



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Camp 65th U.S. Col'd Inf'ty
Baton Rouge La. July 21st 1866.

Dear Bro. James Charles.

(139)

Having just received your letter of the 3rd inst. I thought I would sit down and answer it. I wrote my last home, ten days since.

I was glad to hear that you were all well, and doing well, and that the stock and crops looked so well.

I am happy to state that my health this summer is remarkably good. For this blessing I have much reason to be thankful. My principal care is to keep my bowels open and regular. This I succeed pretty well in doing, by a careful attention to diet, and by guarding against exposure, also by a free use of figs and other fruit and vegetables.

I would have been glad to have heard from Bro. Sandy, but must wait yet a little longer I see.

I sincerely hope he is prospering.

I was glad to hear of you having some enjoyment on the 4th. I think you must have good times now, I would like very much to have been up there, and formed one of the party.

Ten of the Mob who abused the colored teacher at Jackson, were arrested one night and sent to New Orleans for trial. While coming in, their guard or escort was fired upon by bushwhackers.

The Rebel spirit is becoming more rampant. Complaints of abuse to negroes are of daily occurrence. Many are murdered, others beaten & some sent away without their wages. I fear when the coming crop of cotton is secured, many of the poor people will suffer from a breach of contract, and they look in vain to the civil authorities for succor.

Troops ought to be scattered all over, stationed in every county & parish of the South, until they learn to do justice to the blacks.

I have good reason to believe that we will be mustered out of service before two months. Some applications for furloughs were returned disapproved from Dept. Hd. Qrs. saying as a reason that this Reg will probably soon be mustered out. A large force of Regular Recruits have arrived in this Dept. and some Regulars will probably relieve us.

Ordinance is still arriving here in vast quantities and is being stored away at the Arsenal.

The weather has been quite wet. Rain has fallen every day for a long time.

I sent you some papers last week and some to brother this morning.

The General has received his Commission from the President. It is a fine looking document. He gave me the strongest kind of recommendation and I have applied for promotion to the rank of Brevet Major. I have applied through Gov. Marshall, but as Congress adjourns so soon I do not expect to get it until next year.

I also stated that if I could get a position in the New Regular Army in my present grade, I would accept it, but I am not anxious for this latter at present. The General will assist me by sending a private letter to the Governor.

Although I made this application myself, it was done at the urgent request of Gen. Edgerton who told me, I had well earned such honor.

Last Monday evening Capt. Palmer of the Regt. from Mankato, was united in matrimony to a young lady who was teaching school here. The ceremony was performed in the Methodist Church, and all the Officers were present by invitation.

July 21
It was the first wedding I ever witnessed except
those of colored people. It passed off very pleasantly.
We are not paid off yet but expect to be next week up
to the 1st inst. It was a good thing for me financially
that I was retained in the service last fall, and that
my health is so well spared this summer.

I intend saving all I can from this out in order
to have a means of starting in life. I spared to
get out of the army safely. It will cost me
considerable after I do get out, before I can settle
down and get to earning again. I sometimes think
I am intended for the army, and must remain.
As I have no trade I do not know what business
to go at when I leave the service - but for a
young man with good health, and a fair education
there is no fear in the ^{land, either} ~~country~~ in city or country.
Tell Elizabeth that William is recovering slowly
and send his kindest love & regards to her.

I am glad to hear that the friends and neighbors
are all well and prospering. I believe the most
of them have forgotten me. Remember me with
kindness to all the well wishers, and friends.

I hope your own health continues good and will
remain so. I am always glad to hear from you.
Give my kindest love to Father, Mother, & Lizzy
and accept the same yourself, and believe
me as ever your affectionate Brother

Wm. H. Montgomery
(Cleveland, Minn.)

Thos. Montgomery

Excuse my hurried scribbling.
for I generally write in haste.

Head Quarters Post Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge La July 18/66.

This certifies that Capt. Thomas Montgomery of the 65th U.S. C. Inf. has served under my Command for nearly three years as a Commissioned Officer, the most of the time as Captain; and I can say without hesitation that I know of no more faithful, competent or patriotic officer in the service.

Capt. Montgomery is accomplished in the duties of his office and ever faithful in their performance.

During my whole service I have never met a Capt. in whom more implicit Confidence could be placed; and should he desire to remain in the army, I am confident the Government will find in him a tried and gallant officer.

He has distinguished himself for faithful and meritorious services.

(Signed) A. J. Edgerton,

Brig. Genl. & Col. 65th U.S. C. I.

There appears to be directly
primal at present.