

Post Ridgely Sept 9th 1862
Dear Father

When I wrote you last
We were expected to March against
The Indians immediately. But no one
knew in the Army when anything
will happen; over a week ago on
Dress parade. We were ordered to
be in readiness to start at any moment
Tents were struck knapsacks packed
Every thing ready for a start. But after
standing several hours at a shouldered
arms, the tents were again pitched
and the general expectation was
that we were to stop no one knew
how long. We were all enjoying our
supper of Hard Bread and Coffee
when a messenger came in and
reported that a Battle party of 150
men were fighting the Indians 20 miles
off. Every thing was excitement in a
short time 1000 men were on the
march, in four hours we marched
16 miles and encamped within 2 1/2

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INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

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the Creek, 150 dead Horses, lay piled up in the Tents were 15 dead Men and 20 wounded at first until the Horses were killed they were completely at the mercy of the Indians the dead Horses served as breast works for the Men. They were a joyful set of Men when we came up they had had no water for two days with them. It was slow to death or be killed and scalped by the Indians. The dead were buried, the wounded put in ambulances ~~and~~ and we all came back to the camping ground here at the Fort, where would not be tired after tramping forty miles in two nights on duty one day without sleep with a good appetite and but little to eat.

I heard yesterday that our Gov. had left the Blue Earth County Prison with the rest. I expect sheep, crops all that I have got has gone to the d — I will do much for War. If it continues a year longer the less property a man has the better he is off.

Miles of the party we were to reinforce for the season we had to pass through a river, which would have been rather dangerous, at daylight we were on the March, our Road ran near the timber on a Creek. The Indians soon began to show themselves, and commenced such a howling, and yelling as I never expected to hear. They were in front behind and ever where. Always taking good care to keep out of shooting distance. I began to think I should not have the pleasure of shooting at one of them. But the bullets began to fall into the ranks from the tall grass, and from behind every knoll in the prairie. It was quite exciting. Several were hit none were killed, a few shells from a Mountain position made the Copperheads double back. We came soon to the camp of the party we rescued. We found them encamped about fifteen rods from the bank of

Since I have been in camp my health
has been better than it was before I
enlisted. When this war is over you
can expect to see me you can tell
as well as I when that happy event
will take place. Tell Cynthia and
Mary I will answer all letters
she will write to me.
It is doubtful when I go to Dixie
We are not mustered into the US
service as a Regiment yet.

Love to all D^r Montington

I can get all letters that are
directed to D^r Montington
Fort Ridgely Company D
Sixth Regiment
Minnesota Volunteers