

## Sergeant Desmore Diary and Hans H. Danielson Diary

### History of Company G, of 7th Minnesota Volunteers, War of the Rebellion

August 12, 1862 to August 16, 1865

#### HISTORY OF COMPANY G, OF 7TH MINNESOTA VOLUNTEERS, WAR OF THE REBELLION

##### Sergeant Desmore Diary

Aug. 1862

12 Recruiting at Red Wing, Minnesota began.

17 Company started for Fort Snelling by boat.

18 Reached the fort and were placed in camp.

20 Surgical examination by Dr. Potts C. Betcher commissioned as first lieutenant.

26 2nd Lieutenant N.S. Olestrom resigned; W.C. Williston made captain. D. Desmore 2nd Lieutenant.

27 Started by steamer C. H. Wilson for Shakopee en [sic] route to Fort. Ridgely. Captain W. C. Williston commanding.

28 Left Shakopee toward noon and camped at Jordan or Sand Creek. More coming. Officers of Co. appointed (commanding officers).

29 Camped at Faxton Ferry.

30 Passed through Henderson at noon and camped west of town.

Sept.

1 Left Eagle Lake where spent Sunday.

2 Reached Fort Ridgely about 6:00 P.M. and started for Birch Coulee to relieve Capt. Grant and escort of the 6th who were there surrounded by Indians, reaching Major M. Larson Command of 2nd Co., at 2 o'clock A.M.

3 Battle of Birch Coulee, driving off Indians and returned to the fort at 11:12 P.M. A hard tired march in strong winds.

4 Went into camp in front of the fort.

7 First dress parade of the 7th Reg't. [sic] Lieut. Col. Marshall commanding,

11 Maj. Gen Bradley joined the Reg't. [sic] Spent week in drill.

18 In P.M. started on expedition up the Minnesota River after massacring Indians crossing river and camping at Lone Tree Lake.

22 Reached Wood Lake three miles from Yellow Medecine [sic] Agency.

23 Battle of Wood Lake in A.M. Private Jon Wilson wounded.

24 Remained in camp at Wood Lake.

25 Marched 5 miles beyond Yellow Medecune [sic] Agency.

26 Marched 15 miles and found camp of friendly Indians.

27 Camp Release established. Court martial for Indians instituted.

Oct.

2 Mustered in.

4 Col. Stephen Miller joined the reg't. [sic] and Co. received bounty of \$13.00.

6 First regiment drilled. Not very satisfactory. Don't know enough.

20 Received marching orders with Capt. Camp of the 9th Reg't. [sic] under M. Larson to return.

21 Broke camp at 6:00 A.M. Reached Yellow Medecine [sic] at 2:00 P. M. Got horses from Capt. Hackett. Rode four miles below and camped. A terrible wind with dust. and ashes made fearful march.

22 Marched to 4 miles below Redwood River and gave up horses. "Good Indians" marching down from Yellow Medecine [sic] Agency.

23 Reached the Lower Agency at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Camp Release broken up.

24 Wind in the night destroyed Headquarters tent. 10 below zero. Got up a shanty for tent. Begin building Indian prison.

25 Got into camp on the prairie with expedition which arrived at 11:00 A.M. with Indians from Camp Release (Camp Sibley).

31 Mustered by Lieut. Col. Marshall. Indian trials in progress,

Nov.

7 Got orders to march down the river in the morning. south side.

9 Camped 18 miles from South Bend. Received orders to remain in the state during winter.

10 Camp Lincoln, 1½ miles below South Bend and near Mankato.

15 Winter quarters assigned as follows: Headquarters, 7th Reg't. [sic] Mankato. Co. A, Fairmont; Co. B, Tivoli; Co. C, Winnebago; Co. D, Fort Abercrombie; Co. E, Madelia; Co. F, Mankato; Co. G, New Ulm; Co. H, New Auburn; Co. I, South Bend; Co. K, Mankato.

17 Lieut. Betcher goes to New Ulm to prepare quarters for Co. G.

18 Co. starts for New Ulm. Camp at barn. Hard march in snow,

19 Reach New Ulm at 11:20 A.M. and take quarters in Hotel Gross. Very good.

20 Built gun racks at end of dancing hall used as barracks.

Dec.

1 Capt. Williston and Orderly Owens go down to Headquarters for Nations.

2 Order granting furloughs.

4 Sgt. J.L. Jackson sent to Mankato informing Col. Miller of raid of citizens from New Ulm to kill prisoners (Indians in prison.)

5 Captain Williston returned with six mule teams.

7 1st squad furloughed

24 Co. start for Mankato to attend Indian hangings.

26 38 Indians hung.

27 Co. returned to Mankato. Elijah Peck died at New Ulm.

January 1863

3 2nd squad furloughed. Lieut. Betcher Post Commissary Co. remained in Mankato guarding Indians in prison. until April 17th.

23 3rd squad furloughed

Feb.

12 Paid to Jan.

24 Furlough for all who had not been home.

April

17 Friday. Indian raid on South Branch stations on Watonwan reported. Cos. G and K march to Madelia Station. Lt. Col. Marshall commanding. Quit at Fort Cox.

May

22 Returned to Mankato to go into camp west of town with the other cos. Started at 4:10 A.M. and arrived at 1:20 P. M. Dinner at Lake Crystal.

29 Paid to May 1st by Major Phinney.

30 Cos. A, B, C, E, and F and G began march from Mankato. Camp Pope above the mouth of the Redwood River.

## CAMPAIGN OF GENERAL SIBLEY

30 Lt. Col. Marshall commanding, Col. Miller remaining in Mankato. Camped 1¼ miles out. Skidman and Malloy deserted at Blue River. never returned.

31 Sunday. Marched 20 miles. Camped 4½ miles above New Ulm.

June

1 Reached Lone Tree Lake at noon. Dinner on old camping ground. Camp on hillside beside creek, 2 miles below Lower Agency.

2 Arrived at Camp Pope at 10:00 o'clock A.M. Col. Stephen Miller assigned to command at St. Paul for the summer. Lt. Col. Marshall commanding.

9 Gen. H.H. Sibley and arrived in camp at 5:30 P.M. Some 40 to 50 six-mule teams are stampeded by the artillery salute to Comm'g [sic] officers and ran away, shooting right and left over the river bottoms like a wild ricocheting of rockets trying to get skyward, making a fine and laughable entertainment for the whole camp.

16 The Indian Expedition of 1863 under Gen. Sibley left Camp Pope at 5:45 A.M. consisting of the entire 6th Reg't. [sic], Col. Crooks; 9 cos. of the 7th Reg't. [sic], with Co. H of the 9th under Lieut. Col. Marshall, 8 Cos. of the 10th Reg't. [sic] under Col. J.H. Baker; 3rd Minn. Battery, Capt. John Jones commanding; 1st Reg't. [sic] Minn. Mounted Rangers under Col. McPhail; a corps of scouts under McCloud and, a train of commissary teams, 100 or more. A large drove of beef cattle was driven along and held in a corrall [sic] of the army wagons at night. We marched very slowly and go into camp 8 miles out (Camp Crooks). Co. C on this expedition was commanded by Capt. W.C. Williston. H. Betcher was 1st. Lieut., D. Densmore 2nd Lieut., Sgt. James A Owens Orderly and all others noncommissioned officers and privates of Co. present.

17 Made 13 miles to Wood Lake and camped 100 rods S.W. from our former camp and fighting grounds (Camp Moller) Adj. Johnnie Arnolds was made of Capt. of Co. A an act not well received by the Regt. Sgt. Maj. Trader was made Adj. and Patch made Sgt. Maj.

18 Co. C on rear guard. Reach Camp Riggs. now Camp Baker.

19 Remain in camp.

20 Light rain all A. M. Marched 18-20 miles to Camp McPhail, 2 miles beyond Camp Release of last year.

21 Sunday, remain in camp.

22 Move out at 5:20 A.M. Get over the Int Pah River at 10:00 A.M. Camp Ramset at 3:00

23 Hot day all day on prairie. See frequent alkali crustings [sic]. No timber in sight until night. Camp Averill (Lt. Col. of 6th) near 3 small lakes and about 2 miles east of Yellow Earth River.

24 Wed. Still dry but cooler. Cross Yellow Earth River at 8 A.M. Come In sight of the Jim River Couteau like a black cloud low down in the west. Camp Marshall on Whitestone River 2 miles from foot of Big Stone Lake.

25 Camp Jennison (Lt. Col. S.P. of the 10th) Swan Lake opposite and 2 miles west of middle point of Big Stone Lake. Hot day. Atter camping everybody catches bulltrout [sic] from lake. Cav. kill a buffalo.

26 Fri. Make camp on the Minnesota River in Brown's Valley between Big Stone Lake and Traverse. Camp McLaren/Scouts saw more buffalo.

27 Remain in camp to recruit the mules and to fit out a train for Fort Abercrombie.

28-29 Remain in camp. Expedition for Fort Abercrombie takes Cos. H of the 6th I of the 7th, and H of the 9th with cavalry and artillery.

30 March 10 miles to new Camp Bradley by a lake. Lieut. D.D. delayed as Judge Ad. Court Martial. Col. Averill's [sic] expedition starts for Fort Abercrombie.

July

1 12 miles to Camp Cook by lake.

2 12 miles to Camp Parker by Skunk Lake.

3 16 miles to Camp Buell. A large shallow lake. A terrible hot day. The wind heavy and hot from the S.W. Men suffered. Some did not reach camp until late in the night. Ambulances were kept running back to pick up men and bring them in.

4 10 miles and cross at the big bend of the Cheyenne River. Camp Hayes on the north side of the river about  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles below our crossing. A high Indian mound about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of our crossing, on the south side of our crossing. Rained lightly during the day. Very grateful. Water of the Cheyenne very soapy with alkali.

5 Remain in camp digging a well.

6 Trying to find sweet water. abandoned it. at 20 feet deep. Found excellent water on the next bench above our camp.

7 Still in camp. Hot day. Grasshoppers going over. Very short grass.

8 Still in camp.

9 Still in camp. Averill's detachment to Fort A. came in bringing also our Co. D.

10 Still in camp.

11 March up (N.W.) Cheyenne River. Camp Thurston on high dry bluffs overlooking the river. Buffalo seen by our scouts on our left. A jackrabbit starts up in our corral [sic] and gives the hounds a high-stepping race. The train moved in 4 columns today, a half of each regiment on each side.

12 Pvt. Thos. Pallas goes back to Ft. Abercrombie today, disabled by hernia from lifting boxes of cartridges.

12 Sunday. Remain in camp.

13 Make 12 miles to Camp Weiser between 3 lakes. Left at 3:45 A.M. and reached here at 9:45 A.M.

14 Make 17 miles. Camp Sheardown on Cheyenne. Cold. Poor grass.

15 Make 9 miles. Camp Smith between two lakes. No wood. Burn buffalo chips.

16 Make 16 miles. Camp Corning. We followed the river up 13 miles, then crossed where Captain Fiske with his party bound for Oregon crossed year ago today. The camp was 3 miles from the river on the north side of a dirty lake. Ten elk were taken, one alive. Gen. Sibley sent out from here 20 men to the James River to scout for Indians.

17 Make 5 miles. Camp Pope. Cool cloudy day. On north side of another dirty lake. Country low and wet ordinarily but very dry this season. Three half breeds came in reporting Little Crow with 3000 men to be near Red River half breed settlement 50 miles N.W. of here.

18 Make 10 miles. Camp Atchison on east end of a large lake 3 miles from Lake Jessie (Fremont). S.W. The lake bordered on the north by an abrupt high long bluff that stopped short off at the end of the lake next to camp. To the west of the lake marsh, and sundown threw an diminution [sic] couteaus showing cat tooth hills all along the eastern view 3 miles away. There is wood on these hills around Lake Jessie. The water here is good and grass abundant. This is the finest of buffalo regions. Their wallows or pawing holes are at every hand. At this camp all empty wagons, disabled men and animals and extra impediments of the campaign were left, while the Command in light marching order went through to the Missouri River (at the site of Bismark) and returned. A Lt. of cavalry today accidentally shot and killed a half breed cavalryman of Co. L. He was buried on the hill. the first death of the expedition.

19 Remained in camp. Arrangements being made for a raid on Little Crow at Devils Lake.

20 The Command starts west consisting of 8 Cos. of the 6th Reg't. [sic], (Cos. C and G left as guards of Camp Atchison) 3 Cos. of the 7th, C and I left; and 7 Cos. of the 10th, B and D left; 8 Cos. of cavalry and 3 sections of the battery; 6 guns. Make 20 miles. Camp Forbes on the left side of a dirty lake (alkali). A hot dry fatiguing march with no good water to be had. The camp is within two and a half miles of the Red River. Half

breed hunting camp. 150 half breeds came into the camp toward night. A Catholic priest McDermott who ransomed the boys at St. Joseph's and one of the boys with him (DuBose). Half breeds offer to go along and fight the Sioux, who, they say, are 60 miles distant to the northwest. Their service, of course, cannot be accepted.

21 10 miles. Camp Olin on west bank of the James River, and at the head of long lake in the valley. Got some wood for cooking along the lake shore. This shore lined with whitened bones of buffalo like a pavement almost. Hundreds of animals must have died there, when in their feverish condition they would come to get water. Dug a deep well for water to drink. Across the lake from our camp to the east there was a pyramidal rising to nearly 160 feet in a cone not more than 20 rods through at the base. A large wolf sat off on the prairie watching the movements of the men. Desmore went out toward him. Then he rose and fell back. When Desmore turned again toward camp, the wolf would follow after.

22 Wed. 20 miles. Camp Kimball. 5 miles N.E. from the "Hawk's Nest," a high timber-covered hill on the crest of the couteau de Missouri, the high here which was our horizon all day, on the left. A mule team started out from camp soon after pitching our tents and drove towards "Hawk's Nest." They continued in a straight line towards it for a long time. The Camp began to watch it and wonder. Finally it was seen to turn about rapidly, and field glasses were busy scanning the prairie all about them to determine the cause. A company of cavalry was in readiness to go after them. After a little it was seen that they were only trotting quietly back, and the alarm died out. On regaining the camp, they said they were only going to that hill for wood. We had no other fuel for a week but buffalo chips, but finding after their trip they were no nearer to it they gave up. We passed by the grove next day at 2:00 o'clock P.M. Camp Kimball was on a small but clear, cool creek; and the water was quite a treat. The Scouts came upon a Sioux messenger.

23 Thursday. 17 miles. Camp Grant. Upon the missouri [sic] Couteau at the south end of a long tortuous lake. The surface of the couteau is knobby and stony. Immense numbers of granite hard-heads and sometimes large buried boulders half buried and weighing many tons. Among the knobs are many fine little lakes, which seemed strange for such an altitude, 200 to 300 feet above the vast plain stretching waterless below. Found a delicious spring across a ravine to the east of us, which, when cleaned out, furnished water for the whole expedition. Men were carrying water from it nearly all night. Desmore was on guard. There was a great deal of disturbance out on the outer picket line in the first half of the night. The men gathering buffalo chips would linger outside the lines until the pickets were stationed, then just in the gloaming came strolling in. To break us of this habit or trick of dodging duty, or what-not, the pickets were ordered to hold all such stragglers outside the lines all night. Finding they were caught, they set up a howling for the Corporal or Guard and for almost everything else, but were left to howl and without their supper until well after midnight, putting an end to that kind of manoeuvring [sic]. Each man of the detail for gathering buffalo chips would

take three or four ramrods for stringing the chips on. For baking beans, a hole would be dug in the earth below. Then the covered bean kettle was set in and a cod laid over the hole, hermetically sealing it; the bake in the morning was always delicious. Herman Hempling was our cook and always successful in giving a reasonable turn to the rations.

24 17 miles. Camp Sibley. On the south side of a large lake. Here occurred the first engagement of the campaign, the Battle of Big Hill or Big Mound, so called because of a high conical peak that stood up against the sky on the left, to the south. At one-thirty o'clock P.M. Scouts reported Indians ahead in great numbers, a large encampment of them. The Command, having reached this lake, immediately went into camp, and matters were proceeding with us in much the usual way. The Indians came up on a high roll of ground stretching all along in front of us to the south, and men were going out to chat with them, some of whom were old acquaintances. The Red Skins were painted in war paint and many suggested that it was a very risky thing for our men to venture out so. Among others was Dr. Weiser of Shakopee, who could speak Sioux fluently. He rode a large fine black horse with eloquent equipment, and his colonel orderly was with him. It was about half past three o'clock. He had chatted quite a while with a little squad of Indians when, without warning, one of them fired, killing the doctor instantly. The horse, which possibly thought to get [sic] was frightened at the discharge and stampeded back to camp at the top of his speed, the colonel orderly keeping almost even pace with him and screaming at almost every jump, "They've killed the doctor!" The whole camp was in an uproar at once, the Reg't. [sic] taking up arms. Many men seized their guns and ran up the hill, where a few who had their guns with them were blazing away to the best of their ability, and the fight was on. Very shortly the men at the front began falling back, and the Indians could be seen swarming after them, and their balls came into camp. At the same time, the Reg'ts. [sic] were pushing forward in line of battle and the fusillade became so peppery the enemy could not face it. Soon all the south hilltops and the cone top of the big hill, especially, were covered with crowds of Indians watching and taking in the situation. Just then the order came to shell the big hill crowd. Shells were sent up there as fast as the guns could be worked, leaving quite a spatter of dead Indians lying on the hill top, while those who yet had live legs under them got under way to the south with all speed. The regiment pushed forward in line of battle, firing rapidly, and were soon over the high ground and out of sight of Camp. The condition of matters with the Indians was that we had come upon their encampment containing their families. Their squaws had struck camp and made off in full haste while the Indians were remaining to cover their rear. But our force was too [illegible] and rushed them into a stampede, following them for 8 or 10 miles, in fact until darkness came on and concerted action was no longer possible. Our forces were in fact scattered in small squads and without command. Many not knowing where the next move was to be, and being tired out by the afternoon's rapid pursuit, lay down where they were, taking advantage of any old buffalo skins or other wrappings the Indians had dropped in their flight, to wrap themselves, for the temperature had dropped very rapidly from excessively hot when the flight began with a thunderstorm and hail that crossed our lines of pursuit, to chilling cold with snowflakes. Many of our men had started out not

even wearing their blouses, and some had lost their hats in the chase and were in poor plight to remain out. There is no doubt that many a subsequent disability had its origin in the severe exposure of that afternoon and night. Some found their way back to camp in the early evening, and stragglers were returning at all hours of the day and night. Had Gen. Sibley camp broken camp and moved forward as rapidly as possible, a second day's [sic] strike at the Indians would have been possible, as well as saving a great deal of exposure on the part of the men. But perhaps no other general could have told how the fight would finally eventuate. Gen. Sibley was careful. Gen. Sibley with that opportunity would have harvested Indians. An amusing side-show occurred a half-hour before the fight began. Two mule teams, that is, two army wagons with three span of mules each, started out boldly from camp and pushed away north on the right hand side of the lake to cut grass, some three quarters of a mile away. Rising from the lake and low land on that side, a high long hill hid everything from their view on their right, but a lookout on top of the hill spied a company of Indians riding at the top of their speed behind the hill to overhaul the mule teams. Word was passed into camp in all haste, and two companies of cavalry were soon dashing to the rescue of the foolish mulsteers. [sic] There were a few minutes of intense suspense in camp while watching the dash of cavalry. The mule teams, meantime, confidently trailed out further and further into danger. Most of them were confident the Indians had plenty of time to use them up before help could reach them, but suddenly there was a commotion in the mule teams. They were seen whirling about on the jump and the action bobbing about of the white wagon tops showed that they could appreciate the danger as well as get into it. As they bounced back toward the cavalry, the Indians swung out into the hills again, and wheeled back into the distance. It would seem like a good lesson of caution, yet the mule drivers forgot it as soon as the mules did and gave us several scares subsequently. The casualties in the Big Hill battle were not many from the enemies' bullets. Co. C received no wounds. One man in the command was killed by lightning stroke during the passage of the storm. But stiff (from the double-quicking [sic] followed by the cold) footsore and sick was the general condition in camp. After all had got in, the following day, and perhaps sullenly angry might be added to make out the full complexion of affairs, since most felt at that time that Headquarters had little to mitigate or assist the worn out men, hungry and almost famished was their condition. It was perhaps as well, then, that camp was not struck until 10:00 o'clock that morning, but when only three miles were made and Camp changed from a fine body of clear water to the side of a dirty rush-filled hole (muddy, at that) there seemed no limit to the expressions of wrath on the part of the men. Camp Whitney not well regarded, and in the afternoon a cold, drizzling rain set in and increased the general sullenness of Lt. Freeman of the Rangers. It seems that he and Major Brackett of H.Q. went out ahead of the Command yesterday morning on a hunting expedition. They fell in with Indians who gave chase. They ran on foot until Lieut. Freeman was shot down. While the Indians were scalping and stripping him, Major Brackett crawled into some low ground and hid in the reeds. After a long search, the Redskins gave him up and left. Major Brackett, after danger was off, found his way back to Camp Atchison.

26 Sunday. Marched 12 miles. Camp Fender. Course west by south. 6th Minnesota Reg't. [sic] Camp on southwest side of a small lake, which owing to a large buffalo lying there dead, was called Dead Buffalo Lake. Indians were several times reported ahead, south or [sic] of their retreating column. At this lake they showed inconsiderable force and ready to fight. The train was doubled consequently and after considerable waiting, the Command made camp. Again at this place the Teamsters made a sally out for cutting grass, the teams getting well out from camp, although Indians were in sight all about the hills. Soon a squad of Indians were seen making a dash down a ravine in the direction of the mule teams. A company of the cavalry was at once sent out as before to the rescue. This time the Indians did not turn for superior numbers but made a dash at the cavalry, who brought [sic] down five at least of the redskins and captured their ponies. One Indian, after falling, lay down as if dead, and a cavalryman rode promptly up; whereupon the seemingly dead fellow raised up on his elbow and shot the cavalryman through the abdomen. This man died on the 28th. Our march was on the trail of the fleeing Indian village and there was considerable evidence of the sad haste they were making to get away from us. If any thing "fell off" from their baggage, they had no time to pick it up. We found several skins of pemmican among those trophies. The pemmican is buffalo meat dried in the sun and then pounded and whipped into shreds like fine tobacco. The skins for packing were from the buffalo foetus [sic]. Buffalo skins and robes and a variety of other furs were strung along frequently for miles. Several still-born infants found showed the effect of this terror. At Camp Fender the man wounded died Saturday.

27 Made 18 miles. 7th in front. Still on the Indian trail, which, by the way, was 13 to 20 rods wide and showed the passage of a large number of people and animals. Camp Schoenman, on the east side of small, long narrow lake. Course for the day a little south of west. Saw a few Indians in front in the morning. A slight rain from the north in the P.M. We left the Missouri Couteau yesterday, and are on a slightly undulating plain. An old squaw was found hiding in a buffalo wallow and nearly famished. Fed her and took her along.

28 While leaving camp. 4:00 o'clock A.M. and just as the advance reached the top of the hill west of the lake, the Indians made quite an attack on them in quite a force. The howitzers were ordered up and did some fine shelling, eleven Indians being gathered in by us. They hung all about the camp for an hour until the command was formed into an immense hollow again, with the beef cattle gathered in the center, the teams next on each side, then infantry, next cavalry, and outside of all, reaching entirely around the whole command, a line of skirmishers about three rods apart. Thus arranged, we moved on the west and left; the Indians to draw their own conclusions as to what to do with themselves. No more was seen of them during the day. we made 10 miles, the 10th Reg. in front, the Camp Steers on the Apple River. En [sic] route we passed two places where the Indians had camped, showing that they moved more leisurely on finding that our pursuit was delayed. At the camp we buried the cavalryman who was shot at Dead Buffalo Lake, in the breastworks thrown up at the N.E. corner of the camp. He was so

buried to prevent the Indians from finding the grave. During the afternoon a Teton Sioux was found lying in a buffalo wallow. He was from the other side of the river and was either acting as a scout and fell asleep or ensconced himself there in order to be taken in, as he freely gave information about the Indians.

29 Wednesday. Made 12 miles to the Missouri River, then down to Apple River to Camp Slaughter, course westerly. Were delayed some time in crossing the Apple River in the morning. There seemed to be no bottom to the clay banks. As soon as the crossing had been effected, the cavalry and battery were sent forward to the Missouri to reconnoitre [sic] and shell the crossing where it was supposed the Indians were engaged in getting themselves over. They were just in time to see the rear of the Indian column passing over the hill beyond. Our command reached the edge of the river bottom and lay there parading in the sun while the 6th Reg't. [sic] and the battery penetrated through [sic] the thick wood of the bottom down to the river's edge. Finding that the river was not easy of passage, the skirmishing force returned to the column, which was then turned to the left of the east bank. The Indians sung out across the river that they wanted to quit fighting, as they had lost everything but their lives. At the same time they fired at our men when they would get to the water's edge to fill their canteens. On reaching camp, two men failed to put in their appearance. Lieut. Beavers of the Gen. Staff (a young Englishman who had volunteered as an aide) and a private of Co. K of the 6th Reg't. [sic] They were last seen start [sic] for the river with their canteens of water. This Camp Slaughter was located on the low bluff overlooking the low river bottoms of this place, the Apple River bending just to the rear of the camp named for Capt. Slaughter of the 6th Minnesota. The water in Apple River was very clear, cool and inviting to men choking with thirst, and most of them managed to get a cup full [sic] down before finding how intensely alkaline it was. We waited impatiently for the mess sheet to get along so we could get at our store of vinegar as antidote. The place where we reached the river is said to be the present site of Bismark.

30 Tuesday. Remained in Camp Slaughter. Still hot. About 1 o'clock last night Indians stole up into the small ravine just on the north side of camp and fired a fusillade with guns and arrows, probably hoping to stampede the stock. The long roll was sounded, the command all fell in and lay on their arms in line until all was quiet. The Indians later set fire to the prairie, making it necessary for us to burn a strip around the camp. That done and all quiet again, we turned in. In the morning the mule men just distinguish themselves again by allowing their animals to graze too far out upon the prairie, and the Indians were not slow to take advantage of their opportunity to get away with some before the cavalry could get unto them. About noon a force was organized to again skirmish through the river crossing to search for the missing men and to destroy the wagons and plunder left by the Indians on the east bank of the river. The force consisted of 3 companies of each of the regiments and three sections of battery. The bodies of the men were found. It seems that in returning from the river, each in his turn took a wrong trail, one that lead down the river. They had gotten but a little way down the wrong path before being shot from the bushes. It was supposed that Lieut. Beavers

was first shot with their arrows in the back; then it would appear that he attempted to make his escape when his horse was shot with bullets. He was then tomahawked and stripped, and as his hair was cropped short, he was not scalped but a part of his long whiskers were scalped away. The other was shot with arrows and scalped. Curiously enough, their bodies were found by two men who were wrong on the trail.

30 After destroying over 100 wagons and carts, the force returned to camp about dark, all claiming it a hard day's experience but fortunately with no further casualties. The average of the estimate of the width of the Missouri at this place makes about 300 yards. The skirting of timber is heavy and about a mile and a half wide. The whole appearance of the river is like that of the Mississippi at Red Wing. The immediate valley is from 2 to 6 miles wide.

31 Friday. Remain in camp. At 10:00 o'clock A.M. Lieut. Beaver was buried with Masonic ceremony. The man of the 6th was buried. Both in or beneath the breastwork which had been thrown up overlooking the river bottoms. The Scouts reporting Indians all day long crossing the river to the east side and predicted a night attack so in the evening the scamps did come close up to camp in the bush and fired a volley and the whole command, at 11 o'clock, was called out and deployed about the camp as skirmishers in front and reserves in the rear. We could hear shuffling going on all night out in front and occasionally thought we caught glimpses of moving objects. A little after 1 o'clock the Indians rode quickly up in front of the 10th Regt., and delivered a volley of bullets and instantly fled. One of their balls took effect killing a mule in the corral [sic]. The cattle in the corral [sic], however, took fright, broke through their wagon fence, and were with great difficulty kept from out of the camp. The fault of the chief F.M. who did not attend [sic] to properly closing up the wagons forming their pen or corral. [sic] The loss of our cattle meant starvation for most of the command. We all remained out in line until morning, our vigilance no doubt saving us from further attacks. Several times as we lay there in camp, Indian dogs came near to camp, leaving their two sticks still lashed to their necks, that same as their teepee poles are lashed to the ponies for transportation purposes. The por [sic] dogs were evidently [sic] hungry and much disgusted with their part in the hubbub but could not be induced to make friends and take dinner with us, The lack of pure water to drink was a great trial. That from the Missouri was good but too expensive.

August

1 Saturday. Made 16 miles. Camp Braden on Apple River again and four miles above the camp of July 28. 7th Regt. in front. The Indian Expedition of 1863 having been announced in due form at dress parade as a success and its object attained, there was nothing left to do but to return home. We broke camp (Camp Slaughter) at 5 A.M. As we moved away from the camp ground, we left the old squaw and the young Teton there with filled haversacks. We had not gotten out of sight of the camp ground before 500 Indians were swarming over the spot. The smoke of the prairie fire on our right caused the latest excitement about Gen. Sully's coming. Had Gen. Sully been prompted to join

us anywhere at any time, the work of the summer would not have been needed to be announced a success in order to make (it) so. Had he been present on Friday last, our only good opportunity for bagging the pesky Redskins would not have been irretrievably lost. (So talked the rank and file.) Gen Sully was then at or below Fort Pierre on the Missouri.

2 Made 18 miles. Camp Bankson the south side of a long reedy bog hole. 10th Regt. in front. A warm, sultry day, the men suffering much from the overpowering heat and scant water. D.D. on guard.

3 15 miles. Camp Kennedy (Capt. Kennedy. John. Co. F. 7th) On north side of a low bottom lake. Water in lake like dilute soft [sic] soap. Got good water by setting barrels in springy places on side of lake. Some of the springs make clay mire holes that take a horse or buffalo in a lurch. The underlying soil or foundation of all the country from the Cheyenne to the Missouri is apparently soil of a sandy clay. In most places highly impregnated with alkali. 6th Regt. in front. Been a heavy wind from the southwest and the air hot to suffocation. No rain as yet and the prairie is as bare as a closely cropped common. Today and yesterday saw places in the low grounds where buffalo have grazed lately. A thunderstorm at sunset lasting into the night – refreshing.

4 7th Regt. in front. 18 miles. Camp Williston (Capt. this Co.) Between two splendid lakes which the men have called Twin Lakes. Headquarters named them after Capt. Williston's two daughters, Kitty and Annie. The camp of last night was about four miles this side (N.E.) of and to the left of Dead Buffalo Lake. Our course has left our outward trail to our right, making quite a cutoff. At 11 o'clock this morning passed the ground of Camp Sibley (July 24th, Big Hill fight). All looked very natural. From there we took our outward trail 6 miles to this camp on the top of the Missouri Couteau. Search has been made for the body of the butcher, Brackett, who was missing on the day of the Big Hill fight. (He had found his way back to Camp Atchison.) A heavy thunderstorm struck us in the night causing the greatest confusion in camp. Tents were blown down and torn, and animals got loose and seemed likely to run over everything and everybody. A wild, uncomfortable night.

5 Remained in camp to rest up and repair. In the morning mail arrived from home, brought by Tom Quince via Pembina. Quince reported Brackett arrived safely at camp Atchison after seven days of tramping.

6 17 miles. Camp Gilfillan (Capt. of Co. H 7th). We had taken a shortcut again today leaving our outward trail and the "Hawk's Nest" about five miles on our left to N.W. Camp near the east edge of the Missouri Couteau and half a mile to the west of a large irregular lake of alkali water. There were many places on the top of the couteau where large tracks are covered by circles of stone hardheads weighing from 30 to 200 pounds each. There was great conjecture as to the purpose of these, the commonplace idea seemed to be this feasible explanation: with these stones on the tepee skirts they might

be able to keep their places against the strong winds. Religious rites wouldn't hold as an explanation.

7 12 miles. Camp Carver (Capt. of CO I) 6th in front. Camp on the south side of a large muddy lake and on our outward trail, 12 miles from the James River. Came off the couteau at 9 o'clock A.M. Soon after camping the scouts brought in three Indians, seven squaws and three children. Pembina half-breeds came in 6 or 8 miles west from here. They report that Standing Buffalo was with them two days ago. There Indians were with him. Some of them are the Indians that we kept at Mankato all winter and sent to the Missouri River this spring.

8 14 miles. Camp Hall (Capt. Co E). On east side of James River, 7th in front. Our outward trail was left on the right. We crossed the James River about 5 miles above Camp Olin, Capt. Grant of the 6th Reg't. [sic] and Lieut. Desmore in charge of the Indians. Col. Marshall went to St. Paul this morning.

9 We remain in camp. Capt. Williston, Lieut. Betcher and Orderly Owens visit the Half-breed camp two miles north of us. Show of storm on the north and west. Our last hardtack issued.

10 Make 22 to 24 miles today to Camp Atchison. Again the 10th Reg't. [sic] in front. Arrived safe and sound but leg-weary at 5:00 o'clock P.M. The drum corps, which had been left behind, came out a few miles to scout us in. Their music was a rare treat to us and quickly restored us to vigorous marching condition so that we came into Camp in fine trim and bearing. Found all those we had left behind doing well. Capt. Fiske (who was taking parties through to Oregon) with a party of 60 men had passed west a day or two behind us on the way out, taking a course more to the north. Then seven squaws and three children captured Saturday last, were left behind this morning. The three Indians were brought along. These with the son of Little Crow, captured by a detachment sent 60 miles north to Devils Lake, make up our total war prisoners. The son of Little Crow (the bloody leader of the Massacre of 1862) is about 15 years of age. He had been down on the Minnesota border with his father murdering the whites. His father was shot by a settler, and the son, taking his father's gun, started back for Devils Lake. Somewhere near our camp he became too nearly exhausted to carry two guns so buried his own and kept his father's. When found by our men, the boy was nearly finished. He had killed a wolf and was lying in the grass gnawing on the raw flesh. He openly declared his hostility to the whites.

11 We remained in camp resting and reloading our stores for our return. During the day many visited Lake Jessie. A beautiful spot 2 or 3 miles from Camp Atchison on the west side of the lake inn a mountain couteau, about 100 feet high, over which the Indian trail passed, on the top of the couteau a lake half an acre in area. A curiosity. Lines of these small couteaus could be seen at nearly all points of the horizon, their little cat tooth hills looking like stacks of grain in the distance.

12 Camp Atchison broke up and all hands marched 17 miles, Camp Bust (Capt. Co. C) on west side of a small lake. A small detachment of cavalry under Col. McPhail left today for Snake River.

13 18 miles. Camp Sibley (Capt. of Co. I) on the west side of a small lake, about three miles below the Sheyenne. Passed our camp coming at 9:30 A.M. Crossed the river in the A.M.

14 12 miles. Camp Arnold. On Capt. Fiske's trail from Fort Abercrombie. A small lake to the west peopled by a large number of muskrats. A cold north wind. Mail received today, but no letters for we'uns. [sic] Been in service a year today.

15 14 miles. Camp Stevens (Lieut. Co. H.) on north side of lake. We are heading for Fort Abercrombie; the country we have passed through today and yesterday is by far the finest we have seen.

16 We remain in camp. Sunday.

17 We make 16 miles. Camp Amber (Corp. Amber) of the 6th Reg't. [sic] 7th in front. Camp about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from Mable (Marble) River. After crossing it, all water for the camp had to be carried from the river. The day had been exceeding warm with hot parching wind from S.W. The canteens were exhausted by 11:00 A.M. and we found no water until reaching the river, and that is alkali. A great many men gave out under the excessive heat. Most of them from the 6th and 10th Regts. who make a request that the expedition lie over tomorrow to recuperate. Country passed over is quite level.

18 Remain in camp to recuperate from yesterday's exposure. Rain in morning, a warm, sultry day. Rations getting close.

19 18 miles. Camp Clase on north side of the Sheyenne River. Cool day and march made easily. Country level. Col. R.B. Marcy, Insp. General U.S.A. and Selfridge came into camp.

20 This morning at 7:00 O'clock Col. Marcy inspected the Command deployed as a brigade, on the prairie north from camp. A ragged-looking crowd for inspection. After inspection ate an early dinner and broke camp at 10:30 A.M. Made 5 miles. Camp Edgerton on south side of a long narrow lake. Country on this side of the Sheyenne level clear away to the sky. Timber on Red River seen in the remote distance on the left. Mail again from Pembina.

21 19 miles. Camp Hacket [sic] (Capt. of 6th) in front of Fort Abercrombie on the west side of the river. All glad to get a sight of Minnesota again, even in this wild, remote part. Passed the Wild Rice River at 11:00 A.M. A dry, dusty bed. The ripple marks all there but no sign of moisture anywhere. Country continued level to the fort. The view to the south and west of the fort is level prairie, to the east of it it is cut off by the timber skirting the river and "America." The whole command, on arriving, took a good bath and

scrubbing in the clean water of the Red River. The most wholesome water we had seen since leaving Big Stone Lake in June. a great treat!

22 Remain in camp whil [sic] teams are loading with supplies; a light frost this morning.

23 Still remain in camp. Heavy rain began last night. Day damp and chilly.

24 Still in camp and loading stores. Loaded 190 wagons. Lieut. D. detailed on that duty. Mail received. Our Col. Stephen Miller nominated for governor for which purpose he had stayed behind.

25 The expedition leaves Fort Abercrombie en [sic] route to St. Paul via Sauk Center, St. Cloud, and Anoka. March 12 miles. Camp Phelps (Capt. of the 10th Reg't. [sic]) On the east bank of the Red River and at the mouth of the Ottetail River. The water sweet and clear from the Ottetail River is a great luxury with the men. They hurrah for Minnesota and curse Dakota as only fit for Indians. The cavalry Co. L remains at Fort Abercrombie while the other cavalry companies go by Camp Ripley on the Mississippi River.

26 18½ miles. Camp White (Capt. of the 10th Reg't. [sic]) Lieut. Desmore not well, had to ride. Caught a bad cold at Abercrombie.

27 13 miles on Lightning Lake. camp Sullivan. Country level.

28 15 miles. Camp Heath on elbow Lake. Crossed the Pomme de Terre River just before camping.

29 Saturday. 13 miles. Camp O'Connor (7th Reg't. [sic]) on summit of a hill. Country very handsome. Lieut. D. still ill.

30 Remain in camp.

31 Monday. March 15 miles. Camp Tom's. Away out on the prairie, away from everything all about. The monthly muster was held at 6:o'clock P.M.

September

1 16½ miles. Camp Beavers on the east side of a lake. Lake Amelia. Westport. 10 miles from Sauk Center.

2 16 miles. Camp Rubbs (Capt. of Cav.) East of the Sauk Center Station.

3 Remain in camp. Lieut. Desmore sick with typhoid fever is started by stage on sick leave. He reached St. Cloud that night, next day by stage to Minneapolis and St. Paul by car, then by steamboat to Red Wing on the morning of the 5th.

7 The expedition reached St. Cloud.

12 Expedition reached Fort Snelling.

21 Reg't. [sic] was furloughed to Oct. 4th to rendezvous at Winona on the 7th.

October

8 The 7th and 10th reg'ts. [sic] marched through Red Wing early in the morning going south. Took boats to Winona and reached St. Louis on the 11th and went into quarters at Schofield Barracks. Then were busied there on guard and scout duty until Apr. 20. Meanwhile Lieut. Desmond remained sick with typhoid fever at home. 1st Lieut. Betcher was granted sick leave Oct. 12.

November

19 Lieut. D. reported for duty at Headquarters, Dist. of Minn. and was ordered to duty at Fort Snelling and on the 28th Nov. was appointed acting Provost Marshal of the post in charge of prisoners and deserters. Lieut. Betcher was assigned duties at recruiting agents.

January 1864

5 Lieut. D. was relieved and in company with Lieut. Buck of Co. D reached St. Louis Jan 15th. Capt. Williston has been detailed to command stragglers and deserters' barracks, and Lieut. Buck of Co. D. assigned to command Co. G.

21 Capt. W.C. Williston resigned his commission as Capt. He was thoroughly disgusted with the Service.

22 Lieut. Betcher went with an escort to Cairo, Ill., and returned Feb. 2nd, whereupon Lieut. Desmore, who had been appointed Acting Provost-Marshal with at return [sic] barracks Jan. 25 went there to remain.

February

6 Lt. Betcher was mustered as Captain and 2nd Lieut. Desmore as 1st Lieut. The company was too low in numbers at the time to be entitled to a third officer.

March

27 Lieut. Desmore went before the Examining Board to be examined for a place in a colored regiment and on April 4th ordered on duty in a colored regiment and was recommended for major, and on Apr. 4th ordered on duty in the provost marshal's office in the city in charge of the Bureau of Colored troops. While in that position was detailed Apr. 6th to attend Presbyterian Synod at Kirksville, Mo., and administered the oath of allegiance to traitor preachers, should any be there. None so appeared.

April

20 The Reg't. [sic] left St. Louis for Paducah, Ky. The detailed men were not relieved. Left St. Louis at 7:00 P.M., at Cairo 1:00 P.M. 21st.

22 Reached Paducah at 2:00 o'clock P.M. Steamer BOB ROY. Were paid.

May

31 Lieut. Desmore was relieved from duty at Provost Headquarters to report to Brig. Gen. W.A. Pile at Benton Barracks and was assigned as Acting Major of the Colored (28th) W.S.I. which left June 1st for Memphis. He was mustered as Major Aug. 17th to

date from June 21st. Did not again act with the company. Made Lieut. Col. Feb. 16, 1865.

The occasion for sending the 7th Reg't. [sic] to Paducah was the presence in that vicinity of the rebel General Forrest in having attacked the fort there. On the night of May 29th, the reg't. [sic] was called out, but after an hour returned to tents, but kept accoutrements on all night. The reg't. [sic] went out on a reconnoitre [sic] as far as Mayfield but found no enemy.

June

19 Left Paducah for Memphis. Col. Hix commanding at Paducah made us a speech of thanks for orderly conduct while with him

20 Reached Memphis at 3:00 o'clock A.M. Was assigned to the Reg't. [sic] wing of the 16th Army Corps under Gen. A.J. Smith (Old A.J.) and in 3rd Brigade of the First Division, Gen. J.A. Mower commanding division and Col. J.J. Woods Commanding Brigade, Took cars at Memphis and Charleston Depot and rode out 34 miles as far as cars ran. Camped in wood without tents.

23 Marched Berg and Moscow. 8 or 10 miles. Remained there until 27th. Marched 10 miles to Lagrange. Very hot. Four men said to have died from the heat.

July

5 At Lagrange Lieut. Owens was granted sick leave. He did not again rejoin the Regt. but was discharged by order of the War Dept. Oct. 3rd 1864 for disability. We left Lagrange with the command on the Tupelo raid. Marched 6 miles to Davis Mills.

6 Marched 13 miles to Mills Creek. Very hot. A weary walk from 5:30 A.M. to 7 P.M.

7 Marched 10 miles. Guarded the train. Very hot. Camped on a bottom.

8 Marched 10 miles. Camped in the wood. Very hot. Passed Ripley at noon where the command burned several fine houses for the [illegible] committed on the men returning from the ill-fated Sturgis raid in June.

9 Marched 12 miles to New Albany on the Tallehat.

10 Sunday. Marched 12 miles. Camped in a wheat field at Cherry Creek. Our advance drove a regt. of rebels from the road. At sundown our pickets were driven in and we broke camp and advanced a mile and camped again.

11 Reached Pentotoc. Inhabitants all gone. This A.M. skirmished with the rebels until 8:00 o'clock when they broke and ran.

12 Lay in camp. Our men blackberrying.

13 The object of this raid was to break up the north and south railroad Mobile and Ohio in east Mississippi. Reconnoitering yesterday discovered the enemy were fortified at the swamp crossing on turning off to the east. Marched 17 miles. Excessively hot day.

Many prostrated. The Rebels attacked our rear before all had left our camp at [illegible time]. They followed us all day and we had diligent work keeping them off. We were train guard. At a halt (about 2:00 o'clock) of an hour the Rebels came through a piece of woods on the right and opened fire. The 7th was on the right there and had a hand in repulsing them, killing and wounding 17 of them. Our Surgeon Smith was killed here. shot through the neck. We camped late that night at Harrisburg, 1½ miles from Tupelo.

14 The rebels still in our front. The 7th was advanced toward the enemy a half mile and threw out O's D and E as pickets. About noon the Rebels came up in front and we charged them and out them to flight. Soon after this the command set out on its return to Memphis taking another route more to the north. Our wounded were left in the field hospital and became prisoners of war as those also, who as nurses were left behind in charge of them. This was no enviable plight to be in but when a call for volunteer nurses was made to the Co., John Olson (John Ober) manfully stepped forward for the duty. The abuse heaped upon him by the Rebels should deservedly brand them as scoundrels to the end of time. He was robbed of everything, even his clothing and sent to dirty prisons on scant fare. About 5:00 P.M. while command was halted and resting at Old Town Creek, the Rebels began shooting from a hill a half mile in the rear. It was a bad oversight of the rear guard, permitting such an approach to be possible. Gen. Smith explained that he didn't propose to let any man drive him out of any place where he chose to stop, and then made a rush of forces to the rear., cannon firing and musketry rattle for a few minutes and we were done with the Johnsons for good and went quietly into camp then and there. Old A.J. Smith coming during the time of [illegible] this, two [sic] fighting, was in progress as a foreground, the true work or errand of the expedition was in progress in the background. The cavalry force had pushed across the swamp in our rear and destroyed four miles of track and extensive bridges on the Mobile and Ohio road, accomplishing the object that we started for.

16 marched 16 miles. Enemy made a showing in the evening but soon dropped out of sight. Camp 12 o'clock at Ellistown.

17 8 miles to Albany again.

18 18 miles on our quarter rations. Very hard march. Hot, dry, and dusty.

19 13 miles to Solam. Another hard march.

20 18 miles to Lagrange again via Davis Hills. The number of our killed in this expedition was 50, wounded 100, missing 12.

21 On cars back to Memphis at 2:00 o'clock P.M.

31 Regt. went out on Memphis and Charleston R.R. to Lagrange, Grand Junction and Holly Springs and to Tallahotchie. A detachment of Co. G.

November

8 Left Holly Springs and went south to Waterford and on the 11th left there and joined the camp at the river on the 13th. We came to the river about 2:00 o'clock P.M. The Rebels came upon our pickets and drove them in. Quite a battle ensued (Battle Abbeville)

July

14 Sunday. Day passed without fighting.

19 Left the Tallahatchie camp and moved south a mile but had to turn back on account of the rain and occupy old camp.

21 Again left Tallahatchie camp and moved south 6 miles across a creek and camp.

22 Continued the march southward to Oxford. The Rebels had all left and we turned back to our camp at the creek, making a march of 14 miles. Heard that Gen. Forrest had attacked Memphis.

23 Took up our line of march back to Memphis and camped at Tallahatchie once more. During the march the enemy came up in our rear and we had to give them a battle. Some 50 of them were killed. On our side one was killed and three wounded.

25 Crossed the river and back to Waterford. 8 miles.

26 Crossed the creek at Waterford. Camped.

27 Left Waterford and reached Springs after dark.

28 25 miles and camped at Wolf River.

29 3 miles to Lagrange thence by cars to Memphis and our old camp there. Found Capt. Betcher [illegible] there, he having arrived from leave on the 17th.

September

2 Left our Memphis camp in charge the convalescents and march to the levee, Capt. Betcher coming. Lying there until about sundown when we got on board the boat. The entire command was the First Division, commanded by Gen. J.A. Mower. Destination Duvall's Bluff on the White River, Ark. To the north of which was the rebels' Gen Price, who was moving eastward. We left many sick of our company in the camp at Memphis. Among those were Sgts. Christ, Philleo, Ramshardt. Camp was first under command of Capt. Jas. Gilfillan and after his promotion to Col. of the 11th Regt., L.B. Hoag.

3 We left Memphis starting down the river on the steamer St. Patrick. We rode on the hurricane deck.

4 We turned up the White River.

5 Monday. Continued up to St. Charles and camped on shore. Returned aboard the boat ready to start up the river.

8 Left St. Charles in the morning on the steamer Nevada and reached Duvall's Bluff, where the Memphis and Little Rock R.R. crosses the White River.

9 Went ashore in the morning and made camp in the afternoon.

10 Left camp at Duvalls [sic] Bluff at 3:00 A.M. and marched 30 miles toward Brownsville.

11 Left camp again at 3:00 A.M. and made 18 miles to Brownsville. Remained until 17th.

18 March 20 miles through Ausyin.

19 March 11 miles. Camp on Little Red River.

20 Marched 17 miles. Camped on Stoney Creek.

21 Marched 23 miles. Camp on White River.

22 March 17 miles. Camp on Little Black River. A bridge broke down so we could not cross.

23 Marched 10 miles. We lay in the woods until 4 P.M. before staking camp on the middle bench of the White River at Millers Church.

24 Marched 20 miles. Price had moved north, perhaps toward St. Louis.

25 Marched 20 miles and camped at Pochantsa, Ark., on the Big Black River.

26 Marched 18 miles.

27 Marched 14 miles. Rained some and roads were very muddy.

28 Marched 10 miles to Big Black River. Crossed on a bridge. Made 4 raids off a farm on the bank. Crossed the Missouri line and camped 6 miles from the river.

29 Marched 8 miles. The road was very bad. It rained last night and some of the wagon trains did not get in until morning.

30 21 miles. Passed through Polar Bluff. Crossed the Black River at 10 P.M.

October

1 14 miles. Camped on a stony ridge. Rained all day.

2 18 miles. Stopped and fired off the old loads in our guns. Forded the St. Francis River and camped in Greenville.

3 15 miles through a little town called Hog-eye.

4 32 miles through a town called Dells and camped at White River.

5 20 miles to Camp Girardeau on the Mississippi River. This march from Brownsville, Ark., to Camp Girardeau, about 300 miles, was made in 19 days and on 10 days'

rations. The mens' [sic] shoes gave out so that many were barefoot. They had left Memphis in hot weather with light clothing. Cold nights came on and the men, almost naked, suffered severely. Started up the river for St. Louis on Steamer Leonidas.

8 Reached St. Louis and anchored opposite St. Louis. Left St. Louis at 10:00 and started up river. Price had moved west.

15 Reached Jefferson City after 5 days on the boat. Disembarked and started on the cars at 11:00 o'clock at night.

16 Arrived at a place where the Rebels had burned a railroad bridge. Stopped and cooked breakfast near the tracks near Otterville.

18 Helped replace the bridge but failing, got ready to proceed on foot, making forced marches toward Lexington Mo.

19 Left camp at Otterville. Marched 30 miles and camped, straggling all along the railroad in the night. Undertaking to come up with Gen. Price, who was then going west and southwest from Lexington.

20 A part of the company came up to the camp and stopped and cooked dinner. Marched 17 miles and camped on the prairie and did not have any water.

21 Made 28 miles. Reaching Lexington, camped on a side hill. Only a very few men came into camp on account of being so sorefooted [sic]. Sgt. Rammers [sic] account says, "The folly of forced marches was shown the next day when we waited until noon to collect the scattered command and resume the march."

22 Left Lexington to follow Price, Shelby and Marmaduke. Made 13 miles and camped in some hazel brush near water.

23 Marched 23 miles, stopped and got supper. Our cavalry were trying to hold the Rebels until we could come up. Rested here until 12:00 o'clock at night.

24 Set out again at 1 o'clock A.M. Marched 15 miles. Stopped and got breakfast and pushed on some more. Saw the fighting. Saw three dead. We stopped on the battlefield all night. This war was near Little Blue River.

25 Left the battlefield of Price and marched 18 miles S.W. Camped on the bottom. Nearing the Kansas border.

26 Marched 20 miles S.E. Were over in Kansas. Camped near a small demolished town called Harrisonville. This was the end of the route. We drew flour rations in place ofhardtack and had to bake pancakes.

27 Lay in camp all day. No rations but a little flour. Baked pancakes

28 Lay in camp all day. No rations but flour. Baked pancakes.

29 Lay in camp all day. Drew rations.

30 Began the return march from Harrisonville. 12 miles and went in to camp to prepare for muster. Camp at Pleasantville.

31 Mustered in the morning. Left our "Pleasant Hill" and made 18 miles toward Sedalia. Camped on the prairie with neither wood nor water.

November

1 Tuesday. Made 20 miles. Camp in some woods with plenty water.

2 Made 26 miles. One of our old camps.

3 Began our march this morning in a snowstorm. 18 miles reached. Sedalia and camped in our old store. All our clothing was wet.

4 20 miles today. Passed Otterville, toward Jefferson City.

5 20 miles today. Hard marching. Road frozen, rough and snowy.

6 18 miles. Passed through California.

7 14 miles. Reached Jefferson City.

8 The regt. continued on toward St. Louis but H.H. Danielson (from whose diary most of this account was taken) was left behind by reason of lameness and disability. November 13th he left by boat and reached St. Louis and joined the regiment at Benton Barracks on Nov. 16th. Before going any further it were well to give the muster rolls of the status of the company on Oct. 31st in the field near Pleasant Hill, Mo. Muster roll deleted.

The remainder of the march to St. Louis there is no diary of. Serg. [sic] Ramer says "The day we got to Sedalia there was a heavy snowstorm. We had bad weather and snowy roads all the way to St. Louis." A forceful setting out of this campaign is copied from a letter written by Capt. Betcher while in the intrenchments at Nashville, to Lt. D. Desmore as follows: "In the department of Missouri great dissatisfaction exists in regard to Rosie's (Rosencranz [sic]) manner of conducting the campaign against Price and sport is generally made of it. It was a pity old A.J. Smith could not reach the end of the telegraph sooner, so as not to have his good intentions spoiled by Red Lake ye Mighty." Rosie wanted, no doubt, to reap the laurels himself, therefore he delayed Smith two or more days. Rosie came by rail and boat to Sedalia, rode his steed to Lexington and from there to Harrisburg, made fun of footsore, worn out soldiers by the roadside, issued an order (after running through the whole of northern Missouri by Smith's army) that we return to St. Louis, when both railroad and river transportation were plenty. Dan, it was an outrage to us that will never be forgotten. By the time we reached St. Louis, brigades had dwindled down to companies, and such a feeling existed among the rank and file that our division dared not march us by Rosie's headquarters, neither when going into or coming out of St. Louis. Ols Smith was ordered on transports the day we got into St. Louis but reports say he tore around like a mad bull and refused to go until his men were fed and clothed. The men had the freedom of the city by merely, mentioning "Smith's Thieves" and well they did behave themselves; with so many troops

in one place it was orderly and quiet." Of his own company the Capt. speaks in reminiscing of their long march, in the same letter, thus complimentary, "My company is good in every way. I cannot complain. They are cheerful and stand me as long as their shoes and rations last." Of Capt. Betcher's own loyal spirit, it is just to quote yet further, "I was glad of old Goodhue's 1300 majority, a great rebuke for demagogues, to think over their mad peace offerings. I hope the North will stand tried and true to herself and country and not stop until outrages such as we have seen in Missouri are revenged, that in fiendish Rebel blood alone. Talk about peace with a Rebel; as well as give a snake for a toy to a baby. Dan, do not think me very changed. When I joined the army, I meant War and it has only come to a boil after coming South; so much of this, and this is by an adopted citizen and in the trenches and under the guns of the enemy."

23 Philles, Berg and Brown go home on a 30-day leave. (furlough)

November

24 We left St. Louis for down the river. Were laid up on account of high winds.

25 Still going down the river. Were laid up on account of high winds. We left Benton Barracks and went on board the boat.

26 Still going down the river.

27 This morning landed at Cairo and lay there all day.

28 Left Cairo for up the Ohio. Stopped at Pad.

29 Left Smith land and started up the Cumberland. Stopped two hours at Fort Henry.

30 Still on the river and steamer Silver Cloud going up the Cumberland. Passed Clakville [sic].

December

1 Arrived at Nashville early this morning. Went into camp. Found the rest of the Regt. all well.

2 Remained in camp.

3 Remained in camp until afternoon, then got in line of battle at the trenches, skirmishing continued all day. Details for picket duty.

4 Stayed in line of battle all night. Skirmishing and cannon fire all day.

5 Skirmishing and cannonading continued.

6 Skirmishing and cannonading continued.

7 Skirmishing and cannonading continued.

8 Cold this morning. Skirmishing and cannonading in afternoon.

9 No cannonading today.

10 Still in camp. Received orders to march at any moment's notice.

11 to 14 In the mud all over. (Rained) Orders to march in the morning.

15 Packed up this morning and got in line of battle. Began fighting about noon. Drove the rebels off of their breastworks and captured some prisoners. Bivouacked for the night on the battlefield.

16 We were up early and cooked breakfast. Got [sic] in line again and advanced on the Rebels' works. While thus advancing, H.H. Danielson (whose diary this account is greatly copied) was struck in the left knee by a piece of shell, completely disabling him. He lay there all night and the next day was taken to the hospital and placed on a car for Louisville, where he arrived at 10:00 P.M. of the 19th. By the carelessness of the surgeon, infected instruments were used in dressing his wounds, which resulted in having to suffer amputation halfway between the knee and hip. On the 27th of March, 1865, he was transferred to General Hospital Evansville, Indiana. He was present and mustered out with the Reg. of St. Paul Aug. 16, 1865. The other losses in Co. G were: Pvt. Sebastian Banlig, killed; Sgt. Jacob Chist, Corp. Jacob L. Hamlin, Pvts. Samuel Budd, Andrew M. Crane, Ferdinand Ehlert, and Henry K. Carson, wounded. Carson was struck on the 15th by a piece of shell. Having, as before described, the advance to near the Rebels' works, we lay there until 4:00 P.M. Rain began to fall about noon and continued all day. A grand charge by the division was on the Rebel works which were at once captured. It was in this charge that our men were injured. After taking the works, pursuit was made after the fleeing force until we came to a range of hills where we bivouacked. The rain continued all night. In the two days our Regt. lost seven men killed and 48 wounded.

17 We fell into line again and started in pursuit. The rain still falling. We went out on the Granny White Pike, the route Hood had taken. Here we stood around in the rain until in the afternoon. All the time expecting to be starting in pursuit. We then went out on the Franklin Pike a few miles and camped.

18 A march in the deep mud all day. Reached Franklin just at night. The houses were filled with wounded Rebels.

19 to 23 Followed on southwest and reached Columbia on Buck River. The weather was getting colder, although the roads were better. Kept log heaps burning to keep by in the night. We had no tents or warm clothes.

24 Crossed Buck River and made 8 miles south toward Pulaski. Our train got behind and we were short on rations.

25 Pleasant day. Remained in camp and foraged and had a Christmas dinner.

26-27 Continued south and reached Pulaski. Here the pursuit of Hood was given up. He had crossed the Tennessee River at Clifton (down above Pittsburgh Landing).

28 Turned west and on the 29th passed through Lawrenceburg and camped 4 miles west of town. Rain set in in the evening. It grew colder and snowed three inches by 3 o'clock. Had to burn more log heaps to keep warm. We had no overcoats. Company was mustered.

30 This morning our breakfast exhausted [sic] our rations supply and we could not forage on account of the snow and mud, and the desolation of the country, which was poor and deserted. Our supply train was too far in the rear to furnish us. Camped in the woods by a small house.

January 1865

1 This morning we had nothing for breakfast. We cheered Gen. A.J. Smith with groans and calls for hardtack. A little later a wagon drove that way and gave us two hardtacks apiece. That was all our subsistence for that day.

3 Reached the Tennessee River at Clifton and remained until the 6th.

6 Went on two gunboats towing a monitor and ran up the Tennessee and landed on the 7th at Eastport on the west side of the Mississippi. Our experience at this place were not of the happiest for a soldier. We were scantily clothes, without tents, and the mouth of the Tennessee becoming frozen over, our supply boats could not reach us, and we were at extermination for something to eat. Our camp was on a high ground about a miles from the river and in the woods. We soon got huts and holes built for shelter and foraged for corn, which the 7th reduced to meal in a small mill which they were put in charge of about 8 miles. We kept the thing running day and night to its full capacity to keep the company fed. The mounth [sic] here was very well classed as though soldiering.

February

5 We embarked on the steamer Magenta for New Orleans and started down the river. Stayed one day in Cairo and then down the Mississippi to Vicksburg.

11 Reached Vicksburg. Left the boat and went into camp about 2 miles back of the city. Remained there until the 19th Again we went on board the Magenta and started down the river.

21 Reached New Orleans and during the night of the 21st we landed on the old battlefield. Vary [sic] cold, windy, and dreary. MUD.

22 Ground covered with snow. Bad place for camp. Low, wet and deep mud. We could not stay there and moved (on our own hook) up to some brick yards where we got on fairly well. On warm days we amused ourselves throwing brickbats at the swifts in the brick piles.

March

7 Broke camp and marched to Lake Pontchartrain and took boat for Mobile Bay. Arrived at Daughin Island. Stayed there two weeks. Fed on oysters. Fort Gaines is on this island. Hospital there.

19 Went by steamer to the head of navigation on the Fish River, east side of Mobile Bay. Went into camp and threw up entrenchments. A comfortable camp in the pines.

25 Started this morning for Spanish Fort. A fine day. About noon the skirmishing began and we were all badly shocked by Col. Marshall (who still commanded our brigade) being wounded by a ball passing through his neck. He mounted his horse again after having his wound dressed and the men cheered as he passed along the lines. He was a great favorite with the ment. [sic] Intrenched our camp.

26 Reached Spanish [sic] Fort, camping about three miles away.

27 Advanced on the fort. Skirmishing with the enemy and driving him into his works. At night we went into camp inn the rear of the 35th Iowa, the Brigade being in column of regiment. Remained in the camp until the 30th, furnishing details for siege operations.

30 Our brigade was moved to the left, north west. Occupying a space vacated by Gen. Beatch's Division of the 13th Corps, which has gone up to Blakely to assist in the investment there. Remained here until April 4th working incessantly, day and night, in the tranches and other duties. We were close up to the Rebels [sic] works.

April

4 Regt. returned to our first position in the line and occupied it.

6 Commences intrenchment (by night) close to their works but had gotten them scarcely completed when the Fort was evacuated.

8 At midnight the Union Forces took possess of Spanish [sic] Fort.

9 The Regt. moved up within two miles of the works at Blakely which were that day captured by the besieging forces. None of the ment [sic] of Co. G. were injured n this siege, though there were many close rubs.

13 The 16th Army Corps left Blakely for Montgomery, marching through yellow pine for most of the way.

18 We heard of the surrender of Lee's Army at Appomatox, [sic] Va.

22 Rained in the night.

23 Rained all day. Hard march through the mud.

25 Reached Montgomery, Alabama.

30 Mustered in the field near Montgomery.

May

1 We first heard of the assassination of Abe Lincoln.

10 To Selma, Alabama. From a letter written by Capt. Betcher, June 2nd at Selma: "When I last saw that beautiful, shady city of Montgomery, we anticipated moving soon. Our march orders came for the morning of the 10th of May. For once our brigade was in luck and we went by the steamer Peerless and by 3:00 o'clock were steaming down the Alabama River. Our ride was so unexpected to us and that, together with the fine scenery that greets one's eyes from Montgomery to Selma, and the pleasant company with which I happened to fall in, made me enjoy the ride very much. "Reached Selma in the night.

11 Went into camp on the north side of town. Our Brigade relieving that of Gen. C.C. Andrews of the 13th Corp. Col. Marshall was made Post Commander. Lieut. Col. Bradley commanding the Reg't. [sic] Gen. McIntyre arrived on the 14th with the remaining of the division, and he is commander of the district. From the Capt.'s letter again: "The whole brigade is encamped here. Our duties are light, in fact, nothing to do and therefore the desire to go North to home and friends increases daily. But orders for signing patrols [sic] and being paid seem to look as though our being relieved and discharge soon, were far off. Yet why now feel disposed to find fault? I do not and lose no moments of sleep over it. The health of my men is very good, and I sincerely hope will remain so. I myself am enjoying very good health now, and with a little care may keep well. The citizens were in great dread of "Smith's Gorillas." They were greatly disappointed in finding us so orderly." Capt. Betcher was made Acting Commander of Subsistence. Relieved June 1st, 1865.

15 Capt. McIntyre on special services with Marshall.

24 Pvt. Nelson Berg detailed to wait on Military Commission at Selma.

July

6 Today Jonas Swan died in hospital at Selma. He was an ever-ready, helpful, and uncomplaining soldier. A careful and hardy man. A "good soldier."

9 Today Ferdinand Ehlert, one of the most sturdy and reliable men of the company died of disease in the Selma hospital. He served faithfully, always ready for duty. The Civil War is over, and yet these two brave, enduring men must add their lives to the great sacrifice.

20 Today the 7th Reg't. [sic] with Col. Wm. R. Marshall once more in command took the cars and started homeward. A day of rejoicing for all, the "Tigers" and "Smith's Gorillas" 9or [sic] "Guerillas". They loved home and the arts of peace. Clark and Hubbard left behind in hospital. Reg't. [sic] reached Meridian [sic] that night.

21 Went on to Jackson. 8 companies, Sgt. Ram says, the railroad being destroyed from Jackson to Black River, 20 miles, we had to march. From Black River to Vicksburg we rode on the cars. We were at Vicksburg about three days and then embarked on the

steamer Magruder for St. Louis. Stayed in St. Louis two nights and one day and then started on the steamer Savannah for St. Paul. We reached Winona about 9:00 o'clock A.M. The citizens had refreshments for the soldiers. The same at Red Wing and Hastings.

August

8 Reached St. Paul a little before noon. The boat landed amid salutes of the artillery and plaudits of the multitudes. The Reg't. [sic] having landed were taken in charge by a committee and escorted to the Capitol where, drawn up in front of the building, we first listened to a speech by Mayor Pierce of St. Paul. George Miller, our old Col., welcomed the Reg't. [sic] on behalf of the state. Brevet Brig. Gen. William R. Marshall (whose commission as such reached him on the way home) responded. Having partaken of a repast spread upstairs in the Capitol, we went by boat to Fort Snelling to be discharged. We went into camp on the high ground north of the fort and remained there making out rolls, etc. until discharged on the 16th day of August, 1865. We expected that Gen. Marshall would make us a farewell speech; instead he gave each man a copy of a farewell order in printed form. It was as follows:

General Order No. 10

Headquarters Minnesota Infantry Volunteers

Fort Snelling, Aug. 16, 1865

General Order No. 10

Officers and men of the Seventh Regt: Your work is done. This day you cease to be soldiers of the Republic and resume the duties of peaceful citizens. I do not need now to testify of your fidelity, your soldierly endurance, your courage; this has been done in the reports of battles and campaigns, and is a part of the history of the Armies with which you have served and of the State that in part you have so honorably represented in the field, with gratitude to the Divine Providence that has restored so many of you to your homes and families, and commanding you to the protecting care of that Providence in the future, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

Wm. R. Marshall, Brevet Brig. Gen. Commanding

Certificate on Muster-out

The certificate on the muster-out roll reads as follows:

"I verify on my honor that I have at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on this 16th day of Aug., 1865, carefully examined this roll and as far as practicable caused the allowances, stoppages, and remarks to be justly and properly stated and mustered the company for discharge; and it is hereby honorably discharged from the service of the United States."

Sgt. Harvey Officer

Capt. and Mustering Officer

Ordinance Return and Other end of service Information

The old Springfield Muskets – What became of them and the accoutrements? Capt. Betcher's Ordinance return for the last quarter show that five men retained their old companions under General Order No. 101. War Dept. being charged therefore \$6 each on their final pay roll. These men were Charles Boatman, Nelson Bergh, Ole Skadson, N. Holverson, Hand Holverson. The remainder of the arms were duly turned over to the Acting Ordinance Office, Dist. of Minnesota, on the 9th day of August, 1865, upon whose receipt, duly signed, they were, curiously enough, styled unserviceable, as explained by Sgt. Ramer of Co. B in his published narrative that whereas, the Govt. gave to each commanding officer one month pay extra, the enlisted men were given nothing, but that by General Order No. 101 could take their old faithful guns by leaving with their paymaster \$6.00, for that which the Govt. received back and branded unserviceable. The sentiment arising from that G.O. No. 101 explains why so many men turned over what, to them, in all their lives, they would have regarded as their choicest keepsake. The Supreme Court of the United States decisive and clean out in their appreciation of justice than could "Smith's Guerillas." So the Govt. kept the unserviceable guns, and the brave boys paid for such items as their outfits as they were unable to provide at the muster out – to the last cent. The Government could lose nothing, for they always found it on the pay roll. The Monthly Return for Camp and Garrison equipment for Aug. 1865 shows the continued existence of 59 Great Coat straps, yielded upon the 2nd M receipt therefore. It also shows that the 63 men of the Co. "keeping house" in only 27 knapsacks, 42 haversacks, showed a better regard for their culinary needs, while 51 canteens and straps tell their own tale of thoughtfulness as to the finer comforts. Perhaps Willie Gray slipped his drum sling off his neck and handed in his two drums having no more calls for them, but, however, could the rain of Heaven have gotten a chance at a company of 66 men hidden under 10 shelter tents. Yet the "Tigers" could appreciate the shelter of their own homes and lastly the Capt. passed in his headaches with his "clothing account book," Description, Order Book. and Moving Report Book. Very few in the Service appreciated the constant load of irksome responsibilities borne by the faithful Commandant of the company; intricate and perplexing accounts were to be kept with mathematical exactness, and large blanks to be filled out with detail, and perhaps the only cover of ahardtack box across his knees as a desk. Working away with only the dismal light of a smashed up tallow dip; himself often wearied out from marching or a broken rest, and as likely, forsooth, mad clean through, over some unearthful [sic] provocation from those commanded or commanding. Always, were there pegs in a captain's shoes. well, Captain Harvey Officer took the books under promise in his "Receipt therefore" that they were to be transferred to Washington, D.C. The Captain Commanding, no doubt, felt that the farther transmitted the better. The knapsacks, haversacks, and canteens under General Order 114 of the War Department the men having them were allowed to keep. 51 of them carried away their old canteens.

August Roll Call

Aug 16 (At the roll call there stood in line 66 officers men as follows: Names deleted)

Commanding Officers 3

Sergeants 5

Corporals 8

Musicians 2

Privates 48

Previously discharged from the company 21

Transferred to Veterans [sic] Reserve Corps 2

Died from wounds received in battle 12

Deserters from the company 3

Total no of men connected with the company 106

Total no. of miles journeyed 10625

Hans H. Danielson Diary

[Note: This diary was kept by Hans H. Danielson during 1864, while he served as a soldier in the Civil War. On some days nothing was recorded. The first days of January are missing.]

January

7 Sent a letter home.

9 Received a letter from home. Paid off at St. Louis, received for two months \$32.66.

13 Sent three books home to the children.

14 Sent \$22 home.

16 Sent a letter home. John A. Olson to cash paid \$2.

18 Ole Olson paid for regulating watch, dr. 25 cents, Phillio, same, paid dr. 15 cents.

19 John Danielson cr. to cash paid \$1.

20 Letter from home. John Danielson dr. by fixing watch paid 75 cents.

22 Peter Fladland cr. to watch paid \$8. J. Molhouse dr. by fixing watch \$1.25 paid. Peter Fladland dr. by cash \$6.

23 Sent a letter home.

24 Letter from Jennie.

25 John Johnson paid by fixing watch hands, 25 cents.

26 Peter Johnson paid for hands on watch, 25 cents.

27 John Danielson cr. to cash paid \$2.

29 Letter from home.

February

1 Sent a letter home.

2 Ole Strand dr. by watch crystal and hands on his watch, paid 50 cents.

3 Martin Edwards dr. by cash on Cady S. account paid \$5.

4 Ole Olson dr. by cleaning a watch, 50 cents paid. Mailed a letter to Anderson.

5 John Palm Co. C. 7th Reg. dr. by cleaning watch 40 cents.

6 John Manihan dr. by three new wheels in watch, paid \$1. C. Sundel dr. by fixing watch paid 15 cents.

8 John Manihan dr. by hands split ring on watch paid 35 cents.

9 H. Cadwil cr. to cash paid \$1.

10 H. Cadwil dr. by new main chain and crystal in watch paid \$1.50

11 Ben Benson dr. by regulating watch paid 15 cents.

13 Peter Johnson dr. by crystal watch 25 cents paid. Sent a letter home. I. Milton dr. by fixing a ring in watch. 15 cents.

14 Letter from Jennie.

17 Letter from home. Hans Hovelson dr. by fixing watch 50 cents, paid.

22 Sent a letter home. Sent a letter to Jennie.

[Note: Jennie was his sister.]

24 Ben Benson dr. to cleaning watch and second hand 80 cents, paid.

25 Letter from home. John Danielson dr. by fixing watch 15 cents paid.

26 Af Scherquest dr. by fixing watch \$1.25, from Co. C. 7th Regt.

27 Big Biers dr. by watch key 10 cents.

March

2 Mailed a letter home. John Johnson dr. by fixing watch 25 cents, paid.

4 Letter from home.

5 O.T. Berg dr. by watch crystal 25 cents. Paid.

12 O.T. Berg cr. to cash \$1, paid.

16 John A. Olson dr. by cash paid \$1. John Danielson dr. by cash paid 25 cents.

19 Mailed a letter home. Letter from home.

21 Red Hempling dr. by fixing watch 15 cents.

22 Charley Faden dr. by fixing pistol \$1 paid.

23 Mailed a letter to Jennie.

27 Mailed a letter home. Received a letter from Arnold A. Anderson.

April

1 Received Carry and Hiram's portrait.

5 Letter from home. Letter from Jennie.

12 George Holhous dr. by watch crystal 25 cents paid.

15 Paid off at St. Louis.

20 Sent a letter home with a twenty-dollar check. Left St. Louis down the river for Cairo at 7 o'clock.

21 Came to Cairo at one o'clock. Charley Sundell dr. by watch \$3.

22 Paducah at two o'clock.

25 Received a letter from home.

28 Sent a letter home.

May

2 Letter from home. Sent a letter to Jennie.

9 Sent a letter home.

11 Paid off at Paducah, received \$26 and sent home \$20.

13 Letter from home.

15 Sent a letter home.

21 H. Caldwell cr. to a watch \$3, paid.

June

4 Letter from home and two pictures. John A. Olson cr. to cash \$2. Paid. F. Hempling dr. fixing watch \$1.25. Paid.

6 Sent a letter home.

10 Received a letter from Jennie. O.T. Berg dr. by watch \$3 paid.

11 Jacob Christ cr. to watch \$3. John Danielson dr. by revolver \$8 paid.

15 Sent a letter home.

17 Sent a letter to Jennie.

19 Left Paducah for Memphis. Colonel Hix made us an eloquent speech thanking the officers and soldiers of the 7th for their soldierly conduct while under his command.

20 Letter from home. Sent a letter home.

22 Arrived at Memphis this morning about three o'clock. Left Memphis and went out on cars 34 miles. Camped in the woods without tents.

23 Moved camp beyond Moscow, Tennessee, some eight or ten miles from the first camp.

26 Sent a letter home from Wreten with the lead pencil.

27 Advanced ten miles to La Grange court house and camped there. Four men fell down dead on the road from the heat. It was hot in the very extreme.

30 Letter from home.

July

3 Mailed a letter home with \$11.50 in it. Received a letter from Jennie.

5 Left La Grange and marched six miles and camped on a small river.

6 Left camp and marched thirteen miles. Very hot, many gave out. Camped near a small creek. C. Sundell dr. by watch key and hook 20 cents.

7 Left camp and marched ten miles. Hot. Guarded the train today, camped on a bottom.

8 Left camp and marched ten miles. Very hot. Camped in the woods. Passed Ripley at noon.

9 Left camp and marched ten miles. Camped at a place where a small town was burned.

10 Left camp and marched twelve miles. Camped in a wheat field, our advance drove one regiment of rebels from the road at sundown. Our pickets were driven in. Broke camp and advanced one mile. Camped.

11 Broke up camp advanced and skirmished with the rebels until eight o'clock, when they broke and ran. Went through a town called Pontotuck. The inhabitants all left. Went into camp outside of town. Object of raid was to break up the N. – S. R.R. in E. Miss.

13 Broke up camp and started for Tupelo, Mississippi. was attacked in the rear after we got out of camp. Skirmished all day. Dr. Smith killed. Got into camp after dark one mile from Tupelo. Marched seventeen miles. Very hot day.

14 Was attacked about sun-rise and fought till nine morning, when the enemy retired. Captured one enemy brig. Long towards night they formed another line of battle but did not fight.

15 This morning there was some skirmish firing and after a while we had quite a fight. We charged on them and put them to flight. Started back to Memphis five miles. The enemy attacked us in the rear after we camped. Shelled the corral. Some cavalry and the colored troops charged on them. Took their battery.

16 Broke up camp and marched sixteen miles till twelve o'clock. Enemy attacked the rear but did no harm.

17 Broke up camp and marched thirteen miles. Camped on the Telahatcha River. The enemy did not bother. Killed and wounded: ten killed, fifty-two wounded from the 7th Minn., and one missing.

18 Broke camp and marched eighteen miles, very hard marching on two rations.

19 Broke up camp and marched eighteen miles. Camped at Davison Mills. Jim McDowl dr. by boot between revolvers. \$3.

20 Broke up camp and road [sic] the cars into Memphis, Tenn., fifty miles west. Got there at two o'clock. The number of killed in this expedition in all the battles: 300 wounded, 50 killed, and 12 missing. Received two letters from home.

23 Wrote a letter home. John Danielson dr. by cash paid on a box of clothing sent home. 87 cents.

27 John Monson dr. by fixing watch, 25 cents.

28 Jonas Swan dr. by boot between watches, \$3 paid.

29 John A. Johnson dr. by watch hand 15 cents. Sargent of Co. K dr. by main spring 75 cents. paid.

30 John Monson dr. by new main spring in watch \$1.

31 Regiment left for Columbus.

August

1 Mailed a letter to Jennie, and home.

4 Left camp at Memphis and started for Holly Springs, but did not go, went to the Soldiers [sic] Home and stayed all night.

5 Stayed at camp the next night. Stayed at the Soldiers [sic] Home last night.

6 Received two letters from home. Stayed at camp last night.

7 Stayed at camp last night. Left Memphis for the Regiment, got to Holly Springs about four o'clock, stopped there all night.

8 Left Holly Springs and got to Waterford.

9 Stayed at Waterford last night. Mailed a letter home.

10 Still stopped at Waterford.

11 Left Waterford and came to camp where the Regiment was in camp at Tellahachie.

12 Mailed a letter home. O.T. Berg dr. by fixing watch 50 cents,

13 Tellahachie. About two o'clock this afternoon the rebels came up on our pickets and drove them in, and quite a battle commenced, but we were in reserve. This was the battle of Abbeville.

14 Today passed off without any fighting.

15 John Olin dr. to cash paid, 25 cents.

19 Left camp at Tellahachie and marched about one mile and had to turn back on account of the rain and occupied our old camp grounds..

21 Left camp at Tellahachie and marched six miles and crossed a creek and camped.

22 Took up our line of march and marched to Oxford. The rebels had all left and we turned back to our old camp at the creek, making a march of fourteen miles.

23 Took up our line of march back to Memphis and camped in our old camp at Tellahachie. The enemy came up in our rear and commenced to skirmish, and we had to come out and meet them. Some fifty of their men were killed, and three were wounded and one killed on our side.

25 Took up our line of march this morning and crossed the Tellahachie River and marched to Waterford, eight miles.

26 Crossed the creek at Waterford and camped.

27 Left Waterford and marched to Holly Springs, 10 miles. Arrived after dark.

28 Left Holly Springs and marched 25 miles and camped at Wolf River.

29 Left Wolf River and marched to La Grange, three miles.

30 Left camp at La Grange and took the cars for Memphis and camped at our old camp. Letter from home and from Jennie.

September

1 John A. Olson dr. by cash 50 cents paid. Elerth by cash 25 cents paid.

2 Left Memphis camp and stood on the landing. Got on board the boat just at dusk. Received a letter from home.

3 Left the landing at Memphis and started down the river on the boat St. Patrick. Rode on the hurricane deck.

4 Turned up the White River and continued on the boat.

5 Still continued on up the White River. Stopped at St. Charles and camped on shore.

7 Sent a letter home. Got on board the boat ready to start up the river.

8 Left St. Charles this morning and went up the river on the Nevada. Came to Duvolls Bluff in the night.

9 Went on shore this morning at Duvolls Bluff. Went into camp at Duvolls Bluff in the afternoon.

10 A watch left me by O.T. Berg, worth \$20. O.T. Berg dr. to Michel Anderson \$20. Hans Hovelson \$5.50. Left camp at Duvolls Bluff at three o'clock and marched 20 miles.

11 Left camp this morning at five o'clock and marched 18 miles to Brownsville, Arkansas.

14 Mailed a letter home.

17 Left camp at Brownsville and marched eight miles.

18 Took up our line of march and marched 20 miles, came through Austin.

19 Took up our line of march and marched 17 miles and camped on the little red River.

20 Took up our line of march and marched 17 miles. Camped at Stoney Creek.

21 Took up our line of march from Stoney Creek and camped on the White River, 21 miles march.

22 Took up our line of march from the White River and camped on the Little Black River in the woods. A bridge broke down so that we could not cross. Marched 17 miles.

23 Laid in the woods till four o'clock and marched 10 miles. Camped on the middle branch of the White River at Millers Church.

24 Took up our line of march and marched 22 miles. Camped at Pocohontos, Ark.

25 Took up our line of march and marched 22 miles.

26 Took up our line of march and marched 18 miles.

27 Took up our line of march and marched 14 miles It rained some and the roads became very muddy.

28 Took up our line of march and marched 10 miles and crossed the Black River on a bridge made from rails at a farm on the bank.

29 Took up our line of march and marched 8 miles. The roads were very bad; it had rained last night. Some of the wagon train did not get in till morning.

30 Took up our line of march and marched 27 miles and came through Poplar Bluff and crossed the Black River ten o'clock at night. Rained very hard.

October

1 Took up our line of march from the Black River camp. The roads very muddy all day, coming 14 miles. Camped on a stoney [sic] ridge.

2 Took up our line of march. Stopped on the road and fired off the old loads from our guns. Marched 18 miles. Forded the St. Francis River and camped in Greenville, Mo.

3 Took up our line of march from Greenville and marched 15 miles and came through a little town called Hog-eye.

4 Took up our line of march and marched 32 miles and came through a little town called Dallas. Camped at White Water.

5 Took up our line of march from White Water and marched 20 miles and camped at Cape Girardeau, Mo. (300 miles in 19 days, 10 days' rations.)

6 Sent a letter home.

7 Broke camp at Cape Girardeau and started up the river to St. Louis on the steamer Leonidas.

8 Arrived at St. Louis and anchored in the river opposite the levy.

9 Laid opposite St. Louis at an Illinois town.

10 Left St. Louis and started up the Missouri River. Drew clothing: one pair pants, one pair drawers, one pair shoes, two pair socks, one shirt, one hat, one rubber blanket.

11. Still on the boat going up the Missouri River.

12 Still on the boat going up the Missouri River.

13 Still on the boat going up the Missouri River.

14 Still on the boat going up the Missouri River.

15 Still on the boat going up the Missouri River. Arrived at Jefferson City and went on shore and started on the cars eleven o'clock at night.

16 Arrived at a place where the rebels had burned a railroad bridge. Stopped and cooked breakfast by the track near Otterville, Mo. Mailed a letter home.

19 Left camp at Otterville and marched 30 miles. Camped all along the road in the night, Received five letters from home.

20 Came up to the camp. Stopped and cooked dinner. Marched 17 miles and camped on the prairie without water.

21 Took up our line of march. Twenty-eight miles to Lexington. Camped on a side hill. Only a very few men came into camp on account of being so foot-sore.

22 Left camp at Lexington to follow Price, Shelby, and Marmaduke. Marched 18 miles and camped in some hazelbrush, water near.

23 Took up our line of march, 23 miles. Stopped at dark and got supper and rested till twelve o'clock at night.

24 Took up our line of march one o'clock at night, marched 13 miles. Stopped and got breakfast, went on some further and the signs of fighting was very plain. Saw three dead. Stopped on the battle ground all night.

25 Left the battle ground of Blunt and Price and marched 18 miles and camped near Kansas line.

26 Was over in Kansas. Took up our line of march and marched 20 miles. Camped near a small, demolished town called Harrisonville.

27 Laid in camp all day. Had no rations except a little flour, baked some dough pancakes.

28 Did not start from this place. Laid in camp all day.

29 Laid in camp all day. Drew rations. Mailed a letter home.

30 Took up our line of march from Harrisonville and marched 12 miles and went into camp to prepare for muster.

31 Mustered this morning, Took up our line of march from Pleasant Hill and marched 18 miles. Camped on the prairie where there was neither wood nor water.

November

1 Took up our line of march. Marched 20 miles, camped in some timber. Plenty of wood and water.

2 Took up our line of march and marched 26 miles and camped at one of our old camps.

3 Took up our line of march this morning in a snow storm. Marched 18 miles, camped in an old store in Sedalia. All our clothing was wet.

4 Took up our line of march from Sedalia. Marched 20 miles and past Otterville. Letter from home.

- 5 Took up our line of march and marched 20 miles. F.T. Beers by cash 50 cents.
- 6 Took up our line of march. Came through California, marched 18 miles.
- 7 Took up our line of march. Marched 14 miles, camped at Jefferson City.
- 8 The regiment took up their line of march this morning for St. Louis and I was left behind on account of lameness and disability.
- 9 Stopped last night in the State House. Mailed a letter home.
- 10 Still stopping in the State House at Jefferson City.
- 11 Still stopping in the State House at Jefferson City.
- 12 Still stopping in the State House at Jefferson City.
- 13 Left Jefferson City and took the boat down the river to St. Louis.
- 14 On the river going down to St. Louis we got stuck on a sand bar. Laid there all night.
- 15 On the river going down to St. Louis. Got stuck on a sand bar for about three hours.
- 16 Arrived at St. Louis about half past two o'clock and went to Benton barracks to stop, Received a letter from John.
- 17 Received our pay for six months. Received \$97.95, sent home \$80.
- 18 Went downtown on a pass and bought one pair of boots, one pair of gloves, and one pair of suspenders, one great coat, one sack coat, two flannel shirts, one pair of drawers, and one blanket.
- 19 Mailed a letter home.
- 20 Mailed a letter to John at Memphis.
- 21 Mailed a letter to Jennie.
- 23 Left Benton Barracks and went on board the boat.
- 24 Left St. Louis at two o'clock p.m. and started down the river. Received a box of all sorts of good things from folks of Red Wing.
- 25 Was on the boat going down the river, but had to lay up because the wind blew so hard that the boat became unmanageable.
- 26 Still on the boat going down the river. Quite pleasant today.
- 27 Landed at Cairo this morning. Laid their [sic] all day getting coal. Mailed a letter home.
- 28 Left Cairo this morning and started up the Ohio River. Stopped at Paducah and took on some of the 12th Iowa. Stopped at Smithland.

29 Left Smithland and started up the Cumberland River. Stopped at Fort Henry about two hours.

30 Still going up the Cumberland River. Passed Clarksville. Came up the river on the Silver Cloud.

December

1 Arrived at Nashville early this morning. Went on shore and went into camp. Found the rest of the regiment there, all well. Letter from home.

2 Remained in camp until in the afternoon, then got in line of battle at the trenches. Skirmishing continued all day.

4 Remained in line of battle all last night at the trenches. Kept on cannonading [sic] all day and skirmishing all day.

5 Was skirmishing and cannonading [sic] some all night. Some cannonading all day and cavalry skirmishing. Letter from home.

6 Mailed a letter home. The same cannonading continued today as usual. Went on picket.

7 Cannonading and picket as usual all day and night. Received a letter from home.

8 Very cold this morning and very still. No cannonading. Some skirmishing this afternoon and cannonading.

9 Still colder this morning. No cannonading.

10 Still in camp, no cannonading. Received orders to be ready to march at a moment's warning.

11 Remained in camp, very cold.

12 Remained in camp. Went on guard. Mailed a letter home.

13 Remained in camp all day. Letter from J.A. Olson.

14 Remained in camp all day. Jacob Chries dr. to cleaning watch 50 cents.

15 Packed up this morning and went in line of battle and got in fighting about noon. Drove the rebels out of their breastworks and took some prisoners.

16 Got up early and cooked some coffee. Got in line again and advanced on the rebels [sic] works. While advancing was struck by a piece of shell in the left knee.

17 Was taken to the hospital and had the wound dressed. Felt a great deal better.

18 Packed up my things to leave the hospital for Louisville, Ky. Started in the afternoon on the cars.

19 Was on the train all last night and all day until ten o'clock at night, then arrived at Louisville.

20 At the hospital in Louisville,

21 Mailed a letter home. Mailed a letter to John.

22 Hospital.

23 Hospital.

24 Hospital.

25 Hospital.

26 Hospital.

27 Hospital. Mailed a letter home.

28 Hospital.

28 Hospital.

30 Hospital.

31 Hospital.

[Note: Hans H. Danielson arrived at home, Goodhue, Minnesota, in August, 1865, a cripple for the rest of his life. His left leg had to be amputated at the hip.]

Letter to his sister

St. Louis, Missouri

January 25, 1864

Beloved Sister,

I have received your letter of Jan. 17 and I see from your letter that you are well, and I can with pleasure tell you that I am well again, although I have not done any guard duty yet, but I expect soon to be put on duty. I am glad to hear that my folks are all well. I had a letter from Elizabeth the 20th.

We have had a good deal of change since I wrote to you. We have moved out of the barracks and into a nice brick house that used to be a boarding house for a college, and it is three stories high, and all the upper rooms are small so that there is only room for twelve men in each room, and then we have a large room below for dining room and kitchen. This is such a change that we almost think ourselves at home, but when we look for our sisters, wives, and children, they are not here, and it is almost too good for a soldier, but we have met with a loss that we are sorry for and that is our Captain. He has received his commission as a Captain in the U.S. Vol. Service. He was a good Captain, and we shall feel his loss very much. Our Orderly is promoted to a First

Lieutenant in the regular U.S. Service, and he will probably be promoted to Captain.  
[rest is missing]

Fragment of a letter

inch thick below the water line and four inches thick above the water, so that it is very hard to shoot a hole through them. I do not think the rebels will like them very much next summer. The weather is very nice here now, and the ice is going away very fast, and before long the steamboats will begin to run on the river. I could get a chance to come home, but it costs so much that I cannot afford it. I should like to see my folks again. I hope that the day is not far distant that we can all come home and stay forever, for the rebels are getting pretty hard up for everything, both eatables and clothing, and they are getting to grumble over it pretty hard. They say that their troops are without shoes and stockings the biggest part, and no materials for making any more, and I think the war will not last over six months longer. If it lasts longer, it will probably last two or three more. We will have to whip them before they can get anther crop raised to [rest is missing]