



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Dear Mother.

I think it full time that I should again write and let you know how I am getting along. My health is very good, and I am getting on finely, despite the damp, rainy weather. I am not exposed as I was the past two summers, and I also have a better selection of victuals. It is nearly two weeks since I received your last, about the same length of time since I last wrote. Since then we were mustered for pay. Rolls, Returns & other monthly & quarterly papers made out & transmitted. The fourth was celebrated by a parade through town firing National Salutes and the display of fireworks. Some disturbances in Jackson, 30 miles from here caused one company to be sent there, and it will probably remain for some time. The citizens took a colored teacher from this town, who was teaching a school there & ducked him in the creek, pounded him almost to death & ordered him never to return. They would do the same here if they dare. Part of another company was sent to Lake Providence.

A school for the soldiers, is in successful operation in camp taught by Mrs Hendricks & daughters. She is a Southern lady, a widow, but loyal to the Government. I spent last evening there, heard some excellent music on the piano & ate some figs and peaches which are now quite numerous. Two officers were with me. They have taught two months here with success. They never saw any snow, & could hardly credit my statement about the extreme cold of the North.

I had the pleasure of receiving a letter on the 5th inst from Aunt Morrow & a few lines from Cous Eliza Anne. Since then I have written to Cous Dr. Henry.

His friends hear from him regularly. Aunt says that they have heard from Cous James Oliver Cassidy. He wrote to his Parents, and is in a store somewhere in Texas. I did not receive his address. I was glad to hear that he was still alive. Aunt was glad to hear Brother Don Thomas was well and with Cous Andrew.

He does not write home, & she wants his true address. Uncle Lockart was poorly, but had recovered. His son Oliver & family and all his daughters & their husbands & children were well. Aunt & Uncle Henry & their families were well. She wants me to tell you that Aunt Henry looks smart so does Uncle.

He comes to Dunkineely to church nearly every Sabbath.
Cous. Thos. is steady & lives with his parents. He has a nice
wife, two sons, & one daughter, named Isabella Anne. For
Grandma & Aunt Cor, James and Andrew Ches. are still
at home. Uncle & Aunt Cassidy & family ^{were well} Uncle Baskin
and Aunt Cor were meddling. all wearing down the
stream of time. Cous. Jeremiah & Lucinda were well
the former has two sons the latter one. Mrs. Baskin of
Mountcharles was buried in June. Uncle Ephraim's Brother,
Uncle Morrow looks smart & Aunt's health is pretty good.
Cous. Isabella is doing well. has a little son, Elyza Anne
is at home a comfort to her mother. E. J. C. B. is getting tall.
Cous. Francis appears to be still in trouble. Aunt
wants to have my opinion about him leaving his
family for a few years and coming to America
to raise funds enough to meet his liabilities.
He has as fine a wife as one could desire, accomplished
to act the part of the lady, but a poor house keeper.
My letter made the rounds as usual, and
they were all glad to hear from me & friends.
I hope next mail will bring me a letter
from home, and give me some news from brother
Sandy. He has not written to me yet.
I thought he would perhaps visit me.

July 1880

Tell Elizabeth that William had a bucket
and went back to Hospital, but is nearly well
again and hopes soon to return to Company.
He expect to be paid in a few days. If so he
will send her some money undoubtedly.

Aunt was glad, she still remained with you.
I hope the crops look well, I hear that they do in Minn.
We have established a good reading room, and have
plenty of books & papers, we have appropriated \$450.
for an addition to our library.

I hear some Regulars are coming here. If so we may
be mustered out or broken up & scattered.

I would rather get out now than leave here.
I have drawn new tents for my Comp. & am well fixed.
I do not hesitate to say that Co. I. is the best in the
Reg at present. At least it is so acknowledged by
all my competitors. I turn out more clean men
every Guard mount than any other company.

I give my Sergeants more credit for it however than
I do myself. I think we are as well disciplined as any Co.
McClous, Peaches, figs & such fruit are very abundant & cheap.
We get 20 figs for 5 cents. They are very nice & sweet.
Our principal amusement now is Chess. Card playing is not
much practised. As long as I have been in the Army I cannot
play a game of cards yet. for I never tried to.

We attend church when we can twice every Sabbath.

I hope this will find you all in good health,
and enjoying yourselves as well as your circum-
stances will permit. Please write often as usual.
I am always glad to get a letter especially from those
I love. With best love to all I remain as ever
Your affectionate Son

Thos. Montgomery

I did not lose any men by the steamer explosion.

Received to each man last letter I know of
I was glad to hear that you had about 1000 men in the 1st