



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 65th U.S. C. I.
 Baton Rouge La. April 4th 1866.

Dear Father.

Your kind favor of the 13th reached me one day last week. just after I mailed my last letter.

I was pleased to hear once more from home and that all were well and doing well. I am happy to inform you that my health has been and is very good. The strictest care is necessary now at the change of the season, to preserve the health from the ravages of the various epidemic diseases &c.

The Small Pox which has raged here for many months is on the decline. I think if this city was put in a good cleanly condition, it would be a healthy place to live in, as the land is high and rolling. The Miss. River is now very high, almost as high as it was last spring.

Col. Edgerton still commands the Regt. & Post. He has been nominated for a Brevet Brig. Genl. and through the influence of Gov. Marshall, & Senators will probably get it through the Senate.

He has been advising me to use the same influence to get me a position in the Regular Army, & promised me his assistance.

There is still a great uncertainty as to when we will be mustered out. There are conflicting reports. Col. Edgerton on his return from New Orleans said we were chosen to stay in service until the expiration of our term of service, on the strength of which I ordered a new suit of uniform clothing; other dispatches say that all the Col. troops will be mustered out before the 1st of May.

Lieut. Roberts has disgraced himself in a manner that astonishes everyone. He was found drunk on the streets of New Orleans. I am not yet informed what his sentence is. He told the Colonel that his liquor must have been drugged. Lieut. Violet is still Acting Reg. Q. M. in the absence of Lieut. Allen, who has been sick since last October, so that I am still alone with my Co. Co. I has been reduced from 94 men, (the number when I joined it), to 59 men, mostly by discharges of one year men, & by some deaths and desertions. I am on duty as Officer of the day, from two to three times every week which gives me enough to do. I have a horse to ride & visit the different posts, day and night. Patrolling is something I frequently do at night, and catch numbers of the men who run out of camp at night without permission. Many of the men are very vicious. I fired 6 times at one, the other night, whom I arrested & then broke away. The Officer of the day virtually commands the Reg, as the Col. is not quartered with it.

We think down here that President Johnson
has turned his back on his friends, or those who
were the means of putting him in office.
His policy is certainly very consoling to the faithful
who have in him a friend, who is siding with
all he can, in opposition to the expressed views
of the majority of the whole people. I still have much
faith in the acts of Congress, guided by an overruling
Providence. If Johnson's policy is the best it remains to be seen.
Despite all that is said, the whole South, have still
a concealed hatred of the North, and are only kept
in their proper place by the presence of Govt. troops.
A plot was discovered here a few days since to
blow up the Arsenal, magazines &c. Such a plot
could only emanate from the devil himself,
for it would be the destruction of the whole town.
It caused quite an excitement for a few days.
I have been rearranging my tents. I tore down
the chimneys & have raised them high & airy.
Good Friday & Easter Sunday, was celebrated here
at the various places of worship, especially
the Catholic. I received a letter from one of
the boys of my old company, yesterday from
Glasgow Mo. His name is W. B. Hershey, who used
to wait on me. He wrote me a nice friendly letter.
I enclose one of my photographs, taken here
last week. Since then I have had my beard
cut off, & will in my next send one as Officer of the day.
You ought to have yours taken and send to me. I would be
glad to have it, & would then have the number complete.

I have completed my Quarterly and monthly
Returns, Reports &c. and am now at leisure again.
The Col. appointed me tutor in Tactics & Regulation
to all the non commissioned officers of the Regt.
The Col. has schools for the officers twice a week
& I teach the non coms. three times weekly.
I must now draw to a close as the drums are
beating for Guard mounting. & I must attend.
I will soon write again. To Bro. Alexander.
Sends best regards to all my friends. &
love to Mother Brothers ^{and} yourself. &
Remain Your affectionate son.

Wm. Montgomery

Wm. A. Montgomery
Cleveland Ohio

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