



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.



FIGHT AWAY, BOYS!
We'll take care of the farm.

31
"Wheffield Barracks" H. 2, 7th Union.

St. Louis, Nov^r 17th 1863.

Dear Parents and Brothers,

I have just received your welcome letters of the 10th inst. and sit down to answer them. I have delayed thus long in writing to you, expecting day after day, to hear from you. This is the third letter I have received since I left home, and I was waiting long for this one. I was glad to get Cous. Henry's letter. I wrote to him since, and also to Cous. Lockard & sent each of them a small likeness. I also wrote home, on the 30th ult. enclosing two. I wrote to Cous. Morrow, likewise, & sent a half dozen pictures, (2 Photographs, & 4 Stereotypes, for distribution, on the 15th inst I sent to you an Illustrated Roll of the Company, as also the Regt & Staff officers, to the latest date. I also gave a memoranda of the history of the Comp^y. I had the honor of making out the entire roll, and also of writing out the "Memoranda". I omitted any thing personal, lest I should be thought Regolistical. For my trouble I received one copy, 25 copies were sold in the company at one dollar a piece.

If you could frame it, it would be very nice.
I just came off guard this morning at the
"Soldiers Home", an institution for lodging and
boarding, free of charge, furloughed & discharged
soldiers. It is a charitable institution, is furnis^{hed}
with a library and other appliances for comfort.
I go on guard now, every alternate day; sometimes
I get an easy place, (as yesterday), and sometimes
a rough place, as down on the levee guarding ships.
But I am content to do duty every day, as long as
I have good health. Corpls. Wildes & Samner have
done no duty since coming here. The former will
be discharged in a few days. My own health
never was better. I have been troubled with
nothing more than a slight cold or head ache,
but have not been unfit for duty, or on the sick
list, which but few in the company can say.
But the health of the Co. is improving. We have
fixed our quarters, ventilating and lightening them.
Our absent boys have all returned. Five were down
at Vicksburg; two at Helena; two at Indianapolis;
two at Jefferson City; one at Nashville; one at Fort
Leavenworth. I have not yet left the city, although
I would have liked either of the above trips.
Frank Perry, of the "Invincible Corps", is now with the company.

I was surprised to hear of Mr. Griffiths death. It was the first I heard of it. I heard this morning that a squad of men of Co. H, 9th Min were taken prisoners by the rebels. I suppose you had a busy time thrashing. You had more grain than I supposed you would have, I guess you can make money on it this year too. I suppose Solon Cheadle was glad to get home after so long an absence. Give him my respects, and tell him to try and pay us a visit on his return. The Missouri election is over, and I am pleased to announce the result, in the victory of the "Radical, Unconditional Union Party." This is as great a blow to the Rebels, as the Capture of Vicksburg, and its results will not cease here. There is also a Radical Senator elected from this State. I was glad to hear of the result in Minnesota, but was sorry for L. Lincoln Co. There is a constant moving here among the invalids, &c. They are formed into Cos, officers and stationed in various parts. There are constantly some soldiers arriving & departing from this place. Furloughed men. Deserters and others. All the boys of our regiment were brought down excepting very few. We are under strict discipline in regard to passing out of barracks, guard duty, &c.

The weather now is very fine here, and we enjoy it very well. I have been nearly all over the city. Last Sunday week I attended the funeral of an army officer, marching from the Police H. to the north end of city about 4 miles to Comm. time. On reaching the church, we chose to go no further, so I with others of our Comp. got leave and took a circuitous route home. We visited "Benton Barracks", which is a beautiful and commodious enclosure, and capable of accommodating thousands of soldiers. The grounds are tastefully decorated with trees, gardens &c, which makes it a beautiful place of resort in summer, to the citizens, and visitors. The street cars, daily run back and forth. On our way back, we passed a fort and the reservoir. The forts are strong earthworks, and garrisoned by negroes. These forts (of which there are eight or ten) were built by Genl Fremont. To the west of the city is "Lafayette Park", commodious and tasteful and overlooking a large portion of the city. There are nice walks, and shady trees, seats &c. It contains a glass house, which at the present time has some vegetable growing and presenting a green & lively appearance. The street cars, do a heavy business, here, as they penetrate from the park, to the centre of the city.