



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Head Quarters Co. "B." 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. C. I.  
 Morganzia La. July 7<sup>th</sup> 1864.

My Dear Parents and Brothers,

Through the Providence of Almighty God I am spared to once more write to you, this time hoping you are all enjoying good health & other needed blessings. I am in receipt of a letter from Father dated June 14<sup>th</sup> saying you were all in good health and doing well, also saying that the stock and crops, were doing well, and acknowledging the receipt of the \$250, which I sent home by Cap<sup>t</sup> Whitford. This pleased me well. It made 4<sup>th</sup> of July pass more pleasantly. Nothing was going on here on the 4<sup>th</sup> but a national Salute fired at rebellion, noon, & retreat or sunset & fireworks at night.

I was very well pleased at the purchase you made of the farm near Cleveland. I think it is an excellent farm and well worth the money. If I felt like devoting my time to agriculture, when I am through with the war, that is if God spares me to return, I would want no better place, in that vicinity, being near Cleveland and near navigation, and not far from a railroad. But at present I doubt very much, whether I will ever settle down on a lonely farm, a more public life seems to suit my tastes better. But I want no better investment of my money, than in laying it out in such purchases as that, so that it may be multiplying.

I have been very busy for a week or two, in making out my Reports, Returns &c. They are numerous as this is the end of the month. Two months & Quarter, each requiring their own papers, muster-rolls &c. Monthly, I have to make out Return of the State of the Co, Strength present, absent &c. Return of Clothing Camp and garrison Equipage, Every two months Muster Rolls & Quarterly Returns of Ordnance, Deceased Soldier, &c. I have also very often to make out Descriptive Lists of absent men, Inventories & final Statements of deceased Soldiers, & others too numerous to mention. This I do all myself, without any outside assistance. So you see when I sit down to write a letter, I am tired, and often occupy several days. My <sup>social</sup> correspondence is confined almost altogether to home, for want of either disposition or time. My health is pretty good, although troubled for some time with costiveness, which is a forerunner of many other ills, but I am much better, having checked it. I believe I can keep my health pretty good, if I can keep my bowels regular. I have done no fatigue duty in consequence, being excused by the Surgeon. But something has occurred, which makes me forget past or prospective sickness, and that is my promotion. You can hereafter address me as Cap<sup>t</sup> J. Montgomerie, 67<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf., I received my appointment yesterday, from <sup>the President by George</sup> J. Thomas, adj. Gen. U.S.A., Nashville Tenn. making me rank as Captain from the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, the date of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bailey's death. Cap<sup>t</sup> Hudson & Laughlin received theirs a week ago, and they rank from the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. This joke on them is rich as it makes me the 8<sup>th</sup> ranking Cap<sup>t</sup> instead of the 10<sup>th</sup>. I have applied for a position, and will be assigned to Co. "K," as it is the only vacancy. This brings me back to my old letter.



Well I am thankful for this, and all other mercies, I praise  
God for all that is past and trust him for all that is to come.  
I have done much better than I ever anticipated. None but  
St. Manning thought last summer that I would be capt. so soon.  
All I ask for now is good health and strength, to enable me  
to prosecute my duties with success. I would like to remain  
in Co. "B," but of course cannot. Co. "K" is a good company, much  
larger than B. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Kreps, from Penn., is an active  
and energetic young man, a member of the Methodist  
Church, when at home, and one I think I will like, as he is  
glad to get me in his Co. 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. Roberts, is an old man  
rather foggyish I think. He is a Methodist Preacher and I  
think will soon be chaplain, as our first chaplain has resigned  
on account of sickness & failing health. I have made application  
for a leave of absence to go to Fort Hudson La. to be mustered and  
will probably go down to morrow. I received my Co. Desk, from  
Fort Hudson, containing my uniform, papers &c, which I needed.  
There is little news in this Dept. at present. The 9<sup>th</sup> Minn were  
in the fight in Miss under Sturgis and were whipped, losing  
everything. They miss 250 men & some officers. I understand  
the 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Minn Regts, are now at Memphis and  
will form part of an expedition under Gen A. J. Smith,  
an able officer, to penetrate Miss &c. I have not heard lately  
from the 7<sup>th</sup> neither from St. Talbot. I heard from Capt. Whitford  
that he was at home but his health was failing. His wife  
had to write that was June 8. His time is out on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
but I think he will not get back. I received the N. M. G. A.  
and read it through last Sunday after inspection.  
Was well pleased with the Gen Conference news, speeches, addresses &c.

July 7  
The news we hear from Grant and Sherman is good and betoken  
final success. The 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, under Gen. Emory left here  
this week it is thought for James River. This place is now  
commanded by Gen. <sup>Edwards</sup> Reynolds. Gen. Ullmann commands the  
colored troops. The latter are busily engaged daily in building  
fortifications, as the white troops are being withdrawn to re-  
-force Grant &c, we are more exposed to attacks from the enemy.  
I was very glad indeed to hear from home again, that you were  
all enjoying good health &c. It only takes 19 days for a letter  
to get around from there, I had one written on the 4<sup>th</sup> but there  
being no P.O. here, I could not mail it. I bring this down to  
Port Hudson to mail there, the health of the troops here are  
about the same as they were before, Co. B. has now 67 men on her rolls  
147. present & 20 absent, & she shows a list of 40 deaths.

59  
Since I wrote the above I have been assigned to command Co. "K."  
I have made an enlargement to the tent for my own use, and intend  
getting brush to cover over it to keep it cool. I have a nice bed  
with a mosquito bar around, also, a co. desk, & other accommodations  
but at best it is camp life, in the field. Co. "K." has 34 enlisted men  
present, and 18 absent making 72 in all, and 3 officers. 2. St. Roberts  
has been a Methodist for 35 years. Has been a travelling preacher 18 yrs  
has been in Canada West, & is well acquainted there, with the prominent  
men, the Ryersons, McNab, Wilkinson, Case, Muncey, Wrassey, Sunday, &c &c.  
My application to visit Port Hudson was disapproved, a mustering  
officer having arrived to muster us, he mustered me to day from  
July 6<sup>th</sup> so I have done pretty well. I went up to Brig. Hd. Qrs. to get mustered, I  
had on my shoulders a new \$5. pair of capts straps, Col. Barrett comd'g  
the Brigade & Col. Branson, both intimate friends of mine, shook me by  
the hand & congratulated me. Here they said in speaking to the others  
is what was once corpl. Col. Branson is the man who introduced me  
to Gen. Pile, when I had on corpl. stripes, and did not know what I  
had passed for. All thought I had done amazingly well.  
I have delayed this letter too long. I must try hereafter to write  
more regular, give my best wishes to all my friends, I would  
like to hear from any of them. Please write often and direct  
Capt. J. Montgomery, Co. "K." 67<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infy. Morganzia La.  
I wish I could get home now for a month or two, but I suppose  
that is out of the question, unless I get very sick & I never want to be sick  
enough to go home on a sick leave. I must now close for this time  
hoping to hear from you weekly and to hear all the local news.  
With best wishes for your health and continued prosperity  
and with love to all I remain your absent son & Bro. J. Montgomery