

*By Ox Team Up the Minnesota River Valley 1866*

the afternoon. We had no hay rack, so after mowing hay part of the day, we fixed up a rack to haul the hay. July 1st was very pleasant, and a good day to make hay. We put up about two tons in the afternoon. The 2nd was very hot, but we mowed in the forenoon, after going out on the prairie about 6 miles to get the oxen. Mowed all forenoon on the 3rd and put up two tons of hay in the afternoon. Went to Carltons in the evening after some butter. On the glorious 4th, we stacked hay all day, but it was so hot that we didnt get much sleep that night. Out real early on the 5th, and got one load in the stack before sunrise. Finished the first stack. We mowed in the next forenoon, but it rained in the afternoon. We rested. July 7th we really worked. Mowed some in the A.M., and stacked seven loads after dinner.

Mr. Wilkins came over and stayed with us for dinner July 8th. He brought us three fine fish, and me a letter from home. Stacked three loads of hay in the afternoon. Stacked hay all day on the 9th, and the next day finished up the job. There is always danger of a prairie fire, so we plowed a good fire break around the stacks. Then we went to Chippewa City and stayed all night. July 11th we drovedown to my claim in the forenoon, where we had dinner. After we loaded up our things, to start for Rice County.

We got started a bit after dinner, and drove over to Hawk river, where we went into camp about sundown. Started at sunrise next morning and drove to Sacred Heart. Stopped there about three hours to rest and get dinner. Then on to Beaver Creek, where we camped for the night. The 15th was very hot with a strong south wind. We drove on some 10 miles, and camped for the night about 2 miles from Fort Ridgely. Next day we had another strong, hot south wind. We went on about 3 miles past Ridgely and camped at sundown.

About dark we started out and drove to Lafayette, arriving there about midnight. There we laid over all day, and startingabout dark, we drove to within 7 miles of St. Peter, driving all night to make it. After breakfast we drove into St. Peter, arriving about II A.M. We stopped just long enough to get an ox shod. When we forded the river and drove about one mile. There we laid over to feed the oxen and get our supper. Then we drove on three miles farther and camped by the side of the road until morning. In the morning we got an early start and drove to about 4 miles from