

Narrative of The Sioux
Indian Massacre in 1862

On August 18-1862 word
came to Fort Ridgely that
The Sioux Indians had broken
out and were killing all
of the Inhabitants on
The Minnesota River.
Captain Marsh ^{of Co B 5th Mo. Inf.} started
immediately with 50 men
from Fort Ridgely for
the lower agency. The
cause of the trouble
Captain Marsh unknowing
led his 50 men into an
ambuscade and as they
approached the River and
halted the Indians opened
fire and one half the men dropped.

2
Captain Marsh Instantly gave
the order for every man to
take care of himself
Then Capt Marsh shouted for
every man to follow him
Every man sprang for the
willows and alder brush
which skirted the river
on the eastern bank with
Capt Marsh in the lead.
after following the river down
far about a mile Capt
Marsh concluded that the
safest plan was to cross
the river to the west bank.
Capt Marsh was the first
to enter the water when
about half way across

3
he went down to rise no
more his sword and revolver
weighted him down
When Corporal John Brennan
saw the Captains peril
he sprang to his assistance
he dove and got hold of
the Captain. The Capt grappled
with Brennan they both
lay on the bottom Brennan
got his feet against the
Captain and with one
tremendous effort tore
himself loose from the
death grasp of the Capt.
Poor brave John Brennan
gave up his life blood in defence
of his country at Marshville Tenn
Dec 27 1864

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On June 10 or 12 - 1862 4
 Co C 5th Regt Minn Vol Infy.
 Recd orders for one half
 the Company to proceed to
 Fort Ridgely and there
 await orders from Capt Marsh
 We arrived at our destination
 about June 29th laid over
 one day and rested up
 Then recd ^{orders} from Capt Marsh
 to proceed to the Yellow
 Medicine Agency there to
 Guard Government property
 during the annuity payments
 to the Indians by the Govt
 50 Men of Co B 5th Regt ^{Minn} Vol Infy
 accompanied us to the agency

We arrived at the agency 5th
 on July the 2nd. We remained
 at the Agency until Aug 13th
 Meantime the Indians were counted
 and registered preparatory to
 drawing their money and trinkets
 a few days later they drew
 their guns ammunition blankets
 and so forth but no money
 payment. The Indians would
 not receive paper money in
 payment. The Government had
 much trouble in procuring
 the gold (consequently the delay)
 The money payment was not
 made for some years afterwards
 The paymaster arrived at
 Fort Ridgely on the morning

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of August 18th the day of the
outbreak with the 70000 in gold
Major Galbrath told the
Indians from day to day that the
money was on the way there and
they were liable to get it any
day. Finally they began to
doubt his words and called
him a liar. Finally they began
to grow more and more angry and
their daily visits began to show
those that did show themselves
had on their war paint and
feathers. On the evening of
Aug. the 9th the Indians sent
a messenger to our camp and
notified the Commanding Lieut
A. J. Sheehan that they were

Coming down to our camp⁷
on the following morning to
have a Buffalo dance and
to salute the soldiers.
Of course it was all taken
in good faith by us, as they
had done the same thing
many times before.
About 8 o'clock a.m. on the
morning of the 10th of August
the Indians began to assemble
on a rise of ground about
60 or 70 rods to the west of
us, about 500 of them were
mounted on their ponies
They formed in line of battle
and made a fine display
they were 2 ranks deep some

Regulars & Cavalry.

8

Most of the Soldiers
stood ^{watching} the performance, totally
unaware of the Terrible
ordeal through which they were to
pass in a very few minutes.
When the red demons were
all in readiness there
went up one of the most
ear-splitting and blood curdling
yells ever heard, and with
the yell a dash was made
for our camp. The center of
their line struck our camp
and the two ends swung around
and we were trapped, partly
deep all around us.

9
The order was given by Lieut
Sheehan to fall in. Every man
sprang for his gun, and was
in line in one minute. Then
the order came to load. We
loaded in double quick time.
When we brought our guns
into position to cap them
there was a scene that
chilled the blood in every
soldier's heart. And even
now, though 47 years has passed
since that awful sight, it
sends a chill to my heart
when I think of it. Now
the mounted Indians were all
armed with guns, shot guns
and Rifles.

Most of the Pedestrians were
 armed with Bows and arrows.
 * as we Caped our guns the Red
 Devils Cocked Their guns and
 Took dead aim at their
 helpless Victims. Lieutenant
 Sheehans face looked like
 a dead mans but his head
 was level when he gave the
 Command to Order arms.
 we dropped our guns with
 the Butts resting on the ground
 and the Indians recovered
 their guns an act which gave
 us great relief.
 During all this time the ^{Indians}
 had been gathering around
 the Government Ware house

They had all ready Effected
 an Entrance and were Carrying
 out the Provisions.
 The distance between the
 Ware house and our Camp
 was some 25 rods. This space
 was packed solid with red
 skins. While standing in line
 the Indians kept crowding
 up around us until we
 had barely room to stand.
 Their impudence knew
 no bounds. They would
 rush and goth around
 and slap us in the face ^{and}
 trying to break our line
 and get us scattered.
 Our Courage had somewhat

12
returned by this time, and
we shulder maintained
our line. ^{Sheehan} Lieutenant at this
junction. Ordered Sargent
James. ^{Co B} to run out
the two small Cannons which
were housed in a ^{Co B} tent.
2nd Lieutenant ^{Co B} H. H. Gear
had charge of the Cannon.
They were aimed towards
the warehouse. The Indians
immediately fell back and
opened up a space about
30 feet wide clear to the ware-
house. Then Lieut. Sheehan
called for 25 volunteers
to go to the warehouse. The
call was responded to

13
Promptly as the first 25 men
at the head of the line stepped
forward. These men headed by
Sheehan. Started for the ware-
house. Just as soon as we
stepped in front of the Cannon
the devils closed the opening.
The front file were ordered
to charge bayonets. This order
proved effectual. as the reds
opened up just space enough
for us to crowd through.
Then about a 100 of the Indians
along the ^{line} ~~line~~ cocked their guns
and would put them square
against our heads, and they
were in no wise particular
about giving us some painful

14

There was not one man of
those volunteers but that
expected that his brains would
be blown skyward at any second.
Well we finally reached the
ware house which was full of
Indians. Carrying out stuff.
There were 4 of the volunteers
placed at the door with
crossed bayonets. The balance
went to work cleaning out the
ware house, a job that we
accomplished in short order.
The Indians inside had no arms
so we had them at our mercy.
The same as they had us a few
moments before. We clubbed
our muskets and there ~~was~~ was

15

Protrait Indians laying in
all directions. Lots of them
staggered for the door holding
their heads as though they
ached. (I was one of the volunteers)
When the ware house was
cleaned out. The Indians made
a break for our camp to kill
the 75 soldiers who remained
there. A half breed by the
name of antone. Major Galbrath
interpreter mounted a large
box and began to shout in
the Sioux tongue. That Major
Galbrath wanted to hold
a Council with them. finally
the head leaders began to
shout to their Braves.

16
after a while they began to
draw off from the Camp and
saunter up towards the ware-
house. The Cheaf men about
30 in number. Formed a Circle
with Major Calbraath and his
Interpreter in the Center. The
Council lasted for 2 1/2 hours
but the agent accomplished
nothing. The Indians told the
agent that their wives and
Children were starving and
that they would have all
the provisions in the warehouse
other wise they would kill
every white man on the
agency before sun set.

17
Major Calbraath granted
their demands, and the soldiers
went to work and helped them
load every thing in the ware-
house onto their Red River
Carts and Tug Poles and they
left for their Camp, which was
located 2 miles west of the
agency. we could ^{see} their camp
plainly from the agency. ^{was}
It was estimated that there
fully 5000 Red in this raid.
Some Miscreants went to
the Indian Camp on the night
of the 11th and told the Indians
that there was 2000 soldiers
on their way from Ft. Ridgely ^{Indians}
and were going to kill all the

18
to be found around the
Agency. They also came to our
Camp and reported that the
Indians had been reinforced
and were coming down
to the agency in the morning
to clean out all the soldiers
to be found. Well the upshot
of this thing was that we were
on duty all night and expected
to be killed at any moment
through the night and have
our throats cut or hanged
alive at the stake. Finally
the long looked for break of day
came and our eyes naturally
turned westward in the
direction of the Indian Camp.

19
And to our great surprise
there was not a vestige of
the Camp to be seen.
They had taken flight from
the report of the night before
broke camp in the night and
skedaddled westward.
We were on the watchout
all day the 12th but did not
see the sign of an Indian
on the afternoon of the 12th.
A detachment of soldiers arrived
at the agency from Fort Hodge
with rations and supplies.
We remained at the agency
until the afternoon of the
13th. at about 2 o'clock P.M.
we took up our line of march

for Fort Kibbey. There was ²⁰ nothing of incident happened on our way down from the agency, only it was simply impossible to meet an Indian face to face. when ever, we were likely to meet one or more they would make a detour away out around us. and themselves. The time occupied on the march from the agency to the Fort was a little less than 2 1/2 days. we arrived at the Fort on the Evening of the 15th of August. Co B. 50 men were now at their own Fort, the 50 men of Co C laid over on the 16 to rest up. Sunday Aug 17th ^{last night} ^{we} ^{improvised} ^{camp} ^{at} ^{our} ^{own} ^{Fort} ^{Kibbey}

21
Sunday Aug 17 we Marched
22 miles due East from the Fort
on the old Government Road.
We camped on the night of
the 17th in a grove situated
at the junction of the Government
road and a road running
due North to New Auburn
and Glencour. We took an
early start on the morning
of the 18th and marched
20 miles to New Auburn
about one half mile north
of the town we came to a
Beautiful Camping Place. and
Tim as we agreed to call him
put it to a vote of the men
whether we should camp

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

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2-1

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about one half mile north
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0 3 9 2

There or go on further.
 The vote was unanimous to pitch
 Campsite there. So we all
 went to work putting things
 in ship shape. This done
 we turned our attention to
 preparing something to satisfy
 the inner man. We got water
 from a small stream near
 by to make coffee. Had the
 Bacon frying and some of the
 boys were preparing potatoes
 to fry, and our supper was
 well under way when some one
 of the boys happened to look
 to the Southward and saw
 a cloud of dust in the air.

There Emerged from that cloud
 of dust a gaaded and almost
 lifeless horse. His rider was
 James M. Clane a member of
 Co B. 5 Minn Vol. Infy from
 Fort Ridgely. Bearer of a dispatch
 to Captain Sheehan, notifying
 him of the outbreak, and
 the killing of half of Co B.
 and for him to return with
 his command to the Fort as ^{soon}
 quickly as a merciful God
 would permit him to. As
 the Indians had gone on the
 war path and had killed
 half of Co B and were killing
 all of the inhabitants on the
 reservation. ^{the morning of the 17}
 x Lieutenant Sheehan read his commision

As Capt. Sheehan silently
 read the dispatch we could
 see from the expression on his
 face that the importance
 of it was some thing unusual.
 When he had finished, he gave
 the order for the men to
 fall in. in a half moment
 every man took his place
 in line. Then Capt. Sheene
 in a husky voice read the
 dispatch to us aloud, as
 stated heretofore. Capt. Sheehan
 then gave orders for us to get
 ready to retrace our steps
 as soon as possible. Every man
 was alive ^{now} no one tired
 no one hungry. we threw

our supper out on the ground
 and proceeded to get our ^{out} gains,
 which the Captain ^{had} permitted
 us to take away in the gun
 boxes in the wagon, rather than
 carry them on our shoulders.
 our Camp ^{and} Equipage & pack
 were all dumped into the
 wagon box in a miscellaneous
 heap. In just 12 minutes
 from the time that dispatch
 was read to us, we were on our
 backward march. in a few
 minutes we were in the village
 of New Auburn. there we ^{collected} ~~confiscated~~
 two teams they belonged to farmers.
 one of the wagons was loaded
 with wheat in the bundle

26 ~~25~~

The man with the wheat
said we couldn't have his team
because he had got to stack
that load of wheat ^{in a way}.
The Captain told him that
we would stack his wheat
and ordered a dozen of the
boys to unload it. We took
hold of the rack on one side
and dumped it in the road.
The wheat man refused to
go with his team. The other
one went. Stopped long enough
to feed the horses after reaching
the fort, and then started for
home with both teams. He got
down into the ravine, to the creek
about a hundred rods from the fort.

The Indians confiscated the horses.

27 ~~26~~

We stopped at the grove about
11 o'clock P.M. where we camped
on the night of the 17th and
got a lunch, the first we had
had since the early morning.
Excepting ^{the} the few hard tack
we munches while on the
march. As soon as our hunger
was somewhat ^{we were} appeared up
and off. Talk about forced marches.
This one was certainly forced
to the limit. almost a bubble
quick. The mules and horses
were on the trot more than
one half the time to keep up
with us. When we were within
9 or 10 miles of the Fort we

28th
began to meet Keffogees fleeing
for their lives. we remained
with them for about half an
hour, listening to their Terrible
accounts of horror and blood
shed. Some of them were
severely wounded. They begged
of Cap Sheehan not to go
any further for the Indians
had taken the Fort. and all
the settlers were killed that
we were going to certain death.
After Cap Sheehan had given these
poor distressed victims some
advice as to which way to
steer to safety. we again
took up our line of march

29th
by this time some of the boys
began to get very much fatigued.
and were allowed to get on
the wagons. where they remained
but a short time. as the
jolt of the wagons was
worse than marching. The
weary boys soon rallied and
cleaned as good as ever.
we were now within 6 or 7
^{of the Fort} miles ~~and were~~ and were
fast approaching the danger
line. Feelers were thrown out on
either side. to avoid a surprise.
finally in the gray dawn of
~~the~~ ^{the} morning the Scouts got a
glimpse of the Fort. and the
stars and stripes waving at the ^{main} head.

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30²⁷
The fighting of the Fort was
soon communicated to the Captain.
and by him to the Boys in
line. This was glad tidings to
the weary Bands of life
savers. but there was no
shouts of joy. Too well we knew
of the Terrible danger that still
confronted us. (The deep ravine
that we must cross before reaching
the Fort.) The ravine was half
a mile wide and on both sides
the road was hedged with alder
brush and willows. The eye
could not penetrate into these
Jungles 4 feet. Wall we are
now on the Brink of the ravine

31²⁸
getting ready to cross over to the
Fort. Cap. Sheehan arranged us
in Indian file or one Rank
with 25 men in front and 25
men in the rear of the
Teams. When all was in readiness
The order forward double
quick march was given by
our Commander. and the last grand
dash to the rescue began. The
Camsters had to lash their horses
into a gallop to keep up with
the men in front and out of
the way of the men in the rear.
we all had our guns in readiness
for instant use. It took us
about 6 minutes to cross that
ravine and ascend to level ground

32
Then we were met by an escort
from Co. B. who escorted us to the
Parade ground inside the Fort
where ^{we} saluted the remnant
of Company B. who were
drawn up in line in front
of us. This was a most joyful
meeting and extremely sorrowful
too, less than 24 hours before
we had bade the boys of Co. B.
a jolly good bye and were
jubilent and happy over
the prospect of soon being
ordered South to fight our
Country's battles. Most of the
men killed at the Red Wood
agency were the same men
with whom we had ^{formerly} spent the

33
It was the morning of the 19th
of August that we arrived back
at the Fort. weary hungry
and foot sore. who could
wonder at our flight. we
had what might be called
one square meal in 24 hours
we had marched from the morning
of the 18th 20 miles to New Auburn
and from the evening of the 18th
20 miles back to our starting place ^{in the morning}
in the latter part of the night
we made the 22 miles from the
grove to the fort. making in all
62 miles without rest. now
take 20 miles from the 62 and
there is 42 miles left ^{the distance made} ~~we~~
on the road back to the Fort.

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10 hours and 40 minutes ³⁴ taking
out the one hour we stopped
over half hour at the grove
and half hour where we met
the Keffagees and you have
9 hours and 40 minutes.

The Exact ^{time} took us to make
that 42 miles I am satisfied that
the detours we had to make to
get around some of the big
slows lengthened the distance
all of 3 miles making the ⁴⁵ miles
real distance we marched
I don't think that this march
has ever been equaled on the
American Continent by infantry
troops. I have been told that
Colonel Sheehan has taken

The pains to investigate ³⁵
the matter and there was
nothing found amongst the
records of the war department
that beat it. Now I have told
all about what we have endured
up to this time. Now I have to
add 6 more days and 6 more
nights to the hell borne
torture before the end of our
endurance is reached.

The balance of this narrative
I shall devote to the bravery
and daring deeds of bravery
and heroism of the boys who
who done the fighting. There
was not one of the Boys in
Blue that could claim any

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INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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more laurels or credit for
bravery than an other. They
were heroes. But we didn't
all have a chance to display. at
I shall make special mention
of those entitled to it. On the
day of the 19th of August our
time was employed in making
preparations for what we knew
must come. our time was improved
in throwing up rude breast
works and piling up cordwood
at the entrances between the
buildings. The fort had no
stockade nothing but the bare
buildings with entrances at each
corner and one in the center
between each corner

These rude works proved of
great value on the following
day. On the morning of the
20th of August we began to
realize our expectations. The
country was alive with Indians
and every soldier was on his
metals. Captain Sheehan with
a squad of some 20 men made
a detour of the fort. we went
down the wagon road into
the ravine and around the
east side of the fort to the
bank of the Minnesota
river then along the south
side of the fort out
onto the prairie west of
the fort.

38
The ground on the west side
of the fort was high ^{and} ~~and~~
descended towards the fort. We
were making for this high
ground to see what there
was beyond when bang bang bang
the ^{fall} had opened from the east
side of the fort. The ^{party} reconnoitering
about faced and ran with
race horse speed for the
fort. Cap Sheehan was mounted
on a mule the mule was in
it we beat him into the fort.
Little Crow and Little Six
The two leading chiefs were
laying behind this rise of
ground waiting for the signal
from the east side.

39
They were in hot pursuit of us
when we entered the fort.
The reception they received
when they got in range sent
them flying down over the
bank on to the Minnesota bottom.
The combined forces of Little
Crow and Little Six was said
to be 500. The forces of old
Medicine Bottle on the north
end. The chief on the east
whose name I have forgotten
numbered 500 more making
a total of 1000 to our 200.
making the odds 5 to 1.
When we entered the fort
every soldier made for shelter
the bullets from the Indian

forces on the east were
sweeping the parade ground
like a hale storm. The squad
I was with made a dash for
the stone quarters and went
into the 2nd story and took
up our position on the north
side. we did not stop to shove
the windows up but beat
them out with the butts of
our muskets. Pandemonium
and hell now reigned. Three
hundred women and children
had taken refuge in the stone
building and about 200 of them
were in the room with us.
well I won't try to describe the
scene that was enacted in that ^{room} that

I would ^{make} a miserable failure
of it. There was singing and
Praying & crying & screaming
and about 50 children came
in with their cores. well
the fight went on just the
same. There was 14 windows in
the room we were in and 3
men at each window making
42 men in that room. 2 men
would load and one do the
firing. The firing man lay flat
on the floor and would lean
up over the window sill
and let fly some ^{times} at random
and some times at a red skin
after a while the women and
children were made to lie down

42

on the floor some of them
 had already been wounded
 by flying bullets. They were
 awful hard to manage.
 Well who could blame them
 some of them had lost their
 husbands and children some of
 them their fathers and mothers
 and I don't think there was a
 single one in that room but
 that had lost some of their
 friends. Lots of them bore wounds
 they had received from the Indians
 while making their escape.
 The fight was now raging
 furiously. The savages were
 getting desperate. you could
 hear Little Crow and the

43

other chiefs urging their
 braves to charge but could
 not prevail on them to do
 it. The batteries stationed
 at each corner of the fort
 held them in check. The
 battery at the south west
 corner of the fort was in
 charge of Sargeant John Jones
 a veteran of the Mexican war,
 and a member of the regular
 army who had been left at the
 fort in charge of the ordinance
 when the regulars went South.
 Sargeant James M. Brew of Co. B 5th Mo. I.
 who had taken ^{on summer} lessons from Sargeant
 Jones during the time Co. B was
 stationed at the Fort had

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44
had charge of the battery
at the North west corner.
A man by the name of
Whipple an x Mexican soldier
had charge of the one at the
North East corner and the
whole being under the immediate
control of Sargent John Jones.
These batteries kept up a continuous
roar shelling the woods on the
bottom lands. Some of the batteries
were using grape and canister
scowing the brush and tall
grass. Sargent Jones had a half
breed as one of his gunners who
who was of great service to
Jones. He understood the Sioux
language and kept the Sargent

45
Posted regarding orders given
by the Chiefs to their braves.
About 4 o'clock this half
Breed approached Sargent Jones
and told him that Little Crow
and Little Six were ^{over} ~~over~~
telling their braves just ~~over~~
The bank of the Minnesota
River to make a charge into
the fort about 20 rods from
the corner where Jones's battery
was stationed. Sargent Jones
quickly ran out a 24 pound ^{lb}
cannon he took a
24 lb shell and inserted a
short fuse put in a squib
load of powder and rammed.
The shell home he sighted.

The Cannon in the direction ⁴⁶ indicated by the half breed and and pulled the line back there was a smothered report from the gun but it done the work. in 20 minutes from the firing of this gun there was sent an indian to be seen. The firing ceased and the red bellions were fleeing for their lives westwards. This ended the fight of the 20th of August ¹⁸⁶². I never knew just how many Redd this shot killed but report had it that there was 27 killed one thing I do know is that the boys went down on the bottom about 70 rods

from the fort next day ⁴⁷ and found 16 dead braves. Covered up with brush and 2 more covered up under about four inches of earth. it was thought that some of the Indians came back in the night and took their dead and secreted them. The yell that went up from that gang ^{when that shell burst among them} was a signal for them all to retreat. had the indians succeeded in making that charge as they had planned from the south east east and north east they would have certainly taken the fort and our fighting days would of been over and the fort would have

48
lin in ashes & are the sun set
This man Jones was one of the
heroes of Fort Ridgely ^{heroes} on
that day, and was Complimented
by Capt. Sheene and all the
rest of the garrison for his
bravery and level headedness
through the day. a braver
man never lived. The casualties
that day Aug 20th was as follows
Company C one killed and three
wounded. The one killed was
Mark M. Greer of whom I
shall speak of further on
The wounded was Frank
O. Blackmer shot through
the face his double teeth all
knocked out and his

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Tongue cut off he recovered
and became one of Minnesota's
most famous Physicians and
Surgeons. Dennis Porter received
five buck buck shot 3 in his
breast and 2 in the leg. he
never laid down his gun but
fought through the day and
never recd any medical aid.
he went South with the Company.
was captured by bushwhackers
in the rear of Vicksburg
and murdered. Milo Henney was
shot through the fleshy part of
his arm with an ounce ball.
wounded of Co B. William Good
shot square in fore head with
ounce ball recovered and dropped

dead on street in Minneapolis⁵⁰
in 1873 from Effects of Wound-
Anagill J. K. wounded in leg
Munday, J. M. wounded in shoulder
Kufage, A. wounded in hip
Spornitz, K. F. wounded in leg
There was about 30 Citizens
in the fort that ^{done} good effective
work and fought bravely
all the rest were a curse and
a hinderance and still some
of them are drawing a Pension
from the state for bravery. I have
heard of a single one of the boys
in blue who faced the terrible
onslaught even getting a red coat.
There was a bill passed by the
Legislature that was

intended to help us a little⁵¹
But the world wide lamented
Governor John A. Johnson put
his stamp of condemnation on it.
On the morning of the 21st Aug.
we were all ready for another
all days fight. The Indians put
in an early appearance but to our
surprise they were all on the opposite
side of the river. They were on
their way to New Elm and we
were left alone that day only
for the skulking ^{bands} who were
trying to pick some of us off
but there was no casualties
for the day. about 10 o'clock
a.m. we began to hear firing
in the direction of New Elm

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The day was clear and nice.
The wind in the South. as the day
wore on the tumult and roar
increased until it seemed
like. Rolling distant thunder.
we well knew what the People
of new ulm were undergoing
but we could render them no
assistance. about 6 o'clock P.M.
the Indians began to put in an
appearance on the bluffs across the
river they were on their ^{way} back
from new ulm to their camp after
suffering a gawling defeat at
new ulm. They would flaunt
their blankets at us from across
the river. we would beckon
to them and invite them over

53

by signs. we didnt have
give them any invitation on the
morning of the 22nd Little Crow
put in an appearance bright
and early with his one thousand
braves of the 20th reinforced by
400 more. As we watched the
approach of those demons of hell
through our swollen eyes our
hearts sank low within us.
although the most of us had not
had a wink of sleep for 108 hours
we were just as wide awake and
active as though we had had
our usual amount of sleep
when the fight of the 22nd
opened. the Indians done their
fighting under different

Tactics from what they did ⁵⁴ on
the 20th. the fatalities on the 22nd
were very megar on our side
The only one who came near getting
killed was Captain Sheehan while
running across the Parade
ground a bullet tore its
way through his coat and
went across his breast and
made a red mark on the skin
The Indians naturally supposed
that they had us at their mercy
now. They having cut off our
water supplies on the day of the
20th. They had destroyed the tank
at the spring which flowed
from the bank of the river
and poisoned the water

we knew nothing of this ⁵⁵
until the morning of the 21. when
we formed two open lines to
guard the water wagon to and
from the spring. The teamster
returned and reported the matter
Then 2 lines were formed to the
spring on the north side of the
fort and things were found in
the same condition. The report
was made to Captain Sheehan he
detailed 12 Citizens and they
went to work digging a well
on the Parade ground. They dug
the large enough for 6 men
to work in. the other 6 pulled
dirt up hand over hand with
buckets and ropes

DEFECTIVE PAGE

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The well was completed about
2-30 am on the morning of
the 22nd so they were failed
in their purpose. Most of the
fighting was done from long
range and from treetops.
The Indians were very loth
to show themselves. The lesson
taught them on the 20th had
its effect. about 11-0 clock am
the firing from the fort began
to diminish. The Indians seemed
to become some what interested
about the situation and began
to try to spy out what the
matter was. had they known
what we knew they would
of bin greatly elated.

57

Our supply of ammunition
had ran alarming low
before it was discovered.
There was some 2000 or 3000
rounds of cartridges on hand
but the caliber was too large
for our guns. The situation
was critical beyond measure.
Immediately men were at work
carting bullets. There was about
a dozen noble brave women who
joined in the work of making
cartridges and god knows that
there never ^{was} a nobler band
of heroines lived than those
women were. before any of the
new ammunition was ready
for use we were forced to the

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Extremity of Cuttings of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
round iron into slugs about
 $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long to take
the place of bullets.

The ammunition for the Cannon
was getting frightfully low and
things began to look very blue.
The fight continued until
6-0-Clock when the Indians
drew off and gave us a little
rest, but they did not quit
the scene by any means about
7-30-0-Clock they again commenced
operations they commenced by
shooting burning arrows onto

69

The dry roofs of the buildings
These burning arrows were
arranged with a string tied
about 4 inches up on the shaft
and a piece of Punk tied to
the other end of the string
just low enough to lay on
the roof when the arrow
stuck into the shingles
There was about 15 men sent into
the attic with hammers axes
clubs and any other thing they
could get and hammered the
roof in all directions until morning
The sounding loosened the
roofs and they slid to

ground. by the time the men
 got into the attic there was
 one place that had ignited
 and burned a hole about as
 large as a $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel. When
 the Indians saw this there
 went up one of those blood
 freezing (hair stand on end)
 infernal yells that I imagine
 I can hear now as I write.
 when the fire was ^{at} extinguished
 you could hear their growling
 grumbling grunts of ^{men} disappointment
 all of the Indians were
 not engaged in trying
 to burn the fort others

were carrying on a war
 dance low down in the ravine.
 They were dancing around camp
 fires. and some of the boys declared
 they could see scalps of their
 victims poor helpless settlers
 dangling from the tops of
 poles. O what a night of
 terror the Devil with all the
 imps of hell could not
 better it. Well about 11 o'clock
 they withdrew with ^{out} having
 accomplished any thing by
 day or night and went
 to their camp at Little Crow

DEFECTIVE PAGE

Village. At about 7-8-Clock
 on the morning of the 23rd
 some one was seen waving a white
 flag or flag of truce just above
 the hilltop to the west of us
 upon investigation it was
 found to be a half breed
 from Little Crows Camp with a
 dispatch from Little Crow to
 the Commander of the Fort. The
 man bearing the truce was
 escorted to the Fort and
 immediately ushered into the
 presence of Capt. Sheehan
 to whom he presented Little
 Crows message. The message read as

It
 is
 a
 reminder
 of
 the
 following

Little Crows Village Aug 23rd 1862
 to the Commander of Fort at Fort
 Ridgely. Sir I will give you just
 six hours to lay down your arms
 and surrender to me, all of you will
 be furnished an escort to a place
 of safety. Otherwise I will fall
 upon you with the combined
 forces of the whole Sioux nation
 and won't leave a single man to
 tell the tale

Signed. Little Crow

Captain Sheehan.
 reply follows and was come
 back to Little C by the truce man

DEFECTIVE PAGE

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Fort Ridgely Aug 23rd 1862
Little Crow

Your communication received
and read with Contempt.
Come on with the combined forces
of the whole Sioux nation
we are ready for you
Signed

Timothy J. Sheehan

Capt. Commanding

Early on the morning of the 23rd
we went to work and stripped
the roofs of the stone
buildings (quarters and Commissary)
with narrow boards from
end to end about 3 foot apart

65
65

Took the dirt from the well
and covered the roofs some
2ⁱⁿ deep all over to guard
against fire. This done we
settled down to await the
coming of the whole Sioux
nation. (The flag of truce was
first sighted from the roof
where we were working)
we waited all day and not
a single Indian was seen.
Nor on the following day.
The 24th we were left to ourselves.
Sergeant Jones was ever on
the alert. Nothing escaped his
eyes. about 10-0-Clock P.M.

66
~~65~~

There appeared a dark line
on the Eastern horizon what
could it be was the question
asked by every one
Sargeant Jones kept his
field glass leveled on the
dark line he changed the
focus of his glass from time
to time to fit his swollen eyes,
finally he turned towards the
anxious waiting crowd of
heroes and shouted Thank
god boys its white men
The joy of that hour can
never be told by tongue or
~~Pen~~. Sargeant Jones was as

67
~~66~~

brave a man as the good
Lord Ever let live and he
was not ashamed for others
to see his emotion he went
around shaking hands
with all the boys with great
tears welling up in his eyes
and flowing down his cheeks.
The soldier boys cried and
laughed all in the same breath
hugged one another slapped
one another on the back and
all other kinds of antics
to express their joy. boys
whome I dont think ever
uttered a prayer since the

67
68

little lay me down to sleep
Prayer - now I prayed earnestly
and sincerely to the loving
god of us all thanking
him for our deliverance.
When the recuing party
reached the opposite side of
the ravine Capt Jones fired
a salute of welcome. it proved
to be Col M^r Fale. The commander
of 250 men who had bin
gathered up in St Paul
and ^{and Satterwater} Minneapolis and along the
Minnesota River and sent
to our relief. As soon as they
entered the Fort

68
69

The poor weary half dead
long besieged garrison was relieved
The first thing sought was
sleep and sleep they did, lots
of them dropped on the bare
ground while walking across
it and lay in the burning
sun. The new comers tenderly
took them in their arms and
laid them away in the shade
just like dead men. Some of
us slept for 20 hours in one
position and when we got up
we were sicker dead than
when we lay down. up to this
time we had bin without sleep 156 H

70
67

The fighting at the Fort was now at an end ~~little~~ Crow's Threat never materialized. Nobody ever knew the number of Indians killed in the two days fight as the reds took most of their ^{dead} from the field and buried or secreted them in some other way. Sarah Jones' wife and two small children had a very narrow escape. She lived with her husband in a little block house at the South East corner of the fort. She went out of the front door with her

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Two children just as two burly brutes entered the back door. She ran for the parade ground with a child under each arm where she was met by two soldiers who took the ^{children} and hurried them and their mother to the stone cemetery building where they remained all throughout the siege. The young people now live in St. Paul. Could the people of this great State of Minnesota have known John Jones as did the men who fought

with him at Fort Ridgely
 they would erect a monument
 to his memory that would
 eclipse the one at Bunker
 hill I would have it stand on
 the very ground where he
 operated that battery on the
 20th and 22nd of August 1862
 I would have his name
 inscribed in well rounded
 letters of gold studded with
 diamonds. together with a
 history of his brave deeds
 so that the generations
 unborn yet for a hundred
 years might read and learn

of what kind of men
 lived ~~in~~ in 1862 and fought the
 siege of fort Ridgely.
 John. Jones was the hero
 and savior of Fort Ridgely
 and no other man dead
 or alive has a valid right
 to the honors. C.A. Rose
 was another of the boys who
 showed great coolness and
 bravery although only 17
 years of age. he was assigned
 to the duty of keeping the
 garrison supplied with
 ammunition this was a very
 dangerous position to fill

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he filled this position during
 the two days fighting and
 was never known to swaver
 from his duty. This is the
 boy who covered himself with
 glory at the battle of Nash-
 ville on the 16 of December 1864
 Joe Underwood Co B-5 min Vol 9
 was regimental color bearer
 he was mortally wounded
 and called to the boys to
 save the flag. Sergeant C. A.
 Rose sprang to the stars and
 stripes seized them and started
 for the Rebel ramparts
 and never stopped until he

75
~~76~~

had planted them square
 on top of the Rebel breast
 works. The Regiment followed
 him scaled the works routed
 the enemy and took many
 prisoners. Charles A. Rose
 is now Custodian of State
 documents his office is at
 the new Capitol. Mark M.
 Greer of Co C 5 regt m. v. I
 was one of the jolly boys of
 the Company always ready
 for a frolic never missing
 an opportunity to get the laugh
 on some body always bright
 and cheerful

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On The Evening of The 19th
 of Aug when we Comenced to re-
 trace our steps back to the Fort
 a sudden change came over
 Mark The change was so ^{ked} mar
 that Every body noticed it.
 Some of The boys asked Mark
 if he was sick he said he
 was not when Iressed for
 an answer as to what The matter
 was he simply said I shall
 never see Fort Ripley again
 Some one of The boys suggested
 that Mark was a little faint
 hearted his answer was boys
 don't accuse me of that I

77
76

shall stand shoulder to
 shoulder with you boys while
 I last now I have remember
 what I say I shall never see
 our own Fort again
 After the fight of the 20th
 had bin in Progress about an
 hour I had occarion to go
 down into The mess room.
 There was Mark Facing up
 and down between The long
 lines of Tables I says to him
 for the sake of heaven Mark
 what are you doing here
 said he I blew The tube out
 of my gun and am gitting

78
77

it fixed and as soon as it
is done I will be with you.
but Mr. said he my stay with
you will be short I tried to
cheer him up but to no purpose
I shook hands with him & tapped
him on the shoulder and said
mark the way things look here
now I don't think there is
a soul of us that will live
to see the sun go down
as I turned to go mark said
good bye Mr. forever I returned
to my Post and within 10
minutes Charley Rose came to
me and said Mark Greer is dead

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78

The survivors of Captain
Marshes men who went to
Redwood on the morning
of the out break were from
one to three days making
their way back to the Post.
They traveled by night and
kept secreted through the day
Capt Marshes remains were
recovered by the burial
party some two weeks after
the out break and buried
on the River Bank near
where they were found.
Buster Southerlain of Co B
was wounded through the

80
79

breast with an ounce ball
and was out 48 hours before
reaching the Fort. he recovered
went south with Company
and served his whole time
^{x he left his wife and 3 children at Redwood}
J. W. Decamp an employee of
the government who had charge
of the saw mill at Redwood
left his home at noon of the
17th for St. Peters to get supplies
for the mill was another
victim of the red hellions
he went out with the burial
Party he was at Birch Cooley
and received an ounce ball
square in the forehead he

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was taken to the Fort and lived
36 hours never having lost his
senses about half an hour
before he died Mrs Dr Muller
raised him up and gave him
some water when she laid him
back on the pillow he looked
up into her face and said
well Mrs Muller the red devils
have got all I possess on earth
now but my life and I guess
they have got that now he
died in half an hour about
4:30 P M we buried him
that night about 9-0 clock^{a.m.}
the next morning there was an

object sighted out on the
 Prairie and as it neared the Fort
 Hargt Jones ^{lowered} his glass and said
 it was a woman with some
 children two Scouts were sent
 to her relief with blankets to
 cover her nakedness. It proved
 to be Mrs Decamp with her
 3 children the escape of this
 woman and children was due to
 a half breed whom Mr. Decamp
 employed to work in the saw
 mill. when this man saw Mrs
 Decamp and the children taken
 prisoners he joined the Indians
 for the sole purpose of effecting

Their escape which he did.
 he was one of the witnesses who
 helped to condemn the thirty
 eight who were hung at
 mantato
 Now I want to ^{take} make a comment
 or two on what I have heard
 and seen at some of the old
 soldier gatherings that are quite
 common all over the country
 I have ^{heard} the question asked by people
 who have come into existence
 since the days of 1861 and 1865
 what is it that seems to cement
 these old soldiers so solidly
 together in heart soul and mind

[84]

Why they all seem like twin
brothers. Now can any one
read this poorly composed
and poorly written article and
still ask that question
I think not. The End

Orlando M. Hall
Co. C 5th Minnesota Vol Infantry