



United States History

Name:

Memoirs from the War

Section:

Score ____/5

Directions: Read the biography of the Civil War Soldier below, then write three diary entries from the perspective of one of the people mentioned in in.



Patrick Henry Taylor, or Henry as he was known to all, left his job as a school teacher at Belle Prairie, (near modern day Little Falls) to join the volunteers at the outbreak of the war. He was one of six Taylor brothers to fight for the Union. His brother, Isaac, came up from Illinois to take Henry's place as a teacher but, before long, also enlisted and caught up with the regiment in the East.

Isaac was mustered into the service on Sept 17, 1861. He kept an important diary that details what the First Minnesota did from January 1862, until the charge at Gettysburg.

After the battle at Gettysburg, his brother, Sgt Henry Taylor helped their wounded comrades off the field, including their Colonel, William Colvill. He had been separated from his older brother, Isaac. He wrote in his journal, "I helped our Colonel off the field but fail to find my brother who, I suppose, is killed. I rejoin the regiment and lie down in the moonlight, rather sorrowful. Where is Isaac?"

Henry had looked for Isaac for more than an hour in the dark.

Another soldier said he had seen Isaac near the end of the fight, while most of the others were withdrawing, still firing away at the Confederates, and smiling.

Early the next morning, Henry got the news he feared. A soldier found Isaac on the field and took Henry to the spot. "I find my dear brother dead!" he wrote in his journal. "A shell struck him on top of his head and passed through his back, cutting his belt in two. The poor fellow did not know what hit him."

Henry retrieved Isaac's pocket watch for a keepsake, and then wrapped his brother in the half-tent soldiers carried to shelter themselves. With the help of some comrades, he then buried his brother on the spot. He put up a board marked "I L Taylor, 1st Minn Vols."

He wrote on it:

"No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Nor in sheet nor shroud we bound him,
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,
With his shelter tent around him."

Patrick wrote in his journal, "As we laid him down, I remarked, Well Isaac, all I can give you is a soldier's grave."..."I was the only one to weep over his grave." His father, mother and sisters were all at home, and, like so many families during the war, unaware of the death of their loved one.

Diary Entry 1:

Location:

Date:

Diary Entry 2:

Location:

Date:

Diary Entry 3:

Location:

Date:
