



Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.



Camp Pope June 15th 1863
 After Dress Parade 7 P.M.
 Dear Mother

For the last
 time in this place
 I sat myself to write
 you a few lines, hoping they will
 reach you and find you enjoying
 good health as it leaves me at present
 thanks to Almighty God,
 I had a slight attack of bowel complaint
 last week, but feel much better now.
 We leave here tomorrow on the
 Indian expedition. Revelli's will
 be sounded at 3 O'clock. The General
 at 4. The Assembly at 4½ and To the
 Color at 5 A.M. when we will start
 immediately, and in the following
 order. 1st A Battalion of Cavalry. 2nd A
 section of battery, 2 pieces; and Pontoon
 and Pioneer Companies
 train, then a train of wagons, then the

6th Regt. and train, then a section of Batt
next a train, then 8th the 7th Regt. &
train, then a section of Batt, and next
a train of 100 wagons, next section of Batt,
then the 10th Regt. & train, then the drove
of cattle, and remainder of train; then the
rear guard, which is the daily camp guard
and in rear a Battalion of Cavalry, -
This is the order as near as I can remember
it will make a train several miles long.
The command is under Brig Gen Sibley
and consists of 10 Comp's of the 6th Colonel
Crooks; 9 of the 7th and 6th 9th attached
to our regt. under Lieut Colonel Marshall
& Comp's of the 10th Col Baker, 6th A.
9th Pioneer Comp'y of expedition. 1st Regt
Minn Cavalry, Col McPhail, and the
3rd Minn Battery of 8 pieces. Capt. Jones
(2 six pound brass cannon, and 6. twelve
pound brass howitzer,) Also a train
of 300 or 400 wagons with 3 months
provisions, & ammunition along a pontoon
train and a train of ambulances, besides

a squad of half breeds and their families.
for scouts and guides, &c &c &c
We have now before us three or four
months active service in the march &
fights, probably before that time is up, we
will have marched a thousand miles,
will see many hardships greater than we
can now imagine but we hope to have
courage to overcome all cheerfully, and be
able to come back safe in the fall.
Still we can't forget the language of
the song, "Brave boys hurrah! We've gone
at our Country's call. And yet, and yet
we can ne'er forget, that some of us
must fall." Our company takes two
wall tents, and 10 wedge tents. I am in a
wall tent with 7 others now, com, officer.
We will have to carry our knapsacks
until the wagons are unloaded, sufficient
to carry them which will be a week or
two, prob. we will travel 3 days a week
and when we get to Big Stone Lake, will
camp there a week or ten days. So I hear,

each
Several of ~~the~~ Company will be left behind
on the invalid corps. None go but those
supposed to stand it. We are going to
desert this camp entirely, and move
the remains to Fort Riddle. For this
detail a comp^y of the 9th is left, who
also take charge of invalids.
I thought of getting my likeness taken and
send it home but Paul's chemicals run
short, and I could not.

Lieut Borer has handed in his resignation
and it is accepted by Tibby. There will
be a hard struggle for the vacancy if
it is accepted by Pope. Several will
run. I have been encouraged by several
to run for it and perhaps I will.
It is decided wholly by examination
in tactics &c - but there may be other
influences elsewhere. There was an
examination to day by the Committee of
Captains at Head Quarters, for Lieut of Co. B.
and the applicants ^{names} were read on dress
parade and applauded by the Col, and he
encouraged all others in other companies
to imitate them and strive for a complete
mastery and be ready in case of another
vacancy. Quite a number of officers
resigned since coming here.