orleans.

I have my spare money all invested in 7.30 Bonds, and I hope nothing may happen them.

I have tried to lay up what I could, and have now about \$2000 in Bonds. I would rather not have the Coupons cut off those at home, unless you would be sure to change them for other Bonds. I believe at present, they are as well attached to the Bonds,

The River is very high this winter, but not as high yet as it was last. We have not heard of any Steamboat disasters for some days.

I received a letter lately from my friend Mr. Chas. Sheerin who returned a five dollar bill I gave him when here not long ago. He is now with his father in Boston. A truer friend I have not yet had the pleasure of coming across.

I also received a letter from Sicut. Roberts of my Company, who is well & soon expects to rejoin the Regiment. He is in the Freedman's Bureau looking after schools, &c. He says his life is often in danger, and that his expenses are great.

Last Saturday Col. Edgerton inspected the Regiment the first time since I was with the old 64th.

After looking at my company, having inspected Arms, Knapsacks, &c. he complimented me very highly on their fine appearance, and said that my Company was good enough for any Co.

The Penitentiary here is pretty well stocked now from 200. to 500, are confined within its dingy walls, some of them for life.

The Sergeant whom I sent to New York in January has returned safe. He went on the Cars to Albany thence to New York City, and round by sea to New Orleans. It gave him a sight of the Country, and a taste of sea sickness also. He was deeply impressed with the magnitude of the Country, & thought he saw no better soldiers than the 65th.

Feb 23

Yesterday I had the honor for the first time of
Commanding the Regt. on Battalion drill.
Since the boys were paid, it is hard to keep them
in Camp. Parties, balls &c. are held nearly every
night, some for charitable purposes & some not.
Services are held in the various churches every
Sabbath, I find time to attend generally.
Ranger meetings are rightly held in the Regt.
by the men, but the majority of the boys are wild
stockless, & need to be held with a tight rein.
This effect is produced by being Camped in a town
where hundreds of their own people of both sexes
are around all the time.

It was different at Morgantown & Fort Hudson
for there we were by ourselves.
Adj. Hatching and me, kept together now, until
the first inst. Lt. Violet ran the mess, but I
did not like his style very well & therefore left.
We live much better than we did in Morgantown,
having every convenience. Of course it cost more
but that don't matter much. We buy sweet potatoes
at \$1.75 per bush, Butter 60 cts, Fresh beef 15 cts, flour
6 cts per lb. &c.

Having succeeded in filling up the sheet with
disconnected sentences, I will now draw to a close.
I saw Mr. Estle lately, who is rapidly recovering from
his long sickness, he is gaining in flesh & appearance
has considerable money & intends to go north in the
Spring if discharged, he intends to see Elizabeth &
settle down somewhere on a piece of land.
I am glad that Brothers are going to school, that
their & mother's health is good, & hope it may long be so.
I will be pleased to hear from you at any time
& for the present will close by sending best
love to all, & respects to all enquiring friends.
Your affectionate Son,
J. H. Montgomery