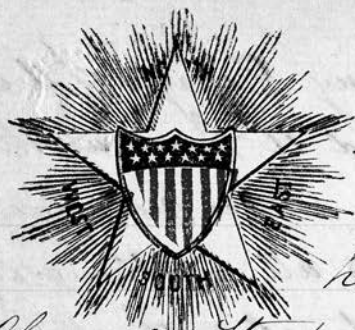




Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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October 31<sup>st</sup> 1863.

Dear Brother, —

A sad affair occurred here last Tuesday in Almond, Steek. by which a Soldier of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska was shot dead in front of a saloon by the proprietor, who fled but was since captured. It was in a back street and the result of quarrelling. Last Sunday two more of our Co. Wolfert & S. Connor went to Vicksburg, that makes five now at Vicksburg. The others are Talbot, Birdsale & I, <sup>who ought</sup> ~~and~~ soon to be back. We have not heard from them yet. You mentioned in your letter of watching me out of sight. I looked back often too, but could not see you once. In regard to Miss Smith's & Root's pictures I of course have had no chance to find out because Ed has been gone nearly all the time since coming here. I heard yesterday that Mrs. Root is dead. Who would have thought it so soon. But such is life, for in its midst we are in death.

- for one dollar

I had a dozen Stereotypes taken this week  
They are made by machinery, it is a multiplying process  
and send you a couple. I send also two  
to Ireland, also two Photographs like those  
I formerly <sup>sent</sup> home. (Amid the noise I can hardly  
help making mistakes) but I will now come  
to a close. Give my respects to all my  
friends, I am glad to hear that M. R. Jones  
is getting better. The boys of Cleveland are nearly  
all well, Sergt Williams has not yet returned  
I have not heard from him since I left.  
I sold my watch to the order for \$12,  
We will be mustered for pay ~~tomorrow~~ <sup>today</sup>  
and may get paid off next week.  
Please write soon. Address as before  
As you may write to our cousins, where  
I do not you can send them any of  
my pictures you see fit. Try & send one to  
Cous Lockach & Mrs Henry. If you do let  
me know, Give them my love. It has  
been snowing for some time, no more  
at present but I remain your loving  
Brother to death, J. Montgomery

You asked if I found my Diary, I did  
all safe, and may send it home at the  
end of the year. I have a nice new one  
for next year. I found all my things safe  
except my blanket, towel & other small  
trinkets. My own blanket I could not find  
in the Co. but found another equally as good.  
I could find nothing of Jo Davis' Rubber  
or woolen blanket. I also found my piece  
of buffalo Robe, & have it this winter to sleep  
on, in addition to my mattress of straw.  
We have drawn a new knapsack & haversack.  
I suppose except Corn husking, you are now  
through with your fall work. I hope you may  
have the privilege of going to school all winter.  
I enjoy myself very well. I have eaten  
more fruit since being here, than all the time  
I was in Minn. This is a great place for  
spending money. Apples sold at 30 cts per bushel  
when we came, so we eat lots of them, but now  
our money getting scarce, and our cooking  
similar to old South Bend, we eat fewer.

St. Louis, Oct<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1863

My Dear Mother & Father

(30)

I was indeed happy to hear from you again, for until then I felt you would grieve too much after me when I left. So I was glad to find by the tone of your letters, that your spirits were still buoyant, & I hope it may long be so. I am now getting settled down as it were, from I left home until recently I have been constantly exposed to new & varied scenes, exciting the imagination and giving substance for conversation, not yet exhausted, but now I feel more like settling down & behaving myself. I intend if all is well to try again for a commission. There is a board sitting here all the time, & Candidates are examined daily. We first

must get a permit from the Adj. Gen<sup>l</sup> at Washington through our friends or Compy & Regt officers. I have not yet started but may if we stay here. According as we pass, we get a commission & photo it till called for by the Gov<sup>t</sup> for some duty. We of course have all the religious privileges here we can ask for. We have adopted singing in the quarters. I am now reading Lord Chesterfield's Letters to his Son, and a fine work it is. It also contains other excellent advice. Now please write often. Accept my love & I remain your loving Son W. Montgomery. Sandy I am much obliged for your note. Still continue to write to me. At present accept the love of your  
affectionate brother Thomas