



[Return I. Holcombe Papers.](#)

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AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE MONUMENT.

The act creating the commission and providing for the erection of the monument ^(Chapter 231, Adams of 1893) declares that the monument shall be erected "on the land on which was fought the battle of Birch Coulie". The title of the act is: "An act appropriating money for the purchase of the battle-field of Birch Coulie and the erection of a suitable monument thereon". The direction as to the location is therefore explicit, if not mandatory. (See Sec. 1 of the act). It is evident that the legislature intended to identify, perpetuate, and preserve forever the actual site of the memorable heroic contest, the very soil whereon for thirty-six hours our gallant soldiers and citizens fought against the almost overwhelming forces of the enemy—the ground that they wet with their blood—the spot whereon they yielded up their lives.

The evidence shows that on the part of the whites the battle was fought on a small area, not exceeding five acres in extent, and that the monument is located more than a mile and a half distant therefrom, on a site whereon no part of the battle was fought at any time. *The*

present location seems inappropriate, and is so considered by a very large majority of the survivors of the battle and others who have considered the subject, and evidently is not the location of the commemorative structure contemplated and designed by the Legislature.

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The battle ground, upon which the legislature intended the monument should be set, is directly at the side of a well travelled road, from which, only a quarter of a mile distant, another very public road leads to Olivia, the County Seat of Renville County. To the east, north, and west the country is level for a considerable distance, and if the monument were placed on the "land" where the battle was fought it would be a most prominent and conspicuous object for many miles on either side, and more people ^{will} ~~would~~ see it, and very many more visit it, than will see and visit it if it shall remain on its present site.

AS TO THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE MONUMENT.

The act for the erection of the monument provides that the inscriptions thereon shall commemorate "the State's appreciation of the men who there (at Birch Coulie) sacrificed their lives in its defense", and further that the inscriptions shall be such as "comport with the dignity of the State." ~~It is true that the choice of the words of the inscription was left to the "judgment of the Commissioners".~~ But *It* ~~it~~ certainly was not the intention of the Legislature to authorize or permit a falsehood, an untruth, or even a mis-statement, to be and remain a part of the inscription; nor will the people sanction such a thing. A false statement will not "comport with the dignity of the State", nor an untruth show its "appreciation of the men who sacrificed their lives at Birch Coulie."

It was shown to your Committee that many of the most important portions of the inscription are inaccurate and untrue. Many of the names of the soldiers and citizens who fought, and some of those who fell, are misspelled or otherwise incorrectly given. The names of two honorable citizens of the State, ~~both unarmed and non-combatants, and one of them maimed for life a few days before by the Indians, and who were killed at the onset of the action, are omitted.~~

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AS TO THE NAME INSCRIBED AS "COMMANDER OF THE FORCES"

The Commission appointed by the act providing for the erection of the monument ordered to be

be inscribed on the monument, and it is so inscribed, the name of Captain H.P. Grant as "Commander of the Forces", engaged in the the battle of Birch Coulie. ^{was an} This error ^{which ought to be corrected,} ~~is wholly inexcusable.~~ In reaching its decision on this point, the commission did not consult the official re-

ords and reports and other reliable authorities upon the subject, although they are easily accessible and very plain and conclusive. The decision was reached by the hearing of ex-parte testimony by Captain Grant and two or three of his particular friends, and against the decided and earnest protest of Commissioner Daniels, who was surgeon of the Birch Coulie expedition, and asserted and still asserts that Captain Grant was not its commander.

All of the official records and reports, all of the standard histories of the Sioux War and of our State, all of the surviving officers that were with the expedition and in the battle (except Captain Grant) assert most positively that Major Joseph R. Brown was the real and only commander of the entire force on the expedition and in the battle, and that Captain Grant was only a subordinate under him, in command of a company, on that occasion.

Upon this point we have the official reports of General Sibley, the Commander-in-Chief of all the forces at that time; (See Sibley's Field Book, pp. 66, et seq.; also West's Life of Sibley, pp. 459, et seq.); of Major Brown himself; (see West's Life of Sibley, p. 462, et seq); and ^{of} Captain Joseph Anderson, who commanded one of the two companies composing the Birch Coulie expedition, (See Vol. 2, Minnesota in Civil and Indian War, p. 212), and we also have Captain Anderson's sworn statement recently made. We have the clear, positive, and unequivocal written statements of Dr. J. W. Daniels, the surgeon of the expedition, and of Captain J. H. Swan, who was also present. We have the statements of Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, (see vol. 1, Minnesota in Civil and Indian War, p. 736), who took a conspicuous part in the Sioux war and is well acquainted with its incidents, and of Hon. James J. Egan, who was a member of the expedition and was wounded in the battle (see vol. 1, Minn. in Civil and Indian War, p. 736, and vol. 2, p. 219), and is at present a Judge of the District Court of Ramsey County. We have the official records of the Adjutant General of the State for the year 1862, which state the fact most positively and unmistakably. (See interleaf bet. pp. 308-9). Not a single record, not a single official or authoritative document, states the fact otherwise. By and on these records the case ought to be established, and on them, in the judgment of the present and future people of the state

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of ~~the state~~, it will be decided and stand. We have also the statement of Captain Grant himself, admitting that the next day after the battle he was plainly told by General Sibley that Major Brown was the commander and that he (Grant) was ordered to make the report of the part taken by his company to him (Brown). (See vol.2, Minn. in Civil & Indian War, p.219).

It must be conceded that, if Gen. Sibley were alive, a few words from him would effectually settle the question of the identity of the commander at Birch Coulee. Gen. Sibley is dead, but he has left upon record the facts as he knew them, in language so plain that it is impossible to mistake his meaning.

Corroborative of the official and other authoritative recorded evidence cited, are the statements of every one of the histories of the Sioux war and of the State, without a single exception. (See the standard history of the Sioux war by Captain I.V.D. Heard, page 131; also ~~Maxxim~~ McConkey's History, page 171; See also the Histories of Minnesota by the late Dr. E.D. Neill, a most careful and painstaking historian, with a national character and reputation; (Edition of 1873, p. 730; Edition of 1882, p. 730; Concise History of 1887, p. 236;); also Kirk's History, page 149; also West's Life of Sibley, page 259, et seq.) Not a single history of the war or of the State asserts that Captain Grant was the commander of the expedition.

Captain Grant's claim to the command rests upon his own statements and those of certain of his personal friends, and upon a theory that there was a plot or conspiracy between General Sibley, Major Brown, Captain Anderson, Surgeon Daniels, and others to rob him of his proper distinction and credit.

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Captain Grant's assertions and statements and those of his friends have been fairly considered. But personal assertions and individual opinions, unsupported by competent and conceded authority, cannot be allowed to controvert official records and established historical facts.

The theory of a conspiracy has nothing worthy of attention to support it; and ^{especially} in view of the well known integrity and high character of Gen. Sibley and his associates, against whom the ~~the~~ insinuation was made, cannot for a moment, or in any respect, be entertained.

The claim ^{that} of Capt. Grant ~~that~~ was entitled to the command of the Birch Coulee expedition and of the forces in the battle because of his "rank" as captain of Minnesota volunteers, cannot be allowed. The official records show that while Capt. Grant was commissioned in August, 1862, he was not

accepted and mustered into the United States service as captain until October 1, 1862, nearly a month after the battle of Birch Coulee, and that his rank dates from that time.

(See Adj. Gen's. Rep., from 1861 to 1866, (Van Cleve) p. 276; vol. 1, Minn. in Civil and Indian War, p. 330; Muster-in-roll of Co. A, 6th. Minn. on file in Adj. Gen's. Office).

Major Joseph R. Brown was appointed

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to "rank as Major from August 25, at which date he entered on duty as such." (See Sibley's field book, p. 119). This date is recognized in the Adjutant General's record for 1862 (see page 311).

Wherefore, in view of all the facts your Committee is unreservedly and unanimously of the opinions expressed in the original report referred to, that the Birch Coulee monument, ^{should} be removed from its present site to the actual battle ground; ~~and~~ that the name of Major Joseph R. Brown be placed thereon as commander of the forces engaged in the battle of Birch Coulee, Sept. 2 and 3, 1862, and that the name of Capt. N. P. Grant, as commander, be ~~stricken~~ erased.

Captain Grant's statements are to be considered in the light of and with reference to his interest in the case, and the embarrassing and really perilous position before the world and posterity in which

The cruel and un-

just imputation of cowardice is made as an excuse for this omission.

The wounded citizen, two of his fingers shot away, had seen his wife and children murdered by the savages, and had accompanied the expedition to bury their mangled remains. The other was an old man, physically incompetent to fight, and when the sudden attack opened, both sought to conceal themselves from the murderous fire and were instantly killed.

In arriving at their decision as to the commander, the Commission, as its members admit, did not consult the records and authorities cited. It seems that they considered only the statements of Captain Grant himself, and two of his intimate friends.

In consideration of the great and overwhelming volume of testimony against him and **his** high, unimpeachable and conclusive character, one is filled with amazement, disgust and indignation that Captain Grant should have the effrontery to put forth his unwarranted and unjust claim at this late day, and that the commission should have been so credulous, or so heedless and reckless of the circumstances and consequences, as to allot it.

Statement of George Quinn, alias
George Ortley, alias Wa-kou-kday-
a-manne, alias Spirit That Rattles as
It Walks, a half breed Sioux Indian, made
to R. J. Holcombe in 1898, in the Pioneer
Press building. Wm. L. Quinn, interpreter.

I was born on Minnehaha creek, north
of Fort Snelling, in 1843. I was a member
of the Melanwakanton Sioux band, of which
Wabasha was head chief. I belonged to
the sub-band called the Lake Colhour
band, or White Swan's band; afterwards
it was known as Kah-kboka's or the
Drifter's band [E-bombdus?]. In the
summer of 1862 I was living near Walter
McLeod's near Bloomington, Hennepin
County. A rumor came to our settlement
that the paymaster had gone up to the
Lower Agency to pay the Indians their
annuities, and some of us young men
went up to be present at the payment
and get our share of the money.

We found on arriving that there was
some excitement over an election for
Chief Speaker of the Melanwakanton band.
Traveling Hail, a sub-chief, had been
elected over Little Crow and Big Eagle. A
few Indians were dissatisfied and some
of them shouted a war whoop, but the

excitement died out, because in a few days it was succeeded by a greater. The reason Traveling Hail was elected was that he had opposed the sale of the ten mile strip north of the river, in 1805-8. This strip was sold by the influence of Maj. J. R. Brown, the Agent for the Sioux. He got a lot of the chiefs and head men to go to Washington and make a treaty for the sale of the land. Wabasha, Little Crow, Traveling Hail, Mankato and other chiefs went and made the treaty, but Traveling Hail opposed the sale of the land, as did nearly of our people.

While these chiefs were in Washington they called on President Buchanan, who advised them to live like he did - wear white men's clothes, etc. Wabasha and Traveling Hail said they would do so. But Little Crow said, "No, I was born an Indian and I will die one; I was given a breech-clout as my first garment, and I will always wear one." Yet he put on white men's clothes before he returned home on that trip and had his picture taken in them, and he often wore white men's clothing after that and lived in a house with stoves, beds, etc. Traveling Hail was a "breeches Indian," too. He took no part against the whites during the outbreak of

1862. In the Spring of 1863 he was sent with the other Indians to Fort Thompson, (n Crow Creek) on the Missouri, and he died at Niobrara, Nebraska, in 1866.

I arrived at Redwood Agency, Aug. 13, and four days later the outbreak began in the Big Woods (n at Acton). The next morning the work began at the Lower or Redwood Agency. I am half-white man and half Indian, and I learned to read and write the Sioux language at Saks Calhoun under the instruction of the Pond brothers. But I never learned to speak English and I was raised among the Indians as one of them. So when the outbreak came I went with my people against the whites. I was 19 years old and anxious to distinguish myself in the war, but I had no wish to murder any one in cold blood, nor did I; nobody was accused of such a thing. I fought the white soldiers, but not the unarmed white settlers.

I was in the attack on Capt. Marsh's Company at Redwood Ferry, the first day of the outbreak, at the Agency, and helped to destroy that command. After the fight I and four other young men were sent down mounted to Fort Ridgely to watch the Fort, and see what the ~~white~~ soldiers were doing, and to ride back and report anything important. Other parties of four

or five were sent down for the same purpose. The squad I was with got to the fort very late at night. We hitched our horses and crawled up in the darkness as close as we dared to the west side of the fort and lay down, and I fell asleep. When I awoke it was daybreak, and old Jack Grager, a well known half-breed who had made his escape from Macouta's village the day before leaving his family behind, was standing picket in plain view of us. He called out to us to get right away from there or he would shoot us, and he said that if he did not know our fathers and mothers so well he would shoot us anyhow. We slipped down the bluff bank and did not let him see us any more. Later in the day we returned to the Redwood Agency. One party sent down to watch the fort rode some miles north of it and finally saw Lieut. Sherman's company returning to the fort in the night. A messenger was sent back to give the alarm. This messenger gave the news to another scout and he rode to Little Crow's village and reported that the soldiers were coming in great numbers. There was great excitement

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and orders were given to break up camp and retreat to Yellow Medicine. But in a little time another scout came and said there were only about 50 men coming to re-enforce the Fort, and so the orders to break up camp were countermanded.

I was in the second attack on Fort Ridgely. In this fight I came up on the south side to the stables and tried to get a horse. As I was leading it out a shell burst in the stable near me and the horse sprang over me and got away knocking me down. When I got up I saw a mule running and I was so mad that I shot it. Good Thunder was in this fight and got a horse. I saw him and another Indian shooting at the windows of a house on the west side of the Fort. Some white men were firing from these windows at the Indians. Little Crow, Trabasha, Shakopee, Big Eagle, and Main-Kato were all at the first Ridgely fight. I saw Little Priest and three other Winnebagoes there. Big Eagle and The Thief tried to prevent the second attack on Fort Ridgely, by saying it was no use to attack it, for it could not be taken without too great a loss. The Thief was not at the first fight; I know he was not, for I was over in the Big Woods trying to steal horses when the fight at Birch Coulee

I began. I got to the battle ground just as Sibley came and ended the fight. Red Legs' brother, Wah-kee-yah Ho-ton-na, or Thunder Voice, was killed at Birch Coulee. His body was wrapped in a blanket and taken to the old site of Shakopee's village near the mouth of the Redwood and buried. Several Indians were wounded, and among them was Mr. Columbus now living at Morton; he had his powder horn shot off too.

I was in the Wood Lake battle. I was one of a party of 13 that was placed toward the rear of Sibley's force in a ravine which ran from the lake. We were nearly all of Wacouta's band and our leader was Chetan-me-ke-che-tah, or the Killing Hawk. His wife was Jack Praeger's niece. He was killed and eight more of the 13 were shot by the force that attacked us. Our line was across the route the soldiers were on to dig potatoes at the Yellow Medicine Agency and a dog with the soldiers barked at our men as they lay in the grass and so they were discovered. Little Crow stayed on the field till the fight was all over. He had no arms but a large six-shooter. I do not think he fired it. Manhato's body was buried back in our camp, I think, and not in the bank of the Yellow Medicine as Big Eagle says. Old Simon came among the Indians during the

fight, with a white rag on a stick and wanted the other Indians to stop fighting, and some of them obeyed him. Old Mah-go-manne (Walks on Iron) went out from the Indian side with a white flag, but a cannon ball took off his leg and he died. He had taken no part against the whites.

I surrendered at Camp Release and gave my gun to Sand. J. Brown. He put me under guard, but said I would not be a prisoner very long. I was a prisoner for four years, being sent to Rock Island. Nothing was proved against me except that I was in some of the battles against the whites. I took no part in killing the settlers and was opposed to such work.

Wah-kon-K-daya-manne
^{shone} that Katchus, as it makes
Burr Munchaha creek 1843. Midway station
band - White Swan - afterward "Swiftling's"
band Lake Calhoun band. Educated
at Lake Calhoun by the Ponds.

Above is Wah-kon-K-daya-manne's
autograph, written at the head of my
original notes. R. J. Holcomb

About the 12th of August a party of twenty of the Lower Indians went over into the Big Woods to hunt. Half a dozen of the Rice Creek band were members of the party. One of the Shallopee Indians named Island Cloud (Makh-jea-we-tai), had business with Capt. Geo. C. Whitcomb, of Forest City, concerning a wagon, which had been left the previous winter with the captain as security for a sleigh borrowed by the Indians. Reaching the hunting grounds in Meeker county, the party divided, Island Cloud and four others going to Forest City, and the remainder continuing in the Township of Acton.* The hunting was not good and very little game was secured. Some of the Indians had money and purchased provisions from the settlers when they could.

On the morning of August 17 the Indians who had not gone to Forest City were passing along by the claim and premises of Robinson Jones, on the Henderson and Pembina road, ^{in the} municipal town-ship of Acton, in Meeker county. Four of the party were Rice Creekers; the others were from the Bands about the Lower Agency. Three of the former were Upper Indians; the fourth had a Medawakanton father and a Wahpaton mother. Their names, in English, were Brown Weng, Breaks Up and Scatters, Ghost That Kills, and

* People from the Eastern States commonly call a Township a "town," while Westerners understand the latter term to mean a village or unincorporated municipality. Many writers refer to Acton as a "place," or village. It was still a municipal township in western Meeker county.

Crawls Against Something. The last named (~~Pa. Yo-i-ya-pa~~) was living in 1906 in the southern part of Manitoba. Two of the four were dressed like white men; the others were partly in Indian costume. None of them were more than 30 years of age, but each seemed older.

The house of Robinson Jones stood on his claim on the ~~east~~ central part of what was then Acton Township, (or e. 1/2 n. w. 1/4 sec. 21, Tps. 119, R. 32) about four miles south of the present site of Grove City. At that date Acton included all of what is now Spnielson Township and the south half of Swide Grove. Half a mile to the northwest of the Jones house was that of his step son, Howard Baker.

Robinson Jones was a pioneer in Acton Township. In 1857 he, Howard Baker, Mrs. Ann Baker, Abram Kelley, John Blackwell, and a Captain Robinson, made claims and permanent settlements in sections 21 and 22. Of these people Judge Smith, in his History of Meeker County, says: "All of them except John Blackwell had formed an acquaintance with one another in a lumber camp on the upper Mississippi." January 4, 1861, Jones married Mrs. Ann Baker, the mother of Howard Baker, who had also recently married. Esquire James C. Bright performed the ceremony that united Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and Otis Johnson and Emily Bright were witnesses. In the summer of 1862 Jones adopted into his family two of a deceased relative's children, Clara S. Nelson, a girl of 15, and her half brother, an infant of eighteen months.

Jones was a stalwart frontiersman, a little rough and unrefined, but well liked by his white neighbors. His wife was a sympathetic and congenial companion. Both fairly despised the Indians, who annoyed them greatly by coming from the reservation, forty miles away, and begging and pilfering. In 1861 a post-office called Acton was established at Jones's house, with Jones himself as postmaster. In his house also Jones kept a small stock of goods, suited to the wants of his neighbors, and fairly adapted to the Indian trade. He also kept constantly on hand a barrel or more of cheap whiskey, which he retailed at ten cents a glass or 25 cents in pint bottles. An array of which always stood on his shelves. He traded for furs and fells with the Indians, and a number of them owed him considerable amounts for goods and supplies. Only occasionally, however, would he let them have whiskey, but Mrs. Jones was more accommodating. She sold to whosoever had the price - cash in hand - no credit.

Howard Baker, Mrs. Jones's son by her first husband, lived on his claim with his young wife and two children, the younger an infant in arms. On the 10th of August Mr. and Mrs. Viranus Webster, another young couple, from Wisconsin, came to Baker's in their fine two-horse wagon, intending to settle in the country, and was given a welcome at Baker's until they could select a claim. They occupied their covered wagon for a sleeping apartment.

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When the four Indians were passing Jones's farm one of them found in the corner of the fence surrounding his little "truck patch" a hen's nest with a few eggs. He took the eggs and showed them to his comrades as a lucky find. Chief Big Eagle, in June, 1894, related to the compiler the particulars of this incident: *

The four Indians went to the house of Mr. Jones and, according to his statements made half an hour later, demanded whisky, which he declined to give them. He knew personally all of the four, and their conduct was so unusual, so menacing and threatening, that, strong as he was and high as was his reputation for personal courage, Jones became alarmed and incontinently fled from his house to that of his ~~son-in-law~~ ^{step-son}, Howard Baker, half a mile away. In his flight, he abandoned his foster children, Clara Wilson and her baby brother. At his step-son's, he said, in apparent alarm, that he had been afraid of the Indians, as he was but one to their four, and believed that they were trying to "kick up a row," but, now that he was with Baker and Webster, he did not fear them.

Although the Jones house had been abandoned to them, the Indians did not touch ~~a single~~ one of the many bottles of whisky on the shelves in plain view, nor did they offer to take anything whatever from the house, or to molest Miss Wilson. Walking leisurely they followed after Jones to the Baker house where they arrived at about 11 A. M. What occurred is thus related in the recorded sworn testimony of Mrs. Howard Baker, at the inquest held on the bodies of her husband and others on the day following the tragedy:

his cap, and another had three. Jones said to us: "They asked me for whiskey, but I would not give them any." (See History of Meeker County by Hon. A. C. Smith, who presided at the inquest and recorded the testimony of Mrs. Baker.)

Mrs. Webster's version of her conviction with the tragedy was that she and her husband arrived in their wagon at Acton Post-office August 10. For some days they encamped near Baker's house, cooking their meals on Mrs. Baker's stove but sleeping in their own wagon, while Mr. Webster was looking for an acceptable homestead. On the memorable Sunday, at about 11 o'clock, Jones came over to the Baker house and said some Indians had been at his house and wanted whiskey, but that he had refused them. They had then "acted ugly" and he had come over where the other men were, fearing mischief.

Soon after the Indians came and acted very friendly. Jones traded Baker's gun to an Indian for his gun and three dollars in silver. Soon after target shooting was over, the Indians reloaded their guns and began their deadly work. Webster was the first victim and he fell near the door of the cabin. Then Baker and Mrs. Jones, who were in the house were ^{killed}. An Indian chased Jones, fired at and mortally wounded him and he fell near Webster's wagon. When the firing began Mrs. Webster was in her covered wagon and witnessed the entire scene unobserved. The Indians left soon after the killing without offering to rob the bodies of their victims or to offer them any sort of indignity or to carry away any plunder. Even the horses were not molested.

As soon as the Indians had left, Mrs. Webster hastened to her dying husband and sought to drag him into the house, but could not do so nearly an hour. "What did you do to the Indians that they shot you?" asked his wife. "Nothing whatever," answered the dying man; "I never saw a Sioux Indian before and never had anything to do with one." Mrs. Baker and her two children now appeared from the cellar. Mr. Baker was quite dead, but Mrs. Jones was suffering intensely, while her husband was struggling violently in his death agonies; when his body was found it was seen that he had torn hand-fuls of turf and grass from the earth and dug holes in the ground in his extreme tortures.

Taking her two little children with her Mrs. Baker ran into the bushes and covered among them. Here, as soon as Mr. Webster had breathed his last she was joined by Mrs. Webster. The two terror-stricken women were considering what they ought to do, when a half-witted, half-demented fellow, an Irishman, named Cox, came along the road. At once the women showed themselves, called to him, and entreated him for assistance. The poor imbecile only grinned, shook his head, and told the women they were liars, and that there had been no Indians there. When they pointed to the bloody corpses of the Indians' victims, he laughed and said: "O, they only have the nose-bleed; it will do them good." A few days later some people sought Cox to lynch him, but he was sent to the insane asylum instead.

The two women, with Mrs. Baker's two children, then left the scene and made ^{their way to} the house of Nels Olson, where they ^{who was afterwards killed by the Indians} passed the night. The next morning they were taken to Forest City, and from thence to Kingston and Monticello, where Mrs. Webster made the statement from which the foregoing account of her part in the outbreak has been abstracted. (See St. Paul Daily Press for Sept. 4, 1862; article by M. S. Crosswell, of Monticello)

From Nels Olson's cabin Ole Ingeman, soon after their arrival, heard the story of Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Webster, and galloped away to Forest City with the alarming news, reaching the village at 6 o'clock. In an hour sixteen of the villagers were on their way to Acton with their rifles and shotguns. It soon grew dark and six of the party turned back. The other seven — Amos A. Fosen, Nels Danielson, John Blackwell, Berger Anderson, Ole Westman, John Nelson, and Charles Magnuson — pressed on determinedly. On the way they were joined by a party of settlers of the neighborhood headed by Thoms Mc Gannon. On reaching the Baker place they approached the house stealthily, thinking it probable the Indians were still there, but soon found it was deserted. In the darkness they stumbled over the corpses of Mrs. Webster, and Baker, and ^{found} the body of Mrs. Jones ~~in~~ in a pantry.

In the gloom of midnight the party passed on to Acton post-office, Jones's house. Here they expected to find the Indians dead drunk on

Jones's whisky. They first surrounded the house, then crawled up to it, and finally entered it. There was not an Indian there. Prostrate on the floor, in a pool of her young blood, and just as she had fallen lay the body of poor Clara Wilson. No disrespect whatever had been shown it, and it was evident that she had died instantly from the fatal wound. On a low bed lay her little baby brother of two years, who had cried himself to sleep. When awakened he smiled into the faces of his rescuers and rattled that Clara was hurt and that he was hungry. John Blackwell carried him away, and the child was finally adopted by Charles H. Ellis, of Atsaga, Wright County.

In a corner of the main room of the Jones house stood a half filled whisky barrel, and on a shelf stood a row of pint and half pint bottles filled with the exhilarating beverage. The Indians had not touched a drop of the stuff—so appearances indicated and so they themselves declared. The numerous printed statements that they were drunk when they perpetrated the murders are all false. Moreover Jones's statement that they wanted whisky of him and "acted ugly" because he would not let them have it, may well be disbelieved. After he left the house they could have easily helped themselves to enough of the stuff to have made the entire Rice Creek band drunk, and when they returned and killed Miss Wilson they were at perfect liberty to plunder the house of its whisky and other contents, but this they did not do. At Baker's they were duly sober, and asked only for water. (See Lawson and Jew's Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County pp. 18-19.)

On Monday about sixty citizens assembled at Acton and an inquest was held over the bodies of the first victims of the great Indian outbreak. The inquest was presided over by A. C. Smith, of Forest City, then probate judge and acting county attorney of Meeker County. The testimony of Mrs. Baker and others was taken and reduced to writing, and the verdict was that the subjects of the inquest were "murdered by Indians of the Sioux tribe, whose names are unknown." The bodies were coffined and taken about three miles eastward to the cemetery connected with the Norwegian Lutheran Church, commonly called the Mass Church, (sec. 20, tp. 119, range 31) and all five of them were buried "in one broad grave," according to Smith's History of Meeker County, p. 17. Some years later, at the cost of \$500, the State erected a granite monument over the grave to the memory of its inmates.

While the inquest was being held at the Baker house, eleven Indians, all mounted, appeared in view to the westward. They were of Island Cloud's party. The two Indians who had come to Baker's house the previous day, while the Ghost Killer and his party were there and after obtaining a drink of water had left, before the murders reported to the main band that they had heard firing in the direction of the Baker house. Ghost Killer and the others did not join their brethren that night or the following morning, and Island Cloud and the others feared that the whites had killed them in a row while drunk on Jones's whisky. They were approaching the Baker house

on Monday in endeavoring to learn what had become of their comrades when the crowd at the inquest saw them. Instantly a number of armed and mounted settlers started for them, bent on vengeance. The Indians, wholly unaware of the real situation, and believing that their four comrades had been murdered, and that they themselves were in deadly peril, turned and fled in terror and were chased well into Kaurdyohi County. Both whites and Indians in the vicinity of the scene were at this time in complete ignorance and altogether unsuspecting of what a great conflagration had been kindled by the little fire started at Howard Baker's cabin.

Movements of the Murderers

After killing Clara Wilson, at the Jones house, the four Indians went directly to the house of Peter Wicklund, near Lake Elizabeth, which they reached about one o'clock, when the family was at dinner. Wicklund's son-in-law, A.M. Ecklund, who had a team of fine young horses had arrived with his wife a short time before for a Sunday visit. One of the Indians came to the door of the house, cocked his gun and pointed it at the people at the dinner table. Mrs. Wicklund rose and motioned to the savage to point his gun in another direction. He continued, however, to menace the party and thus distracted their attention from the stable while his three companions stole and slipped away with Ecklund's horses. Then, two on a horse, they rode rapidly away. Some distance from Ecklund's they secured two other horses and then the four rode rapidly through the country to their camp at the mouth of Rice Creek, forty miles from Acton.

They reached this village just at twilight after a swift, hard ride, which (according to Jere Campbell, who was present) had well nigh exhausted the horses.

Flandreau South Dak

April 13/94

R. J. Holcombe

St Paul Minn

Dear sir

Your very kind letter came to day, and I hardly know how to thank you for your kind interest. I have often inquired about my Father but could not find out much. only that ~~he~~ he died some where in Florida. I would like very much to get the letters from my Father to Gen Sibley. Can you tell me where my Fathers Brothers and sisters lived in Pennsylvania. Thanking you again for your kind interest in me.

Yours very Respectfully
Nancy Haggam

2



[April 1894]?

No 2

My husbands name is Charles
Hoggan not John. I will send
you my picture also my daughter
and the sep children living, as soon
as we can get them taken.

about one month after I married
David Faribault a man came
out from the East and said he
came for me, that my Fathers
people wanted me. afterwards I
heard he died on the road going
home. I would like to know
very much wether my aunts and
uncles are alive, or wether I have
any relatives on my Fathers side
living. you offer very kindly
to assist me in finding out
I would be very glad to have
you do so, but could not think of
asking you to do so much with

out charge; you explain every
thing so nicely in your letters
and know about my Father I dont
think I can ever find any one that
can do it so nicely for me.

I never would of married David
Faribault - I was to young my Indian
relatives were against it but Gen
Sibley talked me into it telling
me David always made money and
so on and he came of a good fam-
ily. I think I have answered all
the questions you asked me. if you
ever come near Flandreau
please call and see us.

yours very respectfully

Nancy Kuggan

Andreas S.O.

May 1st 1894

Mr B. O. Holcombe
Saint Paul Minn

Dear sir your letter of
April 26th came all right. I only got
it yesterday we live about two miles
from town don't go every day so
your letter was at the office a day
or two before I got it. Now I will
try and answer the questions you
ask. I don't think my Father stole
mother mothers Father die & when
she was six years old and she
lived with her Grand Father his
name was Maga iyake lighting
Goose I have heard that a man by
the name of Joseph Montres ^{wanted mother} and
shortly after she ^{ways} married my Father
don't think she knew any thing of
Antoine Renville at this time.
I also heard that my Father shot

and wounded Martin McCloud
but always ~~that~~ ^{thought} it was by accident.
Martin McCloud told me that he
attended school with my Father and
I think he also told me ~~that~~ they
were officers in the same regiment
together. when I was about 8 years
of age McCloud began to give me
clothes once or twice a year and
said that my Father loaned him
some money and that when he
went away he could not pay
him and my Father told him if
any thing happened him to give
the money to me McCloud told
me the amount was seven
hundred dollars I dont know
how much I got of it. after I
married he gave me fifteen
dollars and said that was the
last. and scolded me for getting
married. McCloud died the same
year I was married. his son lives

on a farm some where near Minn
apolis. his name is Walter you
may know him. now about the out
break I was taken prisoner with
my husband and kept for six weeks
and had a very hard time and my
child who was about 8 years old
was at Camp Release when Gen Sibley
came I saved the life of five
people two men a woman and
two children the Indians were going
to kill them all and I begged them
not to do it. just as this was
all going on some ^{more} white people
came in sight this Indians
went after them and while they
were gone I got them out of the
way and they all got away and
are living some where in
Minn to day. when we knew
that Gen Sibley was close the half
Breeds took all the white prisoners
most of the Indians had gone

to meet - Gen Sibley and fight -
while they were gone the woman
all dug holes to get into expecting
when the Indians returned they
would kill all of us. I had nothing
but a little fire shovel to dig
with but I dug a place large
enough for myself and child in
a little while. after the thing
was all over I tried to dig with
the same little shovel and it
wouldnt dig a bit. I kept that
little shovel a great many years
but in moving around I lost
it. Now about what Chas. C. Mayo
says I think he went with Oliver
Faribault - wife they lived there
and from the discription of the
woman and age I think it must
of been her. about the treaty of

No 2

1837 I got some money how much I dont know the Indians have told me it was five hundred dollars. a man they called Blue Beard his real name I dont know came and said he would take the money and keep it for me till I grew up and I have never seen it yet. I think Mr Quinn knows who the man was I dont remember Gov Marshall I was speaking to my husband the other evening about it he says that he thinks he was with a party that Gov Marshall was with and thinks it was in 1869 and that they killed a Buffalo between Fort Totten and Fort Stevens and had an Indian scare a ~~part~~ at what is called the big ballie

Gov Marshall likely will remember
as I say I cant remember Gov Mar-
shall but I thank him very much
for assisting you please give him
my regards also Mr and Mrs
Quinn, My Indian name is
Winuna which means the first
girl born. since I commenced this
letter I have made up my mind
not to send it till my picture
is ready. the picture I send you
I had taken from a large picture
that was taken when I was 40 years
of age. I will mark the name on
the back of each one my daughters
name is Eastman. the other pictures
I send were taken within the last
year except George that I had taken
with mine. Remember me to Gov
Ramsey. I dont know how much
I thank you for all the trouble
I have made you. one thing I
want to ask you is this one

or two years ago I read in some
paper that congress had passed a
bill for the benefit of the soldiers
of the Florida war would I be
entitled to any thing can you tell
me. I did not get the St Paul paper
about Mr Quinn.

yours very Respectfully
Nancy Huggan

Handeau South Dakota
May 22nd 1894

Mr R. J. Holcombe
Saint-Paul

Dear sir your letter
of the 16th I got Saturday. before I got
your letter Gov Marshall wrote me
asking me to give him my experience
during the out break of 1862 I wrote
it all out as well as I could and
sent it a day or two before I got
your letter, have you seen the
letter can you use the same letter
if this wont do I will write it
again. It is very hard for me to
get any one to write for me
and Clara is away at school but
will soon be home now. my
husband dislikes writing so that
I cant get him to touch a pen
for me. I write so poorly my
self. I must thank you again

for all the trouble you are taking
to find my relatives. about the
spanish Commission given my
Grand Father I am trying to find
It Indians are great people to
keep old papers and I know about
some that my Indian relatives have
and am going to try and find out
wether it is among them, one thing
as near as I know my ^{great} Grand Fathers
brothers were drowned some where
on the Massaria River about fifty
years ago. and it is likely they had
this Commission you speak of. they
were camped on the River bottom
and the water came in the night
and took nearly all the villiage.
Mother told me about this.

I would like very much to have
the story about Mother if it is not
to much trouble to you to look
it up. I have not heard from
Gov Marshall since I wrote

him which I think was on the
14th of this month. now if that
letter wont answer your purpose
please wright me and I will
wright you again. I was very
much pleased with the account of
Mr Quinn in the paper you sent me
I have always heard Mr Quinn did
good servise during the out break
and after I have known him all
my life what a shame that some
tryed not to have him get the
few dollars he got as a reward
for his servise as a scout if
you see him give my regards
please.

I am yours very Respectfully

Nancy Huggan

Handrean South Dakota

May 24/94

Mr B. J. Holcombe
Saint Paul

Dear sir your letter of
May 20th I got to day, I am so glad
that Gov Marshall showed you my
letter, you ask me to give you
some thing about my school days.
The first school I attended was on
Williamsons, while here I was the
only one that boarded in the house
quite a number came to day
school and went home in the
evening at this time I was quite
small cant remember my age
Dr Williamsons sister taught
the school we called her aunt
Jane and they were good people
and true christians, at this
school is where I got my first
Indian scare, It was in the

summer time but what month
I cant remember. Dr Williamson
had some calfs in a little yard
by the house. the first thing we
heard was an Indian coming
singing. we looked out and saw
he was drunk the next thing was
he jumped into the yard where
the calfs were and killed every one
of them with his knife, we lived
only a little ways and I ran to
tell my sep father who came up
and stoped him from doing
any more damage. Dr Williamson
had three or four children at this
time and we used to water
these calfs. and I remember how
badly we felt for we all claimed
one of them. when the cows came
up at night we all had a good
cry. then Dr W moved away to
another Indian villiage. then
I went gonao Pitteyons, but four

of us boarded in the house Rose
Reville one named Carline and
Julia the last two cant give
you their last name dont think
they had any, now this is some
thing I want to tell you, about
this time the Missonarys work
was begining to show and a
great many ~~that~~ were joining
the church and the Indians I
that belonged to the medicine
~~to~~ dance didnt like this
so one Sunday when we went
to church 20 or 30 Indians were
at the church and said if any
went in they would take their
blanket and distry it, but this
did not stop them going in
they gave up their blanket and
went in and I can tell you
it was not an easy matter to
get a new blanket in those
days. after we all went in

the Indians shot the bell and
cracked it so it wouldnt ring
any more. Mr Riggs was preaching
and he felt so bad that he
cried. now while I was at
Pellijohns Mr Riggs lived in
the next House just a few steps
away one day a lot of Indians
came to the house and shot his
oxen he was hauling wood with
them at the time. I think this
was all the team they had. I
thought they would kill the people
next but they took the meat and
went away. This was in the
winter in the spring I went
home to stay with Mother
who was sick. at these schools
they taught us in Indian first
then in english. they taught

me reading writing and to
sew and knit and weave and
to spin yarn and to cook.
Mother was sick a long time
before she died and I had
to take care of her so could
not go back to school. till
I went to Rev Hopkins which
was about six months. when
my mother died she told me
to stay with Grand mother or
to go to Hopkins, and not to
stay among the Indians, while
at Hopkins my school mates were
Victoria Angel and her sister
Julia LaFronboise and Mr Biggs
daughter Marther. when I got
married I was staying with
Grand mother, at this time
and for many years after.

was a Presbyterian but my husband being a Catholic I joined and am a Catholic now, all my husbands family were Catholics. my mothers great Grand Father was a chief and I presume this is the way alighting Goose came by the Spanish Commission I think I have track of it now and will leave no stone unturned in trying to find it. Mothers great Grand Fathers name was I think Dale Mani or Walking Wind. When I went to school at Rev H's Mrs Hopkins when I went Pettijohns Mrs Riggs taught my son laws name is John Eastman he is a Presbyterian minister. to say the least the story you sent about Mother is remarkable I am inclined to think there is some truth in it. my step Father was always very

good to me when I was little he died about 10 years ago and died Christian. One thing in my letter to Gov Marshall I dident mention when Captain Marsh and his men came to see what the trouble with the Indians was, we were at Little Crows Camp and could see them coming they stoped at our house and it looked as though they were getting water from the well little thinking it was their last drink, for it wasent long before they met death. only a week before I saw Mr Quinn and had a long talk with him he always called me McClure even after I was married. I think the only time I laughed during the time I was a captive was at an Irish woman she was a woman I think about 40 or 45 years of age and nat-

a very shapely woman either
and just before Camp Release
was established we made many
moves of a mile or two and it
seems that the Indians that
had this woman had their own
team also. and the last move
the Indians made they told
her she must walk and when
we camped again she came
to our camp looking for John
Moore to tell him how she
had been treated and made
to walk she had an squaw
clothes and a baby in her arms
her face was dirty and you
never saw such a looking thing
in all your life. when she
got to our camp she inquired
for John Moore my husband

No 8

seemed to know her and she said how are you Mr Haribault where are we going any way what are they going to do with us any way. Mr F replied we are going to try and get back to the whites then she said well I wish they would do some thing quick I am getting sick of this camping who could helping laughing at this. another thing she said was that is our team they have and make me walk by gosh. I will see John Moore about this. and with this she went off. to look for john. one thing I havent told you is that two years after I was married I went down to St Louis with Mrs Robert my husband went down

to buy goods and some Horses
we went down on one of Mr
Roberts boats. we had such a
nice time I often wonder
wether Mrs Robert is a live
yet I know Louie is dead.
I would like to see her ever
so much if she is still living
you say you wish you could
pay us a visit I wish you
could how I would like to
talk all the old times over
with one who knows about
them and if you ever come
near you must come and
see us. you say that Gov
Ramsey dasent remember me
he must of drank to much
of that Champigne that I
told you about for he
came to our tents two or
three times. he came with
a man who had one leg
& Com^r of Indian aff. Rukidea

No 4

I was in one of our tents for we had two, we cooked and eat in one and I suppose the other was the parlor, and they said we dont see any thing to eat around here I laughed and he told me to send Grand mother over and they would send me some thing. Grand mother went over and they gave her more than she could carry. there was a gentleman with them quite a young man he came to see me very often and gave me a little bible. his name was in it but I forget the name I think it was Tailor I lost the little bible at the time of the out break & probably Hugh Tyler.

you speak about meeting a
woman at Grey Cloud Island by
the name of Larimier I know
her father and mother but dont
know their children think they
had two girls and a boy, about
the papers of June 3 I would
like several to send to my
friends if it is not to much
trouble to you I have already
made you much trouble in
trying to find my relatives
my husband sends regards to
you please give my regards
to Mr and Mrs Quinn, and
except the same yourself.

I Remain your very Respected

Nancy Huggan

Handrean South Carolina

May 27th 1894

Mr R. I. Holcombe

Saint Paul Miss.

Dear sir This being Sunday I thought I would write you another short letter, there is so many things I forget to say in my letters that I think of after I have sent them. I think I have already told you in one of my letters that when Dr Williamson moved away from Lacquipable they were very anxious to have me go with them and I was just as anxious to go but Mother wouldnt let me go. I stayed with them till the last minute. The Doctors sister Aunt Jane as we called her was my teacher. and when they were already to start Aunt Jane said she would go a little

way with me as I had two miles to walk she went about half way with me then came the time for us to part. I was very little but I felt aughtful. she took my hand and talked to me for a long time then told me to kneel down and she prayed ^a long time, then we parted and I have never seen her since. one other thing I have not spoken about is while we lived on Shyenne River when we went to Fort Ransom my husband was in charge of the scouts we stayed till the fall of 1867 when we moved about 30 miles from the fort to keep ~~at~~ stopping place we also kept a change of horses for the mail. we had quite a little trouble here from the Indians. we were just beginning to pick up a little after loosing every thing at the time

of the out break. I think it was in June 1868 my husband had gone to Fort Garry to take our daughter to school. the scouts came along and told us that there was a war party of Indians not far off and we had better run away so we took what we could carry and started for Fort Abercrombie which was about 40 miles away. we had two carts our wagon was not at home and my husband had the buggy. we stayed at Abercrombie two weeks till my husband came back. and when we went back we found we had lost every thing. we hid some things in the woods and even these were gone. at two different times the Indians stole horses from us while living here. and at other times tried but we drove them off. once the men fired

on them in the night - Mr
Huggan was with us at this
time and came very nearly
being shot.

I commenced this letter yesterday
I got your letter to day, and I am
more than pleased with the letter
from Williamsport - I cant tell how
I shall ever repay you for all your
trouble. I shall write to them
Cora will be home on Friday
and I will have her write for
me. now about the questions when
I went to school at - Or was they
lived at Lacquiarle while ^{at} Mr
Hopkins they lived at Travers de
sioup. Mr Riggs and Jonas Pettijohn
also lived at Lacquiarle. We lived
two miles from Redwood agency
on the road to Fort Ridgely.

Mr Faribault came here to farm
but got to trading with the
Indians, and at the time of
the out-break he had trusted

The Indians all he had as they were very hard up and the stores would not trust them we let them have 14 head of Cattle among other things our house was built of logs it was quite a good house and well furnished. with out what the Indians owed us we lost about three thousand dollars we never took a thing from the house only what we had on us. I tried to open a draw that I had my jewelry in but the wether had been quite damp and it was swollen. I then went to get the key but my husband told me to let it go so I didnt go in the house any more. the house was not burnt I saw it two years after the floor and windows

were gone and of course every thing else. when I heard the Indians planing the battle of Wood Lake they sat close to our tent I think their was about twenty of them the only names I remember was Gray Grass Paprota Black Leg Husapsapa and his brother dont know his name Buffalo Gast Tatakawanagi at the time I knew all that was their. I ^{was thinking} more about ~~or~~ how nicely they would get fooled I dont think they had any regular leader only Little Crow. Shakopee came to our camp and told me that he never would of taken any part in the out-break but his son was off hunting and the whites had killed him and he said my arm is lame from killing people afterwards his son came home all right. I dont know the Germans name

The Indians called him big nose all the family was killed but him they lived on the line of the reservation maybe Mr Zimin can tell you I have heard that he lives at Sleepy Eye. the names of the white woman I remember was Mrs David crathers Mrs White Miss Williams ^{and} Mrs Whites daughter. this is all the names I can remember now at the time I knew many of them and more of them knew me. their was two or three french women that I knew quite well but cant remember the names now we had quite a good many dances the winter before the out-break and I met many of them at these dances. I saw Mr Spencer in the camp quite often I never talked with him but my husband often talked with him, he was wounded.

The only time I saw Little Crow
close was the day my uncle came
for us. he then ordered my husband
to hitch up his team for him. It
was a team he had taken and
they were quite wild and he
could not hitch them up him-
self. My husbands name is spelled
Hoggan but we spell it Huggan
It is a scotch name I will send
Miss McClure my picture when I
write. I received to day from
Willeamsport an address on
Decoratoin day by J. M. McClure
also short sketch of his life and
public services. if you would
like them I will send them
to you. now one thing I had
forgoten when Dr Williamson
left Lacquapark Pere Adams
and wife came their as Missionary
and where very kind to mother. Mr
Adams came nearly every day to
see mother and they where both
very kind to her. when mother

May 27, 1894

died Mrs Riggs dressed her and
was also very kind to all of us
My sister Sophia attended school
at Rev Adams I think Mrs Adams
taught the school. Mr and Mrs
Adams were here 3 years ago I had
a talk with them about old times
I think they live in St Paul now
I have not found the Spanish
yet - But have found a paper
given Tete Mani Walking Wind
88 years ago by this government
It is a sort of a Peace Commission
or treaty. This is the paper that
was stolen from a lighting Goose
but will not give up the secret
I am trying hard to find

The other, this one is signed
by Clark Commissioner and some
Army officers, from what I know
now if my Father had lived I would
not of seen the hard times I have
one thing the Indians are against
the half bloods to day for the part
they took in the out break of 1862,
and I would like to have this
part appear in my sketch thanking
you again for all your trouble

I Remain yours Respectfully
P.S. I would like
to have a paper Nancy Huggan
with the Gray cloud Island
people in.

Flanckman S. D.

June 14th 1894

Mr Holcombe your letter of Sunday came on Tuesday. Telling me of your trip how much I would like to make the same trip I have always wanted to see the old places. I thank you in advance for the papers you say you will send me. our house was at the foot of the bluff and about 50 yds from the creek and about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the Lake we lived just nine miles from the Fort. The Indians that live here you cant get to say much about the outbreak. ^{But} I

know most that took place and I am willing you should have all I know. If you will just ask the questions I will try and answer them the best I can, or if you will come out we will try and do the best we can for you. Both my husband and I feel as though you were a very old friend instead of a new one. you say you saw Mrs Walker and that she says she was a prisoner at the time I was I did not know that the Indians held any full blood Indians as prisoners I do know one thing that her sisters husband was the very Indian that held Mrs White that I have told you about. I have never been able to find an Indian

that did any thing or killed any one at the time of the outbreak, Little Crow's brother was here not long ago and to hear him talk all Minnesota would of been killed had it not been for him sometimes I wonder who killed all the people that were killed. you say Netee Wabasha was here and saw me about three weeks ago I knew she was here but I did not see her. at the time of the battle of Birch Coulee I was at or near the mouth of Chippewa River the Indians that fought that Battle went from yellow medicine. they watched the party for a long time before they made the attack. Alex Faribault told me that

Tahinape which would mean
Coming Talking led the Indians
and Alex was in the fight and
knew his voice and heard
him give orders what to do
and so on. The Indians that were
at Wood Lake went from Chippewa
River. The Indians that killed
Captain Marsh and his men were
concealed on the same side of
the river with Cap Marsh and on
the right-hand side of the road
and a few on the other side of
the river to talk to him White
Dog did the talking and it was
agreed that when he gave the
order the concealed Indians was
to fire. one Indian was killed
here. Little Brown's Camp was on
the prairie just back of the bluffs
Little Brown had quite a good

No 2

some house. and there were other
frame houses and some log houses
and a few brick houses. This is
the camp where I found Jerry.
I think little Crow's house stood
at the north end of the camp,
nothing but hot-dry winds here
and the crop all drying up.
don't know what the people
are going to do. if you make
up your ~~best~~ mind to
come out let us know a
day or two before and my
husband will meet you
at the depot with a ~~carriage~~
carriage. I have heard nothing
from the McClures yet is it
not funny they don't write
did you write to J. M. McClure
it may be that my ~~history~~
history

scared them. give my
regards to Gov Marshall Mr Quinn
Gov Ramsey.

your friend
Nancy Huggan

Handreau S. D.

June 11th 1894

Mr Holcombe

The reason I haven't written sooner is that I thought you would be away as you told me in your letter that you were going to Redwood. I got the papers all right and I think the sketch all very nice and thank you very much for taking so much pains to have it so. There are one or two little mistakes but it is all right and I thank you very much for all your trouble. I have always wanted to give the Indians a going over and I feel ~~satisf~~ satisfied now. I have heard nothing from the McBlues yet. You ask me if I could come to St Paul

I am afraid I couldnt - as our crop will fail It is very dry here and my husband is going away to try and sell some Horses. and I must stay at home and look out for things. I want to try and go to Sisseton dont know wether I will be able or not. I would like to go to St Paul ever so much.

What Gov Ramsey told you is all so he has got a pretty good memory after all. I got the paper with the Gray cloud article in it is to bad they chopped off any of it. I got a letter from some one in St Paul by the name Deborah Carter and she wants to know some thing about Joseph Mosher says he was with the Benvilles in 1821 I will send you the letter I have answered it and refered to you and Gov Marshall. how I laughed

when she said she hoped I would write more for the Pioneer Press that is as good as the ^{Indian} trick I played off on Gov Ramsey. I never knew that Mrs Robert was dead when we went down to St Louis Jennette was about 9 or 10 and she went down with us and we went down on that very boat you speak of in your letter the Jennette. they are going to play Temple ^{of} Fame here and cara is going to take part and represent Poky Hauntus and says she is going to have her picture taken while dressed in Indian and I will try and send you one of the pictures. there are many things I want to ask you when I have time to write.

Sincerely your Friend
Nancy Huggan

Flandreau S. Dakota

May 30th 1894

Mrs Holcombe

I thought I would write and tell you that I have written Miss McClure I wrote her a short letter and I told her as you said that all my history would be printed in the paper on June 3rd and you would send her a copy. I don't think she will write again till she gets the paper so please send it as soon as convenient. I would like about 10 papers if this is not asking to many. Can you send me one on Sunday I am quite anxious to see it all in print. I am going to mention one little thing that happened at Camp Release the night before the troops came twenty or thirty Indians came in

with a young girl I should think she was about 16 or 17 years of age. when the half breeds saw this they went and took her away from them Joseph Lapromboise leading the party which consisted of ten half breeds. the Indians said they would shoot the girl if they took her from them. Joe acted very brave he told the Indians that they were going to have the girl or have a fight and that they were not prisoners any longer. two other half breeds that acted very bravely was the two Robisons their first name is Tom that is their both named Thomas they were not related. one of them lives at Liseton ~~now~~ now the other one is dead he died about 5 years ago his family lives here but they were not in the outbreak. if all the half breeds had been as brave as these three men

I don't think the thing would of lasted as long as it did.

Sincerely your friend
Nancy Huggan

P.S.

as soon as I hear any thing from Williamsport I will let you know all about it. Gov Marshall answered my letter. N.H.



OPPOSITE U.S. TREASURY
ONE BLOCK FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

Riggs House,
G. DeWitt, Treasurer.
Riggs House Co.
Washington, D.C.
June 6 1894

Mr B Holcombe

Sir

Basil you
big man you, will sir. I am
in the city of Washington. I tell
it is grand place. but one
thing that bothers me is the
heat. I am here. but a few days
I am getting tired of it already
I am in hopes. of returning soon
, I met the friend I wanted to
see. and everything looks favourable
I think I will accomplish my
mission. I hope you went to
Bro Wadde, I will not write ^{my name}
in the present. I will be better

prepared to tell you more
when I meet you

Yours respectfully
Wm L Quinn

P.S.

Drop me a line, at this
Hotel

Wm L Quinn



OPPOSITE U.S. TREASURY
ONE BLOCK FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

Riggs House,
G. DeWitt, Treasurer.
Riggs House Co
Washington, D.C.
June 1894
46 or later

Hon. R. J. Holcombe.

Sir

I bought

the Pioneer Press, last evening
and it contained the history of
Nancy Haggan, it was very in-
teresting, when I read it I was
thinking of Minnesota. The other
evening I rode all over the city.
The drive, was a covered, more
he pointed out the residences
of all the different distinguished
people. Such as ministers, English,
Japanese, Churaman & Lord
through the grounds, were you
celebrated friends. From Cleveland, Ind.

the Grounds is fine, but the Building
I can not say, it is very sooty
Extra. if it is a low. That Structure.
I also visited. the Capital of yesterday
it is a Grand. institution —
it is somewhat large. than you
found Basil mansion —
in fact. I have not had much time
to look round. untill I have my
business completed. I am in fair
way to day. to wind up. to day
and may remain one day to see
the sights, I hope you have returned
from Red. Wood. when published please
retain me a copy. I would rather
be in St Paul. than in Washington
have, our eye on Judge Wood
whilst. I am gone. Keep our eye
from the Aid and. no more. write
if convenient —

Yours respectfully
T. QUINN

AT FORT RIDGLEY.

By *Wenonah*

In the year 1862 came the terrible massacre of over eight hundred men, women and children at Redwood Agency, Yellow Medicine and other places in the upper country.

Living through so many vicissitudes and hair-breadth escapes, luck attended Capt. Louis Robert through life in more ways than one. Especially lucky was it for him that he took his departure for Traverse des Sioux from Redwood Agency the evening he did. Early the following morning the massacre of the whites took place at the Agency.

The Indians on missing him sent scouts scouring the country. Little Crow's camp-crier went around saying that anyone bringing in Robert's scalp and the American flag would receive as a present all the wampum beads in camp and be showered with all the honors in the gift of the people and would thereafter be looked upon as a hero and chief warrior. Fortunately Capt. Robert had received the message to meet his nephew, Nelson Robert, accompanied by Mrs. Louis Robert, with her child and nursemaid, who were to be at his brother Antoine Robert's home (Traverse des Sioux) at that time. They had driven up from St. Paul in Capt. Louis Robert's family carriage and while passing through the big woods two men went by them in a buggy. It was ascertained that these were massacred by the Indians. But for this timely visit of the Captain's visit to Traverse and his departure to meet them without delay, his scalp would certainly be dangling at some Indian's belt with other scalps already there.

When Capt. Robert learned of the Indian outbreak, he immediately set out from Traverse des Sioux in his carriage for the scene of trouble, having in mind the rescue of the men in his employ and their families (who numbered very many), hoping against hope that he might still be enabled to render succor to those that might have escaped the tomahawk and scapping knife. He had trading posts at Redwood Agency, Yellow Medicine, Madelia, New Ulm and Belle Plaine.

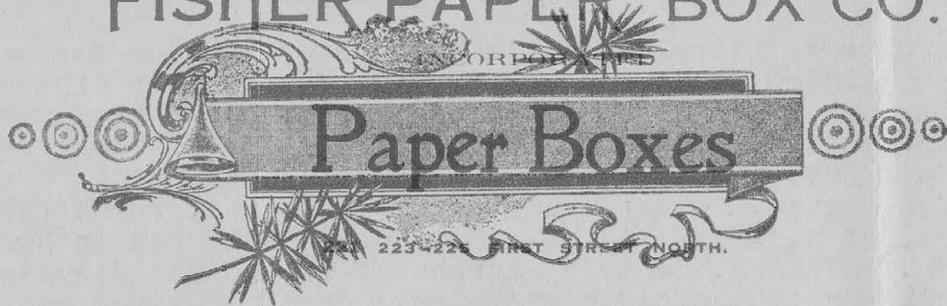
Halting at Fort Ridgley, he found everybody in the garrison caught like mice in a trap. He offered a thousand dollar bond to any man that would make the attempt to reach St. Peter for help, ammunition, guns and food. Not a man responded to the call. The captain ventured to accomplish the feat, but found on skirmishing round awhile how futile his mission. He had lost his hat and in lieu of it had twisted swamp grasses around his head. Hearing noises, he immersed himself in a swamp to the depth of his nose, which was above water. Presently about seven hundred warriors marched by the clinking of the metal ornaments on their leggings making music on the way. He finally footed it back to the Fort. His clothes in tatters from his rough scramble with briars, etc., with the crown of grass on his head, the ends of which stuck out in all directions, he presented so wild an appearance to the watchful eyes of the people at the Fort that they mistook him for an Indian in their panic and were for shooting him on the spot, had it not been for the timely intervention of his secretary, Mr. Louis Demules, who happened to be on guard and who said, "Hold on, it may be Captain Robert." The carriage had been left outside the walls of the fort, with its attractive \$500 harness, the lure of which took the Indians' fancy, and the silver was appropriated for ornaments for themselves.

Killing of Thomas Smith
By Mdawakanton Sioux August 1862
FISHER PAPER BOX CO.

Thomas Smith came to Minnesota in 1856 and stopped near Rochester on a farm, 8 miles north of town. Went to Durango and then to Elysian, in the fall to New Ulm and out 9 miles from the town to the Cotton weed settlement (house was occupied by an Indian at a time of massacre) ~~xxxxxxx~~ while there John Campbell an Indian killed an ox belonging to one of the neighbors named Wagner. In April 1859 went to Sharon, (Home the LaFrambois, 2 miles below Fort Ridgely) on July 5, 1861 he enlisted in Capt. Skare's Co. E, 2d Minn. Infantry. Contracted rheumatism and was discharged June 1, 1862. Came back and took claim near LaCroix Creek in river bottom, and brought family back from Paducah, Kentucky (Claim 2 miles below Morton). On the 17th of August it was very hot and the stock was left with Christian Schlumberger, and son John stayed there also. Next morning before daybreak went with his son William to bring the cattle from Schlumberger's at 3-mile creek. Had passed the Wagner homes (John old house, Edward new house) some rods toward the fort when overtaken by a Frenchman who told him they Indians were killing everyone at the Agency. They turned back toward the family at the claim. William meeting one of the Wagner boys stepped to talk with him, and when starting on after his father saw three naked Indians coming up a ravine and he ran back toward the fort, and overtook a man named John Nose and they ran on followed some distance by the Indians who fired at them, but by keeping in the brush they escaped them. Arriving at Schlumberger's they started to take a pony which Schlumberger had traded from an Indian a few days before when an Indian came and said "Dea horse" and took it away from them. All on the place then went to the fort. Thomas in the meantime had reached the Edward Wagner home and seeing some men about the house went up to them and was instantly shot down. Mrs. Smith and the little 5 year old Mary at the claim in the maver's wagon were warned and went to the top of Faribault's hill, where they met three men, (Edward Wagner, and probably David McConnell and Patrick Kelly) who told her to go to the fort, and advised that it was probably safe to stay in the road till she came to Wagner's cornfield and then to keep in the fields and brush. She went into the field and later when the little child became hungry and cried for food she went into a shack near the Wagner home and found some cold potatoes for it. While there a white man came and warned her to leave the shack and hide, which she did. At dark she took the road and went toward the fort, and when within about three miles was picked by a team with refugees and carried to the fort. She gave as her opinion that Marsh's Company passed between 10 and 11 o'clock. This has been a long mooted question as to what time Marsh arrived at the Ferry. It also explains why William was not killed with his father, and John's whereabouts at the time. Thomas the other son was employed in the service of Major Merris (later Brig.-Gen.) at this time. Story is told by William to a daughter of Thomas--Mrs. B. P. Postletawaite of Minneapolis.
July 1915.

Dear Major
This explains itself. Hope you are well
and reasonably happy
Satterlee

FISHER PAPER BOX CO.



MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.,

Mrs. J. E. Sweet.

Glencoe July 28th
1894

Hon Gen R Marshall.

Dear Sir.

Your
of yesterday was just handed
me. + I hasten to answer.
I am sorry that I had not
arranged to come down earlier
for there are some things which
I would like to overlook in my
manuscript. It was written by me
when I was not at all well. + I
am sure there may be some
things which I would like to
alter. But as I cannot have

time to do so. I must let it pass. I have even attempted writing on that subject without becoming ill & unable to continue as I would like. Therefore I know that the narrative was imperfect in many ways & was not a work of phrase. About the names of the people whom Dr Golcomb wished to have made known, I could not answer. If I knew them then I have now forgotten as I would a dog or horse. Only those who were much prominent I now remember. The name of the Indian who was wounded & carried on a litter was Baptiste. I do not remember his Indian name. He is now dead. Lomenox's brother was called Grandmother by Lucy the Indian.

and so related by marriage & tribal connection that it is impossible to tell how they are related. The names of my children were Wellington aged nine, Joseph, Darius aged four & Carl aged 2 1/2 months. The one born after my escape was named Benjamin & is now in Cal. Carl is dead. ^{the age of 5 years} died at five years. The rest are living - one in Mont one in Wash & one in Cal. About Big Eagle's account, I have carefully read it & think I remember the Indian. His brother Medicine Bottle was one of the worst Indians in the Camp. When he says that only 50 Indians went out to meet me & that the idea is preposterous. How could 50 men on a plain scatter themselves in such a manner.

4 cause Mc Phail to fall back & form
entrenchments? - Then he says he
left 30 to watch them". How can
our own Council have been to al-
low the Indians to frighten them
in such a manner - Then he says
there were six Indians killed. I
could not swear to it as they
never brought their dead home
but from the lamentations
which always attend their loss
of friends. I should judge that
these were many killed.
Also from their painting their faces
black which indicates death -
Then he says - "He took our time about
getting away from Sibley when he
came. One would not think so from
their attitude upon returning to camp
I had left the camp that evening before
their return - but we could hear gun

5

When I was the commissioner of the
next morning all were excited
about moving on as the soldiers were
reported to be after them. It was then
that we went on up to the Mission as
written. I would be impossible to
write an exact account of the whole
affair as there would be so many things
to tell of that memorable time which
seemed endless. There then, & which
was so filled with marvellous escapes
& incidents of almost miraculous
intervention, that many would
fail in believing it to be true.
How many have said when asking
me questions. "I know I never could
have lived & endured what you
did!" And yet I was as delicately
nursed and tenderly treated
up to that time as any of them. But
I endured it & am now as hale

so many with much fewer years
We cannot tell what endurance
meant until we are tested.

I think Mr Holcombe did well
in whittling the manuscript. Of course
it breaks the continuity of the nar-
rative, & my friends are all anx-
iously asking where they may obtain
the rest. I wish I might be able
to have it published in pamphlet
form, so I could then satisfy them
with my printed narratives, as
Mr Randall desired.

I enclose Gov Davis' letter to
me. But I think he is mistaken
in his views. Mr South was an
U. S. Officer for 11 years, & I think
the Gov^t in duty bound to give

me a pension. So my lawyer in
Washington thinks - & says he will get
it if possible. The papers are now
on the way, and I know there is
no one who would assist appearing
and one who would assist appearing
of my getting it. I have no
doubt of myself, only one Mr
Proctor of myself & have taken
just the year after the Massacre
& unfortunately the only artist
here had gone away for two weeks
Loring's was bound to be
Reporter for the San Francisco Call
& never returned. All of my
belongings are in Helena Mont
and I would much like to have
my husband's picture in the
Society annuals. I had written to
my

2
I regret that I would be down here
of the. My business has kept me
here longer than I intended & I
still hoped to be there before the
manuscript was needed. I am
sorry. If I should hear from
my friend in the interval I
may come on before.

Very Truly Yours
J. E. D. Sweet

Brown Valley, Minn.

Aug 5 94

R. J. Holcombe, Esq.

My Dear Sir,

I am not feeling very well and cannot possibly come down. I appreciate all you say about the Birch Coulee matter. But I am at a loss to know what to do to prevent so rank an injustice as you mention. I enclose you a communication addressed to Mr. Giffillan which is nearly the same as the communication I sent to the Pioneer Press ^{about} a week ago but which was not published—consigned to the waste basket very likely. You might hand this to some friend to present—Gov. Marshall, Gen. Sibley, Judge Handron or even yourself. You might "doctor" it and publish it. Do as you think best. Consult Gov. Marshall. Show him the Giffillan letter & get his opinion as to what to do with it. We must head off Capt Grant. I have

^{2. p.}
always believed that the placing
of the monument a mile and a
half from the battle field was

wrong. Nobody but the people of Morton
would approve of such a thing.

I shall write tomorrow to Judge
Glandron and others and ask his aid
in preventing Capt Grout's name be-
ing put on the monument - as com-
mander. I hope you will do what
you can yourself.

I would drop a line to each member
of the Committee if I knew who they were.
If you publish the Gilfillan letter, however,
I will not need to write them.

I thank you very much for the
interest you have taken in behalf of
the dead.

Captain Grout's fling at the Gen Sibley
and others - his references to "that secret
meeting" "the old Indian ring" - is contemptible
and silly.

I write this hastily to catch the
train that takes this.

Yours
S J Brown

H. P. GRANT & CO.,
 General * Commission * Merchants,
 AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
 GRAIN, FLOUR, FEED, FRUIT, ETC.
 288 E. SIXTH STREET,

St. Paul, Minn., Augt 13th 1894

R. J. Holcomb,

Care Pioneer Press -

Dear Sir

I see in your communication to Gen
 C. S. Gilfillan that you state I was not
 Mustered into the U.S. Service until in
 Oct 1862, when the Regt was Mustered
 I was Commissioned as 2^d Lieut July 28/62
 and the same day I was Mustered into
 the U.S. Service by Major Nelson U.S.
 Mustering Officer on the 16th of Augt. I
 was Commissioned as Captain. Some days
 I was Mustered Oct. as 2^d Lieut. Reason for
 promotion. and Mustered in by same Mustering
 Officer as Captain. Fortunately, I have both
 of these Ruls. signed & sworn dated by Major
 Nelson on not of the troops being hurried to
 the front but few men of the 6th had been
 Mustered in. My recollection now is that but
 29 men of Company A had been Mustered
 I do not propose to enter into any further
 Controversy unless who was in Command

H. P. GRANT & CO.,
 General * Commission * Merchants,

AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
 GRAIN, FLOUR, FEED, FRUIT, ETC.

288 E. SIXTH STREET,

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 13, 1894.

at Birch Landing. I know of the several
 persons who commended their Major Brewer
 as being in command was not heard of
 until we returned to Fort Ridgely. What do
 these men you refer to know about who commended
 their. These that took part in the fight
 or those that dug holes in center of camp
 6 feet deep and never attempted to fire a
 shot during the battle. Or were the
 same men who fought with me and
 obeyed my orders. The best judgment of who
 was in command. Yours

H. P. Grant

Sept. 13, 1894.

I am in receipt of yours of the 14th inst
and am much gratified to receive the
same, as it reassures me as to the
conclusion I had already reached in the
matter of the enjoining of your Committee.

Herewith enclose copy of letter recently
addressed by me to Sanborn expressive
of my decision in this matter.

Faribault, Minn.

August, 16 1894.

Hon. W. R. Marshall,

St. Paul.

My Dear Sir;

I send you to-day a letter, or report, that I have just received from Capt. Anderson in answer to one I wrote to him enclosing the letter of Col. Grant's in the Press of the 6th, and leave to you to comply with the request he makes in another letter to me in which he says. "If this letter will assist any, in maintaining the truth, I am willing that it may be published also; otherwise I would rather that you would consider it as a confidentially sent to an esteemed friend".

I think, as I remember them, that the Captain has given the facts without any exaggeration.

Excuse my type-written letter as my hand is too unsteady to be at my command.

Very truly yours.

J. W. Daniels

P.S.- Your letter was just handed me. Many thanks for your kind words. I hope the great wrong may be corrected, and the majority of the committee made to realize their error.

Aug. 16/94
Dr Daniels

Oklahoma City, O. T., Aug. 25th 1894.

R. I. Holcombe, Esq., Care Pioneer Press,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir; Your kind and very welcome letter of the 3rd inst. was received in due time and contents noted, and would have been answered sooner only that I had just received letters from Dr. J.

W. Daniels and Gov. Wm. R. Marshall that had to be answered ahead of yours, at very great length each, which exhausted all the force I had at command for the time being. I am sorry that I have not been able to write you recollections of occurrences, incidents, etc., connected with the reconnoitering expedition of August the 31st 1862, that led up to the battle of Birch Coulee on the 2nd and 3rd days of September, 1862, and of the rescue and return of the survivors of said expedition on the night of the last named day to Fort Ridgley, and of my official report made on the following day to Major Joseph R. Brown, etc. However, I can say to you that I have sent in

my communications to Gov. Marshall, and Dr. Daniels, nearly all of the facts pertaining to said expedition, omitting many amusing incidents, and some matters that were more serious in character that may be of value in the future to you or some other friend, if asked for. Might it not interest you to call upon Gov. Marshall, whom I think will cheerfully consent to let you read everything that I have sent to him and Dr. Daniels, which taken with information that you can find in Heard's history of our expedition from Saint Paul to Saint Peter and New Ulm, and return from New Ulm to Saint Peter, and our march from thence to Fort Ridgley, will probably furnish you with the basis of the article you speak of writing for the Pioneer-Press just before or about the time of the dedication of the Birch Coulee Monument.

Enclosed* please find, as per your request, a copy of a photograph of myself that was taken in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in May, 1863, when

* [The photograph was sent to the museum, March 28, 1931.

I was a member of the First Regiment of Minnesota Mounted Rangers, which photograph you need not return.

Please do not have this letter published farther than to allude to it if necessary, as it has been written in haste and without the consideration the subject deserves.

Truly Yours,
Joseph Anderson,
No. 513 Harvey St.,
Oklahoma City,
O. T.



1894

Lake Side Reservoir

Chap. Minn

I received your letter last night. I received those papers and thank you. Mrs DeCamp would not know one for I do not know her Mrs Adams I know nothing about She was taken here at Hutchinson Her father Mr Lamson killed Little Crow here at Hutchinson the year after the massacre If you could find Lucovic Ketzmann you could get a good story He was living 9 years

ago at Winona He was
conductor on a rail road
there that went west
through Sleepy Eye

He was the only child
left of seven children
was 11 years old and a
bright smart boy
I had a brother a pris
oner named August I did
not mention him in
Marys letter because
I knew she would not
remember him He
was not with us girls
very often. He was a pet
terwards called Charles
by his adopted parents
I think he perished
in Custers fight I have
never heard from him
since that terrible bat

tle I heard two years
ago that he joined
the army to fight the
Indians in the Yellowstone
country and never came
back. My sister is now
Mrs Frank Reynolds of
1412, 27 Ave North Minne
apolis Minn. Her husband
is a painter by trade
She has a tin type of
mine taken when I
was 23 years of age you
can get it of her if she
has got it yet If you
should go and see
her show her this let
ter If you do not see
her I will get it from
her and send it to
you She cannot remem
ber any thing about

the Indians but can
tell you a good deal
of our story of our after
life I will start that
story next Monday and
you need not look for
it in less than a week

Yours Respectfully

Minnie Carrigan

Flandreau S Dakota
Sunday Oct 21 1894

Friend Holcombe

I got your long and good letter dated the 8th all right and should of answered sooner but have had so much to do that when evening comes I am so tired that I dont feel much like writing. In my last letter I told you the McLures had not written Mr H got a letter a few days later and Miss Annie sent her picture and also a picture of her father Miss Annie is a very fine looking woman I wish you could see the pictures. if you come out you will see them and if you cant come I will send them to you. Sara came home last Friday quite sick but I think she will soon be all right again. Then I will tell her about the letter she owes you, about the boy I havent written Brooks and I will tell you why I

dont-care to take an Indian boy
 for a person would always be annoyed
 by the boys relatives no matter how
 much you might do for him. you say
 you could send some little dutch chap
 cant-you find a little outchman
 that-would do. dont-care much about
 his looks as long as he is sound and
 helthy. I think Crooks is quite right
 about the Flandrean School. Mrs H
 wanted me to be sure and ask you
 to send her the stories of Mrs de Camp
 and Mary Schwandt. she does not
 remember Cap Joe Anderson I have
 met him but cant place him now
 unless he is the Anderson that had
 a freight contract. if you go to
 Bisseton I hope you will enjoy
 yourself more than I did. that is
 the jumping off place. I havent
 told Esther yet that you are coming

out to help her hunt turtle eggs
the Indians will get through the
winter all right - the Government issues
flour and beef once a week, but most
of them are hard up, we are getting
plenty of rain now and the prospects
for another year are good Mrs B
sends regards

yours very truly
C. G. Huggan

Flandreau South Dakota
Oct 11th / 94

Friend Holcombe

I got home on the 7th of August. and have been very busy ever since. Cara told me that you wrote and said you would write me. I had very poor luck selling horses. I was very sorry you did not come to Sisseton while we were there. I think you could of got two or three good articles. do you hear any thing from the Mccluses Mr H wrote to Mrs Amey over a month ago and sent her picture and has never heard from them. when you were here you thought you could find a boy for us if it wout give you too much trouble I wish you would see what you can do. we have had three good rains in the last week. I hope crops will be better another year I have

rented quite a lot of land for next
year. I got the papers you sent
to Lisslon I think the Big Eagle
article first-class.

yours very truly

P.S.

C. G. Huggan

Mrs Huggan sends
Kind Regards.

Fairbank: Minn.
Oct. 15th - 1894.

Mr. R. D. Holcombe,
Dear Sir -

Your letter of the 27th ult. was duly received and should have been answered sooner.

What I send you may be more foolish than is needed but you can do as you think best with it, adding a protest against the present location of the monument and of any other name than Maj. Joseph R. Brown being on the monument as commander.

My memory of the facts stated is assisted by a diary of events written at the time.

I was with Genl Litley's Army
during the campaign of '62.

It was my brother, Dr. A. W.
Daniels of St. Peter, who was
at New Ulm with Judge Flancher
in that heroic defense.

Truly yours,

J. W. Daniels

E. E.

The Dickey Expedition of 1862

Battle of Birch Coulee

By J. W. Daniels

Having received my commission from
Gov. Ramsey as Asst. Surg. in the
6th Minn. Iols. I joined the Regt.
in St. Peter on the 23rd of ~~Sept.~~^{August} '62.
On the 26th I was ordered by Col. Dickey
to go to Mankato and remove all the
wounded and sick to St. Peter where
the citizens were to prepare a hospital
for them. My brother was to take
charge of it, and I was to join my
regiment. - The sick and wounded
were there brought down from New
Glen by Maj. Flandreau, and others
from the frontier wounded while
fleeing from the Indians.

On the 29th after having performed
the duties assigned me in this place,
I joined Lieut. Col. Merrill of the 6th
Regt. with sixty mounted men, and

Started for Ft. Ridgely. That night we camped at the "Hornet place" this side of Swan Lake, and the next day, the 31st, we arrived at the Fort. at five o'clock p.m. when I reported to Col. Libbey.

Early in the morning on the 31st I received orders from Col. Libbey to report to Maj. ^{Joseph R.} Brown for duty with troops going to the Lower Sioux Agency. When I reported to the Maj. I was greatly surprised to learn that he was to have only one hundred and seventy men to go into the country where he was liable to meet three times that number of hostile Indians, and asked him if he thought he was more likely

to reach there than Capt. Marsh.
 He replied: "I think the Lower
 Indians are at Yellow Medicine
 and will go North. Having been
 defeated by the Whites, they will
 see no Indians." I had known
 the Maj. seven years and believed
 him to be the best-acquainted
 with Indian character of any man
 in the Northwest, but I did
 not feel the security that he
 did.

My four-days horse back ride
 had not left me in a condition
 to continue that exercise so I
 was furnished with transportation
 in a spring wagon with a man
 by the name of Holbrook for
 teamster.

4

The command left the Fort about 10 o'clock, moved slowly along burying the dead as we came to them, until after sun-down, when we went into camp at the foot of the bluff near Birch Creeks creek where it passes through the Indian lands, and within one hundred yards of a thicket of willows and young cotton-woods. The place was defended but no better could have been selected without going on the bluff and away from the Creek. Dr. Wakefield, who was physician at the Yellow Medicine Agency, but was out of the country at the time of the outbreak, said he considered the Fort a ^{very} good place

5

to camp, or he, with several others not belonging to the command, left for some secure quarters.

On the way to this place the burial party buried eleven bodies and the partial remains of two persons found in the cellar of the burned Wagner house, supposed to be the wife and child of Mr. Humphrey as he was found near and it was known that in his flight, he was obliged to stop at that place owing to the illness of his wife. The doctor was the only person that I had known before, that we found -
(In talking with the Major that

night. I learned that he would
 take Capt. Anderson with the
 mounted men in the morning
 and cross the river to the Agency,
 that the Dragoons under Capt.
 Grant, after burying the dead
 at the ferry would go up to
 the Henderson place, near ^{Beaver} Bush
 Creek, and go in camp on Birch
 Creek near the crossing;
 also that Col. Dibley would meet
 us there if the troops he ex-
 pected arrived that day, as he
 was going to Yellow Medicine on
 this side of the river.

Sept. 1st we went into camp
 about 5 o'clock near the place
 designated by the Major, where
 there was wood and good water.

7

not far from two hundred and fifty yards from the highest point of timber bordering the covee and about one-half mile below the crossing. The road led up the bluff, then up the bluff to the prairie and to the Henderson Place, and from this place across the prairie to the covee. When we rose the bluff I heard the report of fire arms in the timber below us: very soon after saw three puffs of smoke rise into the clear sky from the bluff on the west-side of the Minnesota; which I had reason to believe, from past-experience, was signals given by the Indians to let their friends

know that the enemy had been seen.
 I asked Mr. Faribault's opinion
 of the signals. He thought the
 smoke came from fires started
 by some of the Major's party. When
 the Major came, which was before
 the tents were up, I spoke to
 him of what I had seen and heard,
 but he knew there had been no
 fires started by any of his men,
 nor had he heard any report
 of firearms. He had seen no
 signs of Indians, & was not
 satisfied by his confidence in
 their not running where we
 were because the smoke signals
 must have been made by the
 enemy if not by the men with-
 in on the other side of the river.

That evening the Major told me that he had found a good crossing of the river opposite the camp. That he should send a messenger to the Fort early in the morning to intercept Col. Sibley before he started on the road for this place and have him come up the Agency road and return road to the ford he had selected. He seemed to be pleased that Col. Sibley did not meet us that night, and spoke of the advantages of going after the Indians the other side of the river.

During the day his party had buried sixteen bodies of men found at the Agency and Indian traders. Our part of the command

found twenty-eight at the ferry
 when Capt Marsh's men ambushed,
 one coming up the bottom and
 four on the prairie near Burn
 Creek. Mrs. Henderson and her
 two children were found at the
 last place and put with a boy
 and Mr. Gittins, of the mounted
 force, made a stretcher at the burial.

When passing a cornfield a
^{German}
 woman was found among the
 corn. Being frightened at the
 sight of the men she tried to
 escape but was caught and
 brought to the wagon that I
 occupied where she was made
 as comfortable as possible
 on a bed of water and blankets.
 She was so exhausted from long

fasting, and bewildered by her new surroundings that she was unable to give any account of her escape until night; and then with only a confused memory of what had transpired. She said when they heard of the Indians killing the whites, thirteen families living above the Rapids came together and started to the Fort; when near that place they were met by a party of Indians and taken back to Beaver Creek where they were all killed but her, and she was left for dead. She pointed to her shoulder to show us where she was ~~wounded~~^{shot}, but on examination found one slight flesh wound that might have been made with

a Hinahank. She had tried in plums
and what she could find in deserted
houses since that time. She was
dressed as many of her country
women are on the frontier, when
about their household duties,
or at work in the field. The
wagon she retained for the
night--

About 4 o'clock in the morning
of the 2^d I was aroused by the
loud ringing of the cook in
the rear of the tent; shortly of
the cry of "Indians" from the
guard quickly followed by a
volley and a rain of lead that
killed and wounded many as
they emerged from the tents. A
number of horses dropped from

this fire. The second volley soon
 followed. Then it was seen that
 the camp was completely sur-
 rounded by the enemy as they
 lay in the grass near enough to
 destroy the command in a short
 time. But the brisk fire of the
 men drove them to terror
 & beyond a rise in the prairie and
 into the timber where they kept
 up the firing, doing deadly work,
 until ^{noon} ~~noon~~ ^{noon} ~~noon~~. By that time the trenches
 were well advanced for the protecting
 the men. All but a few of the
 horses had been killed. The
 camp was partially covered
 by the wagons the night before.
 But they gave very little protection
 until the boxes were buried on the

side against the wheels which
 was done by order of the Major
 early in the fight, and even
 then there was no place where
 a man could feel sure he
 would not receive a shot.
 The safest position was to
 lie flat on the ground, which
 the Major was constantly urging
 the men to do until he was
 wounded. He was taken to the
 tent where his wound was dressed
 falling asleep from the effect
 of the shock.

While the Major was asleep
 I noticed that the number of
 the wounded were increasing, they
 were more noisy and exercised
 less caution, and my teamster

called for volunteers to drive the Indians out of the timber which was favorable received by the men.

Believing his presence was necessary for the safety of the camp, as nearly one-third were already killed or wounded & a-bakened him and stated the condition and told him that he would be safer in the trench than where he was and could see what was going on. As he left the Capt. Keast-Grant called out: "We shall all be scalped," to which the Major replied, "No we shan't;" There were but three or four wounded after that and but one killed.

While all the tents were used for

the wounded, the one ball lent. ~~was~~
 seemed to be the special object-
 for their fire as it was com-
 pletely riddled from top to bottom.

Blankets rolled up against the
 rear of the tent served to protect
 the wounded lying on the ground
 to some extent, but not entirely, as
 one was wounded the second time
 in that position, and another killed
 while I was dressing a wound in
~~his~~ shoulder. A number of bullets
 were found imbedded in the blankets.

It was not far from 3 o'clock
 when the firing of the Indians
 ceased so that we felt safe to expose
 ourselves. The Major thought they
 were getting out of ammunition, but
 this idea was soon dispelled by the

report of a cannon being heard and
 seeing the Indians rushing over the
 high prairie on the opposite side
 of the Conlee in the the direction
 from which Capt. Sibley was expected.
 The report of the cannon seemed
 so near that we felt sure the
 troops would be seen coming
 over the prairie in a few minutes.
 The depressing effect of uncertainty
 of relief gave way to cheerful ex-
 pressions of pleasure. The faces of
 the men looked brighter ^{and} the wounded
 revived and began to tell of their
 narrow escape. From this time until
 dark the cannon could be heard
 but relief was no nearer and
 expressions of censure from almost
 every one's lips could be heard

throughout - the camp: whether right
or wrong their was but one feeling
in the matter, and that was.

Col. Litley was to blame for not being
there the first night, as we had
reason to expect by his order. What
was that the command should take
six days rations and be at Birch
Creek crossing, for him not to be
there ^{that} night. Was he much for human
hearts to endure without an ex-
pression of their feelings.

Night closed in on a camp strewn
with the dead and wounded, including
one third of its defenders - and the
survivors with parched lips suffering
in the want of food and water which
they had not tasted for twenty-four
hours, and over ninety dead horses

emitting a sickening stench that
 threatened our lives. This condition
 was continued during the long,
 clear moonlight-night, varied only
 by the fire of the enemy when anyone
 was seen moving, and on into the morning
 when the enemy's fire came with
 greater force, and the vapors from
 the dead were sickening from the
 effects of the hot sun.

On the 3rd, at 11 o'clock, Col. Litley,
 with his whole command, arrived
 and the Indians quietly and leisurely
 retired. It was with our small
 degree of emotion that we grasped
 the hands of our friends, and I
 noticed there were many eyes filled
 with tears; even the Major, the old
Roman that he was, and the

had saved our lives - Let- chi- leas
roll down his cheeks when he took
Col. Sillys hand.

Sixteen, including the three who
died and one found near-
ness buried there and forty-six,
I believe, wounded were taken to
the Fort. The woman passed
through the battle without injury
though three bullets had punctured
the wagon box and lodged in the
blankets she was lying upon.

It seems that the report of
our guns, or three of the Indians,
was heard at Fort Ridgely,
fifteen miles away, early in
the morning of the 2^d and
relief reached us thirty hours
later - Respectfully, J. W. Daniels

Fantault - Ruin.
Oct. 21st '94

Mr. R. D. Holcomb -
Dear Sir -

You ask of the
2nd at hand. In answer I will
say in respect to the names of
the men, that there was not
more than a half dozen in
the command that I had ever
seen before, therefore I did not
know the young man's name,
and if I heard it, it passed
from my memory. He was sealed
on the ground with - back to the
tent pole and I was taking a
bullet out of his left shoulder
when he was shot through the
chest.

My cousin, who wanted to get

21
a party to drive the Indians out of
the timber was wounded in both
legs. Soon after, he called to me
from the side of the creek, I ran
to him but was unable to help
him to a tent. He said "Let me be, we
shall all be killed," then pulled him-
self upon to a log he had used
for protection, gun in hand but
was killed the next fire.

The following is taken from my
diary written on the night of Sept.
1st 62, after going into camp.

"We found a German woman on our
way up the bottom, she lived above
the Rapids. She says that thirteen
families started for the fort when
they were taken back to Bear Creek
and all the men killed and she
was shot and left for dead. Being
a flesh wound she recovered and
wandered about for nine days
living on plums and what she

Oct. 21, 1897

could find in deserted houses. She was very much exhausted but is quite strong now. She has good quarters in my ambulance - robes and hay to lay on and a fly over her to protect her from the night air.

I can only surmise why Col. Hiley intended going up the north side - 1st It was the old Fort Abercrombie Military road on the open prairie, a good crossing at the mouth of the Yellow Medicine river and prairie to the Upper Sioux Agency; while to cross at the Fort we would have a bad road up the bluff and through timber.

2^d Maj. Burns' home was on the north side and I presume he wished to see if it was destroyed.

After finding the good crossing the Major thought they could save the mill at the Fort and shorten the distance by going up the north side.

419. was not - at - New Ulm at all Oct 21, 1894.

I wish to say, that I saw
everyone of the dead buried on
the road and at the ferry, on
our march the 31st of Aug and
1st of Sept: and not one of them
had been scalped or mutilated.

Mr. R. B. Henlein of ^{whr} ~~Minnesota~~ ^{was}
in charge of a party sent - out -
from New Ulm by Major Flandreau
to protect the settlers and bury
the dead, told me that they
buried over seventy - the first days
they were out - and not one was
scalped and only one mutilated.
My brother's was both true and
verified his statement - History to
the contrary -

Respectfully
G. W. Hancock

etc

The Sioux chief - "Little Crow" the first.

By Menouah.

The great Saches of the Sioux Nation being at Great Medicine Woman's house, and as they were conversing, she reprimanded the chief for fighting the Chippewas so desperately, by saying to him: "you and your tribe, are always at war with the Chippewas, fighting, killing, and scalping them. This is a great wrong, and is very displeasing to the Great Spirit - the good Manitou." He will punish you and your people when He calls you into the spirit world if you do not repent, and your souls maybe consigned to eternal punishment." The Chief listened to her in dignified silence, but with supreme indifference, then finally answered: -
"Never fear, God has not anything to do with the Indians."

(1)

At Farm near Morgan
Redwood Co, Aug. 10, 1894

R. J. Holcomb, Esq;
Dear Sir,

Your of the seventh inst.
containing enclosure from Mr. J. Brown is
at hand

The Question as to who
was in command at Birch Coulee I hoped
had been forgotten. Most of those engaged
in that fight were from St. Paul and were
well known to me. Some were my near
neighbors and those who were citizens
or mere volunteers teamsters etc. came back
to St. Paul shortly after the fight and those
who were soldiers and left alive came back
to St. Paul after the civil war was over.
After the fight and within a short time
as well as after the civil war I talked
probably a hundred times with different
men about the fight and these men

were all of the opinion that the fight occurred under Captain Grant. It was not for years that I learned that another claimed the honor? All the history quoted by Mr. S. J. Brown is based upon the report made by Major Brown to Col. Sibley and if a hundred more historians in the future should quote this report as an historical fact it would not strengthen the position of Mr. S. J. Brown

Now let us look into the facts of the case. H. P. Grant was commissioned by Gov. Ramsey ~~to serve as U. S.~~ as lieutenant to raise a company to serve as U. S. soldiers. He enlisted a company, was elected and commissioned as Captain but before he or his men were mustered in, the Indian outbreak occurred and as no U. S. mustering officer was present the company and its officers proceeded at once to the scene of the massacre and were in the field as U. S. soldiers and not as temporary

volunteers. There were others on the ground as volunteers and still others as hired teamsters, etc. Under his commission Capt. Grant had a right to command and to be obeyed in his proper sphere: if he and his men succeeded in killing some Indians they were not murderers.

Now let us look into the status of Maj. Brown as an officer: From the time of the creation of the territory of Minnesota until the close of the civil war, the militia of Minnesota consisted of officers, but no common soldiers. Maj. Brown was a major general under Gov. Libbey but ceased to be before the Indian outbreak. It was the custom to give superintendence of Indian affairs the title of Colonel by courtesy and Indian agents the title of Major. In this way, Maj. Brown was called major and carried the title as ex-agent; while Maj. Galbraith carried it as real agent, but in neither

case did it give any military authority as such. It may be claimed that Col. Sibley appointed Maj. Brown, but he could not do this: he could only designate persons and ask for them to be commissioned by the proper authorities: but a colonel could not ask to have appointed an officer with the rank of major but could only get one already a major by special detail: there was no time for a commission or a detail. The facts of the case I believe to be about as follows, and I have my information from one who was present at the time the detail of soldiers and others was made out, which, to my mind, in the absence of an order book kept by Col. Sibley, is conclusive. The detail was made up with the commands of Capt. Groat and Anderson and some other soldiers, volunteers, hired teamsters, etc. Maj. Brown whose family had been captured was anxious to learn their whereabouts and

condition. Maj. Galbraith was anxious to learn the fate of his own family; and so, both were given permission to accompany the expedition. Maj. Brown had probably a greater knowledge of Indian character and their mode of fighting than any man in the Northwest; while Captains Grant and Anderson and the other officers were entirely ignorant and no doubt any suggestion Maj. Brown might have made would have been as closely followed as a command given by me in competent authority. No doubt his ideas were followed when expressed and hence Brown, after the fight was over thought it was under his command; but he was, at that time, only a civilian and could not command officers with commissions in their pockets.

The pitching of the camp in a slaughter-trap near a deep ravine covered with a dense undergrowth of brush might be excusable in one ignorant of

the Indian's favourite style of fighting, but would be utterly inexcusable in one whose whole life ^{years} had been spent among the Indians and one who was as able and sagacious as this country ever produced. If Capt. Grant selected the ground, Maj. Brown, when he came upon it, if in power, would have changed the camp. Maj. Brown during the war after the battle of Birch Coolie had charge of the Indian Scouts and did most excellent service: and I, for one, want to see his name entirely free from censure in the loss of some of the lives at Birch Coolie.

The inscriptions to be placed upon the monument are under the charge of commissioners Grant, Arbuckle and Stoddard: and while the general character of the inscriptions were agreed upon by the whole commission, the details are to be executed under the charge of the above committee. If they have got the word

"Cooley" instead of "Coulie" I regret it
Very Truly yours,

Headquarters National Guard State of Minnesota.

HERMANN MUEHLBERG,
Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

St. Paul, Minn., _____ 189_____

Birch Coulee. He had been ordered by Col. H. H. Sibley, commanding all the military forces then in the field and operating against the Sioux Indians, to report to Major Joseph R. Brown, who Col. Sibley informed the undersigned, would command ^{a force and} an expedition sent out from Fort Ridgely Sept. 1, 1862, as a reconnoitering and burial party, and he was ordered by Col. Sibley to act as surgeon for said ~~the~~ reconnoitering and burial party, which he did, caring for the wounded during and after said battle, ^{of Birch Coulee} for it was by the force above mentioned that said battle was fought on the part of the whites. The undersigned did report to said Major J. R. Brown, as ordered, and acted under his orders during said expedition and battle and under the orders of no other officer. Hence of his personal knowledge he knows that said Major Brown was the commander of the forces, and that the said monument ~~where~~ as it now stands is not upon

the land where was fought the battle of Birch
Creek, but is about two miles away therefrom.
As to the locality, he is supported by much compe-
tent testimony, and as to the identity of the com-
mander of the forces he is corroborated, ^{and supported} by the
military and official reports of Gen. the battle
of Birch Creek by Gen. H. W. Sibley, Maj. J. R.
Brown, himself, Capt. Joseph Anderson, and others;
by the official records of the Adjutant General
of the State, and by much other competent and
authoritative testimony and evidence.

The undersigned has all along protested against
the action of the ^{majority of the} Commission in refusing to purchase
the land on which the battle was fought and erecting
thereon the monument as provided by law, and has
protested against the erection of the monument ^{at}
on the site where it now stands, and against the
placing on the monument of ~~the name of any other~~
name than that of Maj. Joseph R. Brown as the
commander of the forces at the battle of Birch
Creek, but has been overruled by a majority of
the other members of the Commission.

Believing, therefore, that the monument as it now
stands has been erected in flagrant defiance and
violation of law and that it in no wise serves

of the State Treasury for said site and monument for the following among other reasons:

The site of said monument is not upon the "land on which was fought the battle of Birch Center" as provided for in said Chapter 231, nor upon any part of the land or ground on which said battle was fought, nor were any military movements properly or influentially connected with said battle made or had upon the land on which said monument stands, nor were any military movements contributing to affecting the character of said battle made or had upon the said land where the monument stands. But that the land on which the said battle was fought is about two miles north of where the monument has been located, placed, and set.

That the land on which said battle was fought has not been ~~acquired~~ purchased or acquired by the State of Minnesota as provided for in ~~the~~ sections 1, 3, 4, and 5 of said Chapter 231. Nor ~~has~~ has the said land been "surveyed, platted, and fenced," nor have there been "planted thereon" such trees and shrub-

bery as shall make the same attractive," nor erected thereon "a granite monument," as specifically provided in ~~said~~ section 5 of said legislative act.

That no proper effort has been made to acquire said land on which said battle was fought. The owner of the premises refused to convey five acres of the land on which the battle was fought for a less sum than \$500, which the commission ~~did not~~ deemed and considered an excessive price, but the commission did not then and never has reported that fact to the attorney general of the State in order that he might prosecute ~~and~~ the necessary proceedings to condemn the said land for the purposes contemplated by the ~~legislation~~ law, as specifically provided for in section 3 of said act, nor has the attorney general or any other officer instituted such proceedings, and the land on which said battle was fought is still in the ownership and possession of the original owner.

The undersigned further represents that the monument which the said commission has caused to be erected and placed is not the structure

are contemplated or provided for by said legislative
 act, inasmuch as it does not properly "commemo-
 rate the event" of said battle, nor the State's "appre-
 ciation of the services of the men who there sac-
 rificed their lives in its defense," as provided
 for in section 1 of said act, and because the
 inscriptions thereon do not "comport with the dig-
 nity of the State and its appreciation of the services
 of those who fell in its defense" as provided
 for in section 5 of said act. Said commis-
 sion has caused to be placed on said monu-
 ment inscriptions purporting to be true and
 proper which are palpably and notoriously
 untrue, false, misleading, mischievous and
 unjust, and which therefore do not "comport
 with the dignity of the State" nor with its ap-
 preciation of the services of those who ~~fell~~
 fell in its defense." While, ^{by the monuments} the words of the
 inscription to be placed on said monument
 were left "to the judgment of said commis-
 sioners," a fair and intelligent interpretation of the
 letter and spirit of the act would certainly for-
 bid that those words should contain false
 and untrue statements or palpably and flagrant
 errors, and the inscriptions which are now inscribed

on the monument and for the ~~work~~ placing of which
~~the State~~ is to be called upon to pay. It
are in very many respects palpably false and
grossly erroneous. Said inscriptions ~~are~~ set
forth the wrong name of the commander of
the forces in said battle of Birch Coulee,
as can be easily and conclusively shown;
many names of individuals ~~are~~ who fell in
the State's defense at the battle are mis=
spelled, bear wrong initials, etc., and the
names of two ~~men~~ killed in said battle
are omitted entirely from among the inscriptions.
The name of the real commander ^{at the time} of the forces
Maj. Joseph R. Brown, an officer of the same
of major in the State forces, is placed under
the head of "Citizens Wounded," and no other dis=
tinction is given him. Numerous other errors
among the inscriptions exist, and altogether the
monument as it stands is ^{in many senses} not the monument
contemplated by ~~the~~ law nor desired by the
people of the State.

The undersigned further states that he was
present and participated in the battle of

Birch Caule

Cavalry
 Captain of Andersons Company
 Killed

R Butler J Freeman R Gibbons
 Wounded

Capt J Anderson J Barton A H Brooke
 P Burkman of Birmingham G Dashing
 E H Coole H Hawlee G Holmes
 J Martin D M Smith G. P. Froid
 Company (not wounded)

1st Lt J Brown 2nd Lt G W Lumbull J S Eliot
 J H Hooper J J Hooley A B Durrin
 J Cansole J H Griswold G W Brown
 J E Byrne E Connelly G A Coole
 J J Egan J Galbreath W L Hunt
 M Nelson J Osia G A Howard

Citizens
 Killed

J H Decamp D Holbrook H Smith
 Wounded

J. R. Bosson D Blair J J Galbreath
 G. D. Redfield H Rose J E Sherman
 J Shaska W Tooman

Citizens (not wounded)

H Carlowe D Canthos A Froibault
 G H Froibault J J Hoarier W H Grant
 H Kruger E Pache J Stay

It may not be necessary or proper to consider the present location of the monument, yet the facts are that it is set upon what is termed a fair ground, although an examination shows that the real character of this ground is such that it can only be called a fair ground by the extremest courtesy and a most liberal license of language. It is of small extent, unfenced, not entirely cleared of brush and shrubbery, and contains but one small frame building of the cheapest and simplest construction. There are no other decorations, embellishments, or attractions on the grounds, save the granite shaft called the Birch Coulie Monument. The most prominent feature of the grounds is a race track, near which the monument is set. At intervals during the year crowds of sportive people repair hither, not to do honor to the memory of our gallant soldiers and citizens who fought and fell in the battle of Birch Coulie, nor to reflect upon the story the monument should tell and the lessons it should teach, but, sitting and standing in its shadow and presence, to witness the speed and racing qualities of horses, wager upon results, applaud the winners, and indulge in other and like diversions and merry-makings. No more inappropriate selection for so sacred a structure, in the fitness of things, could well have been made.

he has placed himself. The statements of his friends must be considered with their means of knowledge, their recollection of events, and they must be compared with the authorities and the established and uncontroverted facts.

As to the theory of a conspiracy between General Sibley and his fellow officers to rob Captain Grant of his honors, it is a most absurd, preposterous, audacious, and slanderous assumption, wholly unwarranted and unsupported by any evidence or circumstances.

Was it any part of the nature of General Henry Hastings Sibley - the most exalted and conspicuous character in the history of our State, and whose pure and unsullied integrity is known to all men, whose fame and memory are precious to all Minnesotians, the soul of honor, the ideal of true manhood - was this great and good man, whose memory Minnesota will ever delight to honor, capable of such a base thing? Is it not monstrous, and can it be regarded with patience, this most infamous slander upon him? Never before did any man dare to make such a charge.

Was Major Joseph R. Brown, who spent fifty of the best years of his life in our State, who helped to lay its foundations, who held prominent positions in its councils and affairs, who fought and bled in its battles, who was esteemed and admired by all who knew him, and whose life record was most noble and honorable - was he capable of so base a thing?

Are Captain Anderson, Dr. Daniels, and Captain Swan men who will plot and conspire, or who ever plotted and conspired, to rob any man of whatever blongs to him? As well accuse them of a disposition to rob a man of his purse as to accuse them of conspiracy to take from him an honor or distinction. Indeed, it is held to be better to rob a man of his purse than to filch from him his good name.

At a time when these noble and gallant spirits were giving all their thoughts, all their energies and exertions to the work before them, with minds, hopes and purposes devoted solely to repressing the hordes of murderous savages in their front, and saving the people of the State from their onslaughts, it cannot be believed that they turned aside from their work to plot against one of their subaltern comrades

and take from him a distinction rightfully belonging to him.

Nor can it be believed that General Sibley, Major Brown, Captain Anderson, Dr. Daniels, Captain Swan, Major Galbraith, Judge Flandrau, Judge Egan and others are falsifiers of the facts when they assert that Major Brown was the commander of the Birch Coulie expedition and of the forces in the battle. Surely they and our State historians have not left upon record, in permanent form, for the people of this and all future generations to read, a collection of false and untrue statements made in the most positive manner and with a studied regard that they are to be believed. The reports of General Sibley, Major Brown and Captain Anderson were written and bear date of September 4, 1862, the next day after the Birch Coulie expedition returned to Fort Ridgely. So far as can be learned, they were never disputed - at least publicly - until nearly thirty years thereafter.

The official records and reports of the Adjutant General of the State for 1862 cannot be controverted by mere personal assertions, and they state that Major Brown held the rank of Major in the State forces from August 25, 1862 (See Adj. Gen's. Report for 1862, p. 311), six days prior to the ordering of the Birch Coulie expedition, and they also state that he was the commander of the expedition and in the battle (See Adj. Gen's. Rep., for 1862, interleaf bet. pp. 308-9).

Another theory advanced by Captain Grant is that he was entitled by reason of his rank as Captain of Company A, Sixth Minnesota Infantry, to be the commander of the forces. In other words, that he ought to have been the commander, and therefore must have been. Great stress is laid upon this question of rank, though it is not especially pertinent or important. The Adjutant General's records, including the muster-in-roll of Company A, Sixth Minnesota, over his own signature,

presented a company for service or not.

This question of rank is really inconsequential, and seems only to have been raised to obscure the facts and confuse the understanding and conclusions of inquirers and investigators. On and after August 25, 1862, Major Brown exercised the rank of Major in the State forces and was obeyed and respected accordingly. General Sibley placed him in command of the Birch Coulie expedition, presumably not especially on account of his rank - although two captains were to serve under him - but because of his intimate acquaintance with Indian character, thorough knowledge of the country, and general fitness. On the 7th. of September, four days after the battle, General Sibley gave him the command of another party composed of details from Colonel Crook's and Colonel Marshall's commands, (See Sibley's field book, p. 113), and not long thereafter he was appointed on Sibley's staff, and served in this position, still as Major, throughout the Indian campaign.

Sibley's order appointing Brown a Major, under the written authority of Governor Ramsey, is not dated until September 20, 1862, nearly two weeks after the battle, but that order expressly states that

ducted by Governor Ramsey, as commander-in-chief of the militia. He appointed Sibley a colonel in the State service, and gave him command of all the forces sent against the Indians. Under Sibley was Colonel William Crooks, who, as the records show, was regularly mustered into the United States service as a colonel, August 23, 1862, and Colonel Crooks obeyed all the orders of Colonel Sibley and was his subordinate in everything. So did Lieut. Colonel Marshall, Major McLaren, and many other officers, all of whom had been mustered into the United States service prior to the battle of Birch Coulie. It is but the truth to say that any of these officers would cheerfully have obeyed Sibley's order to serve under Major Brown on the expedition, and never thereafter raised the question of "rank". The only matter considered, and the only matter proper for consideration, was obedience to orders, a soldier's first duty.

If Captain Grant had felt himself injured when told by General Sibley that he was not the commander - as he admits he was told (vol. 2, p. 219) - and when he saw the published reports of Sibley, Brown, and Anderson in the newspapers of 1862, he should then have raised ~~it~~ ~~xx~~ the question and demanded an investigation. Or he should have raised it at the close of the war, or a year thereafter, or at any time when Brown and Sibley and others were alive, and not wait for more than a quarter of a century when Brown and Sibley were in their honored graves. His laches in this respect are as unfortunate for him as his claim of rank is unsubstantial.

Wherefore, in consideration of all the facts, this committee is unreservedly of the opinion that the Commission appointed to locate, erect and inscribe the monument commemorative of the battle of Birch Coulie seriously and grievously erred in locating and placing said monument away from the ~~xxxxix~~ battlefield; and also erred seriously and grievously in placing thereon the name of Captain H.P. Grant as commander of the forces in the battle; and also erred in inscribing the name of Major J.R. Brown, who was the real commander of the forces, in an obscure place on the monument, among the list of "citizens wounded"; and also erred in the mis-spelling and other incorrect inscriptions of certain names; and also erred in omitting the names of two honorable citizens of the State who were killed in the action.

Therefore this committee recommends, etc.

W. S. & B. PARAGON PAPER

and was not even present at the dedication of the monument.

many other officers, all of whom had been mustered into the U. S. service prior to the battle of Birch Creek. It is but the truth to say that any of these officers would cheerfully have obeyed Sibley's order to serve under Maj. Brown on the expedition, and never thereafter raised the question of "rank". The only matter considered, and the only matter proper for consideration, was obedience to orders, a soldier's first duty.

If Capt. Grant had felt himself injured when told by Gen. Sibley that he was not the commander - as he admits he was told (Vol. 2, p. 219) - and when he saw the published reports of Sibley, Brown, and Anderson in the newspapers of 1862, ^{and, demanded an investigation.} he should then have raised the question, or he should have raised it at the close of the war, or a year thereafter, or at any other time when Brown and Sibley and others were alive, and not wait for more than a quarter of a century when Brown and Sibley were in their honored graves. His laches in this respect are as unfortunate for him as his claim of rank is unsubstantial.

Birch Coulie Monument

AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE MONUMENT.

The act creating the commission and providing for the erection of the monument declares that the monument shall be erected "on the land on which was fought the battle of Birch Coulie". The title of the act is: "An act appropriating money for the purchase of the battle-field of Birch Coulie and the erection of a suitable monument thereon". The direction as to the location is therefore explicit, if not mandatory. (See Sec. 1 of the act). It is evident that the legislature intended to identify, perpetuate and preserve forever the actual site of the memorable heroic contest, the very soil whereon for thirty-six hours our gallant soldiers and citizens fought against the almost overwhelming forces of the enemy—the ground that they wet with their blood—the spot whereon they yielded up their lives.

The evidence shows that on the part of the whites the battle was fought on a small area, not exceeding five acres in extent, and that the monument is located more than a mile and a half distant therefrom, upon a site whereon no part of the battle was fought at any time.

It may not be necessary or proper to consider the present location of the monument, yet the facts are that it is set upon what is termed a fair ground, although an examination shows that the real character of this ground is such that it can only be called a fair ground by the extremest courtesy and a most liberal license of language. It is of small extent, unfenced, not entirely cleared of brush and shrubbery, and contains but one small frame building of the cheapest and simplest construction. There are no other decorations, embellishments, or attractions on the grounds, save the granite shaft called the Birch Coulie Monument. The most prominent feature of the grounds is a race track, near which the monument is set. At intervals during the year crowds of sportive people repair hither, not to do honor to the memory of our gallant soldiers and citizens who fought and fell in the battle of Birch Coulie, nor to reflect upon the story the monument should tell and the lessons it should teach, but, sitting and standing in its shadow and presence, to witness the speed and racing qualities of horses, wager upon results, applaud the winners, and indulge in other and like diversions and merry-makings. No more inappropriate selection for so sacred a structure, in the fitness of things, could well have been made.

The battle ground, upon which the Legislature intended the monument should be set, is directly at the side of a well travelled road, from which, only a quarter of a mile distant, another very public road leads to Olivia, the County Seat of Renville County. To the east, north, and west the country is level for a considerable distance, and if the monument were placed on the "land" where the battle was fought it would be a most prominent and conspicuous object for many miles on either side, and more people would see it, and very many more visit it, than will see and visit it if it shall remain on its present site.

A very large proportion of our citizens who have given the subject any attention, especially of those among the survivors of the action, are dissatisfied with the present location of the monument and desire its removal to and permanent location on the battle ground. The only prominent participant in the battle is Captain H.P. Grant, and, from certain circumstances, many persons assert their belief that his opinion has been secured as a quid pro quo in consideration of the placing of his name on the monument as "Commander of the Forces", a distinction to which he has no sort of rightful claim.

Of the seven members of the commission, at the time the location of the monument and the inscription were decided upon, ^{*we are informed that*} four of them, Messrs. Gilfillan, Henton, Stoddard and Patton, were officially connected with the fair ground association. We have been informed that the four named and Commissioner Arbuckle, a former member of Captain Grant's company, voted to set the monument on the fair grounds. Commissioners W.H. Grant and J.W. Daniels, both of whom were in the battle, voted "no". On the vote to place the name of H.P. Grant on the monument as the commander, all the commissioners except Daniels voted "aye", Commissioner Grant, a cousin of H.P. Grant, voting with the majority. H.P. Grant was present at one or more of the meetings of the commissioners, but whether or not his presence affected their decision may be only a matter of opinion. And whether or not there was any tacit or open understanding between him and the commission is only a matter of conjecture.

After the decision of the commission on these two points, the location and the inscription, Commissioner Daniels took no further part,

and was not even present at the dedication of the monument.

AS TO THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE MONUMENT.

The act for the erection of the monument provides that the inscriptions thereon shall commemorate "the State's appreciation of the men who there (at Birch Coulie) sacrificed their lives in its defense", and further that the inscriptions shall be such as "comport with the dignity of the State." It is true that the choice of the words of the inscription was left to the "judgment of the Commissioners". But it certainly ~~was~~ not the intention of the legislature to authorize or permit a falsehood, an untruth, or even a mis-statement, to be and remain a part of the inscription; nor will the people sanction such a thing. A false statement will not "comport with the dignity of the State", nor an untruth show its "appreciation of the men who sacrificed their lives" at Birch Coulie.

Now, it is earnestly submitted that many of the most important portions of the inscription are inaccurate and untrue. Many of the names of the soldiers and citizens who fought, and some of those who fell, are misspelled or otherwise incorrectly given. The names of two honorable citizens of the State, both unarmed and non-combatants, and one of them maimed for life a few days before by the Indians, and who were killed at the onset of the action, are omitted. The cruel and unjust imputation of cowardice is made as an excuse for this omission. The wounded citizen, two of his fingers shot away, had seen his wife and children murdered by the savages, and had accompanied the expedition to bury their mangled remains. The other was an old man, physically incompetent to fight, and when the sudden attack opened, both sought to conceal themselves from the murderous fire and were instantly killed.

AS TO THE NAME INSCRIBED AS "COMMANDER OF THE FORCES"

Without due inquiry or investigation, the commission ordered to be inscribed on the monument, and it is so inscribed, the name of Captain H.P. Grant as "Commander of the Forces", engaged in the the battle of Birch Coulie. This error is wholly inexcusable. In reaching its decision on this point, the commission did not consult the official records

records and reports and other reliable authorities upon the subject, although they are easily accessible and very plain and conclusive. The decision was reached by the hearing of ex-parte testimony by Captain Grant and two or three of his particular friends, and against the decided and earnest protest of Commissioner Daniels, who was surgeon of the Birch Coulie expedition, and asserted and still asserts that Captain Grant was not its commander.

All of the official records and reports, all of the standard histories of the Sioux War and of our State, all of the surviving officers that were with the expedition and in the battle (except Captain Grant) assert most positively that Major Joseph R. Brown was the real and only commander of the entire force on the expedition and in the battle, and that Captain Grant was only a subordinate under him, in command of a company, on that occasion.

Upon this point we have the official reports of General Sibley, the Commander-in-Chief of all the forces at that time; (See Sibley's Field Book, pp. 66, et seq.; also West's Life of Sibley, pp. 459, et seq.); of Major Brown himself; (see West's Life of Sibley, p. 462, et seq); and Captain Joseph Anderson, who commanded one of the two companies composing the Birch Coulie expedition, (see Vol. 2, Minnesota in Civil and Indian War, p. 212), and we also have Captain Anderson's sworn statement recently made. We have the clear, positive, and unequivocal written statements of Dr. J. W. Daniels, the surgeon of the expedition, and of Captain J. H. Swan, who was also present. We have the statements of Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, (see vol. 1, Minnesota in Civil and Indian War, p. 736), who took a conspicuous part in the Sioux war and is well acquainted with its incidents, and of Hon. James J. Egan, who was a member of the expedition and was wounded in the battle (see vol. 1, Minn. in Civil and Indian War, p. 736, and vol. 2, p. 219), and is at present a Judge of the District Court of Ramsey County. We have the official records of the Adjutant General of the State for the year 1862, which state the fact most positively and unmistakably. (See interleaf bet. pp. 308-9). Not a single record, not a single official or authoritative document, states the fact otherwise. By and on these records the case ought to be established, and on them, in the judgment of the present and future people

of the state, it will be decided and stand. We have also the statement of Captain Grant himself, admitting that the next day after the battle he was plainly told by General Sibley that Major Brown was the commander and that he (Grant) was ordered to make the report of the part taken by his company to him (Brown). (See vol. 2, Minn. in Civil & Indian War, p. 219).

Corroborative of the official and other authoritative recorded evidence cited, are the statements of every one of the histories of the Sioux war and of the State, without a single exception. (See the standard history of the Sioux war by Captain I. V. D. Heard, page 131; also ~~Captain~~ McConkey's History, page 171; See also the Histories of Minnesota by the late Dr. E. D. Neill, a most careful and painstaking historian, with a national character and reputation; (Edition of 1873, p. 730; Edition of 1882, p. 730; Concise History of 1887, p. 236;); also Kirk's History, page 149; also West's Life of Sibley, page 259, et seq.) Not a single history of the war or of the State asserts that Captain Grant was the commander of the expedition.

In arriving at their decision as to the commander, the Commission, as its members admit, did not consult the records and authorities cited. It seems that they considered ~~only the statements of~~ Captain Grant himself, and two of his intimate friends.

In consideration of the great and overwhelming volume of testimony against him and ~~his~~ high, unimpeachable and conclusive character, one is filled with amazement, disgust and indignation that Captain Grant should have the effrontery to put forth his unwarranted and unjust claim at this late day, and that the commission should have been so credulous, or so heedless and reckless of the circumstances and consequences, as to allow it.

Captain Grant's claim to the command rests upon his own statements and those of certain of his personal friends, and upon a theory that there was a plot or conspiracy between General Sibley, Major Brown, Captain Anderson, Surgeon Daniels, and others to rob him of his proper distinction and credit.

Captain Grant's statements are to be considered in the light of and with reference to his interest in the case, and the embarrassing and really perilous position before the world and posterity in which

he has placed himself. The statements of his friends must be considered with their means of knowledge, their recollection of events, and they must be compared with the authorities and the established and uncontroverted facts.

As to the theory of a conspiracy between General Sibley and his fellow officers to rob Captain Grant of his honors, it is a most absurd, preposterous, audacious, and slanderous assumption, wholly unwarranted and unsupported by any evidence or circumstances.

Was it any part of the nature of General Henry Hastings Sibley — the most exalted and conspicuous character in the history of our State, and whose pure and unsullied integrity is known to all men, whose fame and memory are precious to all Minnesotians, the soul of honor, the ideal of true manhood — was this great and good man, whose memory Minnesota will ever delight to honor, capable of such a base thing? Is it not monstrous, and can it be regarded with patience, this most infamous slander upon him? Never before did any man dare to make such a charge.

Was Major Joseph R. Brown, who spent fifty of the best years of his life in our State, who helped to lay its foundations, who held prominent positions in its councils and affairs, who fought and bled in its battles, who was esteemed and admired by all who knew him, and whose life record was most noble and honorable — was he capable of so base a thing?

Are Captain Anderson, Dr. Daniels, and Captain Swan men who will plot and conspire, or who ever plotted and conspired, to rob any man of whatever blongs to him? As well accuse them of a disposition to rob a man of his purse as to accuse them of conspiracy to take from him an honor or distinction. Indeed, it is held to be better to rob a man of his purse than to filch from him his good name.

At a time when these noble and gallant spirits were giving all their thoughts, all their energies and exertions, to the work before them, with minds, hopes and purposes devoted solely to repressing the hordes of murderous savages in their front, and saving the people of the State from their onslaughts, it cannot be believed that they turned aside from their work to plot against one of their subaltern comrades

and take from him a distinction rightfully belonging to him.

Nor can it be believed that General Sibley, Major Brown, Captain Anderson, Dr. Daniels, Captain Swan, Major Galbraith, Judge Flandrau, Judge Egan and others are falsifiers of the facts when they assert that Major Brown was the commander of the Birch Coulie expedition and of the forces in the battle. Surely they and our State historians have not left upon record, in permanent form, for the people of this and all future generations to read, a collection of false and untrue statements made in the most positive manner and with a studied regard that they are to be believed. The reports of General Sibley, Major Brown, and Captain Anderson were written and bear date of September 4, 1862, the next day after the Birch Coulie expedition returned to Fort Ridgely. So far as can be learned, they were never disputed — at least ^{not} publicly — until nearly thirty years thereafter.

The official records and reports of the Adjutant General of the State for 1862 cannot be controverted by mere personal assertions, and they state that Major Brown held the rank of Major in the State forces from August 25, 1862 (See Adj. Gen's. Report for 1862, p. 311), six days prior to the ordering of the Birch Coulie expedition, and they also state that he was the commander of the expedition and in the battle (See Adj. Gen's. Rep., for 1862, interleaf bet. pp. 308-9).

Another theory advanced by Captain Grant is that he was entitled by reason of his rank as Captain of Company A, Sixth Minnesota Infantry, to be the commander of the forces. In other words, that he ought to have been the commander, and therefore must have been. Great stress is laid upon this question of rank, though it is not especially pertinent or important. The Adjutant General's records, including the muster-in-roll of Company A, Sixth Minnesota, over his own signature, show that Captain Grant was not accepted and mustered into the United States service as captain until October 1, 1862, nearly a month after the battle of Birch Coulie, and that his rank dates from that time. (See Adj. Gen's. Rep., from 1861 to 1866, (Van Cleve, p. 276; vol. 1, Minn. in Civil and Indian War, p. 330; Muster-in-roll of Co. A 6th. Minn. on file in Adj. Gen's. Office). Previously, however, he had been commissioned as captain, but this was not a "roving commission", making him a captain at all times and under all circumstances, whether he ever organized and

presented a company for service or not.

This question of rank is really inconsequential, and seems only to have been raised to obscure the facts and confuse the understanding and conclusions of inquirers and investigators. On and after August 25, 1862, Major Brown exercised the rank of Major in the State forces and was obeyed and respected accordingly. General Sibley placed him in command of the Birch Coulie expedition, presumably not especially on account of his rank — although two captains were to serve under him — but because of his intimate acquaintance with Indian character, thorough knowledge of the country, and general fitness. On the 7th. of September, four days after the battle, General Sibley gave him the command of another party composed of details from Colonel Crook's and Colonel Marshall's commands, (See Sibley's field book, p. 113), and not long thereafter he was appointed on Sibley's staff, and served in this position, still as Major, throughout the Indian campaign.

Sibley's order appointing Brown a Major, under the written authority of Governor Ramsey, is not dated until September 20, 1862, nearly two weeks after the battle, but that order expressly states that Brown is to "rank as Major from August 25, at which date he entered on duty as such." (See Sibley's field book, p. 119). This date is recognized in the Adjutant General's record for 1862 (see page 311). So that the technical question raised by Captain Grant avails nothing.

Sibley's order detailing the Birch Coulie expedition does not name the commander, nor does it authorize Colonel Crooks or any one else to name him, (See field book, p. 66), and surely in the absence of authority Colonel Crooks did not assume to say who should be the commander. Colonel Crooks by the order is merely directed to detail "a company" for service on the expedition.

But had Captain Grant been a captain in the United States service, regularly mustered in, at the time of the battle, that fact of itself did not entitle him to the command. The campaign against the Indians which Sibley commanded was a State matter up to about the

20th. of September, when General Pope arrived and by direction of the President and Secretary of War assumed the general direction of affairs. Up to that time the war on the part of the whites was con-

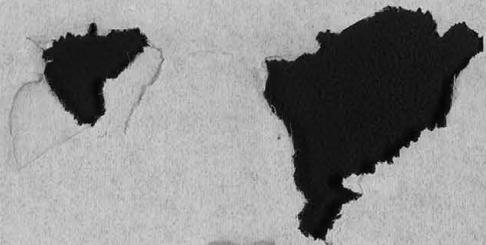
ducted by Governor Ramsey, as commander-in-chief of the militia. He appointed Sibley a colonel in the State service, and gave him command of all the forces sent against the Indians. Under Sibley was Colonel William Crooks, who, as the records show, was regularly mustered into the United States service as a colonel, August 23, 1862, and Colonel Crooks obeyed all the orders of Colonel Sibley and was his subordinate in everything. So did Lieut. Colonel Marshall, ^{who was in command of the 7th Regiment,} Major McLaren, and many other officers, all of whom had been mustered into the United States service prior to the battle of Birch Coulie. It is but the truth to say that any of these officers would cheerfully have obeyed Sibley's order to serve under Major Brown on the expedition, and never thereafter raised the question of "rank". The only matter considered, and the only matter proper for consideration, was obedience to orders, a soldier's first duty.

If Captain Grant had felt himself injured when told by General Sibley that he was not the commander — as he admits he was told (vol. 2, p. 219) — and when he saw the published reports of Sibley, Brown, and Anderson in the newspapers of 1862, he should then have raised the question and demanded an investigation. Or he should have raised it at the close of the war, or a year thereafter, or at any time when Brown and Sibley and others were alive, and not wait for more than a quarter of a century when Brown and Sibley were in their honored graves. His laches in this respect are as unfortunate for him as his claim of rank is unsubstantial.

Wherefore, in consideration of all the facts, this committee is unreservedly of the opinion that the Commission appointed to locate, erect and inscribe the monument commemorative of the battle of Birch Coulie seriously and grievously erred in locating and placing said monument away from the ~~hauntix~~ battlefield; and also erred seriously and grievously in placing thereon the name of Captain H.P. Grant as commander of the forces in the battle; and also erred in inscribing the name of Major J.R. Brown, who was the real commander of the forces, in an obscure place on the monument, among the list of "citizens wounded"; and also erred in the mis-spelling and other incorrect inscriptions of certain named; and also erred in omitting the names of two honorable citizens of the State who were killed in the action.

Therefore this committee recommends, etc.

W.S. & B. PARAGON LINEN



Holcombe
Papers
Pres. by Mrs. Schmidt

An invitation is extended to all to attend
the dedication of the monument at
Birch-Coulee in memory of those who
fought on Sept. 24th 1862. The battle with the
Sioux Indians.

A special train on the Minneapolis
& St. Louis Rail Road, will leave St. Paul Sept.
30th 7³⁰ A. M. for Morton, the nearest station,
and only one mile from the battle field
and monument, returning the same
evening. \$3⁰⁰ for the round trip.

All desirous of availing themselves of
this half fare rate will report to Col
W. P. Grant 268 East 6th Street St. Paul.

HON. HENRY C. CALDWELL,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
HON. WALTER H. SANBORN,
ST. PAUL, MINN.
HON. AMOS M. THAYER,
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.

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* The command of the 6th Regiment had been originally given to Col. A. D. Nelson, who had been a captain in the regular army of the United States. He assumed the command and was ordered by the Governor to the front, under sealed orders which were to be opened at Bloomington or Shakopee, en route from Fort Snelling. When he learned that he was to report for service to Col. Sibley, a militia colonel, he declined and resigned his commission and left the service, assigning as his reason that the etiquette long in vogue in the old regular army forbade his serving under an officer ~~who~~ who, he considered, was his inferior in rank. His resignation was very promptly accepted, for there was neither time nor inclination to consider questions of etiquette then, and Col. Crooks, who had originally been appointed Colonel of the 7th Regiment, was appointed Colonel of the 6th Regiment, in Nelson's stead, and at once led it into the Indian country under Col. Sibley, directly, in obedience to the orders of the Governor, and served under the militia colonel throughout the campaign.

So here was a Colonel of U. S. Volunteers serving under and obeying the orders of a militia colonel - and this Colonel of Volunteers was the commander of ~~Capt. Grant's~~ the regiment to which Capt. Grant belonged. Surely, with this example and precedent daily before him, Capt. Grant had no excuse for serving under Major Brown upon the ground of superiority of rank, even if he had been regularly mustered in when Col. Crooks was

List of the 6th Minn. Vol.

Battle of Birch Coulee

a list of the 6th Regt Minn Vol who were at the Battle of Birch Coulee, to be placed on the monument

Erected by the State of Minnesota in grateful remembrance of the gallant conduct of the volunteers and citizens, who fought the battle of "Birch-Coulee" and perpetuate their names.

Capt Hiram P Grant Co A 6th Minnesota Vol Infy Commanding
J H Daniels Surgeon

Co A, Killed

Sgt W Irvine. Sgt J Colledge. Capt W Cobb
S Colter L F Boyle S De King
A Rollean W Russell H Whetsel

Co A Wounded

S L Ashbuckler. S H Eagles. E Bowen
E S Blase S Fiddling. S Hoot
A Hayford D L House. S Mayall
D H McCanly W A Newcomb. F L Shanley
C W Smith W Dayhinger S J Weiting

Co A (not wounded)

Capt H P Grant. 1st Lt W J Kellham. 2nd Lt J E Baldwin.
Sgt W Pratt. Sgt Bauman. Sgt A P Connelley.
S Walters. W H Burns. J Staples.
M B Hild. R Olson. B F Ashbuckler.
J Auger. W W Bolton. S Boyant.
W H Bowers. P H Burns. L Bonnell.
P Bonnell. W H Cairn. A M Daniels.
B DeRosie. E Erickson. P Helit
D Helit. P H Kearney. S B Gardner.
H Granke. S H Hord. W Hovens.
J H Hoorns. A S Hilberg. J Howard.
J J Jarvis. M Johnson. A Johnson.
John R King. A Kilpatrick. J S Leyda.
S Linstrom. L Mals. J Madison.
H L Morsden. M Merker. J Miller.
D Murphy. M Nealey. S Kerns.
H Olson. J Quinn. W H Rossmann.
W Schurer. M R Seaman. D Sweeney.
D F Lowells. P F Thilau. J Zepan.
B Webber. R White. J Knight
J S Witt. J Young.

Co B.

A Thompson.

Co - C

S Block (wounded). F Borne (wounded) B Diles (wounded)

Co - D

S Swargert. J N Richardson

Co - E

L Klunkhammer. L Thel. R Miller.

Co - F

R L Boyd (wounded) E Braman

Co - G

B S Terry (killed) F L W Benekun (killed)

Co - I

J. S. J. Bean (wounded) M. A. L. V. Brown (wounded)

Co - K

M McDonald. John Gunn.

Hon. S. R. Van Sant,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir:-

Your Special Joint Committee, to whom was referred the resolutions of the Sixth and Seventh Minnesota Veteran Associations relative to the Birch Coulie monument, beg leave to submit the following supplementary report, which they respectfully ask be made a part of the original report on the subject, received and adopted by the House of Representatives on Monday, April 8, instant.

Your committee held frequent sittings and heard and considered a large volume of testimony, oral, printed, and documentary, listened to arguments, and made thorough and impartial examination of the entire subject. Two main and controlling points were involved -- (1) The rightful location of the monument, and (2), the correctness of the inscriptions thereon, and upon these points the committee, upon all the evidence and testimony adduced, came unanimously to the following conclusions:-

AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE MONUMENT.

The act creating the commission and providing for the erection of the monument (Chapter 231, General Laws of 1893), declares that the monument shall be erected "on the land on which was fought the battle of Birch Coulie". The title of the act is: "An act appropriating money for the purchase of the battle-field of Birch Coulie, and the erection of a suitable monument thereon". The direction as to the location is therefore explicit, if not mandatory. (See Sec. 1 of the act). It is evident that the legislature intended to identify, perpetuate, and preserve forever the actual site of the memorable heroic contest, the very soil whereon for thirty-six hours our gallant soldiers and citizens fought against the almost overwhelming forces of the enemy -- the ground that they wet with their blood -- the spot whereon they yielded up their lives.

The evidence shows that on the part of the whites the battle was fought on a small area, not exceeding five acres in extent, and that the monument is located more than a mile and a half distant therefrom, upon a site whereon no part of the battle was fought at any time. The

(2)

quite

present location seems ^{quite} inappropriate, and is so considered by a very large majority of the survivors of the battle and others who have considered the subject. ~~and~~ ^{it} Evidently, is not the location of the commemorative structure contemplated and designed by the legislature, *and for this reason alone the site should be changed.*

The battle-ground, upon which the legislature ^{plainly} intended the monument should be set, is ^{easily accessible, being} directly at the side of a well travelled road, from which, only a quarter of a mile distant, another very public road leads to Olivia, the County seat of Renville County. To the east, north, and west the country is level for a considerable distance, and if the monument were placed on the "land" where the battle was fought it would be a most prominent and conspicuous object for many miles on either side, and more people ^{would} see it, and very many more visit it, than will see and visit it if it shall remain on its present site.

AS TO THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE MONUMENT.

The act for the erection of the monument provides that the inscriptions thereon shall commemorate "the State's appreciation of the men who there [at Birch Coulie] sacrificed their lives in its defense", and further, that the inscriptions shall be such as, ^{"shall"} "comport with the dignity of the State". It certainly was not the intention of the legislature to authorize or permit a falsehood, an untruth, or even a mis-statement, to be and remain a part of the inscription; nor will the people sanction such a thing. A false statement will not "comport with the dignity of the State", nor an untruth show its "appreciation of the men who sacrificed their lives" at Birch Coulie.

It was shown to your committee that many of the most important portions of the inscription are inaccurate and untrue. Many of the names of the soldiers and citizens who fought, and some of those who fell, are misspelled or otherwise incorrectly given. The names of two honorable citizens of the State who were killed at the onset of the action, are omitted.

AS TO THE NAME INSCRIBED AS "COMMANDER OF THE FORCES".

The Commission appointed by the act providing for the erection of the monument ordered to be inscribed on the monument, and it is so

inscribed, the name of Captain H.P. Grant as "Commander of the Forces", engaged in the battle of Birch Coulie. This was an error which ought to be corrected. In reaching its decision on this point, the Commission did not consult the official records and reports and other reliable authorities upon the subject, although they are easily accessible and very plain and conclusive. The decision was reached by the hearing of ex-parte testimony by Captain Grant and two or three of his particular friends, and against the decided and earnest protest of Commissioner Daniels, who was surgeon of the Birch Coulie expedition, and asserted, and still asserts, that Captain Grant was not its commander.

All of the official records and reports, all of the standard histories of the Sioux War and of our State, all of the surviving officers that were with the expedition and in the battle (except Captain Grant) assert most positively that Major Joseph R. Brown was the real and only commander of the entire force on the expedition and in the battle, and that Captain Grant was only a subordinate under him, in command of a company, on that occasion.

Upon this point we have the official reports of General Sibley, the Commander-in-Chief of all the forces at that time: (See Sibley's Field Book, pp. 66, et seq.; also West's Life of Sibley, pp. 459, et seq.);

We have the official report, as Commander, by Maj. Brown himself. (See West's Life of Sibley, p. 462 et seq.) We also have the official report of Capt. Joseph Anderson, who commanded one of the two companies ^{that} composed the Birch Coulie expedition and fought the battle, and who made his report to Maj. Brown. (See Vol. 2, Minn. in Civil and Indian Wars, page 212.) We also have Capt. Anderson's sworn statement, recently made, wherein he swears that on the setting out of the expedition he was ordered to and did report to Maj. Brown as the commander, and that during the entire expedition and battle he received orders from him and no one else. We have the positive statements of Dr. J. W. Daniels, who was the surgeon of the expedition, and who states that he was ordered to report to Maj. Brown, and received his orders from him during the expedition, and that of his personal knowledge Maj. Brown was in general command of the State forces that composed the expedition and fought the battle. We have the statements of Capt. J. H. Swan, who says he was in Gen. Sibley's ~~head~~ quarters when the expedition was determined upon, and heard Maj. Brown's assignment to its command. Capt. Swan accompanied the expedition and was in the battle, and he testifies to Maj. Brown's general and particular conduct of the operations and movements of the State forces. Gen. Sibley's, Maj. Brown's, and Capt. Anderson's reports were made the next day after the close of the battle, were widely published, and never questioned for more than a quarter of a century thereafter.

We also have the recorded and published statements

Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, (See Vol. 1, Minnesota in Civil and Indian War, p. 736), who took a conspicuous part in the Sioux War and is well acquainted with its incidents, and of Hon. James J. Egan, who was a member of the expedition and was wounded in the battle (see vol. 1, Minn. in Civil and Indian War, p. 736, and vol. 2, p. 219), and is at present a judge of the District Court of Ramsey County. We have the official records of the Adjutant General of the State for the year 1862, which state

the fact most positively and unmistakably. (See interleaf bet. pp. 308-9). Not a single record, not a single official or authoritative document, states the fact otherwise. By and on these records the case ought to be established, and on them it will be decided and stand. We have also the statement of Captain Grant himself, admitting that the next day after the battle he was plainly told by General Sibley that Major Brown was the commander and that he (Grant) was ordered to make the report of the part taken by his company to him (Brown). (See vol. 2, Minn. in Civil & Indian War, p. 219).

It must be conceded that, if General Sibley were alive, a few words from him would effectually settle the question of the identity of the commander at Birch Coulie. General Sibley is dead, but he has left upon record the facts as he knew them, in language so plain that it is impossible to mistake his meaning. *His testimony alone, as the Commander in Chief, ought to be conclusive.*

Corroborative of the official and other authoritative recorded evidence cited, are the statements of every one of the histories of the Sioux War and of the State, without a single exception. (See the standard History of the Sioux War by Captain I. V. D. Heard (page 131); also McConkey's History, (page 171.) See also the Histories of Minnesota by the late Dr. E. D. Neill, a most careful and painstaking historian, with a national character and reputation; (Edition of 1873, p. 730; Edition of 1882, p. 730; Concise History of 1887, p. 236); also Kirk's History, (page 149); also West's Life of Sibley, (pages 259, et seq.). Not a single history of the war or of the State asserts that Captain Grant was the commander of the ~~the~~ expedition.

Captain Grant's claim to the command rests upon his own statements and those of certain of his personal friends, and upon a theory that there was a plot or conspiracy between General Sibley, Major Brown, Captain Anderson, Surgeon Daniels, and others to rob him of his proper distinction and credit.

Captain Grant's assertions and statements and those of his friends have been fairly considered. But personal assertions and individual opinions, unsupported by competent and conceded authority, cannot be allowed to controvert official records and established historical facts.

The theory of a conspiracy has nothing worthy of attention to support it; and — especially in view of the well known integrity and high character of General Sibley and his associates, against whom the insinuation was made, — cannot for a moment, or in any respect, be entertained.

The claim that Captain Grant was entitled to the command of the Birch Coulie expedition and of the forces in the battle because of his "rank" as captain of the Minnesota volunteers, cannot be allowed. The official records show that while Captain Grant was commissioned in August, 1862, he was not accepted and mustered into the United States service as captain until October 1, 1862, nearly a month after the battle of Birch Coulie, and that his rank dates from that time. (See Adj. Gen's. Rep., from 1861 to 1866, ~~Van Cleve~~, p. 276; vol. 1, Minn. in Civil and Indian War, p. 330; Muster-in-roll of Co. A, 6th. Minn., on file in Adj. Gen's. Office). Major Joseph R. Brown was appointed to "rank as Major from August 25, [1862], at which date he entered on duty as such." (See Sibley's Field Book, p. 119). This date is recognized in the Adjutant General's record for 1862 (see page 311).

Wherefore, in view of all the facts, your committee is unreservedly and unanimously of the opinions expressed in the original report referred to, that the Birch Coulie monument should be removed from its present site ^{and permanently placed on} the actual battle-field; that the name of Major Joseph R. Brown be placed thereon as commander of the forces engaged in the battle of Birch Coulie, September 2 and 3, 1862; and that the name of Captain H. P. Grant, as commander, ~~be erased.~~ ^{be erased} and all other incorrect inscriptions ~~be erased~~ ^{corrected}, and that these changes be made as soon as possible.

Thos Brown

Wm Mansfield

D. G. Brown

Frederic Delt's
Henry Keller
Committee