

I, Amos B. Watson, enlisted in Winona, Minn., Aug. 14, 1862. By nine o'clock next day, Aug. 15th, there were over one hundred enrolled, and at eleven o'clock we took passage by boat for St. Paul. We arrived at St. Paul at six o'clock next morning and marched to the State Capitol, where our Company was organized. Here we elected our company officers from our company; we took boat again and reached Fort Snelling at 11 a.m. We then had our first meal of army rations: hard bread, salt pork and black coffee; tin plates, and so forth. Most of the company had lived well, some luxuriously, and it made some of the more delicate ones look home-sick. But later experiences made this fare comparatively luxurious. Sunday morning Aug. 17, we were examined by the army surgeon and sworn in as Company B, Seventh Regiment. On the 19th news came of the Sioux outbreak with all its horrors. Some companies of the Sixth Regiment started for Fort Ridgley the same afternoon, and 80 of Company B. of the Seventh were furloughed, as promised, for nine days, to go home and save their crops.

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I arrived home on the 20th. On the 21st orders hurriedly came to report at Fort Snelling as soon as possible. On the 24th we took steam boat to Fort Snelling, arriving on the evening of the 25th, where we received orders the 26th to be ready to march at a moment's notice. In the afternoon we received our uniforms and guns and equipments, and on the 27th we received marching orders; and at 6 o'clock, p.m. all of the Seventh Regiment then at the fort started by boat, arriving at Shakopee next morning. We got our breakfast and received sixteen rounds of ammunition, and at three o'clock, p.m. started for Fort Ridgley. We marched 10 miles and camped for the night. This being our first experience at pitching tents we made awkward work of it. Sept. 2, when about 5 miles from Fort Ridgley, Lieut. Col. M. B. Marshall met us, being the first field officer of our regiment we had seen. He conducted us to the fort, where we arrived about 4 o'clock. Tents were already pitched for us. We began to get dinner, or rather supper, having eaten our last rations that morning.

We soon received orders to be ready to march to re-enforce Mc Phail, who had gone to relieve Grant's Company and others whom the Indians had surrounded at Birch Coulee. At 6 o'clock, p.m. we were in line, and two pieces of hard bread was issued to each man. It was a light supper after marching 22 miles and having 16 more miles to march, and that in the night. Wagons were promised for as many as possible. At 6:10 we were with Gen. Sibley's whole force. On the way to Birch Coulee we arrived at about midnight within 2 miles of Grant's Camp, where with Mc Phail's Command we lay on our arms. We were called into line at day-light, and without any breakfast. The skirmish line was thrown out and the advance began. The Indians opened fire upon us, but at long range shells from a Howitzer were thrown among them. We steadily advanced, and they retreated down the coulee to the Minnesota River. We reached Grant's Camp at about 10 o'clock, a.m. It was a sorrowful scene. Some of the survivors tried to cheer, others only shed silent tears; some begged for water, others for something to eat. They had fought 36 hours without water and little to eat. The tents and wagons were riddled with bullets. We found 13 dead and 89 wounded; and 90 horses lay dead at the picket rope. We of Company B., half famished, got flour and salt pork from Captain Grant, fried the pork, made cake of flour and water and fried them in the pork fat. These with coffee was our first meal since the morning of the day before we buried the dead, and with the wounded in wagons reached the fort about midnight, having marched in 2 days, 54 miles, almost without rest. There were a great many narrow escapes. in Grant's Camp. Among them was a German woman found by Grant's party. She had been wounded two weeks before, and had been in hiding since that time. They made her as comfortable as possible in a wagon by herself. She lay there during all the fighting, unhurt, although many bullets struck the wagon.

CONTINUATION OF A.B.WATSON'S NARRATIVE OF THE SIOUX OUTBREAK, AUG., 1862.

On the 18th, having received marching orders, we crossed the Minnesota River near the fort, and camped on the south side of a lake. There were five companies of the Seventh together now. On the 19th the rest of the command crossed. Sept. 20th, we started up the south side of the Minnesota River in pursuit of the Indians. We found and buried the bodies of one white man and two Indians. During the night there were some buildings burned by the Indians, a mile from camp, toward the river. Sunday, Sept. 21, we marched about 16 miles, passed the ruins of Redwood Agency, and crossed the Redwood River. Same afternoon we found and buried the body of George Gleason, a prominent man about the agencies. Other Day, a noted, friendly Indian, who had conducted to safety a large number of refugees, and now with the command as scout, had tied his horse to a tree in the edge of the woods near a deserted house, which he had entered. Upon hearing a noise, he ran out just in time to see two Indians on his horse racing across the valley beyond rifle shot. ~~EX~~ Other Day looked crest-fallen, but said: "Never mind; I will make that up the first chance," and he did at Wood Lake, Sept. 22. We marched about 15 miles and camped just south of a small stream flowing from Wood Lake, about 3 miles from Yellow Medicine River. Spt. 23, reveille was sounded at 4 o'clock a.m. in order to march early and to be ready ~~xxxxxx~~ for any emergency. While the Seventh were eating breakfast, some of the Third boys started ahead with a wagon in order to forage. They went without orders. When they were a half a mile from camp, the Indians attacked them, and came near gobbling them up. The rest of the Third rushed out and got their comrades back to camp, but not all of them; three were killed, and many wounded. The Hennville Rangers joined the Third. Soon the Indians opened fire from the ravine on the north side of the camp. We of the Seventh Regiment were deployed toward this ravine. We advanced and made a charge on the double-quick. That cleared the

ravine and ended the battle. The firing was heavy for a short time. When the firing had about ceased, a few Indians were discovered still in the tall grass in the ravine. A few shots started them out on the run, one trying to carry off the other. He was shot down, and later both were found dead. One Indian started to run up a small ravine on the opposite side from us. There was a storm of bullets sent after him, and he was hit and fell several times, but ran to the high ground before he fell. I fired two shots at him, and was about the first to get to him. He was still alive, but soon gasped his last. He had nothing on but his breech-clout. We found he had been pierced by seventeen balls, nine of which were in his body. We found and buried fifteen Indians. The loss to the command was four killed and thirty wounded. Other Day was about the first out to the front, and in the thickest of the fight he captured two ponies; and so made good his former loss. A man of our company, Dan Dana, captured a pony with saddle and bridle. He gave it to Captain Curtis, who rode it during the rest of the campaign. The next day we remained in camp to send back the wounded. The 25th, we were on the march early and crossed the Yellow Medicine. We passed the Upper Yellow Medicine Agency. The Indians had burned all of the Government Buildings. Sept. 26th we passed a deserted village, said to be Red Irons, and came in sight of the great friendly Indian camp of 2000 or more, where the captives were. It was about half a mile south of the Minnesota River. The command passed to the north of the Indian camp, and went into camp between it and the river. This was called Camp Release. Gen. Sibley went with an escort and received the ~~xx~~ white captives, about 300 women and children. I helped get dinner for them. They were a sorry looking crowd.

Oct. 24th, Camp Release was abandoned, and the entire command with prisoners and friendly Indians, marched for the Lower Agency. Company A. of the Seventh re-joined us at Camp Sibley, they having been detached burying the dead about Yellow Medicine. They found

a woman half demented and almost a skeleton, who had a little child with her. She had escaped the massacre by hiding in the woods along the Minnesota River. She had managed for sometime to subsist on berries and leaves, and afterwards venturing to deserted farms for turnips and potatoes, which she ate raw. A nursing baby had sickened and died in the woods. It seemed very remarkable that she could have survived, enduring the cold rains and early snows from August 18th to October 27th without shelter or fire or adequate food.

November 8th, the whole command with the prisoners shackled in wagons started for Mankato. On the way, at New Ula, the citizens attacked the ~~train~~ and tried to kill the prisoners, but the guards kept them back. Here I will mention one little incident that happened: We passed the town about one mile to the south of it; however, the citizens were out there, women with their aprons full of brick-bats. There were two rows of guards on each side of the wagons. I was guard on the side next to the town. The first I knew, one very large German woman slipped through in front of me, and hit one of the Indians on the head with a large stone. Well, he fell backwards out of the wagon, he being ~~shackled~~ shackled to another Indian that held him, so he was dragged about five rods. Then myself and comrade picked him up and put him back in the wagon, (I think the poor fellow had a very sore head). We arrived at Camp Lincoln November 10th. Winter had set in and it was cold and dreary camping. Dec. 5th, Camp Lincoln was abandoned and command moving into quarters in vacant buildings in Mankato. Here, on the 26th day of December, 1862, 38 Indians were hanged from one gallows. They had been found guilty upon trial of court martial of massacring whites. It was a public hanging. The gallows were built in the street in front of the prison, and it was estimated that there were 4000 people on the ground. Our company was stationed on the west side of the gallows as guards. The Indians came out from their jails

and marched up on the platform and took their places. Some of them were dancing, some singing and some were smoking. The gallows were built ~~four feet~~ square~~ness~~, a post ^{Through} in the center with a rope to hold the platform on which the Indians stood. There was ^aman there whose whole family the Indians had massacred, he alone having escaped. Now, he wanted the privilege of cutting the rope, which the officers granted him. As he cut the rope, ^{and they dropped,} one Indian facing our company broke his rope. Myself and two others picked him up and hung him up again.

After the doctors had pronounced them all dead, we took them down and placed them in army wagons, hauled them to a sand-bar in the Minnesota River, and buried them about two feet deep in the sand. I The next morning I went down to where they were buried, and they were all gone. The doctors had gobbled them all up. There were hundreds of doctors there from different cities all over the Union.

of Co. B. Seventh Minnesota Vols.