



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 1st 65th U.S. C. Inf.
Baton Rouge La.

May 29th 1866.

My Dear Mother.

Your well filled and welcome letter of the 14th inst. duly arrived yesterday, giving me a vast amount of local information, and some excellent advice for which receive thanks.

I was glad to hear that you were all well and doing well. I have not yet heard from Bro. Alex. but hope he is doing well.

I am happy to inform you that my own health thank God, continues very good.

With sorrow, I announce the death of my 3^d Lieut. Hiram M. Roberts on the 22nd inst. at 1.30 P.M. without a struggle or a groan.

His body was kept in ice for over two days, hoping his wife would come, but she did not.

The funeral procession was formed on the evening of the 24th and had just started when his wife arrived meeting it in the streets. It was a sad sight to her poor woman, and so overcame her that she sank down on the sidewalk.

She was assisted on a carriage, and accompanied the procession to the grave, where she saw her dead husband for the first time.

It was very affecting to see her and her little son, bid their last farewell to their dearest friend. Capt. Darnell delivered an address, and pronounced the services for the dead, when the military honors were paid to our departed brother officer.

There was a large attendance present from the Reg. Mrs. Roberts & child. returned to Franklin La, whence she came, the following evening. Thus I have lost my second. 2^d Lt. Moore in May 1864, & Roberts in May 1866, the latter associated with me nearly two years.

He died of Congestive fever, and did not speak for two days before his death. I also lost a man this week of small pox, one of my heartiest looking men.

I have much reason to be thankful to God, for his sparing mercies to me. I furloughed two of my men this week for 30 days to go to Missouri.

The 57th U.S. C. Inf. arrived here a few days ago for the purpose of being mustered out.

Three 1st Lieuts of this Reg. have been promoted Captains and five 2^d Lts. to 1st Lieuts. We have no 2^d Lieuts left. The general health of the Regiment is good. The weather has been warm.

Last evening a great wind storm, accompanied by dust, thunder & rain passed over here, and blew down some of our shade.

Flowers are very abundant. I always have a choice bouquet. brought me & kept in my office. The Magnolia & Jessamine are very fragrant.

We have had new potatoes here since the first of the month. They are very plenty now. I am kept busy now on my monthly Return Reports & other writing. I was President of a Board of Survey. two days last week.

Last Saturday I attended a concert or exhibition at the Lincoln School (Colored) Three young ladies teach there, had a piano, and discoursed some splendid music. The darkey children spoke & sang & declaimed in a creditable manner. The band of our Regt. attended and gave them some music.

The colored people here, are attempting to organize a new church. They intend to raise 2500. dollars to put up a church under the management of the M.E. Church. Dr. Newman will be up from New Orleans and will preach here next Sabbath in furtherance of the cause.

I am glad to know that you have had good success with the stock. What a pity that the prices are so low there.

I sent home a check in my last letter on New York, for \$500. payable to father and wife & invested in Bonds. I hope you can get them cheap. They are here worth 3 per cent premium.

I have not received any letter from Cous. Wm. Henry, neither do I know his proper address.

I will endeavor to write to Cous. Johnson, & Aunt Henry as soon as possible.

May 29

I will enclose a leaf from a Magnolia Blossom & a Jessamine flower & leaves. They are both very fragrant when fresh. The State House Square is filled with such. It is a luxury to walk there any fair evening. I have seen William Estlin this evening. He is glad to hear from time to time that Lizzie is well. He hopes she will content herself there until he gets out of the army. He is taking good care of his money, so that he can have something to start on if all be well. He may send her some when next paid. It is his intention to go up and see her and then agree on a future course. He says he thinks as much of her as ever and intends to do well by her. He sends her his love and regards. He is in good health and doing nicely.

I have now written all that can interest and will close. Send love to all and to you a double share, as you always do to me.

Respects to all the friends.

From your Affectionate Son
Thomas Montgomery

Mrs Alex Montgomery
Cleveland,
Minnesota.