



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 65th U.S. C. Inf.
Baton Rouge La. Dec. 23/66

My Dear Candy,

Your kind letter of the 7th inst has been received this day, and I must assure you it was extremely welcome, as I had not heard from home since the 5th.

Doubtless you will be as anxious to receive this one from me, for I have not written since answered the last; daily expecting to hear from you. I suppose the mails being so irregular on account of the cold etc. is the cause of the long delays in letters now. I was very much interested in the perusal of your kind letter and was glad to be informed of the good health of all.

You state that you sent me a letter about a week before this one. I have not yet received it, and feel sorry for that; for it must have been interesting.

I'll have to inform you that there is a fair prospect of me soon going home, but Oh how I dread going up into that cold, frozen region I would not if I could possibly help it.

Here in Baton Rouge the weather is delightful beautiful. Just think of it you polar inhabitants I am writing this letter in a tent, without any fire and the weather so balmy and warm that it is often uncomfortable to keep on our coats.

Took a walk about town yesterday, which I know you would envy. What do you think of beautiful flowers in bloom, of different kinds of trees and shrubs in living green, and of such fruit as Oranges yet hanging on the trees.

And yet all this and ten times more is seen here. But I suppose I must go north, and I suppose I can yet get insured to your severe weather.

I don't propose to expose myself very much this winter anyhow, if spared to return in safety.

But to the point. The order has been issued for our immediate muster out here, after which the Regt. will proceed to St Louis for final payment.

We will be kept very busy in making out our Muster out Rolls, seven in number, each one having to contain the name of every officer and man, who has belonged to the Company since its organization with his whole military history and other data to enable us to settle with the Government.

There has been nearly 200 in this my company so you see I have quite a job before me.

I don't think the best we can do, we can get to St Louis before the middle of January, or perhaps later. The above is our present prospect. I will now say something about matters here.

And first the Hendrick family claims my notice. I suppose I am quite a favorite over there, at least I go often and flatter myself that this is so.

Of course they understand that I have no "designs"
on any of them. Knowing the nature of my visit North.
But I assure you I enjoy an evening there very
much. Lately I introduced the game of authors, which
has taken well and gives us much sport. I rather
think that St. Merriam and Fanny are engaged
and perhaps may soon be married. As for Mary I
am not so sure. St. Allen boards there now, but
whether that is any sign I cannot say. This I do
know there are others on the track, among whom
I may mention St. Doane, who I have done much for
in that direction. As I know more I will inform you.
I complied with your several requests, and think
they are very glad to hear from you. J. D. says I
must thank you &c. Mrs. H. Fanny & Mary paid me a
visit last Sunday week and remained until after
dress parade, and appeared highly delighted at all they
saw. They were highly pleased with Miss P.'s photograph.
I have the promise of theirs before we leave.

Now I must tell you what Miss P. said about you
in a letter this day received. She was pleased to think
you liked her picture and would like to have your
photograph some time. She thinks you must be a dear
good boy, and would like to be personally acquainted.
Also thought you kind to send Misses Hendricks music &c.

I thank you for your many expressions of regard
and good wishes. You judge me pretty fairly I think
I have no reason to be lonely or melancholy, but I sometimes
do feel so.

Dec 23/66
But as you remark "There is a good time coming" Indeed if we could not live thus in hope of that good time, it would be miserable with us, for either temporal or spiritual happiness. It won't be long I hope before I know something more, about the future that lies before me if I should to enjoy a future in this life, if not we certainly will in another life. O may we be prepared for whatever awaits us, for either time or eternity.

But since I came back from Wis. a new hope has sprung up within me. I feel like a different person. I receive the most beautiful letters now, precious beyond compare with the others. O they are a rich delight to me.

I am glad to hear something from my acquaintances about Cleveland, the Tallot family, McClary girls, Jones, Smiths &c Give any of them who may speak of me, my kindest regards. I forgot if I promised to write to Mr Buckman. There is going to be a Masonic celebration here on St Johns day the 24th inst. to which I am invited &c, after which I may write to him. I am invited to a party tomorrow night but don't know yet whether I will go. I forget till now to say that since I last wrote, the La. Conf. of the M. E. Church South convened here whose sessions I attended. Bishop Payne presided. Everything passed off quietly and harmoniously but I thought they lacked that life and energy which I would look for in such a body. Meetings were held every night, and on Sabbath three times which I attended. A number joined the Church and for a few nights mourners went up to the altar, but it is all over now. Capt. Darnell has been receiving ecclesiastical honors. Dr. Newman telegraphed to him, that Bishop Simpson, wanted him for presiding elder, so he went down to New Orleans & accepted the office and has charges of all the Missionary interests of the M. E. Church in the state of Miss. at a salary of \$2500 per year. He has ten or twelve churches now in his care. You can have a copy of those verses when I go there. I think you are quite intimate with Miss. Fowler. I have received no letters from you yet as you had expected. Write again soon. I think you had better not write after New Years, unless you hear from me. I hope you will all enjoy the holidays. Give my best love to M. Ma. & Bro H. & Lizzie & Belin no more of that sort. I am
Thomas Montgomery.