



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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

Dear Brother James Charles.

With much pleasure I devote a few moments on this the 30th anniversary of my birth, to write you a letter to inform you of my continued good health and enjoyment of life.

I hope that as this leaves me well, it will also find you all well and doing well.

I hope you have heard from Bro. Alex. before this, and will let me know when you write where he is, and how he is prospering.

The weather has been changeable lately. We had a North wind with cold weather for two days, followed by a South wind accompanied by the heaviest storming of rain & thunder, but today is again clear.

I spent the day very pleasantly, and was on duty as Officer of the day. Our mess had a few extras for the occasion, such as peaches, canned roasted chicken, oysters, ice cream &c.

Lieut Allen, Adjutant, and Lt. Hutchins, both 1st Lieut now, with myself, compose my mess.

The City of Memphis, on which 18 of this Reg. went home on furlough, exploded her boilers below Memphis.

From what we can learn, several of our soldiers are lost or badly wounded.

Dr. Newman of the M. E. Church, being in the city for the purpose of establishing a new Church among the colored people, preached here yesterday. His sermon was a model one, and was so different in its tone from most of those we hear down here that it done me good to hear it.

Dr. Newman, is general Missionary to this State and is Editor of the New Orleans Christian Advocate. He also administered the Sacrament.

Last week my 1st Sergeant and some of my company, got into a difficulty with some of the citizens, which showed to perfection their disposition towards the colored soldiers.

The party of six went into a saloon and asked for beer. ~~They~~ were refused it, but a white man present who was drinking saw fit to insult and strike my orderly, and ordered them out in a most insulting manner.

Some of the party left but three remaining. Revolvers were drawn and my men were fired on. They had no means of defense but used brick bats from the street. A mob collected at once and fired twenty or thirty shots, wounding my orderly in the leg, only slightly, while one of their number was

also shot in the leg by one of his friends.

That was all the harm done except that one of my corporals interposing to prevent some one from firing at the Sergt. was struck several times over the head with a Revolver.

The Colonel destroyed the liquor of one saloon but done nothing further yet. The affair is not over yet and unless the authorities use some means of punishing the perpetrators of such outrage. the men will by statute execute the law themselves. and I won't blame them one bit. I would like to see a few of these lawless villains meet their just deserts. If they see fit to reenact the Memphis Riots we are prepared to give them a warm reception & would give them the worst I rather think.

The wet weather lately will seriously interfere with the cotton crop I am afraid. If it fails the South will be in a very deplorable condition.

The people have invested all they could raise in their crop and if they lose that sad will be their condition. It will drive many to despair & ruin. I hope you are getting along finely with your crops. and am glad to hear that stock &c are doing well. I will now close this. Hoping soon to hear from you. Love to all. From your office, Bro. Thomas.

June 4

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. in relation to the proposed purchase of the land for the purpose of building a school house for the use of the colored people of this city. I am very glad to hear that you are so interested in the welfare of the colored people, and I am sure that your efforts will be successful. I have already written to the Board of Education and to the City Council, and I am sure that they will be able to do all that is necessary to carry out your plan. I am sure that the colored people of this city will be very grateful to you for your kind and generous assistance. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. [Name]