



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters Co. I. 65th Inf. C. Inf.
Baton Rouge La. April 29th 1866.

My Dear Brother James Charles. (130)

Your welcome letter dated April 17th came & hand yesterday. I was pleased to hear from you again, that your health was good and that everything was prospering so finely. I am happy to inform you that my own health is remarkably good. The warm weather is now setting in and many of the Officers are disposed to have chills and fever. Such as I was troubled with last summer, but as yet I have not been troubled with any of the symptoms. I enjoy myself in many respects very well. We have plenty to eat and drink, our duties are not extraordinary and we also enjoy many of the luxuries of the season and of society in general. Our camp is well shaded with cane, so as to make it endurable during the hottest portion of the day.

The nights are cool, and still mild enough & be pleasant. Our mess has been using for several days straw, dew & blackberries, lettuce, peas, & other vegetables. Lt. Hutchings & Allen now mess with me and we get along finely. Lt. Allen is now Acting Adjutant.

Our Colored Brethren of the Baptist persuasion
have been holding a series of religious meetings for
some time past. They baptize their converts every
Sabbath afternoon in an adjoining bayou (bi-o)
Last Sunday I was present and witnessed the baptism
of about forty. It seemed ludicrous to me as it was
the first I ever saw but they seemed to look
upon it as a solemn religious rite. & some seemed happy.
Last Thursday was a great day in Baton Rouge. As
it was the ^{47th} anniversary of Odd-fellowship in the U.S.
Public notice was given and all Masons in good
standing were invited to attend. Both orders turned
out in full force with music, banners, & Regalia.
& marched in procession through the principal streets
met in the Masonic Hall, & partook of a splendid
dinner, after which speeches were made, toasts
proposed & other ceremonies performed. In the evening
a party was given for the benefit of the fair sex. &
Lieut. Hutchins & myself formed part of the procession
and were present at all the proceedings. I would
here record that in no place in which I ever lived
~~did~~ I see such genuine cordiality, friendship
and brotherly love as I have found here ^{extended to be by} among Masons.
The best of feeling existed between the two orders.

and everything passed off harmoniously & quietly.
About 200 marched in procession. Their Regalia was
magnificent. All marched into the Methodist Church
where a public oration was delivered to a full house,
Being Army Officers ^{we} were noticeable characters,
and were of course called on to speak as a mark
of respect. We were made to feel quite at home, and shall
long remember with kindness and good feeling the Masons
& Oddfellows of Baton Rouge. Capt. Scholis has left for
home and Capt. Darnell has returned.
The 8th Ills. Vet. Vol. Inf. arrived here last week, for
muster out. They came from Shreveport up on the
Red River & number about 400. Brevet Maj. Gen. Sherman
who commanded the Eastern Dist. of La. for several months
has been mustered out of this Vol. Rank, & reports to his
Reg. for duty as Col. and so the Dist. is discontinued.
He was our commander. He was Capt. of a Battery at
Fort Ridgely at the commencement of the war.
He now reports to Maj. Gen. Canby department Comd.
I was on duty yesterday as Officer of the Day.
In addition, I drew and issued clothing to my Co.
and was busy on my muster & pay Roll &c.
One of our Captains has been cashiered who was
tried last Dec. St. Roberts was not dismissed.

Apr 29

A St Louis clergyman preached to day in the M.E.
C. South. Tomorrow is muster day, the last of the month.
Enclose you a photograph of Corp^t Andrew Scott
of my Company. I promoted him since I joined the
Co. He was a recruit. He enlisted in Chicago. and has
a wife now in Evanston Ill. He was a slave in
Atlanta when bombarded and taken. He is a
mild quill, good soldier, and has always pleased me.

Apr 30th Our Regt. has just been mustered for pay.
I suppose we will be paid this month. Lt. Roberts
has been released from arrest & returned to duty.
I have nothing more of importance to say.

I am glad however to hear from you so often
and also from all the friends. Please give them
all my best regards. Give my love to Mother
Father, Bro. Alex & accept the same yourself.
I hope Lizzie is well. Wm. Battle is now in full
health and doing duty. Please write soon
often. When you write to Cous Henry, send
him my kindest wishes, & ask him to write
to me. I now close remaining as ever

Your Affectionate Brother

J. Montgomery

J. C. Montgomery
Cleveland
Miss.