



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Nov 16. 1866.

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Head Quarters Co. I. 65<sup>th</sup> Reg. S. C. Inf.  
Kenton Rouge, La. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1866.

My Dear Brother Sandy

I am happy to inform you that I am once more back with my company, sitting as often before, at my desk writing home. I arrived here in safety last evening about 7 P.M. I wrote a letter to Mother from Helena on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. and if it has been received, you will have found that I left Milwaukee Cambria on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. and was therefore less than a week coming here.

I had a very pleasant journey most of the way. Yesterday was a delightful day, and in it I was ushered into a delightful climate. I love Louisiana in the winter season. How nice it is to leave the cheerless, leafless North and come back where the trees are all yet green, flowers in bloom, and the air perfumed with the fragrance of the many flowers & trees.

I took a walk this evening all by myself. I visited the State House square and gathered a bouquet of roses and brought them back to my office, and they now lie before me as I write.

I spent a couple of hours this evening over at Mrs. Hendrick, and heard some favorite pieces discoursed. They made inquiries about you.

They are not teaching school in the Regiment now but are out in town, in the new colored M.E. Church.

The Officers were glad to see me safe back. Found them all just about as I left them. Gen. Edgerton is back, and is in command of the Post. Lieut. Kelley's wife has given birth to a daughter. Lieut. Vincent was well, and had things just as I left them. I have been busily at work all day making the interior of our tent more comfortable. Last night I slept cold, but have better accommodations to night.

I had a very pleasant happy time since you left me. Found no letters here for you from Omaha. There was two from Cleveland one from Bro. J. B. & Mother & one from Mr. Jones. It is strange there is no others. I found two for myself from home dated Oct 8 and 22.

A sad affair happened here the night before I came. My Orderly Sergt. Craig was stabbed through the breast with a knife by a private who afterwards escaped. It was feared his wound was mortal, but he is doing much better today, and I hope he will recover. He was endeavoring to part two men who were quarrelling. The Reg't was paid off the day before I came and I was too late to get my pay of course. But it is in safe hands, and I can get along for a while yet.

A White man was killed by one of the soldiers since I left. The Srgt. who killed him is to be tried in the city by a civil Court. You remember James Stephens of Co. H. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for one year, with the loss of \$10. per month of his pay for the same period. Some of the Officers were disappointed in seeing me come back alone, and so were Hendricks folks, but I am satisfied that it is better for me, as it is; not only in expenses, but in more essential reasons known of course to ourselves. I brought down a rich plum cake with me, which I placed on the table today for dinner. Five of us discussed its merits, and pronounced it very good. Lieut Doane is now in our mess. Our whole regiment is here and some of the Artillery had the honor of Commanding the Parade to night. I hope I will soon have another letter from you from home, when I will be sure to get all the current news. Don't fail to inform me of all that is passing, especially what we were talking about. From the letters already received I have learned that Father and Bro J. C. have had plenty of hard work to perform, but I am glad to learn that they have got along so well in getting in their Corn, potatoes &c and in getting their threshing done.

I was well acquainted with Capt. Withnison  
to whom Miss L. Charles got married.  
He was a Corp'l when I first made his acquaintance  
in Markato. He is a religious young man, quiet  
and was well liked by all who knew him.

The oranges are very plenty here now, and are worth  
five cents a piece. They would not keep to send north.  
The late election at the North are going far to  
change the opinions of many of the people down  
here. They will view matters in a different light.

I know Ma. will be overjoyed to see you back at  
home safe. Our absence has given her much uneasiness.

I trust before many months roll by that I too  
will be at home. My future is in the hands of a  
good Providence, who overrules our destinies.

I believe that I have the prayers of dear friends  
and I am sure, I need them badly enough.

But I am not insensible to the many mercies  
already shown me, and thank God for them.

I must now draw my letter to a close as it is  
just midnight and I have another letter  
to write yet to night. I could not write  
much during the day or evening as so many  
were calling on me and staying in the tent.  
I also drew and issued clothing today.

Hoping this will find you and Charles  
Pa. Ma. Lizzie & all the friends well  
and with best love to all I close for  
the present. Remaining as ever

Your Affectionate Brother

Thomas Montgomery