



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. I. 65<sup>th</sup> U.S.C. Inf.  
Baton Rouge La. May 11<sup>th</sup> /66.

My Dear Mother:

(131)

Once more I seat myself to address you a few lines hoping they will find you in the enjoyment of good health. The last letter I received from home was on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. which I answered on the 30<sup>th</sup>, but I hope tomorrow morning before I mail this that I will receive another from home. My health is pretty good, although I was sick yesterday with a headache on account of being out in the sun too much. I drew a new tent and was fixing it up against the end of my other. I now have two together besides one for the mess to eat in. Thus have plenty of room and a better circulation of air. We had a heavy thunderstorm with continuous rain on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

It is again clear, but appears to be warmer after the rain. It is certainly more unhealthy. Col. Edgeston's brother, formerly Lieut. who took Elizabeth up, came here on the 1<sup>st</sup> & still remains. Last Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> Lieut. Hutchins and I crossed the river and visited Mr. Bauer, by invitation and spent the most of the day with him.

He being a brother Mason, we received the best of treatment, dined with his family, rode out in his carriage with him to the Court House, took shot guns and dogs and went out rabbit hunting & gathered blackberries. In all we had a pleasant time. Last Monday was Election day in this state for parish offices, Excitement ran high but there was no disturbance. Mr Foster (an ex. Lieut. of the 62<sup>d</sup> U.S. C. Inf.) has been here the past week soliciting subscriptions for the Lincoln Institute, a school to be started in Mo., for the benefit of Colored Soldiers & citizens. \$5000. were contributed by his Reg. and he has collected from this Reg. \$1300. already. My Co. gave him \$200. one half of which sum was given by Samuel Sexton one of my privates, who bought his freedom in Mo. He yesterday received two months pay, March & April. I sent to New Orleans for \$350. worth of Bonds. which when I get I will have here \$1200. worth, <sup>our pay has not been reduced as I feared it would.</sup> I am now in command of the Regt. practically, especially on Battalion Drills and Dress Parades. The Colonel commands the Post; the Lt. Col. & Major. are both on detached duty in New Orleans, Capt. Bailie senior Capt. has just gone home on 50 days leave. Capt. Palmer is Commissary of Subsistence for the Post.

Capt. Frost is sick and I being fourth Senior  
Capt. have Command. The position is new to me  
but I feel proud of it, and will try to acquit  
myself with credit. I got a new suit of Uniform  
Clothing which I like well. My coat is the best  
in the Regt. Mrs. Camp the sutlers wife, made me  
a nice pair of straps. Lieut. Robert is back with  
the Co. for duty. having probably through influence,  
been acquitted of the charges preferred against him  
that is he was dismissed by sentence of the Court, but  
acquitted by Gen. Canby. His wife is teaching school  
in Franklin La. & he went yesterday to New Orleans  
to settle up his affairs with the Freedmans Bureau.  
I presume by this time you will be planting corn  
Corn is here higher than my head. We have been  
having straw & blackberries for a month.

It is my opinion now that we will stay in the  
service until this fall or until our time expires.  
The men are being granted furloughs to go home.  
I will enclose you a copy of an ordinance of Major  
Baton Rouge La. in regard to Patrol & Police of Slaves  
before and at the time of the war. You can see how  
closely they were watched. but it is different now  
The whites of the South have now to work for themselves.

Sunday evening 13<sup>th</sup> I will surely mail this tomorrow morning  
whether I receive a letter or not, but I think I will.  
Last night Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Camp & I visited the  
Lodge of Masons here and had a pleasant time and  
witnessed a raising to the 3<sup>d</sup> degree. We joined in a good  
social feast afterwards, where toasts were proposed,  
some singing & speeches. The Star Spangled Banner  
was sung also, the Red, White & Blue & this  
by ex-Rebel officers, who were enemies two years ago.  
The day was wet and I am officer of the day, and remain  
in camp. I had a man die to day in Hospital of consumption.  
14<sup>th</sup> No letter has come, but I have just heard from all  
my returns of clothing &c, sent to Washington for the  
past two years. They have been examined and found  
Correct. Having no other news of importance to  
write about I will draw to a close hoping  
this will find you all in good health.

Tell Lizzie that William is now enjoying the  
best of health, and is doing duty regularly.  
We hopes she is enjoying good health and is glad  
to inform her that he is well and hearty again.  
He sends best love, and hopes she will not forget him.  
I have just been detailed on a Council of Administration  
to establish a Post Bakery & will quit.

I hope this will find all well and that  
I will hear from you soon.

With best love to all  
I remain as ever your Affectionate Son

Mrs A. Montgomery  
Cleveland,  
Ohio

J. Montgomery  
Capt. c. S.  
65<sup>th</sup> U.S.C. Inf.  
Baton Rouge,  
La.