



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 5th U.S. B. Co.
Baton Rouge La. Oct^r 16th 1866.

Dear Parents and Bro.

Suppose you are uneasy to hear once more from me and Bro. Sandy.

Since I last wrote we visited the city of New Orleans having been summoned there as witnesses before a General Court Martial in a case of a private of my regiment, against whom I preferred charges. We went down on Tuesday the 9th inst and returned Saturday night following. We had a very pleasant trip each way and enjoyed ourselves pretty well while in the city, rambling about to the most notable places &c. of which Sandy can give you a full description when he goes home. I purchased a trunk some clothing and a gold watch worth about \$200.

Bro. and I rode all over the city out to Lake Pouchatrain &c. As it was the first time for Sandy to visit the city he took a great interest in all he saw, especially in the shipping that thronged the levees,

Bro. Sandy intends going straight home
and will leave on the first Northern Boat.
I intend accompanying him as far as Cairo
We expect to get off on the "W.R. Arthur" next
Wednesday morning the 17th inst. When I returned
to the Regt I found a leave awaiting me,
for 30 days, which I applied for about the
1st inst. for the purpose before mentioned.

I suppose if all be well I will go as
far north as Wisconsin before I return.
I would like to go home a few days but
my time will not permit, especially as
our time will be out next January.
I will take this letter with me to-morrow
and post it in Cairo, and then add a
few lines about our trip.

The weather has been lovely and will
continue so for a long time. Sandy takes
home a box containing nearly all my old
clothing, and many other things. He will
go up the whole way by river, calling a
short time at Cairo, Lockards in Burlington.
He got a letter from Mrs Lockard lately containing
little Willie's picture they were all well and expect
Cous Mos, home at Christmas.

I received a letter the same day from
Capt Wm Henry, Pittsburg, who was well also.
I may give you my reasons for going to
Wisconsin in my next letter. I have this
day transferred all my Company property to
1st Lieut James G. Vincent, who will command
the Co. in my absence. He has moved into my
double tent, built a fireplace, put up a door,

Sandy & I received \$50 between us for
going to New Orleans. His share will pay
his fare home I guess. Genl. Egerton
is absent for 30 days in the country for
the good of his health. Genl. Hartwell
of the 10th U.S.C. Art. (Hvy) now commands the Post.
The two Companies we had up at Lake Providence
have returned to the Regt. We are all together
now. I had command of the Parade to night & do of

I procured transportation to day for my recruits
and sent them off to the city, to their Regt.
When I was down in the city, I visited
Bvt. Maj. Gen. Mower, who commands the 39th
Inf. If I had not got a leave I could have
got a recruiting Commission in that Regt.
With love to all I close at present
Remainng affectionately yours Thos. Hunt

On board Steamer "H. R. Arthur"
Miss River, near Cairo Ills. Oct. 23/86.

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Dear Parents,

As I promised I will fill this side with

an account of our journey from Baton Rouge to here. The principal event was the explosion of one of the steam pipes at Bayou Sara, 30 miles from Baton Rouge. We got aboard the boat before daylight. She is a very fast boat and was under a great pressure of steam.

I was asleep when the explosion occurred at breakfast time. I thought it was the gong, but as I heard the roar of escaping steam & looking out found the cabin full I put on my boots & coat & came out on the guards. The first I saw was the 2^d Engineer being carried up, having been badly scalded. Three deck passengers were badly scalded also and were left at Natchitoches.

The boat was run ashore & the fires put out, so the steam soon disappeared. It is a great wonder that more people were not killed or wounded. A hole was blown through the cabin floor about 20 feet long, close by where the passengers were at breakfast. It was providential that no lives were lost.

Bro Sandy was below, but both he & I escaped unharmed. God be all the thanks. They went to work and fixed the boat to go up on one wheel, laying over for that purpose eight hours. She makes nearly as good time with one wheel as most boats do with two.

There are only a few passengers, but our fare & accommodations are unexceptionable. I trust both of us may have good luck the rest of our journey & arrive in safety at our respective destinations. God grant us journeying mercies.

I will write again if spared to get to Wisconsin safely. It will only take a day & a half from Cairo to Cambridge, Cairo. 3 P.M. arrived at Cairo safely. I will leave on the cars tomorrow morning. Affectionately Yours

Love & all,

Geo. Montgomery