

[From diary of Tom Priestley, Lieut. 30^h Wis. Vols.
Mineral Pt, Wis.]

Sunday, June 12, 1864. Took passage for St. Paul, Minn

Fare 10.50

Expenses 1.00

.50

arrived at Prairie Du Chien at 6. P.M. remained there until 12 night

Monday, June 13, 1864. Left P. Du Chien 1 a.m. arrived at Prescott

at 12.m. Remained there until midnight

Expenses .30

" 1.45

Tuesday, June 14, 1864. arrived at St. Paul at 11. a.m. remained
in city at Merchants Hotel very hot day. wrote to X & Lizzie.

Spent 15.00

3.00

Wednesday, June 15, 1864. Went out to Ft. Snelling Remained there
all day. very hot day. wrote to Father sent for Gun &c

Thursday, June 16, 1864. Remained in Ft Snelling all day very hot
day

Spent 10.00

12.00

Friday, June 17, 1864. Remained in Ft. Snelling all day. did
nothing particular

Saturday, June 18, 1864. Left Ft. Snelling for Ft Ridgely. Marched
14. miles, very hot march. water evy few miles camped on Minnesota
River corps safe at Ferry. dry road

Spent 5.00

Sunday, June 19, 1864. Marched 13 miles from Minnesota River, rain
fell in the morning passed through Shokapee at 9 a.m. distance 7
miles camped on sand but good campg ground good roads.

spent 2.75

Camped at 2 p.m.

4124 14 Dec. 35 State Hist. Soc of Wis. par.

2.

Monday, June 20, 1864. Marched 20 miles passed through Bell Plain crossed Mi River camped on spring stream ~~3-miles-from-Henderson~~ [crossed out in Ms.] good camp ground left camp at 5 1/2 a.m. good roads.

spent 2.00

Teamster killed

Tuesday, June 21, 1864. Left camp on spri[n]g branch 3 miles from Henderson at 10. a.m. passed through Henderson. at 11 1/2 a.m. very hot dug ourselves a road. some marched 22 miles to proceed 14 -- not much wattr. men used up -- camped at 11. p.m. very tired

Spent 1.25

Wednesday, June 22, 1864. Remained in camp all day to recruit Horses and oxen all in bad condition hot weather. camped near stockade called Fort Godhill reached camp at 10 p.m.

Thursday, June 23, 1864. Marched at 4 a.m. to sort of a lake distance 10 miles remained there to 6 p.m. when again marched 30 miles across plain no water for 22 miles reched Fort Ridgely at moring of 24^h

[No entries for June 24 through July 8]

Saturday, July 9, 1864. Left Fort Ridgely at 1 1/2 p.m. travelled north west 12 miles to Ferry over Minn River crossed over at 7 p.m. camped about one half mile from it on the south side up on Tableland good water grass wood &c passed some 12 deserted farms camp was at Tower agency. houses destroyed 12 miles camp no. 1

Sunday, July 10, 1864. Left camp at Lower Agency or Upper Agency on the Minnesota River at 7 a.m. arrived in camp Pope on Minn River about 11 a.m. 8 miles good grass and water. splendid farming country not much timber, good soil passed some deserted farms. travelled nearly due west. Boys caught some fine fish. 8 miles

3.

Monday, July 11, 1864. Left camp in mo[r]n[in]g arrived at camp with but little water marched about 9. miles poor camp wood & water scarce Camped about 4 p.m. 9 miles

Tuesday, July 12, 1864. Left camp no 3 at 8 a.m. marched to 8 mile creek A. "B" lost some mules received mail. rain fell during the night good water & grass some wood splendid spring. 5 miles

Wednesday, July 13, 1864. Left camp no 4 at 5 1/2 a.m. reached Wood Lake at 10. a.m. Gn. Sibly had fight there marched to Cotton wood creek Distance traversed this day 12 miles or 14. good water & grass wood plenty enough for cooking warm day camped at 4 1/2 p.m. good spring crossed the Yellow Medicine River 13 miles

Thursday, July 14, 1864. Left camp no 5 on Cotton wood creek at 4 1/2 a.m. travelled 10 miles to water arrived at 11 a.m. good grass all the way. rested at creek and watered horses, moved again at 1 p.m. & marched about 8 miles to water camped on Mn River 3 miles above camp Release plenty of water & tolerable grass, stock & men tired, hot day, camped at 4. p.m. 18 miles

Friday, July 15, 1864. Left camp no. 6 at 8 1/2 a.m. travelled 4 miles to sort of small slough or water in a ditch, rested few minutes travelled 3 miles to Lukpar River [Laç qui Parle?] skirmishers were sent out in timber on the road near the river camped on opposite side of river --good grass ple[n]ty of wood. Distance travelled today 7 miles. Heavy shower in the evening. camped about noon 7 miles

Saturday, July 16, 1864. Left camp no 7 Lukpar Riv. at 5 1/2 a.m. pleseant morning. travelled north west. passed sort of half dried up slough ve[r]y little water in it about 8 or 9 miles from camp no 7. camped on slough or small Lake - poor water, no wood, distance

4.

from camp on Whetstone creek 11 miles, camped at 2 p.m. on Lake Ramsey. poor water. Prairie country level. few mounds camp no 8 11 miles

Sunday, July 17, 1864. Left Camp No. 8. at 3.15 a.m. travelled north west about 14 miles without water. good grass prairie all the way. sort of dried up lakes on the road no wood. poor water men dug some wells, very hot day some 4 oxen died on the road. reached camp at 2 P. m no wood near camp named Lake Dead Ox Lake 14 miles C 9

Monday, July 18, 1864. Left camp no 9 at 7 1/2 a.m. travelled north west four miles to Whetstone creek. good water & wood road good enough, plenty of grass. camped on the west side. country rather more roling creek is called Yellowworth. camp no 10 4 miles

Tuesday, July 19, 1864. Left camp no 10 at 4.10 a.m. travelled north west - cool morning country more roling. passed small Lake about 11 miles from camp Camped at 12.m on [Blank in Ms.] creek good camp - plenty of water some wood, good grass C 11. 14 miles (Izuza River)

Wednesday, July 20, 1864. Left camp at 4 1/2 a.m. marched on north east of one fork of the creek on which we camped last night. travelled about 10 miles when rested and watered stock turned off the road to the left travelled in general course north west. passed small pond near camp. also some larger ones about 12 miles from camp no. 11. camped on Bull Head Lake at 1 1/2 P.M. Distance travelled to day 16 miles. 16 mi C no 12

Thursday, July 21, 1864. Left camp no 12 at 4 a.m. travelled almost due north about 12 miles when road inclined to the west. passed some little water. level country camped near St Peter's River at the foot of Lake Traverse good water wood & grass reached camp at 10. a.m. Distance traveled 15 m C 13

5.

Friday, July 22, 1864. Left camp no 14 on St. Peters River at 4. a.m. travelled westerly crossed same River about 3 1/2 or 4 miles from camp. made the crossing. travelled some 2 miles further toward the Coteaus when made another over small stream, went westward toward the coteaus. camping on small stream near the side of it - course to day is westerly 10 miles c 14

Saturday, July 23, 1864. Left camp at 4 a.m travelled westerly across the corteau passed over very rolling country seen Mountains. some small Lakes on the route. camped on Lake about 1/2 mile wide & 4 miles long. plenty of fish. name of Lake "Enemy" swim reached camp about 12 m 12 miles c 15

Sunday, July 24, 1864. Left camp at 4 a.m travelled north n. west over very rolling country passed a number of small Lakes. camped about 2 p.m. on small Lake poor water, travelled about 17 miles 17 miles C no 16

Monday, July 25, 1864. Left camp at 6 a.m travelled n.n.w. about 5 miles to Kettle Lake which is in somewhat of a circular form, camped on the south side 5 miles c 17

[No entries for July 26 and July 27]

Thursday, July 28, 1864. Moved camp about 3/4 mile to site for Fort Wadsworth. Major Brown came into camp.

[No entries for July 29 through August 8]

Tuesday, August 9, 1864. Went over to Indian encampment with Maj Clowny, got into thick brush and difficult to proceed, forded bad places in Lake

Wednesday, August 10, 1864. Remained in camp made out tri monthly report. wrote letter to Hd.Qurs Dist of M in one for blank books. one a report of progress of the work going on in camp hot weather. was Sick spent 3.50 wine

Thursday, August 11, 1864. Went out hunting with Perrie Bottineau and three scouts. killed 12 Ducks shot at some white cranes very large birds, saw no buffaloes, windy & hot day - was vy sick, travelled about 20 miles, on Coteau. wild country--

Friday, August 12, 1864. Remained in camp all day more plesant weather. few drops of rain fell during the day. men at work getting out timber for block Houses and fitting up sawmill Maj sent mail to Ft [Ridgley] Ridley /nothing new in camp

[No entries for August 13 through August 17]

Thursday, August 18, 1864. Went out hunting Buffalo with Perrie Bottineau and five other scouts. killed nothing but some ducks and prairie chickens, camped near the head of the Coteau Des Prairies no water for horses travelled about 40 miles to day

Friday, August 19, 1864. Resumed our hunt at sunrise travelled Easterly to the side of the Coteau found good water and some Prairie Chickens eat our dinner near Skunk Lake hot weather saw but one buffalo, camped on the west side of the Coteau at dusk having travelled abt 40 miles this day.

Saturday, August 20, 1864. Resumed our hunt at 6 A.M. travelled towards camp saw some Ducks and chickens, reached camp at about 4 p.m. having travelled about 25 miles.

Sunday, August 21, 1864. Sent mail to Fort Abercrombie, also tri monthly report.

[No entries from August 22 through August 24]

Thursday, August 25, 1864. Remained in camp wrote letters to Father and others, very windy weather could not write

Friday, August 26, 1864. G. A. Bracketts train left for Fort Ridgley, sent mail by Mr Warren very windy weather.

[No entries from August 27 through September 2]

Saturday, September 3, 1864. Went out hunting with Dr Baker north of camp on the Coteau killed some Ducks and snipe. saw plenty of game. rainy weather all afternoon. returned to camp early, moved into Log House quarters.

Sunday, September 4, 1864. Remained in camp all day pleseant & warm weather.

Monday, September 5, 1864. Remained in office all d[ay] men busy working on quarters or store Houses, rather, Cold blustry weather with some little rain.

Tuesday, September 6, 1864. Remained in camp all day rain fell at intervals during the day cold chilly weather. men at work on Com-misary & Q^{rs}, store House. nothing new or of importance transpiring in camp.

Wednesday, September 7, 1864. Remained in camp all day - cool pleseant weather - mail did not come in as expected. amused myself in the evening listening to the howling of the wolves, beautiful sernading.

[No entries for September 8 and 9]

Saturday, September 10, 1864. Paymaster visited camp was busy all day.

Sunday, September 11, 1864. Garrison paid by Major W^m R Singler to Aug 31st 1864.

Monday, September 12, 1864. Went out hunting with D^r Baker killed some Ducks & Snipes rain fell during the day.

[No entries for September 13, 14, and 15]

Friday, September 16, 1864. Bracketts train ^{arrived} left from Fort Ridgley Min cool plesant weather Remained in camp

Saturday, September 17, 1864. Bracketts train left for Fort Ridgly Min.

Sunday, September 18, 1864. Dull in camp nothing stirring wrote letters home

Monday, September 19, 1864. Attended to duties of office, but little going on in camp building & progressing

Tuesday, September 20, 1864. Remained in camp all day very pleseant weather, windy in the evening, men at work on store house

[No entries from September 21 through September 27]

Wednesday, September 28, 1864. Received orders to leave Fort Wadsworth D.T. & was relieved by Maj. Rose 2nd cav. Mi vols

Thursday, September 29, 1864. Commenced march from Fort Wadsworth D.T. marched 24. miles down the Coteau on Bracketts route. plea[s]ant weather rather cool camped at 4 1/2 P.M. with Col Thomas' command. 24 miles

Friday, September 30, 1864. Left camp on Coteau at 6 1/2 a.m. marched 14 miles to side of Coteau off of same about 8 miles, good water not much wood, men drew rations. rainy drizzly weather cleared up during the night. Distance 15 1/2 mi

Saturday, October 1, 1864. Left camp at 6 1/2 a.m. marched to one fork of Whetstone creek camped on East side grass badly frost bitten. water fair good roads plesant day marched 23 miles

Sunday, October 2, 1864. Left camp on Fork of Whetstone creek at 6 a.m. arrived at Whetstone creek at about 8 a.m. good road. travelled to Yelloworth creek or Yellowbank good campg ground Distance 18 mi

Monday, October 3, 1864. Left camp on Yellowbank at 5 1/2 a.m. marched to Lukpar River distance 27 miles. passed two lakes on the road. one dried up cool weather. Lt Curtin reported to command on his way to Ft. W-- cold frosty night D 27 mi

Tuesday, October 4, 1864. Left camp on Lukpar River at 3 1/2 a. m marched to old camp about 7 miles rested and waited for Col Thomas' comy

Wednesday, October 5, 1864. Marched from creek to Yellow Medicine River Distance 23 mi

Thursday, October 6, 1864. Marched from Yellow Medicine to Rice creek good road, plenty of wood & water at camp Dist. 17

Friday, October 7, 1864. Left camp on Rice creek at 5 1/2 a.m. marched to Ferry and crossed. went ahead of the command and arrived at Fort Ridgley at 3 1/2 p.m. stoped at Mrs Clarks boarding House Distance 28 miles

Saturday, October 8, 1864. Remained at Ft. Ridgley Col Thomas' command arrived at 12.m. very pleseant weather cool night

Sunday, October 9, 1864. Remained at Fort Ridgley Minn.

Monday, October 10, 1864. Commenced march for St. Paul marched 27 miles camped on Swan Lake cool weather frosty mornings D 27 miles

Tuesday, October 11, 1864. Marched from Swan Lake to St. Peter prairie country not much water few partially dried up sloughs good farming country near St. Peter. town well located on the Minn River site for a flourishg village Dist 16 miles

Wednesday, October 12, 1864. left St Peter at 6 a.m. marched 4 miles east of Henderson Frank Korn and Enright left behind Dist 18 mi
[No entries for October 13 and 14]

Saturday, October 15, 1864. Left camp [illeg.] / ^{creek} at 6. a.m. arrived at Fort Snelling at 10. a.m. pleseant morning.

[No entries from October 16 through October 19]

Thursday, October 20, 1864. Left St Paul for St Louis at 12. m. on board the Aerial got stuck on a sand bar at 1 p.m. reached Prescott on mor[n]ing of 21st Found Dealer pd. 200

The Priestley papers.
Miscellaneous MSS. II

Fort Snelling, Minn. 8th Aug

Dear Sir,

Mr. R. A. Priest has not yet arrived though I am in
strong hopes that they may be here by tonight mail.
If not by the next one. & so on ad. libitum perhaps.
The weather here is of a peculiar hotness which even
one who has experienced it seems to me, though his
previous opinion I am not sure. I am still very weak,
and am finding every day in appearance and strength.
It is useless for me to attempt to disguise myself this fact.
The diet (Ist here in the hospital is not what I require -
I have tasted vegetables (potatoes) but twice during the time
I have been here. The fare is not good is hardly and without help.
The medical cook does it all up hard.
I hope you are all getting along comfortably.
I never felt so lonely or deserted as I did after you
went all home, and my connection with the 3rd
seemed entirely broken off. Still under the circumstances
I could not have it changed.
Write home by the first opportunity. I don't write because I
have any thing particular to tell you, but because I must have a talk with
you, a "Boo Mail". Had a letter from home last Saturday, one date
June 21st and one July 7th. Where on earth the one & same 21st had
been for so long I am at a loss to imagine. The R.D. is better since
now. Mother told me that the Major's family, and yours, also people
generally were well. Give my love to the Major, Mrs. Walker
&c. With every wish for the success of the Expedition, that is

DEFECTIVE PAGE

the history of the
vicinity. II

Fort Ridgely July 18th 1864

Dear Tom.

My "X" Papers have not yet arrived. Though I am in strong hopes that they may get here by tonight - mail. If not, by the next one. & so on ad. libitum perhaps. The weather here is of a peculiar hotness. Different from any I ever experienced it seems to me though it is perhaps because I am not well. I am still very weak, and am failing every day in appearance and strength. It is useless for me to attempt to disguise this fact. The diet I get here in the hospital is not what I require - I have tasted vegetables (potatoes) but twice during the time I have been here. The poor mischance is paid, and no doubt the individual cook ^{the individual cook} spoils it all up hard. Hope you are all getting along comfortably. I never felt so lonely or deserted as I did after you were all gone, and my connections with the 3rd seemed entirely broken off - Still under the circumstances I could not have it changed. With the first opportunity, I don't write, because I have some things particular to tell you, but because I can't have a talk with you - a "Bour Mail". Had a letter from home last Saturday. one dated June 31st and one July 7th. When on Earth the one of June 21st had been for a long time at a little vicarage. The P.D. is still home now. Mother told me that the Major, family, and your, also people generally were well. Give my love to the Major. Wm. B. Baker &c. With every wish for the success of the Expedition. That is

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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

0142

Fort Ridgely July 18th 1864

Dear Pons.

My "Xen Papers" have not yet arrived. Though I am in
strong hopes that they may get here by tonight's mail.
If not by the next one. & so on ad. libitum perhaps.
The weather here is of a peculiar hotness. Different from
any I ever experienced. It seems to me though it is
perhaps because I am not well. I am still very weak.
and am feeling every day in appearance and strength.
It is asked for me to attempt to disfigure myself the fact.
The diet I get here in the hospital is not what I require.
I have tasted vegetables (potatoes) but twice during the time
I have been here. The fare is not good. and is doubtless
the invalid cook does it all up badly.
I hope you are all getting along comfortably.
I never felt so lonely or deserted as I did after you
were all gone. and my connections with the
seemed entirely broken off. Still under the circumstances
I could not have it changed.
With time by the first opportunity. I don't write because I
have any thing particular to tell you. but because I ought have a talk with
you. a "Dear Word". Had a letter from home last Saturday. one dated
June 21st and one July 7th. When on earth the one of June 21st had
been for so long I am at a loss to imagine. The R.D. is still home
now. Mother told me that the Mayors family and grand. also people
generally were well. Give my love to the Major. Kourtney. Baker
&c. With every wish for the success of the Expedition. that is

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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The Priestley papers
 Manuscript II

the comfort and will fare to you all satisfactorily
 remain my dear Mrs. Laverly yours

I am anxious to get home where I can get good medical
 advice and attention. If I don't soon I am afraid
 it will be too late, for I am feeling much more all the time.
 Love to you.

Wm. J. L. 1861

I had this letter to Fells County. I had heard it from
 Mrs. Muller & Co. sent to Baker a box which you
 must have opened. And when the train comes down
 send them (the Dr. must) one in return.

I intend to visit to you and Baker, alternately all
 winter ~~provided~~ provided you desire, &c.
 Yours truly
 Wm. J. L. 1861

DEFECTIVE PAGE

the comfort and well fare of you all particularly
I remain my dear friend sincerely yours

Bob.

I am anxious to get home where I can get good medical
advice and attention. If I do not soon I am afraid
it will be too late, for I am going down town all the time.
Love & care.

Very yours Bob.

I had this from of Fidds Cavalry who is behind to get the money
from Muller & Co. sent to Baker a Box which you
must be opened. And when the train comes down
send them (the money) one in return.

I intend to write to you and Baker alternately all
winter ~~providing~~ providing you answer &c.
Hend it

Very yours
Bob.

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0145

the comfort and well fare of you all particularly
I remain my dear but sincerely yours

Bob.

I am anxious to get home where I can get good medical
care and attention. If I do not soon I am afraid
it will be too late, for I am going down town all the time.
Love & care,

Very yours Bob.

I had this from of Ficks Cavalry who is to get the mail.
Mr Muller & Co sent Dr Baker a Box which you
must be opened. And when the train comes down
send them (the Dr & Co) one in return.

I intend to write to you and Baker alternately all
winter ~~provided~~ provided you answer &c.
Love it &c. Very yours
Bob.

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE
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0146

the comfort and well fare of you all particularly
I remain my dear true sincerely yours

Bob.

I am anxious to get home where I can get good medical
advice and attention. If I don't soon I am afraid
it will be too late, for I am going down to all the time.
Love & care.

Wm. J. Ford Bob.

I had this by me of Fidd's Cavalry who is behind to get the mail.
Mr. Muller & Co. sent to Baker a Box which you
must be opened. And when the train comes down
send them (The Dr. must) one in return.

I intend to write to you and Baker alternately all
winter ~~provided~~ provided you answer &c.
Should I
Wm. J. Ford
Bob.

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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0147