

## *The War Years*

on to Red Wing. There at II P.M. we filled again the inner man with a fine banquet. At the Methodist Church, we spread our blankets on the floor and slept for two hours. When we were ready to start the ladies again insisted that we eat some more. Leaving Red Wing at five in the morning, we drove to Hastings where we met the Regiment. After dinner we started for St. Paul arriving there at three P.M. The citizens gave us a grand reception. At the Atheumum Hall they fed us again in a grand way. Governor Miller, Gen. Sibley and the Mayor welcomed us back, with some nice speeches.

The Company was furloughed as fast as possible. At three in the afternoon we went to Hastings, and stayed at the Fremont House over night. The citizens payed our Hotel bills. We left in wagons, early in the morning, for Faribault. Dinner was served to us at northfield, then on to Faribault, where we arrived about seven in the eve. Father and several of the neighbors were there to meet us. Stayed at the National Hotel, where the bills were again settled by the local folks. Feb. 18th. Left for Morristown about eight oclock, in sleighs and reached home at noon. Hurried home to see mother, the girls and Elford. They have grown so much that I hardly knew them. I am tired, for it was a hard trip. Mr. Storer and Mr. Sprague came to see me in the eve.

Home again, home again. I slept in my old bed last night, and feel some better this morn. It looks dreary out doors. I wish the trees were growing and the flowers in bloom. I almost wish I was back in the old camp for a few hours. Feb. 21th. I went to Church in the afternoon, the first time that I have attended since 1860. There was a dance down town last night, but I didnt go. Left home on the 16th and went to Faribault where the Company is to assemble. The ladies gave us a fine supper, then a dance in the hall until three in the morning. We left Faribault the 17th at eight in the morning. Had our dinner at Northfield, and stopped for the night at Rose Mound. The next day we drove to St. Paul, had dinner at the Temperance Hotel, then drove out to the Fort. Apr. 1st. The Mississippi is opening fast. The last crossing on the Ice was early this morning. I wrote out a furlough for myself and asked Col. Adams to sign it, which he did without any delay. I am going home by stage, to help father sow some wheat.

At home at Morristown this nice day, April 15th, I plowed all