

Capt Marsh. Come for God Lake

We are in danger and have not  
a man to speak for us be here if  
possible by 12 o'clock tomorrow  
night - Either come or call us to your  
post - we cant stay here unless we fight  
the Crowd.

Pat. Genl. J. J. Sherke  
Comnd. Det.

Office Sioux Indian Agency.

Pajutazee, Aug. 5 - 1862

Sir -

I have to request that you come up to this Agency forthwith, to attend to matters of moment alike to you, myself & your command here - I send this by express -

Yours Truly

Thos J. Galbraith

U. S. Ind. Agent

Capt. Marsh

Commanding

Fort Ridgely

Minn

Copy

Office Sioux Indian Agency.

Pajutaree, Aug 5 1862

Sir

Your Interpreter Quinn is  
a man whom I cannot trust to  
communicate or correspond with my  
Indians I have therefore respectfully to  
request that said Quinn be at once  
ordered to hold no communications direct  
or indirect with my Sioux Indians  
under my jurisdiction. And I further  
request that he be ordered off the  
Reservation and placed in charge of  
Capt. Marsh Commanding at Fort ~~Edwards~~  
Ridgely with a copy of this request

First Lieut  
J. M. M. M.  
Commanding  
Yellow Medicine  
Mission

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
Thos. J. Galbraith  
Sioux Agent

c o p y

Marsdale Farm

Paynesville, Minnesota

Route 2

January 4, 1961

Mr. R. B. Dunsworth  
5201 Clinton Avenue  
Minneapolis 19, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Dunsworth:

This is in reply to your letter of Dec. 28th, addressed to my wife, relative to Captain John Marsh. Our family records are rather sketchy but I am glad to pass on to you what I do know.

Captain Marsh was my great uncle. He was the youngest of five brothers: William (my grandfather), Josiah, Charles, Harvey and John, the sons of Israel Marsh, a baptist circuit rider who was living at Dorchester, Ontario, at the time of his death in 1855. Incidentally, the best information I have been able to gather would indicate that Israel Marsh was the grandson of Col. William Marsh, the famous Vermont loyalist of Revolutionary times.

9145  
William Marsh, my grandfather, was born at Dunham, Province of Quebec, just north of the Vermont line, in 1819. The other brothers may have been born in either Quebec or (sic) Ontario. I have no record of the date of Captain Marsh's birth, but, judging by the known ages of three of his brothers, I would say that he was born about 1830, which would make him around thirty-one at the time of the Sioux uprising. He was probably unmarried.

For some years prior to the outbreak of the war Captain Marsh and at least two of his brothers, William and Harvey, had been living in Fillmore County, at the little town of Eliota, situated near the Iowa line. Eliota is no longer on the map. With the coming of the railroad the town was moved to nearby Canton. My grandfather and grandmother, who then had one son, moved from Ontario to Eliota in 1854. Harvey and John may have been there prior to that date, but it is possible that they came slightly later. My grandfather was a blacksmith. Harvey was probably engaged in the grain and livestock business as was definitely the case in later years. There is no record of Captain Marsh's occupation, but it is quite possible that he was associated with his brother Harvey.

John Marsh was a captain in the Union army early in the war. He was disabled in the first battle of Bull Run and sent home for home guard duty. As to how seriously or how permanently he was disabled the record does not state. Apparently he was greatly admired by his family. The night that the news of his death reached

Eliota a big mass meeting was held at the school house and the next morning his brother Harvey and a number of friends set out for the scene of action with the purpose of avenging his death. As to what they may have accomplished, there is no record. One of my uncles who was old enough to remember something of the events told me that he believed that they did a thorough job.

Captain John's brother Josiah was a colonel in the Union army. He entered the military service at the death of his brother and served throughout the remainder of the war.

It is presumed that Captain Marsh is buried in the common grave at Fort Ridgely. The inscription on the monument there would so indicate.

I am sorry that I have no photos, books or mementos which would contribute anything to this story, but I do have a copy of a book which was published in 1903, written by Geo. E. Foster, then Superintendent of Schools at Fairfax, Minnesota, entitled "Stories of Minnesota." This book contains the story of Captain Marsh, but, of course, the facts as to what happened at Birch Coulee are a matter of public record.

Yours very truly,

(SIGNED)

W. R. Marsh  
(Just another in a rather  
long line of William Marshes)