

Fort Ridgely

June 3rd 1864

Dear Father and mother
it is with pleasure that
I take my pen in hand
to write you a few lines
to let you know that I
am well and I hope that
this letter will find you all
enjoying the same all the
rest of the boys are well
it took us five days to come
to this place we traveled
very slow our horses were
not used to traveling I don't
know what we shall do from
here there is all kind of report
about the expedition some say

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

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Fort Ridgely,

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that there will be ~~not~~
no expedition across the
plains to masonry if it were
I think we shall either go to
Sisseton Lake to build the forts
there or scout on the frontiers
but I don't think we shall
start from this place yet if the
W. C. wagons are going back to
Fort Snelling as I think they will
~~but~~ we shall go down with
them.

I suppose you have heard of the
little fight that took place
about 12 miles from here one
soldier was killed and two
sergeants wounded and one
Indian was killed to he is
a mighty big man he
is buried here at the fort.

This is about all the news
I have to tell at present
~~and~~ write soon I think
the answer will have time
to come ~~to~~ before we
start and tell me all the
news you hear of specially
about Josephine and if you
have heard from Sever and
Luke tell me how they are
getting along and whether
Sever and Peter are coming
up home I draw my letter
to a close by kissing you all
with all my heart
I am for ever your
Devilish Son

Chas. F. Dugas
ackd. your letter Chas. F. Dugas
Fort Ridgely Minnesota in charge
Borroughs Capt. of the outfit to
follow the expedition

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that there will be ~~no~~
no expedition across the
plains to masonry if it does
I think we shall either go to
devil's Lake to build the fort
there or scout on the frontier
but I don't think we shall
start from this place yet if the
W. V. wagons are going back to
Fort Snelling and I think they will
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them.

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little fight that took place
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Luke tell me how they are
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Steve and Peter are coming
up home I draw my letter
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I am for ever your
Obedient son

Chas. H. D. Dyer
ackd your letter Chas. H. Dyer
Fort Ridgely Minnesota in charge
Borown Captains of the Scouts to
follow the expedition

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July 1st 1864

Dear Father and mother
it is with pleasure that I sit
myself down in my little tent
with my pen in hand to write you
a few lines to let you know that
I am well at present and I hope
that this letter will find you
all in the enjoyment of the same.
I have been sick for two weeks
but I am all right now there has
been great deal of sickness in
the expedition it was caused
by bad water.

Dear parents we have joyed general
Sully's expedition here yesterday
six miles from the Missouri
river and about sixty miles
above Fort Pierre.

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two days before we joined. Sulley
one of his captains got ~~the~~ shot
by indians he was about two miles
a head of the train he was riding
along with two other men they got
to a creek and the captain dis-
mounted to rest himself on a
log they thought they were safe
and suddenly three guns were
discharged in ~~the~~ him from a
little distance were they was three
indians laying down in the grass
they all three aimed at him he was
instantly killed and the other two
were not hurt the scouts chased
them about thirty miles and killed
them and they cut their heads off
our expedition aint been troubled
yet we did not discover any indians
yet but the indians have followed
us as they told to the scouts that
were sent a head from Sulley

expedition to try to discover us
they told to the scouts that some
of our boys went cutting hay where
they were laying down these indians
pretended to be friendly they said
they were going to give them off
up to Sulley but nothing has been
seen of them since it is reported
that those three that were killed
belonged to the same band
from here we are going to Long Lake
one hundred miles from here
where it is said the indians are
awaiting to fight from there
I dont know where we shall go
but I think we shall stay quiet
a spell because surely up here
that came up in the steam boats
there is nine of them six miles
from here we shall cross the river
there

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3 1 3

[4]

We have been tracking through
a poor country for game. we have
seen only a few buffaloes and
antelope.

It is all the news I know of at present
I than my letter to you by bidding
you all a good fare well I am for
ever your obedient son

Charles Dugas

if you write address your letter
to H. Dugas Scout in care of
major Brown Captain of the
Scouts to follow general
Sully's expedition

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3 1 4

Fort Rice. Sept 11th 1864

Dear father and mother

It is with pleasure that I have just
received your kind letter dated the
15th of the last by which I had the
pleasure to learn that you were all
well I am all so enjoying good
health and I hope that this letter
will find you all as this leaves me
in at present we have got back
yesterday from our indian hunt
we have been out fifty two days and
enjoyed the trip very well we started
from this place the 17th of July and
travelled west from this place about
one hundred miles and got on the sea
river where we left the wagons in care
and left them with six days rations
three day rations all ready cooked
and the rest in light wagons

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will find you all as this success in
our present we have got back
yesterday from our Indian hunt
we have been out fifty two days and
enjoyed the trip very well we started
from this place the 17th of July and
traveled west from this place about
one hundred miles and got on the big
river where we left the wagons and
and left them on the next day's ration
three day ration all ready cooked
and the rest in light wagons

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3 1 6

[22]
that same day, surprised a party
of indian scouts twenty five or
thirty in number about ten miles
from camp the captain that had
command of the scouts was drunk
and kept fooling her and then till
all the indians got away not one of
them hurt and the second day after
that we discovered their camp
at about 11 o'clock in the forenoon
and commenced fighting at about
1 in the afternoon and fought till
dark they left and went in the bluffs
that were in rear of their camp they
left most of their property in the
camp the next day we followed them
about 3 miles and had to turn back
the country was too rough to follow them
any further we went back to their
camp and soldiers were detailed
to burn their property which was com-
posed of logs buffalo skins bittles pans
and all kind of their household furniture

[23]
the indians would not come near they
kept themselves at full range of our
rifles all the soldiers were dismounted
except major Bruch's Battalion they
made a charge on the indians towards
where the families were and had good
brush several indians were killed with
the saber the number of indians that
were killed I can't tell they were all
taken away as quick as they fell
but they must be a great number
in kill and wounded our battery
shelled in to their camp all the time
during the fight we came back to
heart river and rested two days and
then we traveled six days and came
on the little missouri river and
found them again and fought two
days killing a great many but couldn't
get more than one scalp we couldn't
follow them our horses couldn't go they
had not any thing to eat for several
days they saw no grass at all

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3 1 7

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3 1 8

[4]

from there we came to the yellow
stone river about 20 miles from the
mouth of it and then we struck
for fort Union and rested. There
a couple days after re crossing to the
mouth of the Missouri river and then came
down along the river and found were
a part of the Indians had crossed the
river thirty or forty miles above fort
Berthold and put for the British
we have traveled in ^{the} river about eight
hundred miles and ~~and~~ saw plenty
of Buffalo. I tried to chase them
but my horse was too poor and weak
to follow them so I could not kill any
my horses are all very poor in general
but we shall stay here a couple of weeks
to recruit them up and then start
for home. Capt. Smith's train has been
attacked by the Indians and ^{the} ~~one~~ of his men killed.
There is soldiers detailed out of every company
of our Brigade to chase them away. We will ~~wait~~
here till they are all got back before we start
for home it will be six weeks or

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3 1 9

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to follow them so I could not kill any
one but saw all my fear in general.

but we shall stay here a couple of weeks
to recruit them up and then start
for home. Capt. Smith's train has been
attacked by ^{the Indians} and some of his men ²⁰ killed.
there are soldiers detailed out of every company
of our Brigade to chase them away we will attend
to them till they are all got back before we start
for home it will be six weeks.

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