

Mary Hayden Story

Mary was the 19-year old wife of Patrick Hayden and the mother of one-year old Catherine. Patrick and Mary lived about one and a half miles from the home of Jonathan Earle, near Beaver creek. Her husband was killed as was Patrick's brother, John. Mary and her baby reached the fort for safety. Mary Hayden wrote a narrative that appeared in *The History of Renville County called Mrs. Hayden's Escape*:

"On the morning of August 18, Mr. Hayden started to go over to the house of J. B. Reynolds, at the Redwood river, on the reservation, and met Thomas Robinson, a half-breed, who told him to go home, get his family, and leave as soon as possible, for the Indians were coming over to kill all the whites. He came immediately home, and we commenced to make preparations to leave, but in a few minutes we saw some three or four Indians coming on horseback. We then went over to the house of a neighbor, Benedict Eune (Juni), and found them all ready to leave. I started off with Eune's people, and my husband went back home, still thinking the Indians would not kill any one, and intending to give them some food if they wanted it. I never saw him again.

We had gone about four miles, when we saw a man lying dead in the road and his faithful dog watching by his side. We drove on till we came to the house of David Faribault, at the foot of the hill, about one and a half miles from the Agency ferry. When we got here two Indians came out of Faribault's house, and stopping the teams, shot Mr. Zimmerman, who was driving, and his two boys. I sprang out of the wagon, and, with my child, one year old, in my arms, ran into the bushes, and went up the hill toward the fort. When I came near the house of Mr. Magner, I saw Indians throwing furniture out of the door, and I went down into the bushes again, on the lower side of the road, and stayed there until sundown.

While I lay here concealed, I saw the Indians taking the roof off the warehouse, and saw the buildings burning at the Agency. I also heard the firing during the battle at the ferry, when Marsh and his men were killed.

I then went up near the fort road, and sitting down under a tree, waited till dark, and then started for Fort Ridgely, carrying my child all the way. I arrived at the fort at about 1 o'clock a. m. The distance from our place to Ridgely was seventeen miles.

On Tuesday morning I saw John Magner, who told me that, when the soldiers went up to the Agency the day before, he saw my husband lying in the road, near David Faribault's house, dead. John Hayden, his brother, who lived with us, was found dead near the creek. They had got up the oxen, and were bringing the family of Mr. Eisenrich to the fort, when they were overtaken by Indians. Eisenrich was killed and his wife and five children were taken prisoners.

Mrs. Zimmerman, who was blind, and her remaining children, and Mrs. Eune (Juni) and her children, five in number, were captured and taken to the house of David Faribault, where they were kept till night, the savages torturing them by telling them that they were going to fasten them in the house and burn them alive, but for some inexplicable reason let them go, and they, too, reached the fort in safety. Mr. Eune, who with one of his boys, eleven years old, remained behind to drive in his cattle, was met by them on the road and killed. (This is incorrect as Benedict Juni, Sr. survived.) The boy was captured, and, with the other prisoners, recovered at Camp Release.

The neighborhoods in the vicinity of La Croix Creek, and between that and Fort Ridgely, were visited on Monday forenoon, and the people either massacred, driven away or made prisoners. Edward Magner, living eight miles above the fort, was killed. His wife and children had gone to the fort. He had returned to look after his cattle when he was shot. Patrick Kelly and David O'Connor, both single men, were killed near Magner's."

There is nothing further known about Mary and her young child so she may have remarried. She filed a Depredation Claim #58 for \$775.00 and full payment was made to her for relief of depredation damages.