



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Camp 65th U.S. Col. Infantry
Baton Rouge, La, Aug. 26/66.

My Dear Mother,

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. also containing one from Bro. James C. I am glad to once more hear of the good health and prosperity of all my friends, and sincerely hope these blessings may long be continued.

I am, thank God, well and cheerful, having no reason whatever for complaint.

I saw some time ago, that you had a very wet season for harvesting, and that the rivers were rising rapidly. It may be a drawback to farmers, and yet it will result in much good in getting grain and other products out of the State. I noticed this morning in yesterday's A.C. Times, a notice that gives me some anxiety. A ^{Report} telegram from Omaha City say that the Steamer Pocahontas had sunk near Fort Rice, boat and cargo a total loss. I hope brother Sandy has escaped safely.

The levee has cut out at least the amount of the river.

In his letter to me, he said he was on the Pocahontas
and would probably remain on her all season.
But now she is lost, and I hope he is safe.
Perhaps you have heard something about it.
She is said to have sunk on the 20th inst.

I attended the Methodist Church today and heard
a very good sermon. Piety is at a low ebb
and all the efforts of the minister seem to be
unavailing to revive it. The young people are
especially irreligious. The war was ruinous to them.

Last Sunday I was called out of church to
attend to some business connected with the
Arsenal, and ~~assist~~ Maj. Genl. Hardie & Brig
Genl. Hays who were inspecting the same.
Maj. Moore of this Regiment has come up here
to recruit for the 9th Cavalry U.S.A.

I have as yet very little success in getting
recruits for the 39th Inf. The men in this Regt.
are doing well, and want to go home first.
Those who have seen service, and have since
been working on plantations and elsewhere
are very anxious to enlist again, when
they can get plenty of food and wear,
& plenty of money regularly also.

Last week I received from the Genl. Commanding
a copy of Webster Unabridged Pictorial Dictionary
and 10 copies of Mackenbos' History John E. S.
the former for myself and the latter to be
given to the men who can read.

A like number was given to each comp.
and was purchased with Regt. fund.
The General has moved from the Arsenal, and
is now with the Regt. in Camp.

Capt Sheridan of this Regt. has resigned and
gone home. His wife was here with him.

The Company at Jackson in this State has
been recalled and has rejoined the Regiment.

There has been some cases of Cholera
here. Lost one man with it last week.
He was well at dark, and was dead next
morning. Three others have died with it, but
it is confined to a few cases as yet.

I am not seriously afraid of it. being all the
time constipated. but we all need to watch
not knowing when our time may come.
I trust it will soon pass away, as the
weather lately has been quite cool.

It is very bad in St Louis & Cincinnati I hear.

Aug 26

I have been now over four years in service. I have not heard from my application in New Orleans and I do not much care, for I am getting tired and lazy soldiering. It would be more exciting in time of war. When the new regiments are raised the old ones will be mustered out undoubtedly.

I was sorry to hear what befell the good Tompkins Lodge in Cleveland. There appear to be rascals in every community. That trick was certainly one of the worst. I hope the perpetrators of it will be arrested and punished as they deserve. Aug 27th In company with Lt. Vincent I visited Mrs. Hendricks last evening and had a most pleasant time. She has three daughters who are excellently singers, & play the piano well. They teach the school in the Regiment and are loyal people.

Lt Vincent goes into the country this morning to try and catch some deserters from the 6th Cavalry. He will be away a few days. Tell Elizabeth from Bill that he was glad to receive her letter and to hear that she still thought of him, and that she was in good health. He intends to see her if spared to get out of the army, which he hopes will be long. He is much better than he was, and hopes soon to recover all that troubles him is fever and chills. He sends his love to her and often thinks of her. He tells me he would send some money as soon as he got well enough to get around to get it. He has got considerably and is saving all he can. I will now close this hurried scratch and remain as ever with best love to all your affectionate
John Thomas Montgomery