

Robert Montgomery Letter and Timeline

Timeline

Born: 18 May 1833 in Jackson County, TN

Married: Mary Ann Johnson 15 October 1865

Died: 23 May 1889

Listed as a Captain in Co E of the 28th Infantry organized August 11, 1861.

Consolidated with Company I to form Company D of the 28th Consolidated. In one letter he mentions being in the 84th and wanted to transfer to Shaw's Cavalry [sic].

Battles of the 28th:

October 1861 Battles near Tompkinsville [sic] and Scottsville, KY

October 1861-January 1862 Border patrol between TN and KY

January 19, 1862 Battle of Fishing Creek

April 6-7, 1862 Battle of Shiloh

April 28, 1862 Stationed in Memphis, TN

May-August, 1862 Vicksburg, MS – Baton Rouge, LA

August 5, 1862 Battle of Port Hudson, LA

August 31, 1862 Stationed at Jackson, MS

October 31, 1862 Stationed at Murfreesboro, TN

December 31, 1862 Battle of Murfreesboro (LT Gen Hardee's Corps)

March 8, 1863 28th and 84th merged

May 1863 Stationed at Shelbyville, TN

Sept 19,20, 1863 Battle of Chickamauga, GA

Fall 1863 Stationed at Charleston, TN (guard duty)

Fall 1863 Battles of Chattanooga

Winter 1863-64 Quarters at Dalton, GA

March 19-29, 1864 Post duty at Atlanta, During the retreat to Atlanta Battles of Resaca, Peach Tree Creek and Marietta.

November 1864 Battle of Franklin, TN

March 31, 1865 Smithfield, NC (Gen Joseph E. Johnston's Army)

April 9, 1865 Reorganized as the First Consolidated Tennessee Infantry Regiment (Lt Col Oliver Bradshaw)

May 1, 1865 Greensboro, NC (Surrendered and paroled)

Letter

Miss Mary A. Johnson
Roaring River
Jackson Co.
Tenn [sic]
May 19th 1863
Camp near Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

Dear Mary

After some delay waiting to hear from you I again write that I have not forgotten you although it may seem from so long delay that I have treated you with neglect I have not received a letter from you or any of my friends for some time which I cannot account for i [sic] would be very glad to hear from you or any old acquaintances there is no news of any consequence here we are as quiet here as could be expected where there is so many soldiers together the most we have to do is drill draw our rations cook eat and by the way some of use are getting to be very good cooks we get fresh better here for \$1.50 per pound and eggs for \$2.00 a dozen milk at from 50 cents to one dollar a quart which are considered to be reasonable enough in price (But by the way) speaking of cooking we have very often for dinner plenty of wild salad and bacon with fresh butter and milk with rice pudding for desert [sic] which is something more than the Yankees would give us credit for if they believe what deserters would say as to our fare it is said here that General Grant has captured Jackson the capital of the state of Mississippi and that we are sending a large force there and that there will in all probability be one of the most sanguinary battles of war fought on the black river [sic] or somewhere near in a very short time if it is not on hand at the present time Lee has also whiped [sic] Hooker in Virginia and driven him across the Raphannock [sic] river again we are patiently waiting the advance of Rosecrans again and if he ever crosses the Duck river hills he will be the worst whiped [sic] yankee [sic] general of the war I have nothing more of importance to write I would be glad to see you and then I could you all that has taken place since we parted I would like to be upon the river to help some of the old farmers take some fresh honey and have some nice fun with his daughter I think I could enjoy myself very much for about a week or more if I could get leave of absence long enough to come home But it is fate of war for men to be separated from those they love Respect and admire and so it has happened with me as well as thousands of others yes they say that I ought to be contented with my fate I a single man should have no cares but I think of all men I am most miserable cut entirely off from all that is good and chaste yeas [sic] all that is lovely in life yes all my hopes frustrated and dispelled forever for ought I know Dear Mary if this war continues and I am not permitted to return to my home to seek for that which is most dear to every man that quiet for which every man of mature thought should seek a home and a pretty and agreeable wife thence to

spend his days in peace [sic] happiness beyond the troubles and turmoils of life or strife for power and place which is as shallow as it is fleeting

Miss Mary from our acquaintance you know all my traits of character and you may know how ardently I wish for your welfare [sic] and happiness I would like to be there and hear from your sweet musical voice all the news in your neighborhood and to go as of old to church with you or take an evening walk to some beautiful grove by the side of some rippling stream let these pour forth all that I feel and to tell you how I feel while thinking [sic] of you while I am away surrounded [sic] by every danger that doth intervene to man the happiness of every man who wishes to leave an honorable name behind as a relict for his friends this leaves me in not very good health but somewhat improving I hope you will receive this and that you are well receive my good wishes for your prosperity and happiness give my respects to your friends and believe me as ever your friend

R. Montgomery

Excuse all digressions and mistakes