



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.

Head Quarters Co. "B." 67th U.S. I. (C).
Port Hudson La. June 11th 1864.

Dear Bro. Alexander.

Yours of the 17th ult was received via New York in 13 days, and I was very well pleased to hear from home so speedily. I was as usual glad to hear from you, and through you from all the rest of my friends.

I was glad that all were enjoying such good health, & I hope it may long continue. Oh how thankful you all ought to be, that you live in such a healthy climate as that of Minnesota. How different it is here in Port Hudson, sickness and death are no strangers here, especially the latter, who makes vast inroads among us here. It may well be said "Death & Hell can never be satisfied." I am happy still to inform my friends that through the Mercy of a kind Providence, my health is very good & I am the more grateful for this mercy, when I see scores of my fellow men, as rugged looking as I, taken suddenly sick, and called off the stage of action, with very short warning. Sickness is yet quite prevalent here both among officers and men. But I suppose, after we lose some more, we will be acclimated, and then diseases will be less frequent. Bowel Complaints are most destructive to life. Our Chaplain & Asst Surgeon, have both been very sick, the latter went home this week with the Col, & me Capt. on furlough. I was glad you succeeded so well in the Spring work & I hope the rains will come and you will have a bountiful harvest. Mr. Butler belonged to the 2^d Colorado. His parents are living in Berlin, O. His sister is teaching in a Blind Asylum in Columbus, O. is a single man, much esteemed, an efficient officer & says he is in the market & if some one writes, she may expect an answer.

Excuse me for delaying so long to write. I started this letter on the 4th of my birth day, but being the grand & grand grand day, I was on duty all day & night, so I am not getting on so well. I am enjoying myself very much, & I hope to all the things you all in good health & yours &c. J. M. I have to say to you, I am going to the 13th 67th U.S. I. (C). Port Hudson La.

Port Hudson La June 14th 1864. 54

Dear Bro. James Charles.

Although a week has elapsed since I started to write this letter, yet I have not given it up, and I am to day bound to finish it, if not called off for other duty.

Yours of the 27th ult. I received last week, and was indeed glad to hear so soon and so often. This is as it should be, and as I hope it will be. You said the crops were looking finely, & you also said you were clearing. Well it is well enough to clear & be industrious, but don't neglect the growing crops. I have often thought since I have been in the army, that excessive & constant hard work & over exertion, such as I had in Minn. affected me mentally, I think my mind is much duller than it used to be before I came to Minn. I believe in working, but not so as to ruin the mental faculties. I think if I had continued much longer as I was, I would never have amounted to anything except as a farmer or laborer. Be sure and let your mind have free exercise, think, reason, converse, read & study, & you will find it greatly to your advantage in future life. Also study the rules of common politeness, & the usages of the best society. An almost total seclusion from good society, almost ruined me.

You said you would like to be down here, well I don't wonder at your desire, such used to be mine & is yet, a love to travel. You would see many things & some of the world before you got here & when you came here. You would land in answer to a cannon shot, in a pretty rough country. Our Camp is beautiful, situated on the River bank and although it has rained heavily every day this month, it don't affect our camp, for it is as hard & dry as can be. We see every boat that passes, up & down. There is however a rough country within the enclosure of the fortifications of Port Hudson and also on the outside.

Send to be read about a few cents postage, water 8 1/2 p. the day
I am glad you have such good Sunday Schools. We have no
meetings of any kind scarcely. The Chaplain is sick. I received two
men last night from St. Louis, also a 2^d Lieut is temporarily
assigned me. So there are three of us now. There are seven new
officers temporarily with our Reg. doing duty. I hope they won't come
in to the prejudice of those in the Reg. I have not heard from my
recommendation, neither has any of the rest, but I guess it's all right.
You wanted to know who was telling stories on you. I dare not tell
as it was so enjoined on me. All I say is Behave yourself with prudence.
If Robinson of this Reg. has resigned, and he goes home to day. He has
been sick, but has been working for it for months. He is a Minnesotan.
We have not heard a word from St. Moulton, captured by the Rebels.
I want you to write as often as usual. & I would be glad to hear from
any other of my friends, no more at present. from your affectionate Bro
Thomas Montgomery

Dear Mother yours of the 27th ult. was received by me with
joy. I also received a paper a few days ago the N.W.B.A. which I read
through. I was pleased with the account of the Gen^l Conference. 55
The poetry enclosed in the letter. I saw before, as I had the paper.
The little flowers I also got & am much obliged. Perhaps you remember
the piece in the paper written by Dr. Brady, about writing to soldiers.
It is all the truth. I can fight better always after a good rousing
letter from home, said a soldier once, & it is true, it cheers the poor soldier's
heart, when far away from home & friends, to know that he is remembered.
And now I have a subject to propose to you. You say your health is
not the best & that you are weak &c, and I know you have more
work to do than you are able for, so I propose to send you Elizabeth
my Landress, to live with you and work for you until I return.
I know you want a girl badly & I have spoken to her on the subject &
she is willing to go & live with you. She is a girl I think much of, and
I can recommend her as being honest and industrious. She is an
excellent cook, laundress & seamstress. She can make a plain
dress in half a day. She can also make pants coats &c. She has
done all my washing & cooking so far to my satisfaction. She is going
only 23, good looking & nearly white. She ran away from her mistress in
Missouri, & has been with me ever since. She is not saucy or haughty, but is
willing to be taught. I don't like to spare her, but it would be to your & her
advantage, as she can do all your work & you can teach her to read, and
make a woman out of her. Her husband (so called) is in my Co, a Corp^t, & one of
my best men. She has no children to trouble her. I was going to send her up with
the Colonel, but I thought I would wait till I had your pleasure. Please write
me your opinion on the subject. I would advise you to send for her. I am very
thankful for you writing so often and so good. I hope you may even do so
I sent \$2.50 by Capt. Mulford to home but I have not heard from him yet.
I must now close with love to all of you your affectionate Bro
Thomas Montgomery

By care me for delaying so long to write. I started the letter on the 4th of my birth day, but being the
day was of such a nature that I could not write. I have now written it as best I could.