

Camp Smith (Supposed to be about
60 miles south of Devil's Lake) D. T.
July 15th 1863

Dear Mother

We left "Camp Hays" on the Chayenne River
last Saturday & have been daily tramping except
wending our way hither and thither at the
rate of about 15 or 20 miles per day. Starting in the
morning about 4 o'clock a.m. with a get up to
breakfast at 2 1/2 - rather early for me, and make
our camp from 10 to 12 m. That is do our
tramping in the cool of the morning. Our Wagon
train when doubled four abreast extends two
miles & sometimes more. The order of march is 1st
1 com^d half breed & Indians 60 m Number 2nd
3 Companies of Cavalry - 3rd Head quarters Gen Sully &c
with their train baggage &c 4th a Section of Artillery
5th Quartermaster's train (left coming) of about 60 or
70 Wagons (6 Mule teams all our wagons are of that
kind) 6th ~~the~~ ^{an} advance guard of 3 Companies
of Infantry 7th 100 Commissary wagons 8th a Regiment
of Infantry with their train consisting of about
15 Wagons 9th 700 Commissary wagons 10th Regiment
of Infantry with train & then more wagons
11th Cattle &c then another Regiment of Infantry
with train & lastly a rear guard composed
of three companies of Cavalry & then on the sides

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at a distance of about 1/4 mile on each side we are flanked by two Companies more of Cavalry. In this manner we plod along over the hardest scorched-by-whole-man prairie, day after day without much excitement save a chase after a Prairie Wolf. Fox, Badger and occasionally Elk or Buffalo, though the latter have been quite scarce, probably owing to the scarcity of grass for the Prairies are very dry this summer. Wild geese & ducks are very abundant & occasionally the boys knock one over with a club, for you must know that we have strict orders against shooting any on the march.

We have the promise of shooting all we wish on our return trip. We have plenty to eat & drink though sometimes the water is out of the lake & rather warm. The history of one day is the record of another. & I assure you there is a tiresome sameness about these vast prairies.

To day we made camp about 9 o'clock having come about 10 miles. Our Camp is situated on a neck of land running into a large lake one the most beautiful spots you ever saw. Then the beauty of the place is the water is salt & when one is very dry it is not quite as pleasant as fresh water, but then there nice spring water here so mine all ok in that line. I have just returned from taking a sea bath

in the lake & a rather glorious one it was.

When we "come into our fortune" and desire the luxury of "Sea Breeze" & "Salt Water Baths" I think will travel butternut. (Bringing a tent with us of course) for a gentle spread.

I have got my part of the for antermals machine in such good running order that I do not have any very hard work to do. The most of my time is spent in looking around seeing what I can say.

I have no idea when I shall be able to ship this letter so it sits for a while & add occasionally until that time comes. I may succeed in giving you whole sheet & may be live of them.

Camp Atkinson July 19th 78.2. - Our Co. arrived at this camp yesterday & we are resting today as we always do Sunday. The 11th we made Camp Loring, at a crossing of the Chayenne River. The 17th we made Camp Hope & yesterday made this camp where Capt Ficks & his party burnt & camped one year ago today. Our route has been westward towards the Missouri River since we left the Chayenne River instead of westward towards Devils Lake we are now south west of them. There is an encampment of God lodges of the Pagans about 10 miles. Other westward of here & tomorrow morning bright & early 22nd picked men of our Co. start

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plus them & of course the 1st they goes
the ballance of the command they at
this camp. I wait our return
which will be from 20 to 30 days.

I think we have a sure thing of
the Papans before we get back without
a show of any heavy fighting. A
messenger half breed came to Camp today
bringing news of the fall of Richelieu &
the victory of Gen Meade on the Potomac
& a St Paul paper of the 6th inst.

I have not seen it yet. The messenger
was sent through from Fort Abercrombie
He expect a mail from the fort tomorrow
that we will be brought through by half
breeds - Capt Dicks party of this year
is behind us on our trail one day
back & will without doubt overtake us
tomorrow & then may be a chance to send
this doc - Myself & everybody else are well
Much love & kiss for Nelly - Henry

9. 14. 62 A. C. 128 128

Camp Atkinson
On Lake Emily D.T.

Mrs. Henry L. Carver

Munda

care

R. W. Carver

Livingston Conn.
New York

DEFECTIVE PAGE

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Camp Atkinson
On Lake Emily D.T.

Mrs. Henry L. Carver
Munda
Care
R. W. Carver Esq. Livingston Conn.
New York

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE
DEFECTIVE PAGE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

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[Printed in North Dakota Historical Quarterly, Jan.
1928, pp. 124-126.]

Camp Smith (Supposed to be about
60 miles south of Devils Lake) D. T.
July 15th 1863

Dear Mettie

We left "Camp Hays" on the Chayenne River last Saturday & have been daily sundays excepted wending our way hitherward & northward at the rate of about 15 miles per day. Starting in the morning about 4 o'clock a. m. with a get up to breakfast at 2 1/2 -- rather early for me, and make our camp from 10 to 12 m. that is do our tramping in the cool of the morning. Our Wagon train when doubled four abreast extends two miles & sometime more. The order of March is 1st Scouts half breed & Indians 60 in number 2nd 3 Companies of Cavalry.-- 3^d Head Quartes Gen Sibley &c with their train baggage &c 4th a Section of Artillery 5th Quartermasters train, (left[?] of about 60 or 70 Wagons, (6 Mule teams all our wagons are of that Kind) 6th An advance guard of 3 Companies of Infantry, 7th 100 Commisary wagons 8th a Regiment of Infantry with their train consisting of about 15 Wagons 9th 700 Commisary wagons 10th Regiment of Infantry with train, & then more wagons Cattle &c then another Regiment of Infantry with train & lastly a rear guard composed of three companys of Cavalry, & then on the sides at a distance of about 1/4 mile on each side we are flanked by two Companies more of Cavalry. In this manner we plod along on the hitherto untrod-by-white-man prarie, day after day without much excitement save a chase after a Prarie Wolf, Fox, Badger and occasionally Elk or Buffalo, though the latter have been quite scarce, probably owing to the scantiness of grass, for the Praries are very dry this summer. Wild geese & ducks are very abundant & occasionally the boys knock one over with a club, for you must know that we have Strict orders against shooting any

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Camp Atkinson July 19th 1863 -- Our Ex. arrived at this camp yesterday & we are resting today as we always do Sunday. the 16th we made Camp [?] at a recrossing of the Chayenne River, the 17th we made Camp Pope jr. & yesterday made this Camp where Capt Fisk & his party Burnett & &c camped one year ago to day. Our route has been westward towards the Missouri River since we left the Chayene River instead of northward towards Devils lake We are now South west of there. There is an encampment of 600 lodges of the Pagans about 60 miles to the westward of here & tomorrow morn bright & early 2200 picked men of our Ex start after them & of course the 6th Reg goes

the balla[n]ce of the command stay at this camp to wait our return which will be from 20 to 30 days.

I think we have a sure thing of the Pagans before we get back without a show of any heavy fighting. A messenger half breed came to camp today bringing news of the fall of Vicksburg & the victory of Gen Mead on the Potomac & a St Paul paper of the 6th inst. I have not seen it yet. The messenger was sent through from Fort Abercrombie We expect a mail from the fort tomorrow this too will be brought through by half breeds -- Capt Fisks party of this year is behind us on our trail one day back & will without doubt overtake us tomorrow & there may be a chance to send this doc -- Myself & everybody else are well Much love & Kiss for Nelly --

Henry

[Address on envelope]

Camp Atkinson

On Lake Emily D. T.

Mrs. Henry L. Carver

Nunda

Livingston County

New York

Care

R. W. Carver Esq