Diary, 1862.
John W. Pratt.
Diary of 1862

John H. Pratt
Co. N. 24th Regt. Iowa Infantry

From
Bernice Pratt,
202-18th St., N.E.,
Cedar Rapids, la.

Diary of the Time
since Enlisted, Aug. 22nd
1862, to Jan. 1st, 1863.

John W. Pratt
Co. A, 25th Regt. Iowa
Volunteers Infantry.
Friday, Aug. 22nd
This evening, with a very sad heart, I resolved in the defense of my country in this great rebellion, deeming it my duty. Returned home with my dear Gallie, we retired for the night, but could not sleep. O. how sad we felt. Better tears would flow. How bitter the thought at leaving from my dear companion, this sweet little home - all I so much love. Where we had enjoyed each other's society, it were so hard.
O. God, guide and direct us. I preserve us to meet again, when we will again be happy. O. we hope, useful, in our ship three together.
Saturday Aug 28th

We arose quite early, but how sad the morning for, to day I cannot start for Camp Breaston. We ate breakfast, that was with us, had our pictures taken, attended Lodge. But oh, how cheerless all. Went to Father Bailey's, late in the evening took supper. At eleven o'clock in the evening, I took a sad advice to my own loved Cathie. O, how she slay in my breast. I wept. My God, how sad it was. My heart was nearly broken. My brain seemed crazed with sorrow. I started. I went to McGregor.
Sunday, Aug. 24th.

Searched the steamer, "Kay City." I went to Dubuque. O. How sad I felt all the time. I could hardly speak to anyone, without shedding tears. My dear wife, I have filled my whole thoughts.

Arrived at Dubuque at 8 o'clock P.M. Stopped at "The Minnesota House."

Monday, Aug. 25th.

Wrote a letter to Callie. Walked about town in company with Charlie. O. How sad I felt.

Thought of wife at home, it seemed for one, all the time.
Tuesday, Aug. 26th.

Wrote a letter to Callie.

Having no other way of communicating with her, for which I am very sorry, though I am thankful for this even. This manner of communicating with her, had Company drill.

Wednesday, Aug. 27th.

Was sent to the camp to assist in building barracks.

Still kept thinking of dear Callie.

Thursday, Aug. 28th.

Was at work building barracks, but said nothing to afford me any pleasure.
Friday, Aug. 27th, 1863

Sent two packages to Callie, believing she would be glad to receive them, as they were sent by me.

Had company drill in the afternoon.

Saturday, Aug. 28th, 1863

Was again detailed to work on barracks. Received a dear good letter from Callie. Now pleased I was to get it. It seemed as if I had been gone a long time.

Our company moved into the barracks at Camp Franklin.
Sunday, Aug. 31st
Wrote a letter to Callie.
Nothing more transpiring
worth of notice. The day
passed in bitter thought
of The Happy Past.

Monday, Sept. 1st
Spent most of the day
in company drill.

Tuesday, Sept. 2nd
Sent a letter to Callie.
Had company drill.
Nothing of interest transpiring.

Wednesday, Sept. 3rd
Sent a letter to Callie.
The day was mostly occupied.
in company drill, with
little else to attract the
attention.

Thursday, Sept. 7th,
Wrote a letter to Callie,
Sent it by Mr. Ballor.
Received a very good letter
from Callie, which I was
so very glad to receive.
Time passes very slowly.

Friday, Sept. 8th,
Sent a paper to Callie.
The day was nearly spent
in company & battalion
drills. But nothing seemed
cheerful to me. Regretted
that duty called me to part with
her & love.
Saturday, Sept. 6th

Wrote a letter to Callie. I had the great pleasure of receiving one from her. The day, as usual, was spent in drilling.

Sunday, Sept. 7th

The day was spent as usual. Sundays usually are, in reading & attending church in Camp, with Congregational singing.

Monday, Sept. 8th

The day was spent in company by battalion drills, which failed to draw my thoughts from the happy past.
Tuesday, Sept. 9th
Wrote a letter to Callie. I sent her a paper.

The day passed as usual.

Ned, as usual, very many visitors from town.

Wednesday, Sept. 9th
Wrote a letter to Callie. Received one from her.
Also received a letter from M. Manevich. I answered same. Nothing of special interest transpired.

Thursday, Sept. 10th
Nad, our usual drills.

On which there was some very exciting, but not cheering time.
Friday, Sept. 12th,
Write a letter to Callie, I received one from her, in Charlie's letter from her, the same dreariness of camp-life prevails; wrote to Whitney.

Saturday, Sept. 13th,
Sent a letter to Callie, the same routine of drills, which seemed a little immature, but wished they were un-called for.

Sunday, Sept. 14th,
Spent the day in reading & attending church in camp, where we either had to lie down or sit down standing up during the sermon.
Monday, Sept. 13th
Wrote a letter to Callie, received one from her, which did not Quite reach me. Witnessed a sham-fight of the 21st line.

Tuesday, Sept. 14th
As usual. The day was spent in Company D battalion drills.

Wednesday, Sept. 15th
Wrote a letter to Callie, spent the rest of the day in our usual exercises.
Thursday, Sept. 18th.
The day passed with the same exercises of previous days.

Friday, Sept. 19th.
This day, too, was spent in the same manner as previous days.

Saturday, Sept. 20th.
He received our uniforms. Upon the first time we were dressed in Uncle Sandy's clothes, though I did not feel as much pride as I usually did when dressed in my clothes. Read a letter from Nathaniel Stephenson.
Sunday, Sept. 21, at
I got a furlough, &c. =
Parity to go home
on the morrow.

Monday, Sept. 22nd.
With a very light
heart, I took the steamer
"Northern Light," bound
for home, full of bright
anticipations of a happy
meeting with my dear
Cathie. I arrived at 9 o-
-George at 6 o'clock p.m.,
started a team & started
for home. Arrived at
home at 8 o'clock in
the morning of
Tuesday, Sept. 23rd
found Callie asleep, but
soon awoke, came down
stairs, & we met. I though
had been gone but four
weeks, yet how happy we
were to meet again.

Wednesday, Sept. 24th
Spent the day in visiting
& settling up my business.
& talking & laughing with
my dear.

Thursday, Sept. 25th
My dear, I went to visit
father & mother, had a good
visit & returned home.
Friday, Sept. 26th

spent the day in settling
settling up business.

looking with Callie. O. how we enjoyed our-

relaxes together.

Saturday, Sept. 27th

In the morning, brother

came I visited me.

In the afternoon I started

to find Dubuque, bidding

achieve to all except my dear

Callie, who accompanied

me. Arrived at McGregor

at night, where we re-

mained till

Sunday, Sept. 28th, when we
Took the steamer, "War Eagle", bound for Dubuque. Arrived at Dubuque, late in the evening. Took lodgings at the "Key City Hotel".

Monday, Sept. 29th.

Fired our guns. Took the committee and went to camp.

Soon came back I tried our board at Mrs. W. N. Daniels, on the P.O. of 73rd Wadsworth R.

Tuesday, Sept. 30th.

Spent the day with Callie, & in camp. Was enjoying myself finely.
Wednesday, Oct. 1st
Was in camp, a portion of the time attending to drill exercises, the rest of the day with Callie.

Thursday, Oct. 2nd
Spent the day with Callie in town & at the camp & at the State Fair.

Friday, Oct. 3rd
Spent most of the day with Callie; it being my greatest pleasure.

Saturday, Oct. 4th
Nearly all the regiment went home on furlough. In these, Callie with me, attended Lodge.
Sunday, Oct. 5th

Callie and I attended the Universalist Church in Company with Mr. Daniels. In the afternoon visited Miss. Barnes, where we remained all night.

Monday, Oct. 6th

Returned to Mr. Daniels. Passed most of the day with Callie. We four enjoyed ourselves.

Tuesday, Oct. 7th

Ran around town with Callie alone, went to camp. Came back and passed the remainder of the day with my dear Callie.

Wednesday, Oct. 8th

Had my picture taken for
Callahie Hunt with Callie Jonah
her nice pair of shoes. Now I
love to buy anything for her, she
is always so pleased with it.

Thursday, Oct. 7th
The 70 returned from their
furloughs.

Friday, Oct. 8th
Received $2500. Which was
our advance bounty $200.00

Saturday, Oct. 9th
We drew our arms & equipment
$50.00 received Marching orders
for Minnesota.

Sunday, Oct. 10th
We took the steamer "Husk."
Bound for St. Paul. Arrived at Lancing in the evening late. Next I had to bid my dear Callie Goodbye very hu-
ridly. With promises on paper and knowing when we should meet again. Stepping on board the boat, we set sail away by myself. I went myself to sleep.

Monday, Oct. 9th

Still steaming up the river. Had a pleasant trip. We arrived at St. Paul at 3 o'clock p.m. from the little steamer "Clara Ninef". We arrived at 5 o'clock p.m. disembarked.
Marched to a little beyond the Sus-4 Camp and this camp we called "Camp Gilbert."

Tuesday, Oct. 14th

Wrote a letter to Callie.

Passed the day in cooking, eating, & looking about the fort.

Wednesday, Oct. 15th

Worked on our blankets & accou-
remets, I spent the day as usual.

Thursday, Oct. 16th

Still remain at Camp Gilbert. I try to imagine to what place we would next be ordered to go.
Friday, Oct. 17th
We were ordered to go to Mille Lacs. Marched to Three Trees river where Minneapolis &amp; camped. After taking avis of the fall of Minnie-Ha-Ha, which were extremely encouraging.

Saturday, Oct. 18th
Received a good letter from my sister. Marched to Anoka &amp; camped. Spent the night at aunt Francie's.

Sunday, Oct. 19th
Went to camp, struck tents, marched to St. Francis where we pitched tents &amp; camped. Sun. 3rd &amp; came.
Monday, Oct. 20th

Truck tents & marched to Princeton, which was a long tedious day's march. Very hungry, tired & came.