



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 65<sup>th</sup> U.S. C. Inf.  
Baton Rouge La. March 29/66

Dear Bro. Jas. Charles.

I sat myself this evening to write you a few lines. Not because I have anything in particular to say, but to let you know that I am well.

It is about two weeks since I wrote last, and meantime nothing has transpired worthy of note. It is the same monotonous round of military duty from day to day. Notwithstanding this ennui of Camp life I enjoy myself first-rate. I have generally plenty of company in fact my tent is the resort of most of the officers, when they want to pass away a few pleasant hours.

Sicut Hutchins the Acting Adjutant is an especial favorite of mine and although I would not confide my secret thoughts to any living soul, yet I think he is my true friend. He is certainly self made, for at 16 he could not read nor write. He went to school but a short time, and yet he has taught school several years & has been four years in the army. He is now studying law. He is now, only 26 years of age & is married to a daughter of a distinguished judge of Michigan.

I have tried to do about right in every way since I came down here, both as regards my Conduct & deportment and my duty.

There is a vast difference in men even in this Regiment, this distinction is clearly visible. Some are energetic & faithful in the discharge of their duties, while others are almost worthless. The Col. said to me the other morning, when I brought a squad of ten prisoners to him whom I caught the night before, and against whom I preferred charges. "Why Capt. are you the only officer that brings men up to me in the morning?" He fined them one months pay each. The Col. last week sent me all through the city on horseback to examine & report on the sanitary condition of streets yards &c.

I was on that duty three days. The warm weather coming on now, every thing must be very clean to mitigate the ravages of Cholera should it come. The quarantine laws are enforced at New Orleans, but I don't think there is much danger. The Small Pox has been the worst here for several weeks past. Great numbers have died. Otherwise the health of the Regiment is good. Officers and men are doing well but all are anxious to be mustered out. As Pres Johnson is not in love with Colored Troops. I think we will get out this summer.



I hear that Lieut H. M. Roberts of my Co. has got  
into trouble. He was ordered back to the Regt.  
but before he left New Orleans, he was arrested  
and is now being tried by a General Court Martial.  
Col. Edgerton went down, being called for by H. Roberts.  
I cannot imagine what the old man has been doing.  
Three men, who participated in the murder of H. Bevelton  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> in April 1864, have been arrested in the vicinity  
of Jackson, a Colonel, a Captain & an orderly Sergeant.  
I hope they will yet be convicted and suffer.  
Last Sabbath I attended service in the M. E. C. South  
of the Presbyterian, and heard two good sermons.  
This morning I accompanied some of the  
to a flower garden out in the country & picked  
each of us a bouquet. Some of those who were  
with me took theirs to their sweethearts  
but I kept mine, as I don't run about at  
night as many do. I will enclose some  
dried leaves in this letter. Everything is  
green. Spring is coming on fast. The River  
is very high, and considerable trade is  
carried on.

I hope this will find you all well and  
doing well, and enjoying yourselves.  
With best respects to friends and to  
all I close for the present.  
Your affectionate Brother  
Thos. Montgomery

March 29

I forgot to acknowledge the receipt last week  
of a letter from home dated March 3<sup>d</sup>  
written by you. Bro Alex & Mother.

I was pleased that you are doing so well, and  
hope you may always get along pleasantly.  
I do not receive any Minn. papers now, and would  
like to see those papers, referred to occasionally.  
I suppose before this reaches you you will be  
preparing for your Spring work and the snow  
will all be gone. We have had a very mild  
winter here. Although in tents I never yet wore  
an overcoat any day or night the past winter.  
I hope your horses and cattle & sheep are  
all doing well. My compliments to all the  
young ladies & best wishes to all.  
I am glad that Elizabeth is contented to stay with  
you at home, so long. She is certainly better off  
than three fourths of the colored women here.  
Mr Estle is doing well & sends his love.

Having written this in great haste I hope  
you will pardon the scribbling, and with  
congratulation to write often. I close for  
the present sending love to Father, Mother,  
Bro Alex, Elizabeth & yourself.

Yours Affectionately  
Mr J C Montgomery  
Cleveland

J C Montgomery