

Diary of Captain W. L. Silvis,
Co. I, Eighth Minnesota Volunteers
January 1 to November 4, 1864.

The date for each day is printed in the diary.
The first entry on each page lists the complete date,
"January, Friday 1, 1864." The succeeding entries on
each page do not repeat the month and year. The no-
tation is simply, "Saturday 2," etc.

Typed by Amy Handschuh and collated by Amy Handschuh
and Catherine Bauman.

October, 1941.

$\frac{1.66}{1.75}$

Capt W. L. Silvis

Bought of Mr Grandlemier

1/4 1 nio [?]

$\frac{\$50.00}{\$16.66}$

$\frac{3) 50}{16.2}$
3

$\frac{26) 1666}{156}$
106
104
2
26 13

6 1/4 ins

2 3/4 "

3/4 thick

2 61
3 1
2 3
2 2
2 67

John Hamilton

Richmnd

Oh2o

1
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2
2
2
1
1
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3
3

1.6 ins

1.1 in



2.

January, Friday, 1. 1864. E A Stone 24

A Been 26

R Lewis 26

February, Saturday, 6. 1864. 1 Hubbs 8 by 10 1/2 3/4x2

2 " 8 1/4 " 11 3/4 1/16x2 1/4

3 Rims 2 in

Seldon

March, Friday, 25. 1864. John Collins Dr to cash

twenty Doll[ar]s \$20.00 to be paid from next pay

April, Tuesday, 12. 1864. Georg[e] B. McNelly Dr to cash

\$10.00

cmB cash 10.00

settled

April, Monday, 18. 1864. went to gull Lake on Sugar expedition in company with capt Atkinson B^{[t]h} min[n] vol[unteer]s Geo Oaks C Beaulieu Mrs Beaulieu Miss Bell Miss Morrison and Miss Ford

Tuesday, 19. return[e]d from Gull Lake with a supply of Sugar

April, Thursday, 21. 1864. John K Davis Dr to cash twenty Doll[ar]s \$20.00, to be paid from next pay

[May] Thursday, 5. Mailed one 20 bill to Mrs Mary Silvis No of 111113

Saturday, 7. Lt John G Macgregor Dr to paid at clarks Store St Cloud \$5.25 for cartridges 5.25

carpet Sack 2 25

\$ 8.50
100

Tuesday, 10. Col H C Rogers Dr to cash \$100.00
100

credid by 100 00
.00

Friday, 13. Marched from Ft Ripley capt Atkinson in command and camped at Swan River west of the Miss[issippi] River -- 18 miles distant. A I Bliss and 2 others deserted afterwards returned orderly Athey Struck private Rudolph Habager with Pail he being drunk

Saturday, 14. Broke camp at 5 oclock a.m. marched up the val[ley] of the east branch of Swan Riv[e]r in the a north western direction on a road leading to Sauk centre camped on a plaim [sic] 22 miles distant

May, Sunday, 15. 1864. arrived at Sauk centre having marched 28 miles roads rough, in places and marshy also

Monday, 16. Received 67 Horses for the purpose of mounting compty [sic]

Tuesday, 17. Received 25 men in my company who were in the rebell Service and are now in the U.S. Service

May, Wednesday, 18. 1864. received and issued Clothing to company paid Lt G.W. Butterfield for mess chest for company officers also for one for Capt Atkinson co "G" 8th the cost of each being \$53.72
100

May, Saturday, 21. 1864. Lieut Kinney Dr to cash Loaned

\$3.00

Lieut Kinney cr by cash \$3 00
0 00

John Hartley Dr to cash \$3 00

5 miles
Left camp Sauk centre and capled [camped?] on Sauk River

Sunday, 22. Started for pains ville and arrived 2 1/2 oclock P.m. marched 23 miles

Monday, 23. McClure Dr to cash \$2 00

Paid 2 00

Wednesday, 25. Co^s A D and C of the 8th Regt arrived at Sauk centre Painsvill[e] the Regimental Culors [sic] were produced in due form Line officers hig[h]ly compliment[e]d on the appearance of the men by Col M T Thomas

Thursday, 26. Marched 23 miles and camped on the South Shore of Diamond Lake the Scenery is very good and it and the Soil is very rich

May, Friday, 27. 1864. Struck tents and marched Seven Oclock and camped on the north Shore of a Lake no name

[June] Friday, 3. received in charge of G B M^cnelly \$5.00
100


Rec^d pay for company

Monday, 6. paid Owins \$40 00 received of Lt Duly 10.00 broke camp at Ft Ridgley and marched 18 miles to tiger crick and camped at 3 oclock P.M. raised 2 Indi[an]s the land is very rich mostly prair[ie] and rolling water good

June, Saturday, 11. 1864. Left Fort Ridgley Marche[d] 18 miles and camped on the South Shore of the Min[n] River near camp Sibley Signs of Indians having been there within 2 days

Sunday, 12. Laid over in camp and one Horse died by Disease and not through carelessness the Horse was in charge of Gorden Rebel Deserte[r]

Monday, 13. Marched 16 miles and camped on Lac a Parl river

June, Tuesday, 14. 1864. Marched 16 miles and camped on a Small Stream of pure water and good grazing Som[e]  timber

Wednesday, 15. Marched 15 miles camped on a Lake called punished woman in Dakota Ter[r]itory and 8 miles from the minn Line good grazing and water alk[a]Li

June, Friday, 17. 1864. Marched 18 miles and camped on a Lake good water through the day Saw 2 Heads of Buffalo and followed on 6 miles Shot at it 2 times and saw 4 Indians Lost my glass

Saturday, 18. Started in search of glass with five men Did not find it trav[e]lled 40 miles camped between 2 lakes Indians 12 lodges was there and left 3 hours before our arrival Scouts in pursuit of them

June, Monday, 20. 1864. broke camp and marched 18 miles camped on Lake camp named Rose

Tuesday, 21. marched 21 miles and camped on James River camp camp the prairie over which we passed was very level and the Soil good 2 Horses left

Wednesday, 22. Marched one mile and camped on James River

June, Thursday, 23. 1864. Marched 15 miles and camped on Elm River lost Halter and Strap

Friday, 24. marched 14 miles and camped on maple river Henry Dunwell lost one picket pin and Rope while on duty grazing Horses the sam[e] belonging to James Kane

Saturday, 25. marched 12 miles and camped on the east

[coteau]
Side of the Missouri couteau mere of camp Batt[el]ry Jones James
Stilfox Dr to cash on note lost or Stolen \$10.00 --
100

June, Sunday, 26. 1864. remained in camp

Monday, 27. marched 20 miles camped on a lake water Salty grazing good Camp pettit

Tuesday, 28. marched 20 miles camped on a Lake with boiling Spring centre and &c, one horse left unable to travel no wood camp Folsom

June, Wednesday, 29. 1864. marched 25 miles and camped on a marsh very little water grazing good camp McClarty

Thursday, 30. marched 25 miles and camped near Sullys forces No 18 cold rain all day camp in a mud hole

July, Friday, 1. 1864. James McCullough Dr to cash five Dollars \$5.00
100

Paid 5.00

July, Saturday, 2. 1864. Laid over in camp turned over to Q M 2 Horses and received no receipts

Sunday, 3. broke camp and marched 5 miles went into camp No 18 Sullys Indian Expedition

charges preferred against Sergt Lounds Fruit Co "I" 8 min[nesota] vols

received \$40.00 in charge for Geo B Leyde and gave Due Bill for the Same 100

Monday, 4. Marched 20 miles and went into camp no 20 Sullys Indian Expedition left one Horse unable to travel

July, Tuesday, 5. 1864. marched 15 miles and camped in camp no 20 M^cClure Dr to cash \$4.00
100
Paid 400

Wednesday, 6. broke camp and marched 30 miles and camped on a Stream called Beaver River the water was good the country mountainous and the [s]cenery Beautiful

Thursday, 7. Broke camp and marched 16 miles camped on the east Shore of the Missouri River near Long Lake at which place Sully intends to build a fort

July, Friday, 8. 1864. Laid over in camp no 23

Saturday, 9. Laid over in camp no 23 1st Brigade commenced crossing the Missouri river Capt Clark Died and was Buried by the masons on the west Side of the River at 6 oclock

Sunday, 10. Laid over in camp No 23 making Pay Rolls expect to Receive Pay

July, Monday, 11. 1864. crossed to the west Side of the Missouri River by Steam Boat no accidents occurred

Monday, 18. Cash on hand Seven Hundred and ninetyfive dollars.

Tuesday, 19. Broke camp and marched 16 miles passed through country very mountainous and indications of minerals and coal [s]cenery is very good and romantic camp No 25

July, Wednesday, 20. 1864. marched 18 miles and camped on a Small stream the country is very Broken and mountainous and Signs of mineral g[o]ld and coal not in quantity sufficient to be worked moved into camp No 26

Thursday, 21. Broke camp and marched 15 miles the country rolling and water Scarse [sic] and very bad none to be had throug[h] the course of the day Sully Drunk camp No 27

Friday, 22. Broke camp and marched 12 miles and camped on canon Ball River Signs of Indians and camp no 28

Had Diiorhea but kept on duty

July, Saturday, 23. 1864. Broke camp and marched 25 miles crossed Canon Ball River Some Signs of Indians the day was extremely warm and Suffocating 4 companies Stampeded and ran 2 miles when they were stop[p]ed coal made its ap[p]earance in the Bluffs 4 f^t thick camp No 29

July, Tuesday, 26. 1864. broke camp at 12 oclock and marched 12 miles the Scouts encountered 41 Indians and were driven in lost one Horse Killed camp no 30

Wednesday, 27. broke camp and marched 30 miles on the trail of Indians bud [sic] did not catch them and wentw into camp on Knife River camp No 31

Thursday, 28. Broke camp at 2 oclock A.M. and marched 15 miles and came up to Indians in force about about [sic] four thousand and drove them about 10 miles Killing and wounding about 200 camped on Battle ground camp No 32

July, Friday, 29. 1864. Broke camp 2 oclock A.M. and pursued Indians and returned to battle gro[un]d and destroyed lodges and buffalo Hides in value about forty thousand dollars Some Scirmishing lost 6 men 2 killed and four wounded camp No 33

Saturday, 30. marche[d] in return to camp No 29 28 miles attacked in night by Indians one Picket Killed and 2 taken prisoners from Co D 2nd minn cavalry camp No 34

Sunday, 31. broke camp and marched 30 miles and camped near No 29 camp No 35

August, Monday, 1. 1864. Aug Broke camp and marched 25 miles and camped on the north Side of Heart River - camp No 36

Wednesday, 3. Broke camp and marched 22 miles camped on a Small Stream the name of which is North Branch of Heart River camp No 37

August, Thursday, 4. 1864. Broke camp and marched 20 miles and camped on a Small Stream called camp No 38

Monday, 8. White Lost accoutrements to be charged Broke camp and march[ed] 12 miles and fought the enemy all day Killed 6 Indians captured one Horse and one Scalp Bivouacked

Tuesday, 9. marched against the Indians fought them all day and made a march of 8 miles

August, Wednesday, 10. 1864. marched 20 miles and camped on Beaver River no Indians in Sight all quiet

Thursday, 11. marched 20 miles and camped on beaver creek water good no grass for Stock country very mountainous

Friday, 12. broke camp and marched 20 miles to a stream called alkali water country mountainous no water or grass

Sunday, 14. Broke camp at 2^o and crossed the river Yellow Stone river lost 2 men & 5 mules drowned

Monday, 15. Monday Broke camp and marched 16 miles down the yellow Stone

August, Tuesday, 16. 1864. Broke camp and marched 8 miles paid Miter[?] for Shoeing Horses \$6.60

Wednesday, 17. Laid over in camp Lt McGregor Drunk [?]

Thursday, 18. Broke camp marched 10 miles to the Missouri river and commenced crossing at Fort Union Set out[?] aboard boat for fort Rice Paid for [MS. illegible] \$5.00

[MS. illegible: two lines are missing]:

August, Friday, 19. 1864. after crossing the River went into camp Lt McGregor Drunk paid Geo Leyde \$5 00 Due \$23 00

Saturday, 20. Played Poker made 50 00

Sunday, 21. Played Poker lost 75 00

August, Monday, 22. 1864. played Poker made 200 00

Tuesday, 23. Played Poker lost 20.00

Wednesday, 24. Laid over on acco[un]t of wind being High [?] Doctor Camburn and myself went hunting each killed a Buffalo four miles from the River

August, Thursday, 25. 1864. laid over until 3 Oclock P.M. Started ran 2 miles and run onto a Bar got off after dark and laid up

Tuesday, 30. Laid over at Ft Berthal

August, Wednesday, 31. 1864. Laid over at Ft Berthal until oclock P M Started for Ft Rice

[Sept.] Friday, 2. arrived at Fort Clark 80 miles from Ft Rice

Sunday, 4. arrived at Ft Rice

Wednesday, 14. Bought of Comm for Co 2 Sacks flour one Box Hard tack \$15 00

September, Thursday, 15. 1864. left Fort Rice D c[ompany] and Started for minn[esota] marched 5 miles

Friday, 16. Broke camp at 5 a m marched 12 miles al- kali water

Saturday, 17. Broke camp at 4 a.m. and marched 25 miles without water

September, Sunday, 18. 1864. Broke camp at 5 a m marched 20 miles no water until evening all alkali

Thursday, 22. John Peacock moulder Cleveland Bliss & Garlick by Gillchrist John Madden cor Harbor & Clinton St Cleveland

September, Saturday, 24. 1864. came into camp and Laid over until Monday [Monday?]

Sunday, 25. Scout four Found Wardsw Fort Wardswarth 20 miles distant

Thursday, 29. ~~leat~~ Broke camp and marched for fort Ridg-laey march[ed] 25 miles lost one Horse unable to travel

September, Friday, 30. 1864. marched 16 miles camped on a Branch of minn[esota] River

[Oct.] Wednesday, 5. marched 23 miles camped at yellow medicin[e]

October, Thursday, 6. 1864. marched 20 miles and camped on creek

Friday, 7. marched 18 miles crossed minn[isota] River & camped on Burch cooley one Horse gave out and was left

Saturday, 8. marched 17 miles arrived at Ft Ridg[e]ly 1/2 past 12 at ni[ght]

Monday, 10. Started by Stage from Ft Ridgley went to St Peters

Tuesday, 11. Started for Jordann arrived at Jordan about 4 o'clock p.m.

October, Wednesday, 12. 1864. left Jordan and rode to Shakopee

Thursday, 13. arrived at St Paul 12 o'clock, m.

Monday, 17. Started from Ft Ridgley and arrived at St Peter by Stage - 50 miles arrived at Jordan 4 o'clock P.M. Joined the com[pany] at Ft Snelling

October, Tuesday, 18. 1864. arrived at Jordan at 4 o'clock P.M. laid over in camp commenced boarding at Mr Adamses
Wednesday, 26. 8th Reg^t Ship[ple]d on board the Aerial bound for nashville tenn

Monday, 31. returned from Henderson to Belle Plaine with [crossed out]

November, Tuesday, 1. laid over in Belle Plaine

November, Wednesday, 2. 1864. left Belle Plaine for St Peter in search of cattle arrived at St Peter 9 o'clock P.M. Met a Suit of clothes with cap^t Pain that the war will not end before four years the Rebs sue for Peace

Thursday, 3. went in search of a sorrel mare and found her dead

Friday, 4. Moses Carson Bought Property to the amt of forty five doll[ar]s which he is to pay on demand

< Memoranda >

Wagon Bed	2 00
2 prs Phills	2 00
2 Gearings	4 00
1 Buggy Bed	6 00
1 Set wagon wheels	8 00
1 " Buggy "	8 00
	<u>30 00</u>

< February -- BILLS PAYABLE. >

W. R. Palmer

Watts Burgh

Erie co

Pa

< March -- BILLS PAYABLE. >

21 ins long

7 1/2 boar

10 ins thick

13 in Heads

1 in thick

chest 12 ins long

9 ins wide

3 ins deep

openings 6 ins by 3/4 ins

< June -- BILLS PAYABLE. >

Saddles & co[?] turned

over Sept 12[t]h

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | P Schnider | complete |
| 2 | D E Ellis | Deficient one Blanket |
| 3 | Jos Smith | one Spur missing |
| 4 | Blume F | one Blanket one Spur and Halter missing |
| 5 | John Car | one Spur missing |
| 6 | Stilfox | one pr Spurs missing |
| 7 | Williams | complete |
| 8 | John Ross | pr Spurs lost
complete |
| 9 | W H Johnson | Blanket and Spurs lost |
| 10 | Gordan | Sircingle and Spurs lost |
| | < July -- BILLS PAYABLE. > | |
| 11 | Tamplin | one Spur lost |
| 12 | Dean | one Spur lost |
| 13 | Jas Kane | complete |
| 14 | Henr[y] Dunwell | one Spur and Blanket lost |
| 15 | F wood | complete |
| 16 | Jas Anderson | complete |
| 17 | Jos walff | complete |
| 18 | D H Fearing | watering Bridle lost complete |
| 19 | S N. Bliss | watering Bri lost complete |
| 20 | owins | complete |
| | < August -- BILLS PAYABLE. > | |
| 21 | I N Dooley | one Spurs lost |
| 22 | Murphy | one Spur lost and Halter and Straps lariat
and picket pin |

< October -- BILLS PAYABLE.>

15.

[MS. illegible: one half page is illegible];

3.00

4.25

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10.50

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52 1/2

[MS. illegible]; & Co

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75

7

75

75

Jany

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3

[MS. illegible];

25
75

[MS. illegible: three lines are illegible];