



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. I. 65th U.S. C. Inf.
Baton Rouge La. May 22nd /66.

My Dear Parents

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I received your long looked for letter day before yesterday and was very glad to hear from you and that your health is good. I was anticipating that Bro. Alex. would leave home and was pleased that he went with permission. May God preserve him from harm, and incline his youthful heart to the right.

I am sorry to inform you that Lt. Roberts is lying at the point of death and may not survive twenty four hours. He went to New Orleans on the 10th inst and returned on the 17th. He visited his wife at Franklin, while absent, & was taken sick on the boat coming up. He wrote me a note next morning from his quarters that he was sick, which was the last he ever wrote. His wife has been sent for. I feel sorry for him, and fear that his recent troubles have weighed heavily on his mind. He was court-martialed, denied promotion, lost a large sum of money and could not recover it.

Although I never admired his military capacity yet in most other respects I liked him well. I am bound to him by stronger ties than the world is aware of for he is a brother and must be cared for. I believe he has had three congestive chills. He has not said a word for twenty four hours and appears insensible. The silver cord will soon be loosed and the golden bowl be broken, and the dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit unto God who gave it. His years have not been a few: the hoary frost of nearly sixty winters have passed over his head, and have interwoven his locks with gray. He has served his generation faithfully and now goes to claim his reward from the Grand Master above. My own health thank God is very good, and so is the general health of the Regiment. I have been in command of the Reg. for a few days.

Last Sabbath an inspection and review was ordered by the Post Commander, I was the Senior Officer & therefore had command. It was such an hour in which is crowded moments of pleasure. On horseback at the head of the Regt. I marched in column to the reviewing ground.

Here I again formed line, saluted, passed in review in column, in common & quick time, and accompanied the Inspector throughout the day. The day was excessively warm and when I came in I was wet through. My new clothes suffered.

I have concluded to send some more money home. I therefore enclose a check on New York for \$500. on receipt of which you will please immediately answer this letter. I paid one per cent exchange. It may command a premium there. I desire that it be all invested in $7\frac{30}{100}$ Bonds of date as late as possible. I think you can get them cheaper there, than I can here. I purchased \$100. the other day & in addition to the accrued interest had to pay one per cent. prem. They are not to be found here or in New Orleans, as all have been sent to New York where they command $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium. I have with me nearly \$1000. in Bonds. Since I last wrote, I have been a member of a Post & Regt Council of Administration. We have established a Bakery for Post, a Library & Reading Room.

The weather this morning is cool and pleasant. The River here is still very high, which is the direct source of suffering to hundreds of the people.

May 22
The Agents of the Freedman's Bureau from our Regt.
are being replaced by Officers of the Veteran Reserve
Corps. It may be with a view to muster us out.

I hope you will not be too uneasy about Brother's
absence. I hope to have him visit me this summer.
I would be pleased to see him once more.

I suppose planting is all ended now in the State.
The cotton here looks well. It is rather a precarious
crop, owing to the ravages of the Army worm.

I have had numerous opportunities to invest money
in crops land, &c. but am afraid to run so much risk.
I would rather go slow and sure.

William Castle was glad to hear that Elizabeth was
well, and still remaining with you. He is well.

I hope when this arrives at its destination, it
will find you all well and doing well.

I will now close having no more of any
importance to write about. Love to all

From your Affectionate Son
Thomas Montgomery

Mr. Chas. Montgomery
Cleveland, Secum Co.,
Minnesota.

P.S. Just received a letter from Mother & Bro Jas. Charles
date of May 4th. glad to hear of all being well, and
getting along so well with crops, &c. I don't want
any of my money loaned out, if it is safe where it is; unless
for sure security & where it would double, I could double &
treble my money, here. if I chose to engage in speculation
but as I said before I am content with Govt. security.
Am glad to hear of all the friends being well, but am sorry
you are in straitened circumstances. Your son Thomas
I am glad you liked my photograph. I thought it had become me best. & so have started another