

Major B.W. Brunson.

August 14th, 1862 enlisted as a volunteer for three years, or during the war - was attached to and mustered into Company K. 8th Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, during the month, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, as first or orderly Sergeant; I was ordered with the company to Mankato, to assist in checking the approach of the Sioux Indians and allay the fears of the citizens of that place, and the settlers from adjacent county who had collected there.

Was ordered back to Fort Snelling in October, the company was there supplied with horses and sent to Fort Ripley, Minn. While at Fort Ripley in December 1862 was detailed to proceed with sixteen men to escort --- Morse, Receiver of the Land Office at Otter Tail City, to that point and collect the debris of that office which the Chippeways had destroyed sometime during the Fall previous, and terrorized the inhabitants so that they had fled, except one trader, to Forts and larger towns in the state for safety - With Mercury 20° below zero and no road save an Indian trail to guide. I made the trip out in two and a half days, some 60 miles - found there the trader McDonald. Had been advised by Col. Minor Thomas, commanding the regiment that the Indians were liable to resent the sending of troops out there, that they had sent word that no Soldier would be permitted to come. We reached the town site about noon - which we entered upon the gallop - found empty houses and barns, into which the horses were soon corralled, and guards stationed, all was quiet so far as Indians were concerned, afterwards visited McDonald's trading house into which several Bucks came strolling one

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after another, McDonald told me that each had his gun underneath his blanket; walking up to one I told him to open his blanket and found it was as reported, called several of my men then told Mr. Indian that I had been sent out there by the Govt. to gather up the remains of the Land Office, that I should remain there some days, and that it was necessary for them to go to their several tepees and remain while I and my young men remained - started them one at a time as they had come and bade them go - they went.

At the Land Office building the safe had been chopped open, double doors, with axes, - and they were rewarded by finding a single five cent piece which the officer in his haste to get away had overlooked. Found the records strewn over the floor and in the cellar, the covers having been all torn off the books. Among the debris were several Land Warrants and some thirteen pieces of half-breed Scrip - as not knowing their value they were not taken. After gathering the papers together into a box, and keeping my men in full dress, arms and accoutrements all night, started on my return as soon as I could see in the morning, I was several miles away before Mr. Indians knew that I had taken my departure returning to Fort Ripley on the evening of the fifth day. This expedition though not much of itself was sufficient to call for special mention from the commandant.

About the 24th of December 1862 my company was ordered to move down to St. Cloud thence out on the Breckenridge road and take station at Alexandria, which was done in mid-winter; upon reaching our point of destination had to build barracks for the men, and sta-

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bles for the horses, after which we enclosed the whole within a stockade - some ten feet high.

Remained at Alexandria until May 1864 - doing escort duty thence to Fort Abercrombie with supply trains and U.S. Mails - and elsewhere around the country as circumstances required - was detailed or ordered on several occasions to take such number of men as I needed and scour the country around to watch for marauding bands of Indians - never coming in contact with any, have no hair breadth escapes to chronicle.

In May 1864 I received from the Secretary of war authority to appear before the military commission at St. Louis, Mo. for examination for commission in a colored Regiment there being organized - at this examination was passed and recommended as 1st Lieutenant and instructed to report to the adjutant at Benton Barracks for assignment - upon presenting my credentials as directed, was informed that the Regt. would not be organized until October following - but that I would be assigned to quarters, and that I could put in the time drilling recruits and organizing a company.

As my Regt. the 8th had been ordered to cross the plains and join Genl. Alfred Sully in his expedition against the Indians. I preferred the active duty in the field, told the Adjutant when he wanted me to forward my commission to the 8th Regt. - and returned as fast as rail trains could come, stayed one night at home and rejoined the Regt. at Fort Ridgely on the evening prior to its final start for the Missouri river.

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In this campaign we crossed the state going up the Minnesota river to Big Stone Lake, thence westward across the Coteaus de Prairie and Coteaus de Missouri with the arid plains between, reaching the Missouri opposite where Fort Rice was located the latter part of June, and forming connection with Genl. Sully and his forces - who came up the river by boats, on the 4th of July Genl. Sully reviewed his troops and next day started west.

Quite a large party of emigrants under Capt. Fisk joined the campaign here, bound for Montana.

Proceeding west until we struck "Heart River" where the stock and wagons were corralled, the sick and feble left in camp, with few days rations, we were started at daylight for a raid against a large camp of Sioux - located on the edge of the bad lands bordering the Little Missouri River, - this camp we struck the 3rd day about noon, and what will ever appear as most singular, took the Indians wholly by surprise, although numerous fresh signs of Indians had been observed during the day, and we had marched with all precautions, against ambush or surprise, those Indians were not aware of our approach until within two miles of their camp, - all the Regt. were dismounted, having muzzle loading arms, except my company which had been doing Cavalry duty for 2 years, were armed with carbines, and revolvers and sabres - formed in line of battle and were marching upon them one and a half miles distant from their camp of 1600 lodges at the foot of the Buttes or foot hills of the Little Missouri - then there was commotion in that camp, Bucks running here and

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there gathering their ponies, the women gathering what they could carry on their backs into bundles to carry over the hills - when the Indians had mounted their horses they formed a line between us and their camp and seemingly intended to give us sharp contest, then coming towards our lines as we went marching on until the distance between was probably 150 yards, at this point their apparent leader would ride out in advance of his line, waving his banner of Eagle feathers, then wheeling would give instructions to his forces, repeating his advance toward our line, a sharp crack was heard and he went to the earth - then commenced the tumult, each Indian was his own Commander and evidently wanted to command all the rest, but all set up the war whoop and commenced to circle us around, each vieing with the other to see which could make the most noise, firing their guns at random and sending the arrows from their bows high up in the air hoping perhaps that some stray one might possibly do service.

Soon as the first shot was fired by our men, the firing became general along the line, with the batteries sending Shell and havoc into their camp.

The Indians were not aware of the range of our guns, consequently were within easy distance and we could see saddle after saddle emptied, they soon got a safer distance between and commenced to circle around us - in watching them around we saw several hundred between us and the horses of the Regt. which, instead of being led forward as we advanced, were kept standing where the Regt. dismounted, were now quite a mile to the rear - upon this discovery a section

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of Battery under Lt. Harris, and my company were ordered to charge through them and recover the horses - the battery going at a full gallop, wheeled, unlimbered and shells were sent with such precision that they burst amidst the thickest group, men and horses were torn to pieces, the Indians opened out to right and left when my company dashed through and brought the stock to the main force - meanwhile the army moved straight towards the camp - as we neared I was sent with dispatches or orders to the Col. (McLaren) commanding the left wing to wheel to right and encircle them on that side, as I rode towards the Col. his left reached some rolling ground, I witnessed one of those daring feats of bravery and horsemanship of which the Indians are noted - three of the soldiers were going up a steep hill, while on the other side several Indians were approaching, neither party could see the other, but our men were advised by their companions below to be on their guard for the red skins approaching, both parties came in sight at close range, but the soldiers were quickest to deliver fire, and one hostile fell from his saddle, the other Indians wheeling disappeared over the ridge, but while the soldiers were looking the ground over two Indians swooped back side by side and reached down gathered their dead companion and was back over the ridge before our men recovered sufficient to give them another shot.

The Indians gathered their dead and wounded as they fell and carried them back into the recesses of the hills and thickets to keep them from falling into the hands of the whites, so but few were left on the battle field - there were found by parties sent

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for that purpose 325 dead, some in piles of 25 bodies - reports heard subsequent gave the list of wounded at 600 - many of whom died.

As night came on the army bivouacked upon the field - our casualties of the day was one man by the name of Northrop of Brackets Battalion killed, he by an arrow, and several horses slightly wounded - at night the Indians approached near and kept a continual fire of guns and arrows until morning.

After breakfast the following day the work of destroying the camp commenced, the lodges were torn down, the dry poles used for their support placed in piles, then the skins, the dressed buffalo hides, dried meat by the ton, dried berries, in short every thing in the camp, which the squaws had not carried in the one load that they carried upon their backs, was piled and burnt - this required one half day by 500 or 600 men detailed for that duty - all the little conveniences of the women, their toilet bags - cooking utensils - were piled and burned - it was a wholesale destruction of property - entailing a loss to the Indians great as would be the burning of a city after the inhabitants had been driven from its portals, they had nothing left.

During the destruction of the camp some of the soldiers found two small papooses, these they sat upon a buffalo robe and gave them some hard tack, which the little fellows ate with avidity and relish - but some of the Indian scout coming up struck their tomahawks into their brains, saying as they did so, and for the excuse of the cold blooded murder that - "Nits Makelice" - Genl. Sully had given special orders or instructions that the men in searching should be

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8 careful of wounded Indians, however but one such was found who soon as he knew himself discovered fired at the soldier nearest but whether haste or weakness dulled his sight his bullet missed its mark, not so with the soldiers near who emptied their pieces into his prostrate body until he was past all future usefulness.

After the camp was effectually disposed of the troops commenced their return towards Heart river, and camped some six miles distant, here after the pickets had been set for the night and most of the men had turned in about one hundred savages dashed through one edge of the camp firing and whooping (they in their approach killed three men on our post) - evidently more intent upon stampeding stock than taking the camp - Reaching the corall at Heart river we were allowed one days rest - then took course westward towards the Yellow Stone river.

Reaching the edge of the Little Missouri Bad lands went into camp for the night upon a platteau about one hundred and twenty feet above the bottom of the gullies or wash-outs below - this was a dismal sight looking over the town and disrupted waste far as the eye could reach, nothing but points of Buttes some reaching to a line of the eye, others washed away to mere hay cocks in size, but always retaining the same pointed conical shape, through this labyrinth of peaks, holes, ravines, canyons or whatever name any one may see fit to call them, the army of 4000 men, with their trains and cattle commenced its winding, tortuous way - this through which no white man had ever ventured on foot or horse back, and through which but one man, a Blackfoot guide, said that he could lead the way.

9 Saturday eve reached the Little Missouri which flows through the middle of this waste country, here was found some rose buds and little grass.

Sunday, camp was moved up the stream, the stock sent out to graze, myself with six men ordered to cross the river and find our way up the left bank abreast the moving column to watch the approach of any of the enemy that might be near - on this bank the bottoms were narrow and cut out with numerous washout or canyons, these canyons are washed out of the clay formation leaving the side always perpendicular, so that to pass them either had to go into the bed of the river or hunt some old crossing made by Buffalo; which would be just wide enough to squeeze a horse through after the rider had dismounted, about one mile up, the bluff of the river came flush to the water with perpendicular face - winding back and circling around finally reached the summit, where I remained until recall was sounded at camp, about six p.m. was scarcely half way down the cliff when hordes of Indians reached the place we had just left, these collected on the edge and commenced firing down into camp, but were soon driven back from the front by shells sent from our batteries - there was among them english speaking persons who taunted us with all the vulgarity their vocabulary would permit, informed us that a short distance off was collected a force of 10,000 warriors, that we were surrounded on all sides, that they proposed to take us all prisoners, and make the officers eat the soldiers - they also informed us that they had a white woman in their camp, and if we wanted her to come and get her, (this was found afterwards to

10 be correct). On Monday commenced to get out of the valley, above the camp was found a canyon thirty feet wide, sides perpendicular thirty or forty feet high, most of the troops were dismounted clambered up and marched on either side while the train and stock found its way up the narrow gorge, we had gone in this way some miles and emerged upon a rolling plateau bordered by broken butts and canyons all the men still unmounted and flanking the column when about mid-day they attacked the advance led by the Indian scout, putting an arrow through the black foot guide who undertook to pilot us across - simultaneous herds of yelping Indians rose up on all sides delivered their fire then started back, followed by the troops to such a location that they could get glimpse of them and fire, no one ever knew how many bit the dust that day, none of the troops were hit.

The column kept on its steady march and all day long, we practiced with rifle and gun upon the hords hovering around, as we proceeded west the country gradually became more even, the men remounted gave the enemy more work to keep away from reach of our guns, while marching and fighting an elk would spring up here and there and start to run a gauntlet between the two combatants - an antelope coming near where I stood received a death wound from my revolver and passed down into a deep ravine, wishing to secure the game, dismounted and rushed down after and finished it at the bottom, upon dragging it up the hillside saw three Indians making down the valley for my scalp - but some of my company ran forward and took Mr. Lo on the turn - and sent them back out of range.

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11 Genl. Sully having found a small pond went into camp and the recall was sounded, the advance, which was a mile or more distant started back, soon as we turned our backs the Indians set up a hurrah and started for us - following until we halted for the camp then encircled up at a safe distance among the Buttes and broken ridges - in this position night came on, the camp was in the lowest ground in the vicinity as the bottom of a large bowl. After the supper had been disposed of and the stock picketed for the night the troops were placed in complete circuit, care being taken not to get quite to the top of, or upper edge, then in advance some ten yards were pickets of two or three at wider intervals, thus the men slept with their arms ready for any attack which might be made during the night or early morning - but every thing remained quiet, not even a coyote was heard during the still hours - but Mr. Reds were there just as when we went to bed, or rather to ground, grass being a very scarce article in that region, having been completely devoured by the grasshopper - and soon as they saw any life abroad commenced their yells and whoops and firing their random shots.

Resuming our march in the morning soon came to the ground on which the Indians had bivouacked for some days previous, can't say they were in camp for they were wholly tentless. The Indians keeping aloof from us - and soon disappearing in the hills towards the Missouri river.

Rations became low and impossibility of overhauling them among the hills.

Genl. Sully kept direct towards the Yellow Stone river, where

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12 he expected to meet supplies on steam boats, and when we arrived several days later, when our last hard tack had been issued -- The grass of the plains having been eaten by the Locusts, our stock was in sad condition, many dying each day on the march - arriving at the second plateau of the river about two p.m. the stock was sent into the bottoms for rushes and rose buds - this bottom was full of game of all kinds driven there for food, and soon as the men got fairly in the brush there commenced a fusillade equal to a small battle, and animals of all kinds came up to the highland and took to the river- Buffalos, Elk, Black-tail deer - antelope, Bears and wolves were seen running for dear life, while quite a number were brought into camp.

Crossing the Yellow Stone and our rations replenished the command proceed down the mouth and forded the Missouri at Fort Union- From here we started on our return for the settlements - arriving at Fort Snelling late in the Fall - where we found orders to immediately start for Nashville, Tenn.

Leaving Fort Snelling we proceeded to La Crosse, Wis., by steamboat, then took cars for Chicago - and the South - remained in Louisville Ky. several days awaiting transportation - we reached Nashville, and from there was ordered to Fortress Rosencrans near Murfreesborough.

When we returned to Fort Rice in September among the mail I found an order from Benton Barrack to report for duty, also a commission from the Governor of the State of Minn., as Lieut. in the company to which I had been attached for the past two years - upon

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consultation with the Col. of the Regt. I wrote to St. Louis, declining the commission.

I accepted the one from the Governor, which would still keep me with my comrades - and was mustered as 1st Lieut. in the 8th Regt. Minn., Vol. to date from September 1st 1864 - by Chas. B. Atchison Capt. and A.A.D.C Asst. Com. of musters.

Upon arriving at Murfreesborough - went into camp at or near the spot where the 3d Minnesota Regt. had surrendered.

It was then the rainy season and camping was exceedingly uncomfortable - we had been there but a few days when I was detailed to go, with a detachment of twenty men, and sixteen Govt. six mule teams, fourteen miles into the country for forage - leaving Murfreesborough in the morning arrived at our destination, a farm in the woods, in time to load up with fodder &c ready for returning in the morning, the men bivouacked among the cedars, on this occasion my couch was a huge flat rock with a piece of wood for a pillow and only covering my overcoat.

The night was quite frosty and cold, but managed to obtain some sleep by keeping a small fire at my feet, so long as my feet were warm could sleep but would awaken when the fire burned out and my feet got cold.

Next morning when about six or seven miles from the Fort - press was accosted by a colored woman crouching in the fence corner, upon approaching her, she said "Massa you are in danger the Rebels are in the woods over a hill", pointing in the direction of some highland probably one mile distant - "and there are two rebel offi-

cers in the house you have just passed"- upon questioning her closely was satisfied her tale was true, she in the meantime requesting that I should not give her away by telling where I got the information.

Having passed the house some eighty rods and a cornfield intervening, the caravan was halted, a sergeant with six men sent through the field to surround the house, while I galloped back on the road to the front of the mansion, hitched my horse to a gatepost and knocked at the door, - a lady of mature years appeared in answer to the summons, after passing the compliments of the day, she invited me to enter; the dinner meal being on the table she pressed me to be seated and partake, excusing myself from her proffered hospitality requested that if there were any gentlemen in the house I would be pleased to interview them, she declared there was not a male person on her premises, save some old negroes in their cabins.

The sergeant and his file of men then surrounded the house, and I informed the lady that as I had good reasons for supposing there were confederate officers in the house, it would be my unpleasant duty to search if they were not produced - It came suddenly to her recollection that there were two gentlemen in the room across the hall, that she would go in and see them, they were sick and didn't wish to be disturbed, and if they were willing to be interviewed it would be all right; following her to the door as she entered the room, which was dark being doubly curtained, I ordered her to raise the curtains, she complied but partially, but letting in sufficient light to take in the situation, after a preemptory order to raise

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the curtains and leave them up, she complied; calling my men to enter the building I walked into the room where two gentlemen were comfortably quartered, one was sitting by the fireplace busily destroying a memorandum book, the other reclining upon a lounge, and in a chair near him was piled six revolvers of different patterns, these little playthings were taken possession of first, then informed the gents that they were prisoners, thereupon they signified their consent and asked to be paroled - that little formality having been discontinued by our people, the proposition was respectfully declined and they were told to get ready for a trip to headquarters, after some talk with the land-lady, she had her Phaeton brought around and offered to drive in with Capt. Butler who was suffering from rheumatism, the other taking passage in one of our wagons - arriving at head-quarters the two were delivered to the provost Marshal, they were subsequently forwarded to Kelly's Island in Lake Erie for rest, at which point they remained until the surrender of Genl. Lee and the confederate army, and this unpleasantness terminated.

Capt. Butler after his return called upon and invited me to his home to dine, but was on the point of leaving for the north and had to decline.

Shortly after the confederates under Genls. Hood and Forrest appeared in force near Fortress (Rosencranz) their first assault was made on a Block house at Overalls creek, Dec. 4th, 1864, five miles towards Nashville. The 8th Regt. and two others under Genl. Milroy were ordered out to drive them off - in this affair my Regt.

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was under real genuine fire for the first time, where we had shells to dodge, grape and canister and musketry to face; after a short contest the attacking party was driven from the field.

On the 7th Dec., 1864 the Rebel forces under Hood and Forrest again appeared near the Fortress and the 8th with two other Regts. under Milroy was again sent forth to give them battle, they had selected a ridge in the timber for their standing point some three miles from our works, and erected temporary breastworks, then a detachment under Forrest made a detour of several miles crossing Stone River above and approaching the works from another quarter, as our command filed out of the Fortress, on the same side they fell back, we following, they recrossed the river, turned to the right and followed down the left bank, so that they passed in full view of the garrison finally leading us to their works, hidden by a large cornfield - Milroy was not deceived into pushing through that little trap, but, after a careful reconnoissance, during which he had a horse killed under him, marched us by the right flank probably one-half or three-quarters of a mile, then filed to the left and reformed his battle line across the pike, this would flank their works, and started for them, in making the flank movement Hood evidently thought Milroy had given up the chase and started for the Fort, had his artillery advanced along the road parallel to us, so that when we crossed it, were in short range of the cannon, here Milroy had another horse killed under him - as we advanced they fell back to their standing point in the timber, to reach this we had an open field to cross, then, a ravine or hollow. The Regt. on our left a new one from Ohio,

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fell back in confusion their Col. having been killed - we were ordered to lay down, while it was being reformed, on our right was an Illinois Regt. numbering only 240 men, but they were reliable. This position of lying on the ground, especially as it was sloping toward the enemy, they having fair view of us, became monotonous in a very short time, our men receiving mortal, and slighter wounds all along the line. My Co. "K", whose position when halted was directly across the turn-pike and receiving full benefit of grape and canister from their battery; being in command of the company at this time, to save my men from this destructive fire, had to double them back, so that about one-half of the company lay in a line down or parallel to the road - not being born with natural bravery in my composition - soon felt that to remain in that prostrate position I would give out, and believing that chances of being hit in a standing position would be reduced, regained my feet, it was probably well for our good standing that I did so, as a portion of our company, young boys - the last recruits, were starting for the rear, or rather preparing to do so - this notion was soon put out of their heads, and their attention turned to the foe, we were then ordered to fire from our positions on the ground, this helped us much, as the smoke partially hid us from their view, and gave courage to the men - the bullets were hissing past me in quick succession. Lt. Col. Rodgers commanding the Regt. sat his horse about fifty feet to my rear, he was a target for them to practice at, I begged of him permission to take my company across the hollow to the timber, he gave the order "The two left companies advance to the timber" - My orders repeat-

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ed to the men were, "men get up and dash for the timber," they scrambled to their feet and as they did so I gave a veritable war hoop, this was immediately taken up by the whole line, and instead of two left companies, the whole command rushed wildly across, whooping and yelling like so many red demons from the plains.

Having been halted at the bottom or lower side of the opposite ridge, I went up a fallen tree laying in such a position that by walking to the butt ² could see their movements, upon this I discovered they were retreating, and reporting it to the Col. he gave the order to advance, this was his last order, a Rebel bullet striking him, shattering his arm; upon reaching the summit we discovered them in full retreat, the artillerists were hitching their horses to the guns, about one-hundred yards away.

I ordered my men to kill the horses, this they accomplished and the gunners had to depart leaving two guns, to fall into our hands - we passed through to the farther side of the timber and were again halted, having taken 325 prisoners, among whom were several officers - who were started to the fort.

In this engagement we had 96 men hit, 13 of whom were killed or died from wounds soon after.

In my company was a young Irish lad from Dakota Co. who had contracted the varioloid and had been sent to the small-pox hospital about one week previous, toward the last of battle (of course it was raining), who should appear but this man, his face all in red blotches, with his gun and accoutrements; upon questioning him, found that when he heard the rumpus commence, he ran away from the

hospital, came to his tent procured his Springfield rifle and followed the din of battle until he overtook us - it is needless to say that his absence was preferable to his company, and was ordered back to the hospital.

Returning reached the Fortress near dark - as we filed in to the enclosure the streets on either side were lined with the troops who had heard, but not seen, the fun as they called it, and as the 8th passed by a hurrah for the Indian fighters went up, that made us feel proud, but they little knew that we had rather fight Indians a whole year than those Rebels on ² hour.

We were short of rations in the Fortress and had to procure a subsistence from the corn fields and smoke houses of the adjoining country, a train of provisions was started from Chatanooga for us, but four or five miles out the Rebs captured the whole thing, by taking out one or two rails in a twelve foot cut, the engine was wrecked, and as the escort filed out of the cars found, themselves covered by Rebel guns, and had nothing to do but surrender - by the time news reached us and a command arrived at the spot they had carried all away - leaving a few hard tack scattered on the ground - after following them several miles found the prospect of recapturing the provisions poor, satisfied ourselves by filling the wagons with corn, and such material as was to be found in the smoke houses of the neighboring gentry - and returning to our camps.

On the 16th of December they again appeared in force near us, but would not stand for a fight when our people sallied forth under, the gallant old brave, Milroy.

At this date the 16th December 1864 while standing at an embrasure with my company awaiting the expected attack, I was ordered to turn my command over to Lieut. Helsper and report to Genl. H.P. Van Cleve, commanding Fortress Rosencranz.

Upon reporting found him mounted, in company with Genl. Rousseau and others, and was informed as he was in need of an A.D.C. he had selected me for that position, - I begged not to be so detailed, not wishing to be severed from my comrades, but it was of no use, I was directed to go up to head-quarters and tell Sergeantto furnish me a horse and report back to him, this I did, with many misgivings, and was soon mounted, booted and spurred, riding through the mud - I remained in the position of A.D.C. until the close of the war and the muster out of the Regiment in July 1865.

During this time I had to make several excursions into the country surrounding Murfreesborough, in search of Bushwhackers, Guerrillas and horse thieves, but never succeeded in capturing any thing but two horse thieves.

During the Summer of 1864 I had been notified by the Hon. Alex. Ramsey then U.S. Senator at Washington, that I would be nominated by him as Paymaster upon the first vacancy; following this March 5th, 1865 my name was sent to the President for that position, the commission was issued and my appointment confirmed on the 9th of March by the U.S. Senator.

The 8th Regt. having gone to the South to join Genl. Sherman's forces, the commission was sent to Newberry S.C. - when it

reached there some personal friend put it away so carefully that it failed to come to the surface - writing to Senator Ramsey these facts, he caused a duplicate to be made and forwarded to Murfreesborough, but as time went by, and Genl. Grant had knocked Genl. Lee out of the ring, the war was ended and I was mustered out as paymaster without having received any of the endorsements of the office.

Returning reached home July 31st, 1865 - having served three years less fourteen days.

Benjamin W. Brunson, son of Rev. Alfred Brunson, of Prairie du Chien, was born in Detroit, Michigan, May 6, 1823. He came with his parents to Prairie du Chien in 1835. He purchased an interest in the Chippewa Falls mills in 1844, and in 1847 came to St. Paul and assisted in surveying the first town plat. He laid out what was known as "Brunson's addition." He was a representative in the first and second territorial legislatures. He served three years during the Civil War as a member of Company K, Eighth Minnesota Infantry, first as a private, then as an orderly sergeant, and later as first lieutenant. He has followed surveying many years, and has held several responsible positions. He was married in the fall of 1849 to Jane Shewit at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and has two sons and one daughter.