




Thomas Montgomery and family papers.

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We are now once more in Minnesota
The active Fort Abercrombie on Friday
last & bid it & Dakota farewell this
morning. Will now travel a little
in diary. Aug 17th The 7th riding left Camp
at 5 am & marched 18 miles over very level
prairie to Camp Ambler. It was a very warm
dry day and a hard march for all. The
Ambler or Snake River, a fine deep stream and
camped on east bank. We laid over there
on the 18th. The river was well timbered, &
we had wood once more to cook & bake
meats with. We also got abundance of
plum & cherries & other fruit. Rained some
19th. The anniversary of our enlistment,
marched to the Shayenne River over very
beautiful prairie 18 miles. Timber in sight
all day Pleasant march. Mail arrived & also
Col. Mursey inspecting officer. The Shayenne
is well timbered also. Pioneer Co. building bridge
20th Had general Brigade inspection at 7 am
after dinner struck tents & crossed the river
& camped 5 miles east. Recd a paper from home
by another mail.

21st The 7th in advance, marched for some time
parallel with Wild Rice River, which is well
timbered and which we crossed on its dry bed
at 10 am. We soon came in sight of Fort, which
we reached at 11. and camped close to. Marching
16 miles. Very warm, visited the fort. It is on
the west bank of Red River of the North, in a town.
The buildings are wood & brick & very nice
and all is enclosed by palisades of upright
logs. It has 3 bastions mounting 6 guns. It
was attacked last fall by Indians, & I guess
mark the result on our side. The river is
well timbered and is navigable in high water
up to the fort. The Steamer International, a
fine new boat lies here. It runs between here
& Ft. Carry. Saw an old Chippewa half breed
squaw aged 117 years. Saw Red River dogs.
22nd 23rd & 24th Laid over washing, mending.
23rd Sunday. Rained all day & night before
making it cold & disagreeable. As I mention
before we left to day. Our ice being in the
bear we were detained 3 hours to let the
long train cross the River into Minnesota.

We started at 9 A.M. passing the fork in as good
a shape as possible, with colors & music,
and crossed into Minnesota, and marched 4
hours along the bank of the river 12 miles.
We are out 3 miles from Breckenridge, which
has in distance, like John C. only, in name.
The nearest settlement is Alexandria 30
miles distant. But this will undoubtedly
be settled at no very remote period, as it is
rich farming land, & close to wood & water.
Tomorrow we march to the Otter Tail Branch.
This river is 60 miles distant & is a fine
one. The mail last night brought us St Paul
papers up to 19th. You have seen no doubt the
account of our exploits in the daily papers
of the 16th. They are in the main correct, but
Sugitt's in the Pioneer of the 16th gives the
best account. There is some talk of us
going South. I am satisfied, I would rather
go to Dixie than to Pembina, but we can't
tell till Col. Marshall returns.
We are now on our way to all appearances
to Fort Snelling, which we intend to reach in
a day or two. We go by Sauk Centre & Cloud.
I hope you will enjoy yourselves at your
Singing School & Sunday School &c.
If we go South you may look for us about Oct 1st.
This now after 10 o'clock. I must leave a close.
My health is very good. So are all the boys but
Herman Boish, who is left behind at the fort.
So far, got two letters from Miss Alice lately. He will
wish. Could write more at large but time & no
space will not permit me. Remember me to all the
friends. Love to Mother, Father & family not for get
yourself. Write again when you can. I am sorry for having
taken you care of your health & the journey. Bro. J. Montgom.