



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters C. I. 65th U. S. C. Inf.
Baton Rouge, La. March 14/66.

(125)

Dear Brother Alexander,

Yours of the 20th ult. was received by me in due time. I was pleased to hear from you at such length, and was glad that your health and also the health of Father, Mother, Bro. Jas. Charles and Elizabeth, was so good. My health thank God, is as good as I could desire. My only complaint is a great tendency to costiveness.

I am on duty to day as Officer of the Day. I am on this duty very often. I was on the day before yesterday and had a lively time. The 7th Ky. Inf. who were just mustered out, were awaiting a boat in order to go home, and were quite turbulent. The only casualties were three men of our Regt. who were shot at a dance, in the camp.

A night or two previous, when I was on O of day, some of the 7th Ky. visited a house in the vicinity, the owner of which fired at the party, killing a citizen and wounding two soldiers. It is dangerous to be out at night alone unarmed, and still the town is far from being as bad as many others.

The Regiment is being paid again to day, two months pay, which will settle between us and Uncle Sam, up to the 28th of Feb. I wish I had a few hundred dollars of my money at home safely.

I have very little news of an interesting nature to write. The times with us are dull, although we have plenty of work to do. because we are obviously awaiting an order for muster out, but I fear will not get it soon. Some of the officers have applied for it in their cases. I am not uneasy about it, except that I would like to know. I would not object to remain, if I could depend on having good health. The general health is good. The Small Pox is decreasing I think. There are some cases among the officers of Fever & Ague. The weather is very pleasant. A little rain would allay the dust, which the wind drives into our tents. The River is high, but not as high as it was last spring. We have to exercise constant watchfulness over the men, to keep them in their places. They are far more troublesome than they used to be. They will run out at night from nearly every company. Of course we severely punish them but they will not take warning. There is from one to three dances in town every night, since the men were last paid off, and which they attend. There is generally good order maintained, but they are wholly absorbed in their pleasures, and at such times are totally indifferent to the consequences. I never want to command soldiers hereafter, who are quartered in a town, unless I can have the power, to keep the women away from them.

I am glad to hear that your Lodge is prospering & increasing.
We also have the privilege of attending the Masonic
Lodge in this place. They meet sometimes weekly
& are very interesting. The Lodge is active, is well
conducted and is increasing. Initiation fees, \$100.
Next Saturday night I will go to witness a raising
to a Masters degree. I was present at an initiation last
Saturday night. The members are cordial and make
us welcome. Lt. Hutching Actg. Adj't. always goes
with me, & is a particular friend of mine.

I love Masonry more & more as I become better informed.
I attend preaching every Sunday, unless I am on duty.
Five Officers from this Regt. are now serving on a
General Court Martial. I was detailed on two
Councils of Administration for the Regt. lately
on one as President & on the other as Recorder.

I was glad to hear that the Robsons were well and
doing well, and also that the fair ones around
Cleveland were flourishing. I done as was requested
with the Oranges. I wish I could send up some.
Oranges are brought here in stiff loads from 100 miles
south of here, & sell from 5 to 10 cts each. Apples the same.
Sweet potatoes & Irish, about the same \$2 per bush. Butter 60 cts
Fresh Beef ⁵⁰ 20 cts. Pork 25 cts. Flour 6 cts per lb. Newspapers 15 to 25 cts each.
I received a letter from Cousin Thos. Lockard last week.
Heard family were well. He had received a letter from his
brother Oliver & had also heard from you & Mother.
He thought surely I would have visited him last summer.

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Uncle Andrew Cassidy had arrived then from
Pikes Peak & talked of returning in the Spring and
of taking Cousin Lockard along. He left Cousin Thos. Morrison
at Pikes Peak in good health. I should judge that
Cousin A. Cassidy is making plenty of money, but
poor Cous. Morrison is not.

If Cousin Wm. Henry has arrived then give him my love,
I intend writing to Aunt Morrison this week.

I am glad to hear that you are enjoying yourself this winter
at home. You have certainly better means for doing so than
you used to have. It is a long time now since I had a sleigh
ride or even saw any snow, as none ever falls here.

I hope you are taking good care of the horses and cattle.
I wrote a letter to John C. Jones last week. I hope the family is
well. Please answer this as soon as possible and write
often. Wm. C. still has got considerable money & talks of going
up to see Lizzie as soon as he is discharged. I think he
is behaving very well. His health is fast improving.
I hope you will not leave home until I return, so that
I may have the pleasure of seeing you.

I hope this will find you all in good health, and
prospering. I hope also you are learning fast.
Having spun out my letter to this length, I now
close it by sending love to all & remaining
as ever your Affectionate Brother

Mr. Alex. Montgomery,
Cleveland Minn.

Thos. Montgomery