



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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Headquarters Co. 5th U.S. Col.,
Baton Rouge La. Sept. 5th 1866

My Dear Parents and Brother,

Your letter of the 21st ult. was received last Sunday the 2^d, and I hasten to answer it. As usual I was glad to hear of all being well, and hope your health may long continue very good. My own health thank God is excellent, although sickness is quite prevalent now, especially the cholera.

We have lost several men by it already. It behooves everyone to be very watchful as to what they eat, and drink, and also as to their habits. The weather has been very damp of late, that is we have had rain most every day. It is not too warm.

We enjoy ourselves now very well. We are all trying to keep in good spirits, and to guard against disease or sickness.

Capt. Palmer and Lieut Butler have tendered their resignations. If the former is discharged, I will be third ranking Capt., which will entitle me to the Colono.

I have been very busy lately, in attending to the business of the Company, and yet if you could look on me you would say perhaps I had an easy time. I weighed myself to day and find I only weigh 138 pounds. We were mustered for pay on the 31st ult. and paid off the next day, the Paymaster being here. Received \$340. minus \$12. tax.

I was glad you got my check changed into bonds, even by paying 4 per cent. premium. I wish I could get some more at that rate, But I don't think I can. As high as 6 1/2% has been given here. I have over \$1000 here, \$850, being in Bonds. I will try and take care of it. Nearly a company from this Regiment, have gone into the Regular Army, mostly into the Cavalry.

The Regiment is now small, I have only 51 men. Our Post School taught here in Camp by Mrs. Hendricks and one of her daughters, is continued for another month. It is a good opportunity for those who are desirous of improving it. Our reading room is also sustained. We receive all the best magazines and papers. We often have London dates of the day previous.

On the 15th inst Lieut Allen of my mess, gave
a dinner to a select party of five, it being the occasion
his birth day. We had a very pleasant time.
I was glad to hear that Bro. Sandy was well.
I hope he will do well and get back home safely.
I have not heard from any of my relatives lately.
Perhaps it is because I do not write much to them.
I am always glad to hear from home. It is one
source of consolation, another is in reading,
another in hearing semi-occasionally some
delightful piano music from our Schoonmans,
another in attending Lodge and Church,
and others that you can guess off.
On the whole I have put in the past year
very pleasantly and profitably I think.
I hope I may be spared to get North once
more and settled down in some business.
I have no trade, nor no profession to follow
and as to farming I don't like it any too well.
But what I will engage in will depend altogether
on future circumstances. May God direct me.
I suppose you have had tough work through
the wet season, harvesting, but I think you
will be amply repaid, by the high prices.

I see by the last Press that Menomona is
connected with St. Paul by railroad, and
that the rivers are to be made navigable.
I also see that thousands are flocking to Minn.
to make their homes there. It will undoubtedly
be a great state. There is no other I like so well.

I wish I could fill my letter with something
more interesting but as I cannot I will close.
I beg to be remembered to all the friends, if
they have not entirely forgotten me.

Mr. Estlin is much the same as before.
I have not seen him for a week. It is a
good thing that Elizabeth is staying with
you this winter. I am really glad of it.

Pray much for me, I need every help.
There is nothing here to incite to religion, and
I am doubtless too cold and careless, but
I hope it won't be this way always.

I may yet be surrounded by holier influences.
Give my love to Bro and friends when you write.
With kindest love to all I remain as
ever your affectionate Son and Brother

Thomas Montgomerie