

## *The War Years*

*was recruited from in and around Faribault, Rice County, Minnesota.*

*The commissioned officers elected by the men were William Dike, Captain, and Lieutenants Lewis and Nathan S. Messick. Colonel Willis Gorman was appointed commander of the regiment by Governor Ramsey. By the middle of May they were at Fort Snelling, drilling six hours a day with roll call at six o'clock in the morning, and nine o'clock at night. The captain and both lieutenants went back to Rice County to get recruits to sign up for three years.*

*In one letter home, written to his mother, Dad said, "that if he did enlist for three years, he would be home in one," as the war would be over. The Governor had offered a reward of \$100 to be divided among the first Company to enlist for a three-year term. On May 23 the new recruits arrived and the whole outfit was mustered in for three years. This gave them 101 men in the Company. They were getting \$11.00 per month in cash and \$1.00 contingent expenses. Dad stated that their quarters at the Fort was plastered and they had a fireplace. There was an Ambrotype Gallery just outside the Fort. They took a picture of G Company on the field with their guns at the shoulder. He expected to get his likeness taken when they got their pay. (M.H.B.)*

*Two Companys — G and B — left the Fort the latter part of May and went up the Minnesota River to Fort Ridgely. They went on the steamer, "Franklin Steele," a LaCrosse and St. Paul railroad packet. It was about 150 or 200 miles by land to Ridgely, but about 300 miles of the crookedest river he had ever seen. They were on the river two days and one night. Fort Ridgely is about 45 miles upstream from St. Peter. (M.H.B.)*

*There is a prairie on the east side of the river and timber on the west. The Fort is on the east side. The Company of Regulars, which we relieved, were sent to Pittsburgh, Pa. There are six pieces of artillery here, two 6 pound, one 12 pound and 3 howitzers, all brass, and in perfect order. We get one mail per week.*

*The Government has some fifty mules and five yoke of cattle here. The man who takes care of them gets twenty-five cents extra pay per day. I am in favor of keeping away from the mules, dont like their playful way of boxing. A man here, was kicked by one*