



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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[illegible]

This occurred night before last, as
some of the soldiers were killed in bed
also some citizens. There were between
50 & 100 Indians. A messenger rode
down to Mankato in the night with
the news. Hence our sudden removal.
We hardly knew what to do for some time
but when informed to get ready, we
packed up our things in a hurry.
Those we could not take we left behind.
I put up in a little flat box my
dress coat, a pair of shoes, which I did
not think worth while to carry, a coarse
blanket, a pair knit drawers, my vest
and several other things, which I
left to be sent home. I told Mr. Keckley
to try & send them down to St. Peter or home
if he could, they are worth looking after
before it is too late. At 9 o'clock Company
C. came up, also the waggons. Col.
Marshall in command. We fell in
line at once, were furnished 25 cartridges
apiece loaded our guns, and with

a rousing cheer. bade farewell to
South Bend at 9 1/2 o'clock.
To tell the truth, I felt a kind of hurry
to leave in such a hurry, for we had
formed many pleasant associations
both there and in Mankato, and now
we must leave them and civilization
behind, for how long God only knows.
We arrived here at 5 o'clock last night
a distance of 25 miles. We came
way by noon, halted and had dinner.
The afternoon march was as hard and
tiresome as I want to go through again.
I had on my boots and the pegs hurt my
feet, which were blistered several places
as was also nearly every man.
Blowing very strong all the time.
It is all a fine country between
and South Bend, but few houses,
a pity that is can not be settled.
We passed several beautiful lakes.
I wrote this in the inside of a log fort, built
last fall, and surrounded by earthworks &c
and very well situated for Indians.

You may say we had quite a hard days
work to get orders to march at 8 out of
comfortable quarters, pack up our knapsacks
also what we did not want - march 25 miles
and pitch our tents, and even make stakes for them
all before dark, but many such days lies before us.
At 11 O'clock last night a company of cavalry
arrived and are just now starting out - for
the scene of the murders. We will probably go
in a day or two, but we have at least to day for
rest - Co. G. led in the march, and as they had an
old grudge against us, they were heard to say
that they would track Co. H. then facing and
marching. As they were full of whiskey, they
made us travel nearly double quick till
the middle of the afternoon, when they began
to give out, and there was before night more
of their men got on to side and dropped in the
rear than of our men. We passed their Captain
in a fence corner give out or sick. He asked me
for some water but I had none. Col Marshall sent
back his horse for him. We enjoyed ourselves
very pleasantly in South Bend. We drilled 6 hours
every day. Had several sham fights with blank
cartridges, and also practised target shooting.

Mrs. Lancaster, Sawidge, Cooley & Keithley folks
were up there when we left - we said not every
time to bid them all good bye. The health of the
company is very good. I never felt better than I
now do. The doctor vaccinated us all 2 weeks
ago but it did not take effect. E. Talbot, J. Jones
& G. Chambers &c are all well. I must now come to a
close. I shall again when I can. Please write to me
soon. I suppose you may direct to Mankato and mark on
it to follow the company. My respects to the neighbors
and friends. From them son J. Montgomery