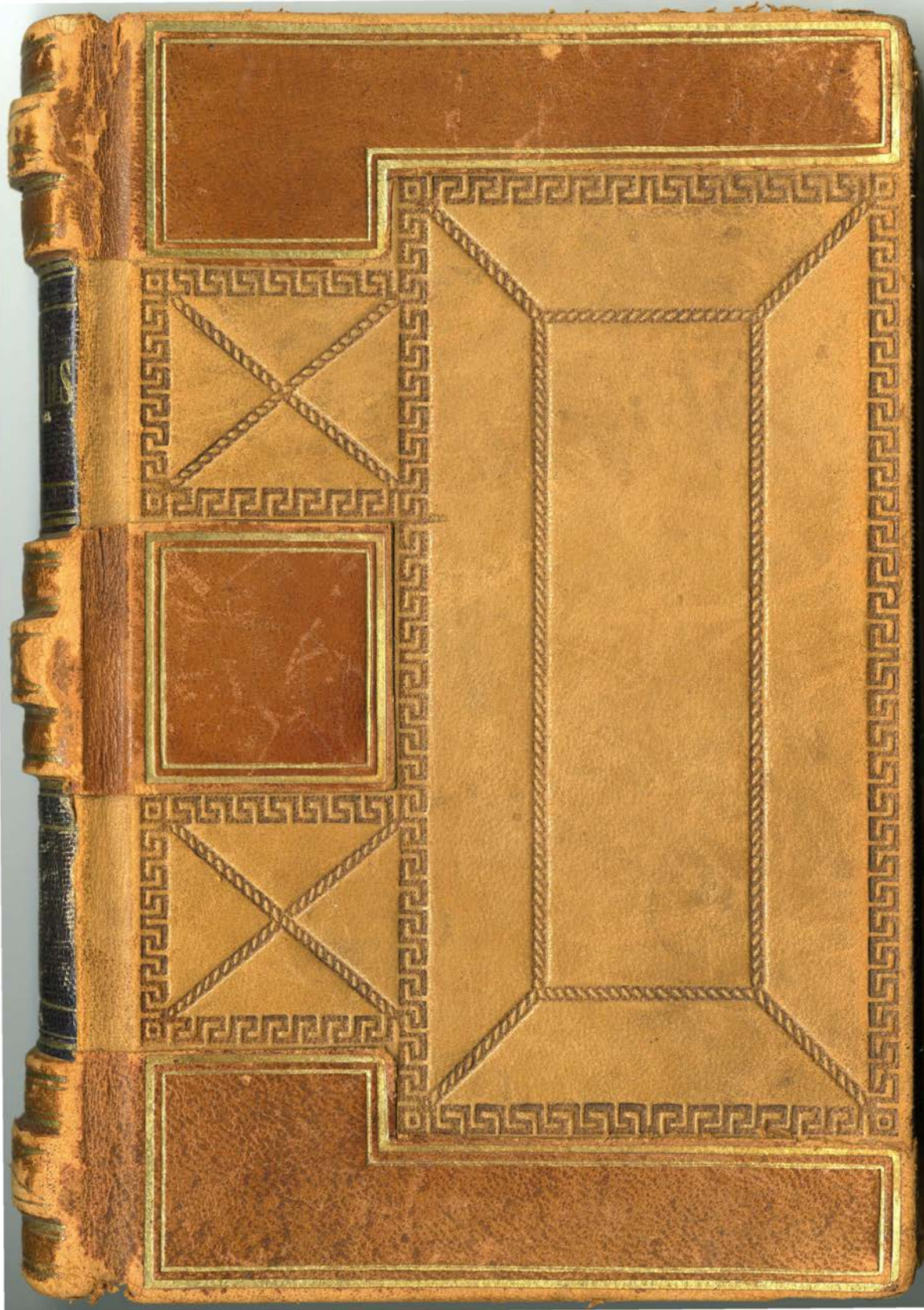




Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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A sketch of the life of Thomas Montgomery,
written by himself, in November 1876,

I was born in Mountcharles, Donegal
County, Ireland, on the 4th day of June 1840.

I remember while yet an infant of
peeping out of my cradle and noticing
different objects about my Grandmother's
house. I also remember of riding a white
horse on several occasions, and of being
held on by my older cousins, and of
visiting Aunts and Cousins with mother
and also many other things which
occurred before I was five years of age.
My father Alexander Montgomery was
born in Donegal Co. Ireland on Dec¹⁵ 1813.
His father's name was Thomas, and he
had two brothers James and John, who
with their families now live in Montreal.
He had three Sisters, Eliza, Ann and
Margaret, the former (Mrs Pratt) now
living in Montreal, the two latter having
died in the same city years ago.

My father in his youth assisted in
farming. He was early converted to God,
and while yet young was licensed as
a local Preacher in the Wesleyan Metho-
dist Church, and was also employed to teach

His ancestors were from Scotland, where he resided a few years, while attending school.

My Mother Margaret Baskin was the youngest but one of six daughters ^{+ was born in Donegal Co. Ireland about the year 1810.} Her father Thomas Baskin died when she was yet a child, leaving his wife a large freehold property to take care of. Her brother Oliver having accumulated quite a fortune in the United States returned home and then took charge of the estate. She had three other brothers who are now all dead. Her sisters were all married and had large families most of whom still live in Ireland but many of them live in the U.S. and Canada.

My parents were married August 4th 1840, father at the age of 26 and mother at about the age of 30.

In a few months after his marriage father came to Canada leaving his wife with her mother with whom she lived until after I was four years old. This he did for the purpose of establishing a home in the New World for his family.

It also gave him a greater range for usefulness in his profession as teacher.

He came to Montreal, where he taught school for two years. He also served the Wes. Meth. Church as preacher in other parts of Canada East.

In 1845 he was engaged to teach school in Durham, Beauharnois Co. C.E.

He chose this place for his home, and having built a house on the banks of the beautiful Chateauguay River, he sent for his wife and child. Well do I recollect the day, in August 1845, when we left our native land. Numerous friends accompanied us on board the ship Victoria, then anchored in Inver bay, ready to convey us across the broad Atlantic.

I was carried up the side of the vessel in the arms of my Uncle Oliver. Kind and feeling adieus were exchanged, the anchor was weighed, sails were spread and the noble ship sped on her way, soon leaving our friends and native isle out of sight.

The voyage occupied about a month and was very pleasant. There are many incidents connected with it that are still fresh in my mind.

A little boy named Love was my Companion.
 I had several narrow escapes.
 Once I unwound a rope which made
 a sail fast, and was soon jerked off
 my feet it having been wound round
 my hand in some way, but escaped
 serious injury by the timely arrival
 of a sailor. Twice I fell down the
 hatchway but miraculously escaped
 much injury. I remember seeing
 many sea fishes, as large looking
 as horses. Once a gun was discharged
 which raised myriads of small fish
 as far as we could see.

We had our usual share of sea sickness.
 In passing the banks of Newfoundland
 hundreds of men were seen in their
 boats engaged in Cod-fishing.

When near Quebec the ship cast her
 anchor and the passengers proceeded
 to the city by Steamer.

Mother ^{started} ~~proceeded~~ at once for Montreal
 by boat, arriving there in due time
 early in September. There I saw
 father for the first time. He had
 come to meet us, and to convey us
 home to Durham to our new home.
 We remained about a week in

Montreal, and then went to Durham.
 There I attended father's school and made
 rapid advancement. There Brother James
 Charles was born July 26th 1846.

Having taught two years in Durham
 father accepted a school in North George-
 town, eight miles down the river, where
 he taught three years, living with his
 family in a part of the building used
 for schoolhouse. Sister Isabella Ann
 was born there in 1848, but in four
 months after, in the beautiful summer
 time, she was called from earth, to live
 with the angels above. She was buried
 in the Church of England graveyard in
 Durham. The same year Cousin
 Isabella Cassidy with her husband
 Mr. Johnson paid us a visit direct
 from Ireland, remaining with us
 several months and in the neighbor-
 hood a year or two longer when they
 moved to Onweme, Victoria Co. C. N. where
 they yet live on their farm.

Leaving brother J. Chas. in their charge
 my parents took a tour to Hemmingford
 to see some friends there, taking me along.
 We were absent about ten days and
 had a very pleasant visit.

In the summer of 1849 father returned to Durham. In our absence our house which was unfinished was used as a public hall, and for public worship. There brother Alexander was born Sept 9th. About the same time Uncle James and Aunt Eliza Montgomery from Montreal paid us a visit remaining over a week. In the fall of 1849 we moved to Hinchinbrooke 20 miles from Durham, where father taught school during the winter. The summer of 1850 we lived in Durham. I assisted in cultivating our large garden and in improving our house.

Father next taught school in Portage five miles up the river, and moved us there in the fall of 1850. I had many pleasant times there and formed many agreeable acquaintances.

In 1852 and 1853, father taught school in the 2^d concession de Ormstown, four miles from Durham, moving us there in the fall and back in the spring. In June 1852 father took me with him to Montreal, where he went to be examined by the Protestant Board of School Examiners for Canada East, receiving a 1st Class Diploma.

* During the winter of 1852-3, a revival of religion occurred in Durham. By the labors of Rev. Geo. Davis Wesleyan Minister. He moved into town for a few days to give us the privilege of attending the meetings held every day. Young as I was I felt my need of a Saviour, gave my heart to God, and united with the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church, Protestant.

We spent a pleasant week with Grandmother, Uncles, Aunts & Cousins, then returned and I attended school in Durham. I was at that time qualified to receive a first grade Diploma, but was not examined.

* In 1854 & 1855, father taught school in (Boyd's Settlement) Hinchinbrook, 8 miles above Durham, taking his family with him. There formed many friends among the young people. An English family named Robson were especially kind to us.

I fell in love with Miss Caroline, between whom and myself many love letters were passed. True it was only school boy affection ~~as~~ that was awakened and yet I regard even now those pleasant times with intense pleasure. Being the master's boy I was favored by the fair girls, beyond other boys, in all the different places, we thus visited.

In the summer of 1855, we returned to Durham, and father decided to move to Minnesota to procure land for his rising family. Our home in Durham was then well finished but it could not be sold to advantage so it was left in the hands of an Agent for rent or sale.

After the sale of most of our household goods, and preliminary preparations we started on our westward journey early in September. We went by wagon O. S. Timothy 20 miles north of Durham there got aboard the Steamer "New Era" & passed up the Canal, round the Rapids of the St. Lawrence, and up that majestic river, through the lake of a thousand isles to Kingston C. W. where we were transferred to the lake steamer "Magnet" which conveyed us to Hamilton. Calling on the way at the beautiful cities along the northern shore of Lake Ontario. At Hamilton we took the "Great Western R.R." for London where we arrived Sept 12th. There father intended stopping for a few days on business and being offered a lucrative situation as bookkeeper with the City Engineer and Surveyor, he concluded to remain in London for a few months at least.

I had quite an ambition at that time to be a clerk in some store, and on the first day after our arrival had the pleasure of obtaining such a position in the wholesale and retail Hardware Store of Thompson & Bro., a

first class establishment on Dundas Street.

I was soon installed in my new situation, and was quite delighted with my first employment, and I trust conducted myself to the full satisfaction of my employers. It was understood that I should remain with them three years, but at the end of four months my parents took me away to accompany them elsewhere. The Port Stanley Circuit on Lake Erie being vacant my father was urged to accept the pastorate of it, which he did for the remainder of the Conference year. We therefore moved to Port Stanley 30 miles south of London in Jan'y 1856, where we lived two or three months. We then moved 20 miles down the lake shore to Grovesend, where father had accepted a school. We lived there four months. It was a beautiful place and within a mile of the lake. The scholars were far advanced and the people kind & clever, so I had many a pleasant time there. But my father being intent on making Minnesota his future home made arrangements to proceed thither forthwith.

We were taken by teams to London on the 12th of July 1856. On the next day we took the cars on the Great Western R.R. for Detroit, arriving in the evening. On the evening of the 14th we left for Chicago on the Michigan Central R.R. arriving next morning, then left on the Illinois Central RR for Danville where we took the Steamer "Northern Belle" for St Paul, arriving there July 17th. Father rented a house on 3^d St. and having settled his family therein then started up the Minnesota River in search of a "claim".

On arriving at LeSueur he formed the acquaintance of Joseph Law, who directed him to a choice timbered claim in LeSueur Co., quite close to the prairie and only six miles east of Transeuse on the Minnesota River.

Father was satisfied with the land and at once erected a log house thereon and covered it, then returned to St Paul for his family, having been absent about a month.

During this month I made myself useful in various ways and earned a little money harvesting.

Farm implements, household furniture and
 a good stock of provisions having been
 purchased, two teams were hired to
 convey us to our new home 75 miles
 distant. The journey was finished
 on the evening of the third day, the
 20th day of August 1856. We found ourselves
 far out on the frontier, in the midst
 of wild Indians, wild beasts, and
 innumerable mosquitoes, on the earthen
 floor of a log cabin without as yet
 either door or window. No time was
 lost in clearing a space around our
 house and in putting in doors, windows
 and floors. The lower floor was made
 of "puncheons" that is hickory logs
 split in two, and the flat side hewed
 smooth with a broadaxe. I cut hay
 enough in the sloughs or natural mead-
 -ows to keep a cow all winter, and
 also assisted in laying in a supply
 of potatoes and corn for the coming winter.
 A fire which raged through the woods
 that fall, came near destroying our
 humble home, and in burning up
 our stacks of hay, but both were
 saved by dint of persistent efforts
 of all hands in fighting the fire fiend.

Winter came at last cold and dreary, but we were quite prepared for it, and kept very comfortable. We had built a large fireplace entirely of clay and wood which lasted ten years, and served to keep the house warm. We had also dug a well, put up a stable and during the winter were busy clearing up land making rails and cutting firewood. Towards spring there was a great Indian excitement, caused by the massacres of "Inkpadukah" and his band near Spirit Lake on the Iowa line.

All the people in the country banded together for mutual protection, but we not being warned, did not leave our home and were unmolested.

In the spring we planted the ten acres we had cleared, to corn, potatoes, and garden vegetables, and had a good crop that year. We got some more stock and hogs, and in the fall a yoke of oxen. The settlement was enlarged by constant arrivals of good hardy settlers, our immediate neighbors being welsh from Pennsylvania & Ohio.

There were also a number of American families in the neighborhood from Ohio & Ind.

In 1857, Cleveland Township was organized and the village of Cleveland started, two miles south of our place, on Cherry Creek on the Mendota and Big Sioux road.

In 1858 & 1859, very little worthy of note occurred with us. We had plenty of hard work in extending our clearings, putting up buildings, fencing, haying and attending to our crops. We attended public worship as opportunity offered in the private houses near by, and oftentimes enjoyed an evening at spelling school. My evenings were chiefly spent in reading, as father had a good library and I also had access to a new library in Cleveland most of the books of which I read by the light of the fire on winter evenings.

I also learned the art of making splint baskets and obtained a little money in that manner.

In May 1860, I joined Cleveland Lodge No. 46, Independent Order of Good Templars and received the three degrees.

Within a year I had the honor of being chosen to serve as Secretary; Worthy Chief Templar; Past W. C. T. and Chaplain, and although I had to walk four miles to attend each meeting, I hardly ever missed,

During the winter months of 1860-61 a series of religious meetings were held in Cleveland by Rev John Garner Pastor of the M. E. Church, which I regularly attended. Much good was done, scores of people were converted and added to the Church myself among the number.

On removing to Minnesota from Canada my father and mother who were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (although formerly identified with the Church of England) transferred their membership to the M. E. Church in the U. S. said Church being in most respects more like their former church, than any other.

I united with the M. E. Church at Cleveland about the middle of January 1861, and still continue a member.

Those were pleasant and happy times and their remembrance can never be effaced from my mind.

On the breaking out of the Rebellion in April 1861, I was anxious to enlist in the Country's service, but was not permitted to go by my parents who considered me too young. However I was a member of a Company of home guards, and had regular drill all that summer.

Meantime our farming interests were prosecuted with the utmost vigor, resulting in rescuing over 30 acres of land from the wilds of nature and causing it to bring forth abundantly wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, timothy grass, and garden vines and vegetables luxuriantly, our stock and poultry had increased in such numbers, as to be the source of a fine income, and enabling us by their sale to raise money enough to pre-empt our land. I always had a desire to perfect my education by some day attending a school of high grade and fully intended to do so, as soon as father was fairly settled in his new home and sufficient land cleared up to enable him to take care of it himself.

During the winter of 1861, I concluded my time had come, and was very desirous of attending "Hainline University" at Red Wing, but my designs were frustrated and I contented myself by teaching our district school one term of three months, on the 4th of June 1862, I had attained my majority, and was then anxious to leave home and select a farm for myself, Hearing of some good land in Meeker Co. I with others started from Cleveland June 14th,

I found an excellent timber claim near the prairie and on the banks of a beautiful lake situated in Meeker Co. 9 miles north of Hutchinson and 60 miles West of Minneapolis.

Having filed thereon, and improved it according to law I returned home on the 4th of July. I visited it again in August and made further improvements, and put up a little house.

I returned home again, and soon after saw President Lincoln's two calls for 600,000 men, which determined me to offer my services forthwith. At a public meeting held in Cleveland Aug 12th 1862, a company for the war was started, composed largely of the Home Guards before referred to, who kept up their drill regularly every week. I was among the first to join, having the full consent of my parents.

Teams were at once procured, and we left home Aug 15th arriving at Fort Snelling the next day. We were sworn in on the 19th and the Co. fully organized under the name of the Cleveland Guards, but to be known as Co. H of the 7th Regt of Minn. Infy. Vols. Capt. Francis Burke of the old home guards was chosen

Captain; J. G. Carter was chosen 1st Lieut and J. A. Borer 2^d Lieut. I was appointed a Corporal.

Most of the men were allowed to go home to finish their harvesting, but ours having already been finished before I left home, I with Lt Borer, and 13 others remained at Fort Snelling. It was a busy time at the Fort. Thousands of men from all parts of the State were there rendezvoused, & drilling preparatory to going South. The accommodations were imperfect, and clothing and arms very scarce. As all were eagerly expecting to go South, the dreadful news arrived of the Indian Massacres in different parts of the State. Almost simultaneously on the 18th of August 1862, nearly one thousand persons of both sexes, and regardless of age, fell victims to the merciless bullet and knife of the bloody Savage Sioux, led on by Little Crow their Chief. The whole State and Civilized world were appalled at the atrocities committed, and the fiendish actions of the blood thirsty savages & instant preparations were made to prevent further outrages. Forces were organized and sent to the frontiers to protect the settlers and drive back the advancing savages.

Our small detachment, after remaining at the Fort and Mendota a few days, was detailed as a guard to a boat load of provisions and ammunition for Gen^l Sibley.

On arriving at St. Peter Aug 29th we found that the rest of our Co. had been recalled and were stationed there, others were detached as guard to the supplies and we were ordered to remain with our Co.

The town was crowded with thousands of helpless fugitives. I was allowed to go over home, 8 miles, for a few days. Great excitement prevailed and many had abandoned their homes for localities further away from the Indians.

Our Co. was part of the force that guarded St. Peter, our men were mustered into the service of the U.S. Sept 23rd on the 12th of Oct. we received our blankets and clothing and also part of our bounty and one month's pay, all of which were very acceptable.

On the 17th of Nov. the Co. marched to Camp Lincoln, a mile above Mankato where we first joined our Regt and assisted in guarding the 400 Indian prisoners who had been captured by our forces in the late campaign and condemned to death, after a due trial.

The sentence of death was commuted by Pres.
Lincoln to imprisonment for life, on all but
38 who were ordered to be executed.

On the night of Dec 4, an ineffectual attempt
was made by a mob of citizens to take the
prisoners from the military and kill them.
The next day the Indians were moved down
into Mankato into their winter quarters.

On the 26th of Dec, the 38 condemned Indians
were executed. A large ^{square} frame was erected
on the Front Street, arranged to hang ten
on each side. About 1400 Soldiers and a
like number of citizens witnessed their execution.

They met their fate as braves only can, some
smoking, but most of them Chanting together
their death song, and bidding us defiance.

When all was arranged, at a given signal,
the rope was cut and 38 savage murderers
expiated their fiendish and horrible crimes
on the gallows. Our Co. was detailed to
bury them, which we did without much
ceremony in a place selected on the
river bottom. The same night most of
the bodies were disinterred and were
afterwards found in the brush.

I found two naked bodies myself the
next morning, lying between two logs.
They were all reinterred, but some were again taken.

While at Camp Lincoln viz on the 26th of Nov. I fell sick, and had to be removed to the hospital in South Bend, where I remained until Dec. 24th.

On the 26th of Feby "C" K. went to South Bend and occupied the Hotel in that town as quarters. On the 12th of April I formed the acquaintance of Miss Sarah A. Purnell of South Bend, who afterwards became my beloved wife. I will state in brief how it happened. One Sabbath afternoon I strolled along eastward toward the Blue Earth River intending to call upon Rev B. J. Coffin who lived ~~in~~ that direction but not being able to cross the river I had to return, and chose another route back. As I emerged from the wooded bluffs east of town, I noticed before me on a gentle eminence across the valley a pretty cottage almost hid from sight in the midst of a grove of Lombardy Poplars. I approached the cottage and being thirsty and also somewhat curious to know who lived in so attractive and retired a spot, I passed up the pathway to the door and was admitted by Mrs. Purnell, who on request, kindly gave me a glass of water.

He engaged in conversation, during which his daughter entered from the parlor and soon I found myself engaged in conversation with her. It is useless to describe my emotions during those brief moments. I was enchanted, captivated, transfixed to the spot, and no wonder for my fair charmer was then a lovely blooming maiden of fifteen, and as good as she was beautiful. Her mother soon appeared with refreshments, and on leaving I was invited to call again.

No one need wonder when I say that I eagerly embraced the invitation, and that I visited the school she was attending, and how very sorry I felt to leave South Bend. On the 17th of April we marched 25 miles south to help defend Madelia, and returned on the 20th. On the 28th our Co. with two others started for Camp Pope, 80 miles distant up the Minnesota River, where we arrived on the 2^d of May.

There we remained until June 16th making active preparations for an Indian Campaign. On that day the celebrated Expedition of 1863. started west in Command of Brig Gen. H. H. Hibley.

It consisted of three Regts of Infantry, one of Cavalry and a Battery of Light Artillery in all about 4000 men.

On the 29th of June, having reached the source of the Minnesota River at the head of Big Stone Lake, an examination was held for the supposed vacant Lieutenancy in Co "K".

The candidates were four Sergeants, one Corporal besides myself and one private.

We were examined by a Military Board consisting of the Field officers and Senior Captains of the Regt, Lt Col Wm R. Marshall being Pres^t of the Board. I was declared the successful Candidate, and the fact announced to the Co. the next morning evidently to their satisfaction as they gave me three Cheers. My Commission was sent for, but I was not mustered in, for the reason that Lt Borer who had Resigned was ordered to rejoin his Co. His resignation not being accepted.

The expedition marched down the Red River of the North, then in a N.W. direction across the Mayenne River towards Devils Lake. On the 21st of July we passed a large Camp of friendly Half breeds and Indians, who were engaged in killing buffaloes & had killed 1000 in two days, two weeks previous. On the 24th of July, after a march of 20 miles, we met our enemy the first time.

A battle ensued the same evening in which I was engaged. The Indians were defeated and pursued by us six miles over the hills at a double quick, and ten miles further over the plain until late in the night.

About 11 O'clock we were ordered to return to camp, and in our efforts to do so, got lost among the hills and wandered about till morning. We had marched about 50 miles in 24 hours, and on our return to camp were completely used up.

We fought the Indians again on the 26th & 28th and on the 29th reached the Missouri River, driving the enemy before us. Many Indians were lost in crossing, and we destroyed all their stores, wagons, provisions &c left on the east side of river.

We started homeward Dec 1st the General announcing the objects of the Expedition to be accomplished so far as was possible, from 120 to 150 Indians killed and wounded while our casualties were very slight.

We arrived at Fort Snelling Sept 12, via Fort Abercrombie. Our Regt the 7th Min was furloughed for a few days before going South. I joined my Co. from a 14 days furlough Oct 6th and left with my Regiment the next day for Dixie.

We went from St Paul to La Crosse by Steamers Hudson and Northern Belle, thence by cars to Chicago and St Louis where we arrived Oct 11th marching through the city after dark in a light rain to our quarters in Schofield Barracks. Our whole route through Min. Wis & Ills. was a complete ovation.

The Regt was assigned to duty in St Louis, doing guard duty in different parts of the city. Colored Troops were then being raised in Mo, and many of our enlisted men were successful in obtaining good positions as officers.

I was repeatedly urged by my friends to appear for examination before the Military Board of Examiners then in session, but was loth to leave my comrades in Co K however I finally consented, and having obtained a permit from Washington I was examined Jan'y 14/64 and passed for a first class 1st Lieut. and was the same day ordered to report to Genl Fife at Benton Barracks Mo. for duty.

I did so, and was placed on the roster of the 3^d Regt, Mo Vols of African Descent, reported to the Col. A. J. Edgerton and was placed same day in command of Co B.

In due time I was discharged from my old Co "K" 7th Min. bade farewell to my comrades and on the 21st of January 1864 entered upon my new duties at Benton Barracks. I reported to Col. A. Edgerton of the 3rd Mo. then being organized and was assigned to the Command of Co "B". Lieut John More (formerly a Serg^t in the 7th Min) was my 2^d Lieut. With his assistance I was soon at work forming a new Co. and engaged in clothing, arming, equipping and drilling it.

The Regimental organization was completed Feb'y 15th and on that day I was mustered into the U.S. Service again, this time as 1st Lieut of Co "B" 3rd Reg^t Mo. Vols of U.S. Army Commission, ranking me as such from Jan'y 25, and signed by Lorenzo Thomas Adj^t Genl U.S.A. Previous to this I received two commissions as 1st Lieut in the 26th Reg^t U.S. Col Inf'y, one from Pres^t Lincoln and E. M. Stanton Sec^y of War, the other from C.W. Foster Adj^t Genl. with orders if accepted to report to Brig Genl Hayes at New York. These I declined however, at the advice of Gen^l Pile who did not want to spare me and being already settled in my new Co. and ranking as second Senior 1st Lt. in the Reg^t.

On the 1st of March I turned over the Command of the Co. to Capt. M. Whitford who had just been Commissioned.

On the 12th of March our Regt. with the 2^d Mo. A.D. started for New Orleans.

The brigade in command of Genl Wm. A. Rife marched through the principal streets of St Louis headed by the City brass band, and created quite a sensation, My Capt. being officer of the day, the Co. Command devolved on me for the day and Co "B" was second in the column.

I was proud to see many of the officers of my old Regt and men of my old Co. witness our grand procession and departure. In fact we made a very fine display with our fresh men, all fully armed and equipped, a full Regt with officers newly uniformed, and all both officers and men animated with a strong desire to do efficient service whenever opportunity offered.

Our Regt on the Steamer "Julia" had a safe passage. At Vicksburg our title was changed to the 67th Regt U.S. Fifty (Colored) but soon afterwards to the 67th U.S. Col^d Fifty, which title it bore until consolidated,

We reached Port Hudson Mich 20th and were there ordered to disembark and establish our camp. Our Regt with the 62^d & 65th was formed into a provisional Brigade Col. Theo. H. Barritt of the 62^d in command while Genl Andrews Commanded the Post.

I was detailed to serve on Col. Barritt's Staff but Col Edgerton objected to spare me. I was offered the Adjutancy of our Regt but declined, although I acted as such temporarily, the former Adjutant going on the brigade staff. On the 26th of March I was placed in Command of Co "H" and detailed on Provost Guard duty, with 2^d Lt L. S. Butler to assist me. In May Capt Whitford having gone home to Wis. on a sick leave Co "B" was added to my Command. I also had detachments from other Co's having for some time over 200 men in charge. I liked the duty very well and had many exciting times, making arrests, searching houses, and tents for Contraband goods, patrolling at night. On the 16th of May my 2^d Lt. John Morse died in the Post Hospital, and the next day was buried under my direction in a beautiful spot a mile outside of the lines. He had been sick several weeks.

On the 23^d of May I rejoined my Regt having given entire satisfaction to my superiors, while often being called upon to perform important and sometimes dangerous duties. June 19/64 our Brigade started for Morganzia La, 30 miles up the Miss. River, on the west side. We had a severe march as the weather was warm, and the men unaccustomed to marching. We went into camp in Morganzia on the 21st on a low, weedy malarious plantation, in the miserable shelter tents, without the means of protecting ourselves from the scorching rays of the sun, or of procuring proper food or water to use. The consequence was our men were taken sick, and deaths were of daily occurrence.

I suffered myself for two or three months, much of the time being unfit for duty. In addition to the heaviest guard duty, every available man was compelled to work daily on the fort that was being constructed, which greatly increased our sufferings & deaths. Besides our Brigade there was then most of the 19th Army Corps there, and many Colored Regiments.

On the 6th of July I received a Commission from L. Thomas Adj. Genl U.S. Army as Captain to rank as such from May 17.th

The same day I was transferred from the command of Co. "B" to the Command of Co. "K" 67th U.S.C.I. and was mustered in as its Capt. July 11th by Lt. Rowan having for 1st Lt. Adam J. Kress, and 2^d Lt. Hiram M. Roberts. On the 31st of August I sent my laundress and cook Elizabeth Hughes home to live with and assist my mother in Minnesota, where she safely arrived and remained until after my return home in February 1867.

On the 16th of October our Regt moved inside the levee, into a much better Camp, and there erected good winter quarters out of logs, covered with cypress shingles. There we remained for over six months, holding this point which was considered one of the most important on the river, nearly all the other troops

having moved away. On the 4th of Decr I visited New Orleans for the first time, spending several days and nights in visiting places of interest. On the 23rd day of Decr, about 500 men from our Brigade

went up the river 15 miles on a foraging expedition into Mississippi. We marched from where we landed 6 miles into the Country to Hamilton's large plantation of 8000 acres, and Wade's almost as large, where we found supplies in plenty.

* In March 1865 we were forced by the high water to abandon our comfortable quarters and retreat behind the levee, and form a new camp.

We returned to the boat about midnight with 20 wagon loads of sugar, molasses, corn, potatoes and every thing else we could find, besides all the horses, mules, cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens, turkeys and geese numbering thousands in all.

These were equally divided on our return to Morganza, thus furnishing plenty of fine eating for the holidays.

* While in this camp we received the glorious intelligence of the collapse of the Rebellion by the surrender of Lee and Johnson's Armies to our victorious legions under Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, but scarcely had the thundering salutes of the Cannon, and the joyful acclamations of the loyal union multitudes ceased, when a steamer was seen descending the river at half-mast which betokened some serious calamity, and on enquiry our hearts were appalled at the sad shocking and horrible news of the assassination of our beloved President Abraham Lincoln, and the outrageous attempt on the lives of the members of his Cabinet by the infamous Booth and his accomplices. Never fell a nobler martyr in the cause of human liberty & freedom.

On the 22^d of April our Regt moved aboard the Steamer Adams, as we were in constant fear of the breaking of the levee by the continued rise of the river. On the 27th the levee broke opposite the fort where we were stationed inundating in a few hours our old Camps and the whole country for miles around. A day or two before, the Rebel Ram "Jennesse" which had run the blockade at the mouth of Red River, passed us early in the night making quite a commotion. The result might have ^{been} serious, had she fired a broadside into our boats loaded with troops as she passed. To get away from the section we sailed down the river a few miles to Point Coupee, and on the 6th of May to Bayou Sara, going into camp in St Francisville on the hill a mile back, where we remained until the 30th when we marched to Port Hudson, although on account of sickness I was obliged to go by boat. At Port Hudson I suffered much that season from Diarrhoea, and therefore on the Post Surgeons recommendation I decided to visit my home in Minnesota.

In due time I received a leave of absence from Department Head Quarters, and on the 29th of June I started homeward,

Mrs. McCoy wife of one of our Captains was in my charge as far as her home in St. Louis. Col. Edgerton and Lt. Mann, accompanied me.

We arrived safely at St. Louis July 4th on the Steamer "Mollie Able" and leaving Mrs. McCoy with her friends, I started with the Colonel for Chicago the same evening, on the O & N & the Ill. C. R.R. arriving the next morning. I invested several hundred dollars in Bonds and made some other purchases and that evening took the cars for La Crosse, thence by the river on the "Favorite" to Winona, thence to Rochester by rail and to Mankato by stage and home by private conveyance arriving home on the evening of July 8th.

I had a safe journey, and was glad to see my friends but my health did not improve as I had expected and fever and ague was added to my other ailments.

I visited St. Paul and got my 40 days leave extended 20 days, at the expiration of which I had it extended 20 days more but to no purpose for I failed to improve.

On the 2^d of September 1865. I was duly initiated as an Entered Apprentice, on the 4th I was passed to the degree of Fellow-Craft and on the 7th was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, all in

Concord Lodge No. 47, of Ancient Free & accepted Masons, at Cleveland Minn. having first made regular petition therefor and been elected.

I left home September 8th by stage to Red Wing boat to Prairie du Chien, cars to Milwaukee, Chicago & St. Louis, intending to resign at St. Louis on account of my health. I suffered considerably from chills and fever on the route.

At Madison Wis. I was obliged to lay over a few hours visiting places of interest and looking for my brother Alex. who was supposed to be attending the University there. Having been absent from home several months we did not know where, but I got no trace of him. In St. Louis I learned from Mrs McCoy whom I called upon, that my Regt, the 67th had on the 15th of Aug. been Consolidated with the 65th U.S. C. I. under the title of the 65th and was then stationed in Baton Rouge La. that many of the officers of both Regts had been mustered out & that I was one of the Captains who were retained for further service. Finding no opportunity to tender my resignation, the offices being closed on account of the presence of Genl. Grant who was being honored, and feeling encouraged to remain by being retained, I resolved on trying to join my Regt, forthwith.

I attended a private reception given in honor of Genl Grant that evening in the Lindell Hotel, and had the pleasure of seeing the Genl and his wife and family, also Genl Logan, Sherman & others.

At noon Sept 14th I left on the "Ida Handy" for Baton Rouge where I arrived Sept 21st.

Had a pleasant trip and better still broke up, through a physician on board, the fever and ague which had troubled me so long. Many changes had occurred during my long absence. My 1st Lt and all my old Co. H. were transferred to the 92^d U.S. C. Infy, and I found myself in Command of Co. F. of the 65th U.S. C. a full Company of 98 men and 3 officers, having for 1st Lt. O. H. Violet & for 2^d Lt. H. M. Roberts.

Roberts, the same 2^d Lt. I had before, was a Methodist Preacher and was at this time serving as Supt of Public Instruction for La. Over half the old officers had been mustered out, but our old Col. A. J. Edgerton was retained in command of the new Regt which pleased me.

The Regt now a full one, was quartered in excellent brick barracks at Fort Williams, in the grounds of the U.S. Arsenal which it was then guarding.

On the 12th of Nov. we moved into tents, in a camp south of the Penitentiary, and inside the city limits, where we remained until mustered out in Jan'y 1867, fifteen months. Early in Nov. I was detailed by Genl J. W. Sherman a member of a General Court Martial, on which I served two months. Jan'y 11/66 I again visited New Orleans and obtained six months pay \$922, net. On the 1st of March, I rode to Clinton La. 82 miles, under orders, to enquire as to the necessity of sending more troops there, having been ordered there first, with my Co. In conference with Capt. Hays of the Freedman's Bureau, we agreed to dispense with more troops for the present, and I returned next day much pleased with my trip & visit. Before starting back I was waited on by a prominent citizen, and by invitation rode up to the Court House and had the honor of being introduced to the City Mayor, board of Aldermen, Sheriff, Lawyers, three rebel Colonels and a number of prominent citizens who were earnest in their protestations against more troops being sent there, acknowledging their error in going to war against the U.S. and pledging themselves to be good citizens and to obey the laws, and promising to aid Capt. Hays in the discharge of his duties.

one of the Colonels said, we went into this war to whip the North, but we got whipped ourselves, and are willing now to admit that we ~~have~~ conquered, subjugated or any other term you may choose to apply to us, but we now want a chance to show our loyalty to law and order, without the constant surveillance of troops.

I replied showing how many outrages had been committed on Union soldiers and people, in their town, but promising to lay their statements before the Genl at Baton Rouge. So far as I know they kept their promise, and no troops were sent there.

I felt proud however to stand up alone in that rebel stronghold as the representative and advocate of my Government.

After much deliberation, on the 8th of March I commenced a correspondence with a view to matrimony with Miss Sarah A. Purnell previously mentioned in this sketch, and whom I had not heard from directly for about three years.

I learned while home in 1865 that she had moved with her parents to Cambria Wis., that spring, and there I addressed her, eliciting a reply, which was the beginning of a lengthy correspondence.

On the 22^d of May my 2^d Lt. H. M. Roberts died of congestive chills, at an advanced age, leaving a wife and little son to mourn his loss. His wife was then and is yet I think matron of an orphan asylum at Franklin La.

June 1st my 1st Lt. O. H. Violet was appointed Regtl. Quarter Master, and James G. Vincent was assigned to my Co. as 1st Lieut.

The small pox and Cholera raged in Baton Rouge in 1866, and many of our men as well as citizens of the place, fell victims to those dreadful scourges. Through the mercy of God, my health was spared from their ravages, and continued very good.

At the earnest solicitation of Col (then Breuer Brig. Genl) A. J. Edgerton I visited New Orleans Aug 12, and filed an application for a position in the new Regular Army. With my application were very strong and favorable recommendations from Genl Marshall, Governor of Minnesota (my old Colonel), and Genl A. J. Edgerton, to the Secty of War. On the 16th of Aug. I was detailed by Genl Sheridan Recruiting Officer for the 39th U.S. Infy, and opened an office at once enlisting a number of recruits which I sent to New Orleans. On the 14th of Sept, brother Alexander, whom I had not seen for nearly three years, visited me, remaining several weeks.

He had just come down from the upper Missouri, where the boat on which he was had been wrecked. He had been travelling a great deal, mostly on the Western rivers, but part of the time going to school. On the 8th of Oct. he and I went down to New Orleans, having been summoned as witnesses before a General Courtmartial. We improved the opportunity to visit in and about the city & returned on the 14th. I found a 30 days leave of absence awaiting me, from Dep't Hd. Qrs. and on the 17th of Oct. started up the river my brother to go home to Minn. and I to visit my lady love in Wisconsin.

Soon after we started, a steam pipe of the "H. R. Arthur" on which we sailed, bursted, severely scalding a number of men & injuring the boat. Brother and I had a narrow escape. We parted at Cairo, he going up the river, and I taking the cars via Chicago and Milwaukee, to Cambria my destination where I safely arrived on the evening of Oct. 25th, and was very soon domiciled in the residence of Mr. Purnell. Words fail me here, to record the joy and delight I experienced on seeing my dear Sarah, who met me at

the door, and gave me a sweethearts welcome. The next day Oct. 26, she promised to be mine for life, and I gain would have married her on her 19th birthday Nov. 5th but we agreed to wait a few months, until I was discharged from the army and settled down in business. Her parents and family did all in their power to make my visit agreeable, so that my stay of two weeks was a perfect elysium of bliss and I was very loth to return. I started back Nov. 9, taking the cars to Cairo, thence by steamer "Virginia" to Baton Rouge, where I rejoined my Co in safety Nov. 15th.

I determined to abandon military life, and consequently recalled my application for a position in the Regular Army, and turned over all recruits to Genl. Mower at New Orleans. I had reason to believe that I could have entered as 1st Lieut. and perhaps as Capt. Meantime Genl. Edgerton made formal application to the Secy of War, to have me promoted to the rank of "Major" by Brevet which in due time was granted.

On the 24th of Dec. orders were received from Genl. Sheridan for the immediate muster out of our Regt which was then to proceed to St. Louis, for discharge and final payment.

We were very actively engaged on our Muster out Rolls, Pay Rolls, Discharges and other numerous papers until the 8th of Jan'y 1867, on which day the 65th Reg U.S. C. Inf. was formally mustered out of the service of the U.S. by P. H. Maroney Bot, Captain U.S. A, mustering officer.

Our tents were struck for the last time on the morning of the 9th and we bade farewell to "the old Camp ground" and at 3 P.M. left for St. Louis on the "Julia". The same boat on which we came South in 1864. The colors at the Arsenal were waved at us as a parting salute as we passed by on our way up the river. A loyal family named "Hendricks" consisting of the mother & three daughters and a small son, accompanied us as far as Memphis where they had friends residing. The mother and two eldest daughters had for over a year been engaged in teaching in our Regt chiefly through my efforts as Pres^t of the Post Council of Administration, and being much interested in their future welfare I raised by subscription money enough to pay their passage to Memphis.

My long stay in Baton Rouge was very agreeable to me. My duties were not very burdensome being among the Senior Captains of our Regt. and very often in command of the same on Battalion Drill, Parades &c. I also formed the acquaintance of many of the members of St. James Masonic Lodge which I visited quite often with Lt. Hutchins a particular friend of mine and was always very cordially received, invited to their homes & generally well treated. An incident occurred on Christmas day 1865, which must be mentioned. As my Co. was engaged in target practice in a secluded place back of town & having spent some time successfully in firing by Co. by rank, by file, platoon &c. I deployed them as skirmishers and while advancing and firing, a cow was accidentally shot just under the spine which so disabled her that I had to hunt up the owner and had to settle the matter by buying the cow which cost me 4⁵. I turned her over to the boys who with myself were thus well supplied with fresh beef during the holidays, but we never afterwards dared to engage in target practice. In justice to the boys I will say that each one of them at the next pay day, paid for their share of the cow.

On arriving at Cairo we found the river so blocked with ice, that we could not proceed further by boat, hence took the cars, via Sandoval to St. Louis where we arrived on the evening of Jan'y 16th.

It was a bitter, cold, moonlight night as we paraded for the last time as a Regt through the streets of the city, to the sound of martial music to the Depot of the Iron Mountain R.R. We were soon at Jefferson Barracks 12 miles down the river, but met with a chilly reception, having to stand round in the bitter cold until near midnight before we could find shelter.

At noon on the 22^d of Jan'y 1867, my Co "I" of the 65th U.S.C.I., was discharged and paid off, each man receiving \$300 Gov't Bounty. I had then a Co. of 46 men (the others having either died, reenlisted or were discharged before at the expiration of their term of service) and at their solicitation gave each of them a photograph of myself and St. Vincent. They accompanied me from the Depot in St. Louis to a Clothing House where I saw each of them fitted out in citizens clothing the same day.

took my leave of them, after giving them some good advice, as to their future life.

The next day I got my own accounts adjusted, receiving 1082 pay, the officers parted, and at 4 P.M. a number of us were started for home. I reached Cambria, via Chicago on the evening of Jan'y 24, and left for home Feb'y 4th having had a delightful visit of eleven days. On the evening of Feb'y 7/67, I arrived home in Cleveland Minn. safe and sound, with all my property after an absence of nearly four years and six months in the service of the U.S. In reviewing my military history during that period I find abundant cause for gratitude to Almighty God, for having preserved my life through all the tumults and dangers incident to times of war. I was more fortunate than thousands of others in many respects. Although always ready for duty of any and every kind, yet except in the Indian Campaign I was scarcely ever under fire, and never engaged in any of the big battles of the war.

However I was often called on to perform important and sometimes dangerous duties but I never shrank from doing so.

I tried to do faithful, efficient service constantly.

My duties in camp - aside from Commanding my Co. - were not very burdensome. Once a week, and sometimes oftener I took my turn on duty as either Regt^l or Brigade officer of the day. I frequently had command of the Regt^l at work on the fortifications and the last year of my service, being among the Senior Captains it often devolved on me to command the Regt^l on Drills, Parades, Inspections and Reviews. I was once in 1865 for a short time in Command of the Post at Baton Rouge. Being a strict disciplinarian, the four different Co's I had the honor to Command were generally up to the highest standard of excellence, and hardly ever came off second best at Regt^l inspection.

When in health I enjoyed camp life admirably. I always had charge of a mess, composed generally of three or more officers besides myself, and many a pleasant time we had around the festal board. I had eight different Lieut's serving with me viz: More, Butler, Harrison, Sheerin, Krepps, Roberts, Violet and Vincent, two of whom died. More & Roberts. I had six 1st Sergeants in Co's B, K & J, three of whom I lost by death.

I served on several Courts martial, Boards of Survey & Councils of Administration, and was for a while Instructor of the non-commissioned officers of the Reg't. I never was under arrest and so far as I know had always the confidence of my superior officers, and generally the respect of the men I commanded.

I read much, had a pretty thorough knowledge of the art of war, and was master of the Army Infantry Tactics, though Company and Battalion Drill. I had very few religious privileges, but had a fair supply of religious papers to read furnished through the Sanitary Commission, and endeavored to carry my religion with me, avoiding altogether such common army vices as intemperance, profanity, gambling and such like.

Not having to move around much, my expenses were small and I was thus enabled to save about two thirds of my salary, which most of the time I was Captain was at the rate of about \$2000 a year. My savings were invested in U.S. 7/30 Bonds, the interest on which, with the Premiums when sold & the Bounty and Savings as an enlisted man and the three months extra pay as Capt., with other earnings & perquisites, & the proceeds of the Bonds sold, made me a fund of over \$5000 at my disposal when I reached home.

Soon after my return home, I visited Mankato, looking up the chances of entering immediately into business of some kind as I had abandoned all idea of farming.

From exposure to the severe weather, at that time, in connection with the sudden change from the mild climate of the South I was prostrated immediately on a bed of sickness from which I did not fully recover until warm weather set in.

Elizabeth my former laundress, about the middle of March, left us, to rejoin her husband in St. Louis, having served Mother faithfully since September 1864.

On the 11th of April I called on my old Captain T. G. Carter of Co. K. 7th Min., residing in St. Peter, and remained over night.

The result of my visit was that on the following day April 12/67 I entered into partnership with him in the Real Estate, Insurance, Claims and a general Agency business, which he had been carrying on for about a year.

I paid in \$1500 as common Capital Stock, as an offset to his experience &c and at once entered on my new duties in the banking office of Edgerton & Donohower St. Peter, Min., boarding at the Washington Hotel.

On the 7th of May, I had the pleasure of receiving from the President of the United States and the Secretary of War, my commission as Major of U.S. volunteers by brevet, to rank as such from the 13th day of March 1865, "for faithful and meritorious services during the war", and accepted the same with thanks.

On the 15th of May I purchased Lot 7, Block 181, St. Peter, on which was two dwelling houses, from Mrs. Matilda McCullough, paying her for the same the sum of \$2000. cash down, intending to make one of the houses my future home.

On the 14th of June I again joined the I.O. of Good Templars. St Peter Lodge No. 36, with which I was actively identified for five years, filling various offices, that of Worthy Chief Templar a number of terms. Was also Lodge and District Deputy G. U. G. T. for a long time, and in the latter capacity organized a Good Templar Lodge of 42 members in Ottawa June 25/70.

Early in July I rode up to Greenleaf, Meeker Co. to look after the claim of land in Sec 30, Town 118, Range 29, which I filed on in 1862. I found two families living on it, each one claiming an eighty and had no little difficulty in securing the land, but having the necessary proofs of Army service, I was

enabled to hold it, and paid for the same at \$1 1/4 per acre, by using a Land Warrant, thus getting my duplicate, and the same fall getting the Patent from Washington through Senator Ramsey. On the 28th of Aug. I accompanied Judge Gresham, in a tour 80 miles up the Min River, looking after lands, returning the 31st.

On the 17th of Sept. I was elected a member of Nicoll's Lodge No. 54, A. F. & M. joining by affiliation from Concord Lodge No. 47 at Cleveland, from which I dimitted.

Now I have arrived at one of the most important epochs of my history, my marriage. A regular correspondence had been kept up with my intended, and now a time had been fixed for our union.

On the 18th of Sept. I started for Cambridge Wis. via St. Paul arriving there on the 20th.

Rev. Charles E. Beach of Portage City was invited to officiate at the ceremony. It was at 3 P.M. of Thursday Sept. 26/67 at the residence of the bride's father Edmund Sturnell, amid a goodly group of the bride's relatives and friends he pronounced the words which made us husband & wife. Then followed the usual congratulations followed by refreshments, after which

at 6 P.M., my dear wife and I took the train westward for our new home.

Reaching La Crosse at midnight we were soon transferred to the Steamer Danusel bound for St. Paul where we arrived early Sept 28th, and put up at the Globe Hotel. We spent that day in visiting the beautiful Minnehaha Falls, and other picturesque scenery in the vicinity of St. Paul.

The next day we drove to Minneapolis, found out my old army friend Capt. Wm P. Allen, heard his father preach, dined with him and returned to St. Paul where at 3 P.M. in the Opera House we heard the eloquent Bishop Simpson of the M.E. Church preach to the assembled thousands.

Monday morning Sept 30th we started for St. Peter, by cars and stage, arriving in safety the same evening, and stopping at the North Western Hotel. The next day Oct 1st we drove up to Mankato and South Bend visiting with wifes old friends, and on the 2^d we spent the day at fathers near Cleveland, Oct 10th we moved into our own house, on Minnesota Avenue, and were soon as cozy and comfortably settled as we could desire. The next day we visited the Le Sueur & Fair at Cleveland met many friends.

