

Saint Haven N.H. Aug 27/62



Lieut. Benja. F. Fuller.  
Company D. Fourth Regiment  
Minnesota Volunteers  
Corinth.  
Miss.

Indian Massacre

Fair Haven Minn August 29<sup>th</sup>/62

My dearest Husband:-

I received two letters from you last-mail  
one dated 11<sup>th</sup> one 18<sup>th</sup>. I was happy to receive them as usual! I  
should have written you last-mail, but we left here last-  
(we went to Clear Water)  
Sunday morning, expected the Indians would be here before night  
the men commenced a Fort here so we thought we would  
be as safe here as there they are building a nice Fort at Clear Water  
the St-Cloud people are fortifying Upper St-Cloud, we are  
building a fortification around our log stable, there is the greatest  
excitement in Minnesota that ever was known in the world  
every town is building a fortification. Hellen Libby and Bill  
Wilson a friend of ours (a Cherryfield friend) have been up here  
on a visit they took Sade and her children home with them

John & Frightener almost to death. Don't get you out over a corner  
Mr Wells family are going to start for New York tomorrow morning

John Boyer's family have left - here George Deans family Old John D.  
wife Monty family Richard Kicie family Smiths family Owen

Kicie Mr Vinaka Ephriams Jeff Boyer wife Martin Coats

Mr Able, so you see we are nearly alone Mr Robinsons family

I would <sup>go</sup> away but I don't want to leave my folks here. I don't

think the Sioux will be here but the yesterday paper says

the Chippewags have united with the Sioux but don't worry

about me, for I think we shall be perfectly safe in our fort.

if we should be attacked, I don't think the Chippewags will get

as far as this. There was a company of one hundred Cavalry went

through this town this morning on their way to Fort City,

and another company will be here tomorrow they told us not

to be afraid we should be protected. There were three wounded

men stayed here last night two will probably die one name

was Foot one groaned all night suffered internally, it was horrid

Mr Foot's wife kept fifteen Indians away from the house she was

slightly wounded she was here yesterday and told us all the particu-

lars about it, she would cry as though her heart would break

these neighbors family were nearly <sup>all</sup> killed. they took two girls

prisoners our twelves the other seventeen. The Indians shamefully  
abused the oldest took every rag of his clothes of and creed him all  
night. it makes my blood boil I wish I could have the privilege  
of popping one over. Ma says tell Mr. Putter not to worry about-

us for we shall come out - all write Eph took Bill Wilson home  
(Bill)  
he is going to bring some men back with him there is one of  
our Cherryfield friend in St. Anthony coming up with him.

When hairent may left Kingston they have fortified the flouring mill  
there isint only three women in Fort-city. I wish you could be here  
I should feel so much safer still I know I am big enough to take  
care of myself. I told Ben I was tired living in Suspence he said I  
knew how ~~to~~ you felt. I told him I didnt volunteer to fight; but  
I believe I would if I had a gun and could get a chance to fire at  
an Indian. Please dont - worry will you?

I am very glad De Coste <sup>is</sup> coming home. How is Shadd Robinson,  
I bought one dollar worth of stamps as you ordered I will send half  
this time and the rest next time. The report is Bill Magbee is  
killed and three others I saw him last Monday he said he wasnt  
afraid of the Indians said he was going home to see if there house  
was burned and the poor fellow was killed the next morning int

it awful, there has one thousand Cavalry gone up the Minnesota  
River and the Sixth Regt and four companies besides, they aint going to leave  
until every Sioux is dead they have had orders to follow until they kill every  
one, and they will serve the Chippewagon the same if they break out  
Do you think I had better stay here if the Indian war lasts long, our  
folks tells me to go, <sup>if I want to</sup> but I cannot go and leave them if they should be  
killed and you I would rather die, but I guess any of us wont be killed  
in this town, I wish you could pop in and see our Fort;

We had quite a laugh when I told them you write you supposed  
we were enjoying all domestic felicity that was possible for us *poor mortals*  
to enjoy, then we was at Clearwater, I had to pay one dollar a day

Mr Payson just came in from Great-City say there isnt one  
night of danger in this town, I am glad

The men that go through take every house they  
come to they have taken every house in Kingston, I expect they  
will take every house here yet, Mr Sridy expects to go south the first  
of next month, I should have sent my daguerriotype by him but  
he was in Clearwater when we saw him and I had my trunks  
packed, I will clear up to night, as it is very late will write now  
in the morning before the mail goes out if I have time,

Don't feel bad about me for I am perfectly safe I think,  
Since I commenced this letter there two girls the Indians  
took and abused so, have come here to stay all night, poor girl  
I pity her she looks so sad.

You asked me how I would like to go to  
main this fall, I am afraid you wont be home to go with me, I  
shall expect you next spring early, I think the war will close about  
that time, Take good care of yourself my dear and I will do the  
same, I wish you could get a furlough and come home and stay  
a little while, I want to see you so bad,

Our folks send their love to you <sup>well</sup> that was  
my much pleased with that gold dollar Lida was pleased with  
her money too Good night <sup>dearest</sup> from Lida Butler,

Three Cts



Lieut. B. G. Butler

Co. D Fourth Regt Min Vol

Corinth

Miss



ever believe we was coming to this we think & talk but little  
about the Southern war we have it at home I dont doubt but  
we have seen more of the horrors of war than you have we have  
seen three wounded men that were taken prisoners and a great  
number that have lost they friend had them shot down in they  
presence How pleased we would be to know that the Minnesota Regt  
were coming home to help kill those savages We have heard that  
the Third Regt. was coming, hope it is so If the Chippewas are quiet  
we shall be all right Dont trouble about us you will hear  
from us often Oh wont it be a happy day if we ever have  
peace again and our family are permitted to be seated  
around our quiet hearth I dont want you to think that we  
are trying to keep Eliza here, but ever one that come thinks  
our part is good for two hundred Indian You know they dont  
have any big guns I will leave this We are pleased to know  
that you are well Ambrose tells me not to trouble about you he  
say officers do well enough he says he should feel very different  
about you if you was only a private I feel very bad about Mr  
Loudy I fear he will not live he is not use to hard ships I am  
glad you can see him tell him to be very careful of himself  
and not take too much Indian medicine if he is sick

Mrs Patton has a fine boy she is staying here she is appoind  
to stay to Simble Prairie Ambrose is writing to his Uncle  
Archabala Annie is writing to Ruggels I am going to write to  
my brother Eldridge to night will only write you a half sheet  
this time May God speed the time when we shall see each other  
Yours in love Onathe

You must excuse this 1/2 sheet  
this time for it is wash clay  
and I have to work,  
we are all well. at present  
enjoying our selves quite well,  
I must close asking you to  
write often.

With  
your  
most  
affectionate  
sister  
Nelli

I am a thousand times  
obliged to you for that money  
(and I will make you little  
girl a present some time)  
Fair share of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~money~~ <sup>money</sup>  
have  
out

September 1<sup>st</sup> 1862  
Indians

My Dearest Brother

I received your short

and sweet note last Friday evening was very glad to  
receive it. I wrote to you a long time ago and I don't  
see why you didn't get it before.

I also received a gold dollar from you which I thank  
you very much for; I have not spent it yet have  
had no chance even if I wanted to.

They are to work on their wharf this morning I guess  
they will finish it this ~~morning~~ to day.

There is quite a number to work on it. We keep hearing  
bad news from the Indians all the time and don't see  
any signs of peace at all, I think it is awful to have  
such times as we are having at the present time!

People are starving by the hundreds I suppose as soon

will be if they ~~had~~ are not now.

I presume you will be worried about us when you hear about this great panic.

But I ~~don't~~ haven't been frightened hardly any yet - nor I haven't going to let any one know it if I am,

Lieck and Anna say they feel brave as Kings in the day time but as soon as it gets dark they are frightened almost to death. But I don't - I ~~just~~ go to bed and go to sleep without thinking of the Indians. John Dear and Mr. Bibber are really frightened I think I don't like to see the men such cowards I should think they would be ashamed to let any one know if they were frightened.

John Smith says if the Chippeways pickt in he shall leave he says he shant stay here and he don't believe there will be a man woman or child stay in this place if they do.

But I can tell him there will for brass went leave not to run away from them if he runs at all it will be after them.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

"WE HAVE SEEN MORE OF THE HORRARS OF WAR THAN YOU HAVE"

Fair Haven Aug. 31st 1862....We are having quite a serious trouble here with the Indians. they have already killed a great many but I cant believe we shall be killed by them. We have been some frightened but are geting over it. there has been large forces sent out - I dont believe they dare come this side the Big Woods. I have told Eliza (Lida) to go down river (Minnesota) - she is not obliged to stay like the rest of the family. We went out to Clear Water and stayd two days - Eliza was jest as home sick as she could be - in fact we was all pleased to get home. I had almost as soon die as to leave my home - I know you will feel anxous about us - I wish you was at home - I never thought it was right to take so many men from Minnesota while we were surrounded by savages. We have jest hird that they (Indians) have left the Fort (Fort Ridgly) (See note below) - gone to Yellow Medicen with one hundred and fifty wimen & children Prisoners - did I ever believe we was comeing to this - we think & talk but little about the Southern war (Civil) - we have it at home - I dont doubt but we have seen more of the horrars of war than you have - we have seen three wounded - two that were taken prisoners and a great number that have lost they (their) friend - had them shot down in theys presance - How pleased we would be to know that the Minnesota Regts were comeing home to help kill those Savages - We have hird that the Third Regt. was comeing, hope it is so - If the Chipewas are quiete we shall be all right.....Ever one that comes here thinks our fort is good for two hundred Indian - You know they dont have any big guns.....Yours in love Mother"

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Cover postmarked "CLEAR WATER MIN SEP 2" and "Due 3 cts" in manuscript. Addressed to Lieut. B.F. Butler/Co. D Fourth Regt. Min Vol/Corinth Miss. It also contained a letter from Butler's sister Nellie. She comments on how some of the men "are really frightend - I think I dont like to see the men such cowards - I should think they would be ashamed to let any one know if they were frightened."

Fort Ridgely was besieged by the Indians on August 19th, just 12 days before this letter was written and 14 days before the Sioux Indians turned the Minnesota frontier into a reign of bloodshed and terror, at the time the country was involved in Civil war.

Butler's wifes name, before they were married, was Eliza Tucker, but she signed her letters and he addressed her as "Lida". Shortly after this letter was written, Lida went to stay with relatives in Detroit.

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1862  
New York

Dear Eliza Ann Jane - I have just rec'd yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> (not  
I will not go on your side  
numbered) and I received a letter and  
mentioned in my main letter. I found your letter very interesting  
indeed! poor Louisa thing! to the contrary notwithstanding  
and a good long one. Glad to learn Fair Haven is endeavoring  
to keep her reputation good! interesting, very! I hope  
you have from my country. In fact we are all here and  
says the same talk of blind men suddenly re-  
covered since they learn they are free from a draft.  
"Poor Critters" send me your regards. Give my  
respects to my Olds. Kiss Nell, take it back from  
Anna for me. Tell Ella I don't like it much because she  
said my two best of sent her. I had no use for them

Corrville Me Sept 14 1862

Dear brother Frank

I sit down

once more to write you  
although I have had no  
answer to my last written  
to you and your wife with  
the expectation of your  
being at home, but I have  
heard since that your health  
has entirely recovered and  
that you are still serving  
your country, I am glad  
that your health is good but  
I confess I was in hopes that  
you would leave the army

I shall send this to your wife to be directed to you  
as I do not know how to direct to you since some changes  
have been made - excuse this, Anna

I think of you and worry  
about you almost constantly  
I imagine you wounded  
on the field suffering agonies  
or taken a prisoner and tortured  
and starved to death  
perhaps executed in <sup>expiation</sup> the place  
of some wrong done to them  
by our soldiers. We often  
hear of such deeds, it is  
horrible, what would I  
give if I could be assured of  
your ultimate safety

I can only feel for my comfort  
that you are in the hands of  
God and that he ordereth  
all things well, and that if  
you should fall in battle  
your death would be a  
glorious one, what can be more  
noble than to die in defence

of our country -

John has not got home yet  
I am looking for him every day  
as the Bands are being discharged  
everywhere I have not received  
a letter from him for three  
weeks. when I last heard his  
health was much better although  
he was still Night blind and  
unable to do any duty at all  
<sup>say</sup> it to me if I could once get  
him home again I would never  
with my own consent part from  
him again

My health is about the same  
neither sick or well, but quite  
miserable for me. my happy  
disposition is fast disappearing  
away, I am getting cross and  
old

Your folks are all well  
Henry is the same, George Robinson  
was buried a few weeks since —  
a son of Calvin Robinson —  
George Hight of Hokenes died this  
summer — Our Citizens are  
all up in arms at present — we  
have got our quota of men in  
this town without coming to a draft  
and our men and boys that are  
left are getting up a company  
to practice every week, we ladies  
have a Soldiers aid Society and  
meet once a week, there is a great  
deal of disease here, but they are the  
weather party — I will give you a few  
names of prominent & valiant men that  
are not ashamed to glory in our  
defeat — to begin at home, Joe and John B  
Clark and Catharine Cato — Dr. Hinckman  
Collins's folks — Dennis, Patten Cowardin,  
Brook Peckham, the Farmers — and I think  
the Halls — but all our decent people are in  
favor of putting down the rebellion  
Well I find I must close, write to me  
soon and believe me ever your sister

I shall send this to your wife to be directed to you  
as I do not know how to direct to you since some changes  
have been made — excuse this, I am  
yours  
proud



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