

"Southerner" (a la Wheeler)
of Camp Minnehaha

June 22 to 28, 1894

Near Hompegg, North Touchet

Written by Minnie Van Lew Moe at age 17.

Events

Friday, June 22

Arrival at camp of Minnie V.L., Bertha and Chester at 10 AM—Arrival of remainder of crowd at 5 P.M. Preparations for the night. John arrives. Supper! Search for the sugar—not found. 1st evening around the campfire. All retire—Midnight lunch.

Saturday, June 23

Breakfast! Horses to pasture—Departure of John and Otis—All aboard for Hompegg Falls. Lottie and Marsh go fishing. Return of Hompegg wanderers. Dinner! Intellectual entertainment. Return of John. Evening repast. 5 go to meet expected guests, are disappointed. Mrs. A. and John go after them. All return to camp. Boys go to “borrow” some sugar at 11:00 P.M. Arrival of Minnie and Lottie Culbertson, Troy Smith and George Baldwin at 11:30. All retire.

Sunday, June 24

Morning ride and walk by three. Breaking of the fast. “See the rain come down.” Singing and reading. Luncheon. The spring fever rages. Dinner. Bertha, Kate, John and Webster climb the mountain. Visitors depart for Dayton. All around the campfire. “Rest for the weary.”

Monday, June 25

“First call for breakfast in the driving car.” Mamie M. and Louis H. arrive. Lottie and Marsh find the sugar. Lottie and Otis arrive. Webster, Warren, John, and Louis go riding on Balaam’s favorite steeds. Dinner. The girls do some fine needlework. Minnie goes hunting. 4 other girls hunt a “girl with a gun.” Serenading party. “Widow Beckett” Bed.

Tuesday, June 26

Visit of the donkeys and Mr. Applegate. Same old breakfast. Lottie and Marsh depart. Climbing the mountain. Edna kills a squirrel. Same old dinner. Hunting and fishing expeditions. Moccasins. Pancakes a la Minnehaha. Departure of Mamie, Louis H., John, and George. The boys plot. Same old beds.

Wednesday, June 27

Hot cakes again. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and Jim arrive. Bertha and Edna hide some blankets. Swell dinner. Lewis and Otis visit a barber shop. The girls plot. Warren loves camp (consequently the girls don’t love Warren) Gertie is too talkative. The hunt for “thimble berry blossoms.” Visitors depart. Ants swell supply. Serenade No. 8. Skip tum a loo—Hide and Seek—Virginia reel—All girls hide. Midnight lunch. Edna and Bertha “take up their bed and run.” Royal game of hide and seek” Torchlights procession, empty lard can—burned fingers and begging boys. “No rest for the wicked” and “peace to the righteous.”

Thursday, June 28

The lost are found at 4:30 A.M. "Steal away" again. Silence reigns supreme in camp. Pancakes for breakfast minus lard. Packing up. Driver and wagon appear. Mr. Walsh appears. Beans for dinner. Girls start home. Minnie, Bertha, Warren and Webster on the wagon. Check, George, Lewis, Otis on horses. Home again and Dirt! Dirt!! Dirt!!! Dirt!!!! "My Heart's in the Highlands!" "I'm tickled to pieces!" "Shakespeare never repeats!"

Party of June 22nd

Lewis Windust	Katie Walsh
Otis Wheeler	Minnie Van Lew
Chester Morris	Lottie Van Lew
John Ingram	Gertie Robertson
Marsh Hainer	Alta Ireland
Warren Gough	Edna Homes
Webster Chandler	Bertha Archer
George Archer	Mrs. Archer

Visitors

June 24—Minnie and Lottie Culbertson, Troy Smith, George Baldwin

June 25—Mamie Merrill, Louis Holmes

June 26—Mr. Applegate

June 27—Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and Jim

Quotations

"You're supposed to be dead."

Lewis—"Some more coffee, please."

"Barkis!"

"Take Hood's Sarsaparilla for that tired feeling."

"Dog gone it! Don't a fellah have his own blankets! By thundah!"

We're the People

I.

We're the people that were coming up the grade
With our kettles and our tinware all displayed.
Did you hear the roaring racket that we made?
It was June the twenty second,
In the calendar 'tis reckoned.
We're the people that were coming up the grade.

II.

We can see the fried potatoes that we ate--
And the awful dirty paws we did not hate—
And how meekly we resigned us to our fate—
For our food was specked with ashes,
And the smoke came by in dashes.
We can see the fried potatoes that we ate.

III.

We can see the 'go-downs' sticking up their heads.
We can see the squirrels lying stiff and dead—
We can see the guns a sending forth their lead.
For our shot did never fail,
And we cut off every tail
And we gave them all away to the sweet girls.

IV.

We can see the hammocks roughly tumbling down.
We can feel ourselves upon the stony ground.
We can hear the very aggravating sound.
Of the merry rippling laughter
That did come our fall soon after.
We can see the hammocks roughly tumbling down.

V.

We can feel the gravel cutting up our feet,
With a sharpness that is very hard to beat,
And we see a row of shoes not over-neat—
There's a fringe of ragged facing,
For to decorate our pacing,
We can feel the gravel cutting up our feet.

VI.

We can see the coffee standing on its head.
We can see the boy who always wanted thread,
We can see some girls a sewing up a bed,
And some young'uns in our "skule"
Riding on a prancing mule,
We can see the coffee standing on its head.

VII.

We can see the pancakes flying thro' the air,
And they're apt to hit a fellow fair and square.
And they seem to stand a world of wear and tear
For the fun it did not lag,
Although someone chewed the rag—
We can see the pancakes flying thro' the air.

VIII.

We can see "a royal game of hide and seek."
Boys with pie tin torches pry around and peek
And two girls who for the first time dare not speak
Until daylight finds them out,
And the boys set up a short—
We can see "a royal game of hide and seek."

IX.

We believe that we can feel those joys no more.
And we know that they were never felt before.
And we've laid aside the garments that we tore,
For indeed we did survive
And we're glad we are alive.
We believe that we can feel those joys no more.

Camp Minnehaha

I.

There's a nice place for camping on the winding Touchet shore
Where I've whiled many happy hours away,
A hunting or a fishing or enjoying all the day,
As we far o'er the mountains did stray.

Chorus

O my darling Minnehaha,
With your waters laughing bright,
How I long and long to see your good old times
I can never, ner'er forget you
Let old Fortune bring what may,
Or the boys and girls who camped beneath your pines.

II.

When the evenings came with shadows and the gloomy woods looked dark,
With the banjos we would gather round the fire
Or we'd saunter down the roadway for a little serenade
And sing the songs of which we never tire.

III.

Sweet syringe and tall bracken with the marguerite and thorn,
Graced the mountain roads along which we passed
While the water of the river with its pebbles plain in sight,
Made a picture that an artist would have tasked.

IV.

How I long for a dinner on the dainty speckled trout,
And a ride in a hammock 'neath the trees,
And a cup of cool water from the river winding past
To recall mem'ries that can never leave.

Bill of Fare

Soups

Bean soup taken on the fly
(2 boys who couldn't find the girls.)

Fish

Little fishes in the brook,
Georgie caught them on a hook,
Bertha fried them in a pan,
Marshall ate them like a lamb.

Fowl

Chickens alive or dead as preferred.
Magpies

Meats

Bacon with smoke sauce
Squirrels—minus their tails
(For the tale of the tails see "We're the People")

Vegetables

Baked Beans
Tomatoes spiced with ashes, Fried potatoes
Boiled potatoes, Cabbage heads by the score
Onions, Radishes

Side Dishes

Mush
Pancakes—a la Minnehaha—warranted not to rip or ravel—with syrup of ashes
Cornpone, Bread—(if there happens to be any)
Scrambled eggs, Pickles

Dessert

Cake on the sly
Cherries, Apples
Pie mashed in camp style
Doughnuts, Cookies

Drinks

Touchet wine, Coffee,
Tea, Chocolate