

Diary of Henry J. Hagadorn

Sioux Expedition

January 11 - August 31, 1863

*[Published in North Dakota Historical Society  
5: 102-129]*

Copied in the Minnesota Historical Society from the original borrowed by courtesy of John P. Pritchett from one of his students at Macalester College, St. Paul. Copyist, Miss Myrtle Bloemers; collated with curator of manuscripts, July, 1925.

*Miss Myrtle Bloemers, Curator of Manuscripts,  
Granddaughter of Henry J. Hagadorn.*

Diary of Henry J. Hagadorn

Sioux Expedition

January 11 - August 31, 1863

*[Published in North Dakota Historical Quarterly,  
5: 102-129]*

Copied in the Minnesota Historical Society from the original borrowed by courtesy of John P. Pritchett from one of his students at Macalester College, St. Paul. Copyist, Miss Myrtle Bloemers; collated with curator of manuscripts, July, 1925.

*Miss Dorothy Fisher of Grand Island, Minn.,  
granddaughter of Henry J. Hagadorn,*

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

002

Henry J. Hagadorn  
St Paul Minnesota  
Company H. 7<sup>th</sup> Reg: Minn  
Presented by J. Davenport  
St Paul January 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

T. J. Little & Co  
Red Wing  
Minnesota

Camp Pope May 3 1863

H. J. Hagadorn

St Paul

Minn

Address Mrs E. Hagadorn

St Paul

Minn

Camp Atchison July 25

Camp Atchison July 25

Camp Atchison

Camp Atchison

Camp Atchison



Henry.J.Hagadorn  
St Paul Minnesota  
Company H. 7<sup>th</sup> Reg: Minn  
Presented by J. Davenport  
St Paul January 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

T. J. Little & Co  
Red Wing  
Minnesota

Camp Pope May 3 1863

H. J. Hagadorn

St Paul

Minn

Address Mrs E. Hagadorn

St Paul

Minn

Camp Atchison July 25

Camp Atchison July 25

Camp Atchison

Camp Atchison

Camp Atchison

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

004



In Quarters Mankato

Jan 11 1863 Left St Paul the 9 and arived at Mankato  
the 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 O Clock P M

Jan 12 well

Jan 13 taken sick at 8 P M was very sick during the  
night

Jan 14 I was very sick all day the Doctor came and  
gave me medicin

Jan 15 was some better

Jan 16 was worse than yesterday the doctor came

Jan 17 I suffered terribly all day with fever never  
was so sick in all my life before reod letter from wife

Jan 18 felt very bad from the effects of fever yes-  
terday

Jan 19 feel much better today no fever yet but am  
weak and a bad pain in my wright side

Jan 20 was better

Jan 21 felt quite well

Jan 22 am much better

Jan 23 still on the gain

Jan 24 not so well today

Jan 25 was taken sick in the evening and was very sick  
all night

Jan 26 suffered teribly all day and nigh[t]

Jan 27 no better to day and the doctor has promised  
to come and see me he being sent for every day since sunday  
but has not been here yet

Jan 28 the doctor was sent for this morning and  
again this evening but has not come

Jan 29 the Ordely went to get the Doct[or] the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
time but he has not come: and I have been growing worse every  
day since sunday with a high fever and very sore throat and I  
am quite alarmed at my situation which is very bad at this  
time got a sick leave to go home

Jan 30 started home this morning and arived home at  
8 1/2 O Clock

St Paul April 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

April 5 Recieved an order from the Colonel Com to  
report at Mankato for examination for discharge from service

April 6 started to mankato on Jannett Roberts and  
arived at Mankato the 8 at Noon

April 10<sup>th</sup> examined by the Surgan and could not get A  
discharge he thinks the expedition will do me good

Mankato April 26 1863

Monday

April 26 reod orders to march to Camp Pope 10 miles  
below Yellow Medicin with Coms H. I. & R to start the 28 at  
6 O Clock A. M. to march 15 miles per day and dig trenches  
every night

Tuesday

April 27 prepared to move on the following day and

nothing unusual transpired during the day of note

April [2] 8 we left Mankato at 7 O C. A. M. and Camped 14 miles from that place at 6 O C P.M

Wensday

April 29 struck tents and left Camp at 1/2<sup>past</sup> 5 O C this morning and marched two miles beyond New Ulm and Camped at 4 P. M. making 18 miles. The teams got fast several times and the Soldiers pulled them out by hitching a long rope on the tongue of the wagon ~~and~~ to give them all a chance to pull :: the weather is beautiful and the roads good except the Sloughs: Major Bradley rec<sup>d</sup> A dispatch at 6 this evening from Cap Cox stating that there had 6 Indians been seen 5 miles from New Ulm and that he had sent 20 of his Cavelry to Capture them

Thursday

April 30 we struck tents this morning at 1/2 past 5 O C and marched immediately and when we had proceded 5 or 6 miles we were overtaken by A messenger with A dispatch from Cap<sup>t</sup> Cox stating that his Cavelry had been attacted early this morning about 5 miles from New Ulm & requested the Major to send back one Company of his men to gard the town but the Major refused to comply<sup>1</sup> and we resumed our march and Camped at Lone Tree Lake 5 miles Above Ft Ridgely where we arived at 3 O.C. P.M. making about 16 miles and camped on the same ground where we had Camped on the 12 of Sept last

<sup>1</sup> A marginal note occurs at this point: " We were mustered for Pay Today" .

Friday

May 1<sup>st</sup> Struck tents and marched this morning at 1/4 past 5 O.C. and reached Lower Agency at 10 O.C. A. M. where we found 20 Men of Capt [blank in MS.] Co. of Cavelry and they reported Indians to be near and that he had sent out some scouts in persuit of them but they returned this evening without seeing them: we Camped here for the day and night it being very warm and the men were tired and foot sore: we had A fine shower at in the P.M.: the Old Camp here has the same appearance as when we left it on the [blank in MS.] of Oct Nov last with every discription of things lying about the Camp just as we left them and which gives it a peculiar appearance at this time our camp is opposite the Birch Coolie Battle field the Country through which we have marched is the finest in the State for farming and Grazing and the only objection any man can make to it is the scarcity of ~~the~~ Timber back from the River: but the land is beautiful rolling Pararie with Meadow and water in abundance and the soil is excellent

Saturday

May 2 Took up our line of march at 1/2 past 5 O C. and arived at Camp Pope at 1/2 past 9 A. M. where we were met by Cos. A.                      and K and were escorted into camp and here we found something better than mouldy hard Bread that we had all the way from Mankato

Camp Pope

Sunday

May 3 it commenced to rain this morning and has continued all day and is <sup>A</sup>cold disagreeable day I am on guard



today for the first time since the 15 of Nov last nothing has transpired of note to day & but it continued to rain all through the night..

Monday

May 4 this morning at 7 O C Capt Carter of this Reg went out with 12 of his [men] on a scouting expedition and one of his<sup>men</sup> returned at 9 O. C. stating that they had seen 60 or 80 horsemen on the Pararie 3 or 4 miles distant and wanted reinforcements sent to him which were immediately sent on double quick but before they had gone far they were met by Capt Carter who informed him that the horsemen he had seen were our Cavalry on the return from Lake Shetak where they had been in search for some Indians supposed to be in that vicinity but they had not succeeded in finding any traces of them and they were now on their way to Ft Ridgely Four half Breed scouts came into camp to day and they say that the Indians will attack this Camp soon

Tuesday

May 5 I went to bed sick last night and was in some misery all Night, caused by A severe cold which I had taken the Night previous while on guard and I was obliged to report sick this morning and accordingly I went to the sergon but he said he had no medicin to give me and I have been quite sick all day with pain in the Lungs: I recieved a letter from my wife this evening in which I was very glad to hear that they were all well which is of much comfort to me at this time in these lonely hours which I pass alone in my tent with no one to comfort me in my sickness: Oh home sweet home how I long for home 2 Com[manders] of the 6 R[egiment] came here to day

Wensday

May 6 I arose this morning and am feeling some better but this has been the case in all my sickness I feel better in the fore noon and then I have a severe pain in my lungs and it increases untill I can go to sleep which is often as late as 11 or 12 O C and even at A later hour some nights and as I am taking no medicin I am som alarmed for fear that I may be attacted with Lung fever as my Lungs are very weak and I am necesarily much exposed to cold and dampness

Thursday

May 7<sup>th</sup> This is a beautiful morning but rather cool there was quite a frost and A heavy Fogg but it soon cleared up fine and warm there is a dullness in camp this morning but at 4 O C this P.M. A fire was d[i]scovered on the opposite side of the River and not knowing but the fire might have been set by the Indians for the purpose of burning some hay which was there in stacks it was not long before 2 Co<sup>s</sup>. were on the spot and saved the hay and it was afterwards known that 2 me[n] from Co K set the fire which did no particular damage.

Friday

May 8 A cold north wind & rain all this forenoon made it quite disagreeable but in the P.M. it was warm and pleasant we commenced to the entrenchments at this Camp so that it can be held by 2 Co<sup>s</sup>. against the Indians should they see fit to attack this post after the expedition leaves here: The Stella Whipple landed here at 1/2 past four O C. this P.M. with supplies for the Army I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from my Wife this Ev.[ening]



Saturday

May 9 The Stella Whipple left here for St Paul this morning at 5 O Clock the work on the breast works goes ahead finely and they are a great addition to our former trenches which were but a small hole ~~dig~~ dug in the ground and would accomodate but 2 or 3 soldiers at a time The steamer Ariel arived here at 4 O.C. this P.M. with Army stores for the Indian expedition On dress Parade to night we recieved the news of our great Victory at Fredricksburgh and the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7 Regiments gave Cheer after cheer for the brave Soldiers and their Glorious victory also cheers for the victorys won by Gen Banks on the Mississippi the soldiers are all happy with the thought that the war must soon end and we will be discharged from the service The 12 pds[pound] Cannon was fired 3 times in honor of the victory at the South

Sunday

May 10 There was a st[r]ong North wind through the Night with some rain and this was a cold morning but it cleared up at 10 O C. and was fine & warm The Aeriel left here for below at 7 this morning:: ~~for St Paul~~ This is A beautiful evening such as I never <sup>have</sup> seen in in [sic] no part of America except in Minnesota The sun set in all its glory and the gentle breeze faned this beautiful valley into the stillness of evening & all was still as death but the occasional Challenge of the sentinell as he Slowly walked his beat with an ever watchful Eye for our savage Enemy should he ~~for~~ attempt an attact upon us: Tthe <sup>[sic]</sup> Spring is now upon us in all its beauty of <sup>and</sup> Pararie flowers of every hue and the air is filled with their rich perfume which is so delitiful

as to make one almost wish it could always be spring There is no season of the year to me so beautiful as the spring when the Trees put forth their leaves and blosomes and the Pararie looks green with its rich grass and flowers when birds fly from trees to Tree and sing their songs of praise to the great Creator of all things. Then there is real enjoyment for all lovers of nature:: We rec<sup>d</sup> news this P.M. that instead of victory we have been defeated at Fredricksburg which was rec<sup>d</sup> with great sadness

Monday

May 11<sup>th</sup> This is annother beautiful day although it is some windy and the dust is disagreeable to the Eyes This evening at Dress Parad the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Reg[iment] were brought in close Column to hear the account of the Battle at Fredricksburgh but how changed were the feeling from that of 48 hours previous which was then joy was now sadness & which was depicted on every countenance of both regiments and they marched to their quarters in perfect silence with anguish in their hearts which is easily interpreted For as we look at the Glorious Stars and stripes as they wave proudly over the Head Quarters here the heart is feint to hear once more of our defeat in its defence Alas: Alas:: my Country where is thy boasted Liberty:: yet we are told that our Army and our Generals are not discouraged but still hope to triumph:: but why this defeat to the Army of the Raparhanoc is our General incompet[ent] if so why was it not discovered untill it is too late to avert this most inglorious retreat it is the heads of the Government that will have to answer this at some future day and may god have mercy on them if they fail to answer it:



Tuesday

May 12 This was another beautiful morning but in the P. M. there was a light shower and in the evening there was a severe rain which lasted 3 or 4 hours:: 20 men of Capt [blank in MS.] Cavalry came here this P. M. at the request of Lieut Col. Averill to act as scouts for the safety of this post as the 1/2 breeds scouts report a large No of Indians at Laquiparl from 3000 to 5000 and they also repo[r]t that they are getting in our rear in small parties for the purpose of murdering the settlers and stealing their property this is considered so reliable that Col Averill sent a dispatch to Gen Sibley this morning to inform him of this fact and Col Averill has sent out scouts to ascertain if the Indians are really on our rear and should it prove true we may expect to hear of murders more terrible than any before committed in the west for it will be impossible for us to be of any service to the settlers below here and they are entirely unprotected save in the small Towns and there by but A small force which can be easily captured or driven off on the approach of the Savages

Wednesday

May 13 This morning is cool and windy and at noon it blew a perfect gale and the dust and sand makes it too disagreeable to leave our tents even for a moment and then the Eys were none the better for being out there is but little stir in the Camp except by the ever watchful Guard that know their duty and are ever watchful This evening A Capt of a company in the 6 Reg came into camp with glorious news of the Capture of Rich-

mond and the news were read from the St Paul Press of Sunday and an Extra of Monday and at the close of the reading the air resounded with shouts of joy from the hearts of more than one 1000 Soldiers and the 12 Lbs Canon burst forth its fire and smoke which reverberated from hill to hill and its long echo rang far down the valley not of deadly strife in battle but in joy for the great Union victory and the Capture of the rebel Capitol this is joy enough for one day

Thursday

May 14 The sun arose this morning in all its majesty and you could see nothing but sadness in of the soldiers for the past two days was now Changed to that of joy and gladness and the Soldiers gather in squads of and talk over the news of last Night and all is jubilant <sup>over</sup> at our victory and they now look for a speedy closing of this great Rebellion: which I pray that they may not be disappointed

Friday

May 15 There was A severe rain during the Night but this morning was fine untill about 9 O.C. when the wind blew A perfect gale from the north and continued all day:: There was A mail this evening and I received A letter from my wife in which I learned that she and our little Children were all well and comfortable which is the most pleasant news that I could wish to hear and it gives me great Courage to endure the soldiers in patience and look forward ~~to the~~ with greater pleasure for the happy day that day when peace shall again bless this once peaceful and happy land and we shall be permitted to join those we love::



Saturday

May 16 it was cold for this season this morning but as the day advanced it was comfortably warm & but the wind blew a tremendous gale:: The half Breed scouts accompanied by Twelve Cavalry left here for Laquiparl this morning and are to return in three days and it is thought that they will accomplish their object namely to have an interview with the Indians there to ascertain their true feeling towards the Whites and their return is looked for with much interest in this Camp

Sunday

May 17 This is a beautiful morning and the general inspections takes place on this as on every Sunday morning at 8 O C. according to the Army Regulations and on these inspections the Soldiers are required to take All their accoutrements and Knapsacks<sup>(h)</sup> Haversack and Canteen all of which is to be inspected & by the Officers in Command of Regiments The wind blew in the P. M. as usual

Monday

May 18 There was a dense fog this morning and <sup>it</sup> remained untill 7 O C at which time the wind again began to blow as usual on the Prairies and it was very disagreeable to be out

Tuesday

May 19 The scouts with the 12 Cavalry which left here last Saturday returned here this morning they saw no Indians but they found where they had recently Camped to the No of 4 or 500 but 40 miles from here and it is supposed they have gone westward

Wednesday

May 20 if possible this has been a worse day than any previous the wind blew Almost A Hurricane the whole day:: A messenger arrived here at 1 O C this P M. with the intelligence that the Steamer [blank in MS.] had broken her [blank in MS.] and could not come farther than Red Wood Agency where she was Obligated to unload her Freight and Col Averill sent Co I of the 7<sup>th</sup> Reg to guard the property untill it could be moved to this Camp:: the same messenger brought the news that A white man had been killed yesterday within 2 miles of New Ulm the Body having 4 balls in it and Col Averill sent the Cavalry from here to New Ulm I was on Guard to day for the first time for more than 6 months

Thursday

May 21<sup>st</sup> Two Cops of the 6 Regi[ment] left here this morning on A Reconnaissance with 3 days cooked Rations:: The wind blew untill noon when it commenced to rain and it rained hard for 12 hours I received A letter from my Wife brought by Alex Griggs to Agency dated May 13 1863

Friday

May 22<sup>nd</sup> This morning was cool and pleasant but at 2 this P. M. it again began to rain and it continued untill late in the evening The wind blew some to day but There is no sand to blow in our eyes this rain is a god send to us and it makes <sup>the</sup> grass look fresh and green The mail did not arrive on account of the rain

Saturday

May 23 Still raining this morning The Cavalry that was



sent in pursuit of the Indians below here returned early this morning and report having chased 11 of them 5 or 6 miles into their camp where there were 100 of them and they were obliged to to [sic] return to this Camp. The 2 companies which left here on Thursday returned this P. M. they went up the Red Wood River 25 miles and saw but 2 Indian[s] and captured one horse. The Indians were forced to leave behind the horse is the Property of Mr [blank in MS.] whose driver was killed near New Ulm a few days since and the team unharnessed from the Plough and run off.

I received a letter from my Wife also from James Hagadorn one enclosed. and the St Paul Pioneer of the 17<sup>1</sup> Sunday

May 24 Cool and pleasant this morning I am detailed for Gard to day. The usual inspection comes off this morning at 8 O.C.

Monday

May 25 This morning is pleasant but cool. Yesterday I wrote A letter to James Hagadorn and one to my Wife:: I have not drilled but 2 hours this season. The Quarter Masters and Commissary are being brought up from the Agency but it will take some time before they are all here with the present means of Transportation which is but 7 Mule Teams and they cannot make but one trip per day.

Tuesday May 26 A fine cool morning. The Cavalry company which has been here for several days<sup>[s]</sup> left for Ft Ridgely this morning. At noon to day A train of 25 Wagons arrived here from

<sup>1</sup> A marginal note occurs at this point: "This Cavalry Account has since proved to be A great scare as there were but 11 Indians if any at all:: Camp Atchison Aug 11 1863".

Ft Snelling all loaded with Ammunition this is the first Arrival

Wednesday May 27 This morning 28 teams went to Agency for the commissary goods left there by the Boats. There is an immense amount of Army stores at this place and is still arriving daily and one building after building is being erected to receive it.

Thursday May 28 Our Company was sent to gather at corn this morning and returned at noon with 2 loads:: very warm and dry.

Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> 1863 This is a most beautiful morning the sun arose bright and clear and through the middle of the day it was very warm. Two Capt's of the 9 Reg left here this morning for St Peters and they expect to go south immediately.

Saturday May 30 1863 A fine cool morning. Four Cavalry men came in from Ft Ridgely and report the Capture of Vixburgh & but brought no papers and we are all anxious for the mail to arrive which was due yesterday but for some reason it has not come up to noon to day. The mail arrived here at 2 O.C. this P. M. I received A letter from my Wife in which she says that my Boat was sold for 8 dollars: The camp is beautifully decorated with green trees to day which makes it look cool and pleasant:: For disobedience of Orders one poor Soldier is receiving punishment by carrying Forty Five lbs of Brick in his Knapsack on his back in front of Head quarters for Three hours in succession where ~~they~~ he is<sup>are</sup> seen by every body. Capt Grant of 6<sup>th</sup> Reg and W<sup>m</sup> Shelley the Suttler[sutler] of the 7<sup>th</sup> Reg came to this Camp at 4 O.C. this P. M. The Pay master arrived here at 6 O.C. with an



escort of 30 Cavalry from St. Peter

Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> There is a strong north wind and it is quite chilly: The Monthly inspection takes place to day at 11 O. C. very high wind through the day:: Pay Master Smith arrived here this evening:: also 30 Cavalry arrived from Ft Ridgely

Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 1863 Cold and chilly the wind north We were paid 4 months pay this P. M and the boys feel better for they have been broke for A long time and the green backs looks good to them:: A Train of 50 Wagons arrived to day

Camp Pope Tuesday June 2 There was A slight rain this morning but it cleared up at 9 O C and was fine and pleasant There was A Train of 70 Wagons arrived at 10 O C and 6 Comps of the 7<sup>th</sup> Reg arrived at 11 O C this A M. The Camp now begins to show the magnitude of this Indian expedition and yet there are more to come before it is ready to start for Devils lake which is its destination The mail arrived to night

Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863 Fine pleasant morning Three deserters & brought in last night made their escape and have not yet been rearested there are scouts sent in persuit of them

Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> 1863 Cool and pleasant this morning There was some trouble last night between the Cavalry and the Teamsters which caused the Col Com to call out the troops to still them and there has been no more disturbance since but<sup>as</sup> they are sothern men they are closely watched as they have already made their threats that they would kill every Union man and as they No about 400 we may have some trouble with them:: There

was an Ambulance train came in to day under the Command of Col Crooks of the 6 Reg This Camp now has 9 Cos of the 7<sup>th</sup> 8. Cos of 6 and 5 Cos of 10<sup>th</sup> 1 Cop of 9 2 Cavalry Cos 1 Company of Artillery which all sumed up will count in round Nos 2400 men besides 400 Teamsters black and White

Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 1863 A most delightful morning such as can be seen in no State but Minnesota there was nothing of importance transpired to day

Saturday June 6 1863 Very cool this morning Co H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Reg arrived here at 9 O C this A. M. and Co I of the 6 Reg arrived at 11 O C A.M. The mail arrived at 4 O C this P M

Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> 1863 This is uncomfortable cold morning but as the day advanced it grew some warmer The usual inspection to day 1/2 past 7 O C and Divine Services at 10 A M and 7 P M immediately after parade

Monday June 8 1863 This morning is pleasant and warm [MS. illegible] leaves for St Paul early this morning Quarter Master Cutter arrived in Camp this P. M.

Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> 1863 Fine and pleasant morning We draw Clothing this morning for the expedition for 3 months:: There was a grand display to day at 3 O C on the arrival of Gen Sibley and salutes were fired in ~~honor his~~ Honor to him 2 more Cos of the 10 Reg arrived to day

Wednesday June 10 1863 There was a dense fogg this morning the weather is cool and cloudy:: A train 25 wagons and one of 9 Ambulances with Co I of the 6 Reg Arrived at 9 O C P. M.

Thursday June 11 This is the warmest day this season



Friday June 12 Very warm and sultry 6 Companies of Cavalry came here to day 70 loads of provision went to the Ft to day

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> A little cooler this morning

Sunday June 14 Very Warm and dusty to day

Monday June 15 Very pleasant morning Orders was reced on dress parade to march tomorrow morning at 5 O C.

No 1

Camp Crooks Tuesday June 16 in obedience to orders of last evening we left Camp Pope at 5 6 O C and Camp at the distance of 8 miles from Camp Pope at 2 O C P.M.

No 2

Camp Miller Wensday June 17<sup>th</sup> left Camp Crooks this morning at 7 O C. and camped at Wood Lake where we fought the Indians on the 23 of last Sept we marched to day 14 miles this Camp is 3 miles below Yellow Medecin

No 3

Camp Baker Thursday June 18 we struck tents at 1/2 past 5 and as we were in the rear today we did not march for 4 hours after we arived at this Camp at 4 O C1 and marched but 8 miles but we had the Yellow Medecin River to Cross which took so much time:: this Camp is about 80 rods from the Reverend Mr Riggs former residence which is now destroyed by the Indians burning it last fall it is a beautiful place or was before it was burned. The mail came to us at this Camp June 18 1863

# Receipt for Making Ink

Into a quart of hot water put a table spoonfull of the extract of Logwood then add half a Teaspoon full of Bichromate of Potash:: To make this ink indelible add Nitrate of Silver Father<sup>1</sup>

Camp Baker Friday June 19 We stoped here through the day to repare some wagons that have been broken on the road:: This has been a most disagreeable cold day

No 4

Camp Mc Phail Saturday June 20 it was raining this morning when we struck tents at 5 O C but did not rain long but was a very disagreeable cold day with showers distance 20 miles

No 4

Camp Mc Phail Sunday June 21 it was cool this A. M some warmer after noon Co inspection at 4 O C I wrote to my wife today perhaps for the last time untill we get to Fort Abercrombie which will perhaps be 2 weeks then we will have the mail again: Orders were read on dress Parade this evening that no one would not be alowed to leave the ranks for water while on the march

No 5

Camp Ramsey Monday June 22 We left camp Mc Phail at 1/4 before 6 this morning and<sup>it</sup> was 8 when we got to Rain River a distance of 7 miles and was 2 hours crossing the river which

<sup>1</sup> This reccipe appears to be the same handwriting as the entire journal. It is written in ink, whereas the other writing is done in pencil, and occupies an entire page in the book.



is a small creek but had to cross and Camped at a small Lake 9 miles farther on where the water was very bad and we had no wood to cook with but 2 or 3 old barrels we now began to see what hard ships we have to endure before we get to Devils Lake and back to civilization again but the worst of all so far was the enforcing of the Order read last evening and we were marched 16 miles through a hot sun and dust without one drop of water to cool our parched throats when it was so handy to get that we were marched through the River but not allowed to fill our Canteens and and one poor fellow a searget fell upon the ground exhausted and it was by the best of care that his life was saved: The boys declare that they will get water at every Opportunity hereafter let come what will it will be hard enough for us if allowed all the comforts possible through this barren Country

No 6

Camp Averill Tuesday June 23 we left camp Ramsey this morning at 6 O C and marched 12 miles and camped at a very pretty lake and considerable of wood it was very warm and it was 6 O C when we got to our Camping ground

No 7

Camp Marshall Wensday June 24 we left Camp Averill at 6 this morning and marched to Yellow Earth River a distance of 14 miles and camped at 3 P. M. the day was cool and pleasant We crossed the south branch of the Izuza or Yellow Earth River 3 miles this side of our Camp and crossed the Main River at half past 2 this P. M and camped on the West bank we are now in Dacota Territory: this is A fine Country but wood is very scarce

so much so that it is with great difficulty that we can <sup>1</sup> get enough for cooking purposes:: this river [MS. torn] but affords good Water,

No 8

Camp Jennison Thursday June 25, This camp is a [MS. torn] Lake and is abo[MS. torn] middle of the Lake [MS. torn] is 28 or 30 miles along, and 2 wide and [MS. torn] Beautiful sheet of [MS. torn] The Skeletons of [MS. torn] was found here an [MS. torn] of the Lake that had [MS. torn] killed last fall. the [MS. torn] killed a Buffalo to day, and saw several more, we marched 12 miles and, camped at 1 O C. P.M.

No. 9

Camp Mc Claren Friday June 26 We left Camp Jennison at 6 this morning and arrived at this place at 1 O C. P. M distance 12: This Camp is [MS. torn] Lak Traverse the head of Red River and is 1 Mi from Big Stone Lake: the Minn River here is but a small brook:: we saw quite a No of Buffalo to day: there are shure signs of Indians in this vicinity but none have yet been seen

Saturday June 27 we are still at this camp This has been a very hot day

Sunday June 28 This was a cool pleasant day I wrote a letter to my Wife

---

<sup>1</sup>A marginal note occurs at this point: "The Scouts saw 20 Indians to day all mounted but they had no orders to pursue them".



Monday June 29 Quite cool this morning but as the day advanced it was very warm we did not march as was expected:: A train of 30 wagons leaves here for Ft Abercromb[ie] tomorrow morning at 5 0 C Co<sup>S</sup> I of the 7 and H of the 9 reg[imen]t as one escort

No 10

Camp Bradley Tuesday June 30 We left Camp Mc Claren at 8 0 C and marched 11 miles and Camped on the shore of 2 beautiful Lakes where we found good water but wood very scarce:: We were mustered for pay this evening

No 11

Camp Cook Wensday July 1 We left Camp Bradley at 1/2 before 6 and marched 13 miles and Camped on a small Lake where there was not a stick of wood: Camped at noon

No.12

Camp Parker Thursday July 2 We left Camp Cook at 5 this morning and marched 12 miles ~~on the~~ and camped at 1/2 past 11 on the shore of skunk Lake the largest we have seen except Big Stone

No 13

Camp Buel Friday July 3 We left camp Parker at 1/4 before 5 and Camped on the bank of a frog pond the water of which made us all sick we marched 21 miles to day and camped at 2 0 C P.M.: if we had gone 2 miles farther we would [have] had a beautiful Lake of Water the 6 Reg[imen]t give out and could go no further & we were obliged to Camp

No 14

Camp Hayes Saturday July 4 we left Camp Buel at 5 0 C and marched 16 and camped on the north bank of Shayenn River where we found plenty of good water and wood and a beautiful Camping ground we are to remain here untill the train comes from Ft Abercrombie which is expected in 3 or 4 days

Sunday July 5 There was quite a shower last night but it is very hot today. The Scouts think that the Indians are moveing upon us from the fact that they saw today A fresh Buffalow Trail going southward and they say it is almost certain that the Indians are coming in large boddies towards us Gen sibley credits this report from the fact that that he ordered ditches dug for the Guard and entrenchments for each Company this is the first time we have resorted to the Shovel on this expedition

Monday July 6 Gen Sibley and staff with a large escort left the Camp early this morning and retern[ed] at noon and it appear[s] that he is satisfied that the Indians may attact us here from the fact that he order[ed] more entrenchments dug today:: there is many rumors about camp and it is reported that the Indians are 20 miles from us in the timber and will attact us in 5 days:<sup>1</sup> Three Indians were seen this morning 2 miles from Camp:: We had a fine shower this P. M and more rain fell in 1 hour than we have had since we left Mankato on the 28 of April except one day at Camp Pope

---

<sup>1</sup> A marginal note occurs at this point: " 3000 strong".

Tuesday July 7 This is a beautiful Cool morning

Wensday July 8 1863 This has been the warmest day of the season Gen Sibley sent his scouts up the River to day to ascertain if there is feed sufficient to keep the teams if we advance farther

Thursday July 9 Very hot to day The Mail arived to day I rec<sup>d</sup> 2 Letters The train of wagons 50 in No arived at noon with 3 Cos of infantry

Friday July 10 1863 This was quite A Cool day the wind North

No 15

Camp Wharton Saturday July 11 Last night was very cool We left Camp Hayes at 5 O C and marched 15 miles and camped again on the Shayenn River:: The River at this point is the most Beautiful scenery that I have seen while we have been on this march

Camp Wharton Sunday July 12 This is a fine warm day Traces of Indians have been found near this Camp where they have cooked and eaten A wild Goose or some other large Fowell and the scouts were sent to look after them but as ever before without success marched 13 miles

No 16

Camp Weiser Monday July 13 We left Camp Wharton at 5 O C and marched 12 miles and Camped at 10 O C on the shores of 3 beautiful Lakes where there is plenty of gees and duck:: There is plenty of feed all the way between here and Camp Wharton to keep our teams for 2 weeks The water here is good

No 17

Camp Sheardown Tuesday July 14 We Left Camp Wharton

at 4 O C and marched 18 miles Camped on the bluff 2 miles from the Shayenn River at Noon The scenery here is beautiful the valley is 2 miles wide with bluffs 100 feet above the River and heavy timber on both sides of the stream for 10 or 12 rods and as I sit on the bluff 1/2 mi from the Camp and look on the scene before me my mind wanders back to the East and my Native State but of all the beauties there I have seen none that will compare with this spot so wild and uninhabited and so far from civilization we are now about 60 miles from Devils Lake and with good luck we will Camp on that Lake next Monday or Tuesday at fartherest

No 18

Camp Smith Wensday July 15 We left Camp Sheardown at 4 O C and marched 10 miles and camped on the North shore of Lake Horse Shoe at 9 O C There is A Lake 2 miles south of here which is so salty that we could not use it this is the first salt water we have found on this march Horse Shoe Lake is quite A large body of Water:: Here for the first time we were Obliged to use Buffalow Chips for cooking and they answered every purpose

Camp No 19

Camp Corning Thursday July 16 We left Camp Smith at 4 O C and marched 18 miles and Camped on the shore of A small Lake at 2 O C P. M. Our march hitherto has been over a smooth level Pararie but to day we have [marched] over a rough Country with high bluffs and deep ravines:: we crossed the Shyam River at noon to day there was an exciting Chase between the Cavelry and an Elk this A M but the Elk made his escape and a short time



after another young one ran through the Train and was Capture  
This Camp is on the same spot that Capt Fisks Camped on last year  
while on his way to Frazier River

Camp No 20

Camp Pope Jr Friday July 17 We left Camp Corning at  
4 O. C. and marched 16 miles and Camped on a miserable pond of  
water at 1 O C. P. M. the Country through here is very rough and  
hilly: Here again we were obliged to use Buffalo Chips fro[sic]  
Cooking:: The scouts Captured 2 half Breeds Chipewa and they  
report the indians 40 miles from here prepareing for a battle

Camp No 21

Camp Atchison Saturday July 18 we left Camp early and  
marched 10 miles and camped on the shore of Lake Lydia at 10 O. C.  
it rained all the time we were marching and more rain fell today  
than has fell in 6 weeks before:: A Lieutenant of Cavelry shot  
a man to day Just as we got to this Camp he cannot live I have  
not heard the particulars of the Affair The weather is more  
pleasent this P. M but quite Cool

Camp Atchison Sunday July 19 We had another shower  
this morning but it soon Cleared up and was a fine day:: This  
expedition is divided to day A part to stay here while the main  
Army goes to the James River where they expect to surprise the  
Indians and Capture them: and the wagons are loaded with 1500  
pounds each and they expect to march 25 or 30 miles per day all  
the Train except 100 wagons are to remain here untill they retern  
which will be in all probability 3 or 4 weeks A Scout came to  
Camp to day from Abercrombie with the Glorious news that Grant

has Captured Vicksburgh with 24000 Prisoners

Camp Atchison Monday July 20 In accordance to the orders  
of yesterday a part of the expedition left here for James River  
this morning There is 600 men and 150 Teams left at this camp  
They expect to make a forced march for 4 or 5 day to overtake the  
Indians We have this camp well entrenched and have 2 mounted  
Hoitzers and 1 Company of Cavelry and can hold it against any  
attact of the Indians At noon to day we moved inside of our  
entrenchments and close by the Lak: All day was spent in moveing  
inside of the entrenchments

Tuesday July 21 This morning is cold and cloudy with  
signs of rain the wind is strong from the East at 7 O C it began  
to rain and continued untill late in the P. M. Capt Fisks and  
party is encamped 1 1/2 miles from us to day and some of them  
was here to day his party No 55 men and they are on their way to  
the Salmon River Gold mines:: The Capt was here in Camp this  
P. M. in Company with Mr Smith who is A Brother of Dr smith sur-  
gon of 7 Reg

Wensday July 22 1863 There was another shower during  
the night but this morning is cool and Pleasent:: A Cavelry man  
was brought from Sibleys Camp who had shot himself accidentally but  
he died when on the road 8 miles from this Camp he belonged to  
Company [blank in MS.] and his name was [blank in MS.] He was  
Burried at 11 O C to day with the honors of War 6 Half Breeds  
from Red River Came to this Camp today at Noon and report that  
Sibley will overtake the Indians by tomorrow There are 1100 Lodges  
and average 4 men to A Lodge and they think they will stand and

Geo. E. Brant. 1st Minn. R.

Dana Hough



fight Sibley if this should prove true I fear that they will be too much for our boys as they No about 25 Hundred all told:: this evening is cold with wind North and blowing hard

Thursday July 23

This morning was cool but as the day advanced it grew very warm through the middle of day We are very anxious to hear from Sibleys command to know for certain if they have formed A Juntion with Gen sulley as was reported yesterday that they would This evening it looks very much like rain

Friday July 24 1863 This morning is cool & Cloudy 2 Companies of Infantry and 1 Co of Cavelry leaves here for Devils Lake today to capture some Indians who are making Hay near the Lake:: word was rec<sup>d</sup> late last night that the Indians had left 3 days before the Troops got to their Camp on James River but Sibley would follow as long as his provisions would last The weather looks rainy this evening Henry J

Camp Saturday July 25 There was a fine shower last Evineng This morning is Cool and Clear. The wind blew very hard all day

Sunday July 26 This morning is rainy and cold the wind N. West at 10 O C A M the weather cleared up and was fine all day

Monday July 27 Again this morning is cold and rainy but at 10 O C the Weather cleared up and was fine but cold

Tuesday July 28 Cool and Cloudy no word from Sibley or Burt but is anxiously awaited and momentarily expected

Wensday July 29 A beautiful warm morning the wind S West very warm to day

Thursday July 30 1863 there were severe Thunder showers all night with sharp Lightning and high winds to day is cool and cloudy The mail arived from Pembina<sup>w</sup> at 6 O C this afternoon:: I rec<sup>d</sup> 2 Letters from my Wife

Friday July 31 1863 Bracket arived last nig[h]t with the news that Lieu<sup>t</sup> Freeman of Cavlry was killed by the Indians to day has been very hot The Abercrombie Mail arived here at 11 O C.A. M. There was a great many Letters but no papers except a few Private ones and only one as late as July 22:: it looks very much like rain this evening we raised a flag pole to day at this Camp:

Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> This is a cloudy morning but warm it looks very much like rain The Expedition to Devils Lake under Capt Burt retetned to this Camp at noon to day they captured a son of Little Crow the only Indian they saw and they [saw] no recent signs of them they [blank in MS.] miles beyond devils Lake The son of Little Crow is not expected to live he was near starved to death when found he says his Father was killed near Huchison this confirms the report in St Paul papers

Sunday Aug 2 1863 The Two half breeds who left here with the mail to Gen Sibley yesterday morning retetned at day light this morning they were ordered back by the Indians who told them that they would shurely be kille[d] they also said that they were fighting Sibley and that sulley was one day march from Sibley the Indians No 6000:: This Evening is quite cool



Monday Aug 3, 1863 quite cool with high wind:: The mail left last Evening for Sibleys Camp with ~~an escort~~ of 6 men:: The wind has blown a gale all day from the south but about sun set it changed to the North and blew harder than before.<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday Aug 4 1863 We had one of the most severe Storms I ever witnessed last Evening of Thundor and Lightning Wind and rain it began at 8 O C and lasted about 2 hours today was very warm<sup>2</sup>

Wensday Aug 5 1863 This morning is cool Capt Burt distroyed A Barrel of Whiskey belonging to the Suttler on acct of A Corporal of his Co being drunk and unfit for duty

Thursday Aug 6 1863 This morning is cold, cloudy, & Windy:: The nights are very cold and the days when clear is very hot:: Such A Climate cannot in my esitimation be very Healthy. there is too much change in the Temperature every 24 Hours from hot to Cold

---

<sup>1</sup> A marginal note occurs at this point: "The drove of beef Cattle was lost to day No 130 head".

<sup>2</sup> A marginal note occurs at this point: "One Co of Cavelry hunting Cattle but retern Aug 5 with no information of them" There is also another: ~~one~~ "they left this morning and reterned 5 inst".

Friday Aug 7 1863 This has been A cold, drisling:: rainy day The mail left here for the Fort at noon today The Cavelry have all reterned and report no Cattle to be found

Saturday Aug 8 This morning is clear & warm The Scouts reterned from Sibleys Camp at Noon to day and report that Sibley will be here to Morrow :: Col Marshall arived here this Evening on his way to St Paul with dispatches from Sibley

Sunday Aug 9 1863 The mail left with Col Marshall this morning at 1/2 past 5 O C:: A Man by the name of Stanbuck of C E 10 reg died in the Hospital to day at noon and was burried this afternoon I must confess that I have seen but little of the wickedness and depravity of Man untill I Joined the Army:: it is so visible to day that I cannot let it pass unnoticed this poor soldier died in the Hospital Tent and but A few feet from it there is A gang of men pitching Horse Shoes and Swearing so loud that they can be heard all through the Camp but no one tries to stop them and they continue their game and do not stop even when the Corps is brought out in the Coffin and taken to its last resting place and ~~as~~ the Chaplin passes them time after time without a word of advice:: As wicked as I am these scenes strikes to my heart to see such wickedness especialy on the Sabath and the Officers share largely in them:: A Cavelry man went out 11 Miles and met the expedition in Camp they expect to arive here before noon to morrow I was at Church this evening and heard the Cavelry Chap[1]in preach



Monday Aug 10 1863 This morning is cool and cloudy::  
The advance of the expedition came in sight of this Camp 10 miles distant at 1/2 past 11 O C this morning but it was 5 O C P.M. before they arrived here:: they brought but 3 Prisoners: they are encamped just outside of the Entrenchments I was arrested by Capt Burt for the first time in my life but I was released in 10 minutes after the arrest

Tuesday Aug 11 1863 Last night was A very cold night but this morning is pleasant and warm when the sun got up The greater part of the ~~day~~ Train of Wagons were over-hauled and re-loaded ready to leave here in the morning Gen Sibley intends to reach the Fort in 8 days march a distance of 125 miles This Evening as usual looks very rainy Wind West

Return March Camp No 1

Camp Burt Aug 12 We left Camp Atchison at 7 O C but was delayed some time in separating the train as a part of it went to Fort Ridgely and part to [blank in MS.] and the ballance with all the Infantry took the old trail for Abercrombie<sup>1</sup>

Camp No 2

Camp Libby Thursday Aug 13 We left Camp Burt at 5 O C. and marched 16 miles and camped 3 miles from the Shayenne which we crossed at noon and camped at 4 O C.

Camp No 3

Camp Arnold Friday Aug 14 We left Camp Libbie at 6 O C and camped on A small Lake 15 miles distant several teams give

<sup>1</sup>A marginal note occurs at this point: "distance from Atchison to Camp [blank in MS.] 18 M".

out to day on this account we were obliged to camp early so we camped at noon: We recd A Mail from the Fort at 2 O C this P. M.

Camp No 4

Camp Stevens Saturday Aug 15 We left our camp at 1/2 past 5 and marched miles and camped at 11 O C on the shore of A small lake with bad Water that we could not use it to drink or Cooking to day is very warm

Sunday Aug 16 1863 This morning is cool with A drizzling rain: it cleared up at noon:: There were 3 Cavalry men buried here to day making 5 since we left camp Atchison all with Fever

Camp No 5

Camp Ambler Monday Aug 17 We left camp this morning at 1/4 past 5 and crossed the Maple river at 12 O C and 2 miles out on the Pararie making 19 M to day: There has been great suffering to day for want of water and the day was very hot

Tuesday Aug 18 We laid over to day for rest:: There was a fine shower this Morn and the day has been much cooler than yesterday There was 2 more Cavalry men buried here to day and All the sick were sent to the Fort this morning

Camp No 6

Camp Chase Wensday Aug 19 We left camp at 5 O C this morning and marched 17 miles and camped at 11 O C on the Shayenne river Gen Marcey Inspector General met us here

Camp No 7

Camp Edgerton Aug 20 this morning at 7 O C we had a general inspection and after noon we crossed the river and camped on a small lake 4 miles from the river



## Camp No 8

Camp [blank in MS.] Friday Aug 21 we left camp Edgerton at 5 O C and got to the Fort at 12 Noon making 17 miles:: from Maple river to this Fort a distance of 40 miles is the most beautiful Country I ever saw and on the several rivers there is plenty of Timber:: The Fort is A Beautiful Place and the Pararie about it is as Pretty as any in the world and there are large groves of fine Timber in every direction at a distance of 3 or 4 miles which looks very beautiful

Saturday Aug 22 1863 This morning was very cold but through the day it was warm and fine

Sunday Aug 23 1863 This is a rainy cold morning. it commenced to rain at mid Night last night and continued all day with A cold north wind: There has more rain fell to day than we have had in 3 months all combined The mail left for St Paul by Special Messenger this morning

Monday Aug 24 1863 To day is clear and cool:<sup>1</sup> There was many curses heaped upon the Maj for the 3 hours battelion drill on double quick this P. M.: The mail arived this Evening

## Camp No 9

Camp Phellps Tuesday Aug 25 we left Abercrombie at 6 O C. this morning but as we had to cross the river it was 10 O C before we all got over and we marched 11 Mil[es] and on the a bend of Red River on the East bank at 1 O C P. M.

<sup>1</sup> At this point in the manuscript this sentence occurs, but it is crossed out with the word "false": "The 10<sup>th</sup> Reg crossed the river at 3 O C this P. M. on their way to Fort Ridgely by order of Gen Sibley".

## Camp No 10

Camp White Wensday Aug 26 we left camp at sunrise and marched 19 Miles and crossed the Ottertail River and camped on the south bank at 1 O C P.M.: this is a beautiful Country and get the best water we have had on the Expedition

## Camp No 11

Camp Sullivan Thursday Aug 27 we left camp at 6 O C this morning and marched 15 Miles and camped at a group of lakes at noon: there was a slight rain to day

## Camp No 12

Camp Heath Friday Aug 28 we broke up camp this morning and marched at 7 O C and camped on the southe East bank of the Pom De Tare river at 2 O C and marched 15 miles<sup>1</sup>

## Camp No 13

Camp Conor Saturday Aug 29 we left camp at 7 O C and marched 13 Miles and camped at noon on quite a large Lake:: This is the best and most Beautiful Country I ever saw and the Soil if exelent for farming purposes with numerous lakes and plenty Fish and in my estimation it is the Flower of Minn

Sunday Aug 30 This morning was [MS. torn] but warm through the day the mail came, here this Evening [I] got A Letter from my wife,

## Camp No 14

Camp Jones[?] Aug 31 we left camp at [MS. torn] past 6 O C and

<sup>1</sup> A marginal note occurs at this point: "was a very hard frost this morning".