

LIEUT. <sup>q</sup> GEO. M. TEMPLETON  
18th U.S. Infantry.

       May 2nd 1866  
      

LIEUT. GEO. M. TEMPLETON  
18th Infantry U.S.A.

        
From Canonsburg, Penn<sup>a</sup>

        
Father's address.  
David Templeton  
Canonsburg, Penn<sup>a</sup>

GEORGE H. TEMPLINGTON.

Born in Pennsylvania— Appointed from Pennsylvania.

MILITARY HISTORY.—Private 149th Pennsylvania Volunteers, August, 1862. Corporal 149th Pennsylvania Volunteers, August, 1862. Engaged at the battle of Gettysburg and in the Army of the Potomac, to February, 1864. Captain 32d U.S. Colored Troops, March, 1864. On Morris Island, S.C., April to August, 1864. At Hilton Head, S.C., September to November, 1864. Engaged at the action of Honey Hill, S.C. (wounded). On Edisto Island, S.C., February, 1865. In an expedition into the interior of South Carolina, March to April, 1865, and engaged at the actions of Sumterville, Manchester, Camden, Swift Creek, and Rafting Creek, S.C. At Charleston, S.C., May, 1865; Beaufort, S.C., June, 1865; Hilton Head, S.C., July to August, 1865. Commanding regiment, June to July, 1865. Member of a board for the examination of officers of U.S. Volunteers. Second Lieutenant 18th U.S. Infantry, February, 1866. First Lieutenant 18th U.S. Infantry, February, 1866. At Fort Leavenworth, Kan., May to June, 1866. Engaged in action with the Sioux Indians at Crazy Woman's Fork, D.T. At Fort C.F. Smith, M.T., August, 1866, to June, 1868. Transferred to the 27th U.S. Infantry by the re-organization of the army. Captain 27th U.S. Infantry, October, 1867. At Fort Philip Kearney, D.T., June to July, 1868. Commanding Fort Reno, D.T., August, 1868. At Camp Sargent, Neb., September, 1868. Engaged in an expedition against the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, from September to December, 1868. At Omaha Barracks, Neb., December, 1868, to March, 1869. At Sidney Barracks, Neb., from April, 1869, to —

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DIARY FOR 1866

- March 26<sup>th</sup> Received a paper from Ben Jones, giving list of confirmations by the Senate, - among which I notice my name.
- " 25<sup>th</sup> Start for Mercersburg to see Margaretta & E.I.
- " 29<sup>th</sup> Arrived in M. and found all well but "Ella."
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> Start for home, and arrive about 4 P.M. of next day.
- " 4<sup>th</sup> Went to Washington to attend the inauguration of Dr. Edwards as Pres. of Wash & Jefferson Colleges. There were a number of speeches of welcome made, most of which were poor. Mr. Slaymaker's was good.
- " 25 Received my commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infy. and ordered to report at once at Fort Columbus New York Harbor. The Regt is at Fort Leavenworth Kansas, and are ordered to the plains. I presume I am to assist in conducting recruits to the Regt. Acptd appointm't.
- " 26 As I met on Tuesday with Mr. Bain with reference to joining church, and as this is his fast day, I observe it as such.
- " 27. Met with the session and was admitted to the church. John Donnan also was admitted.
- " 29. Sat down at the Lord's table thought I did so with right motives and in the proper spirit, although I had misgivings.
- " 30 Attended church in the forenoon and in the afternoon called on some of my friends and bid them good-bye. Did not think I had so many friends, or that I regreted parting so much until I came to say good bye.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> Well off for the wars again. Bid adieu to Canonsburg again for an indefinite length of time. Have a long journey of some 3000 miles before me. Wonder when I will be back. I tell people again Aug. 1867 or perhaps Jan. 1868. Will it be so? Time will tell.
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Leave Pittsburgh on the 4.10 P.M. train While in Pitt saw Col Glenn,

Maj Slagle Lt Dalgliesh & a number of the boys.

May 3rd

Arrived in N.Y. at 10.10 A.M. and at about 6 P.M. reported to Col Hayden 10th U.S.I. comdg Fort Columbus. The Fort is about a mile from the "Battery" on Governors Island. I find some officers here for some of the Regiments but none for the 18th. I am told that I will likely go to Fort Leavenworth on Monday next.

" 4th

Went over to the city and ordered a set of epaulettes, dress hat &c. We will have to come down to Regulation now. Called on Pollock McNary but he was not in. Went up to Central Park. Saw the swans, buffalos, pelican &c. In the words of the Canonsburg ladies the park is "perfectly splendid". How I wish they had such a cricket ground at old Jefferson."

" 5th

Went to the city and got my hat &c. Went to Central Park. Visited the "Castle" a building within the Park that is full of works of art, living animals &c. They have bears, eagles camels, &c. The works of art are in plaster and mostly by Crawford.

" 6th

Did not attend church. I didn't think the Col. would let me go to the city and I did not feel like going to the "chapel". There is a chapel on the island where they have services after the Episcopal form. All the men turned out and marched down preceded by the band. From Cans-bg to N.Y. 464 ms

" 7th

The order for our departure today has been changed until Wednesday The following are the names of some officers that have reported here for duty: viz: Madigan 1st Cav; Howell, Mast, Gillett, 2nd Arty; Brown, Thomas, 3rd Infty; Dugan, Randall 5th Infty; Sheppard, Blaker; 9th Infty. Davis and King 10th Infty. Ketchem, Coddin, Hootan, 13th Infty; Callager, Jack, Western, Derby, McConihie 14th Infty; Wood, Skinner, Bradley 18th Infty.

CALL  
Callager

May

" 8th  
" 7

We expect to leave for Fort Leavenworth tomorrow at 5 A.M. Col. Prime is going in charge of a detachment of 90 recruits for the 5th Infty. and Lieuts Wood Hesselberger, Brown, Randall Hootan & myself are to accompany him and assist him. I am glad to get so far on my way to the Regt. as I dont feel at home here and will not feel so until I get to the Regt. This Fort is on Governor's Island about a mile from the city. There is another work on the island "Castel William" There are 156 guns mounted on the island, most or all of them hoavy.

9th  
" 7

Bt. Lt Col. Primo, Capt 17th Infty six officers and 90 men leave at 5:30 A.M. for Fort Leavenworth via the Erie R.R. The scenery along this road is fine and in some places grand. At and near Port Jervis I think I saw the finest. At Hale's Eddy there was a Blondin or "some other man" walking a rope stretched from the tops of two of the highest houses. He also walked over while having his legs and feet encased in a sack. The country and improvement around Binghamton and Elmira is good. About 11 P.M. arrive at Salamanca where we change cars, taking the Atlantic and Gt. Western R.R. from there to Gallion Ohio. I think I never knew cars to go so fast as they did on this road.

" 10th  
" 7

Passed through Meadville & Co in the night. Mansfield Ohio is a nice place. At Gallion took the Bellfontain R.R. for Indianapolis. Arrive about 8.30 P.M. The portions of Ohio & Indiana that I saw I don't think is very good. The wheat in Ohio & Ind is mostly killed; that in Illinois is splendid. Was on guard today. From Indianapolis took the St. Louis A. & Terre Haute R.R.

May 11th  
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At daylight was a few miles west of Mattoon Ill. I here saw the prairies for the first time. I think this will be the finest country in due time.

At 10 A.M. arrive at East St. Louis and stop there until the Col. goes over and learns where we are to go. Have not lost any men yet, although we have no guards. I was relieved from watching them at 6 A.M. About 12 M go over to the Pacific RR Depot, and at 4 P.M. take the Acc. train and go 19 miles into the country to Meramac in order to get the men away from the grog shops until tomorrow at 9 when the Express will take us on to Kansas City. The country from St. Louis to Meramac is splendid. While St. Louis called on Capt Smith, found him happy and enjoying himself, but has not got much practice yet. Does not expect much for a while. He said Lieut Eaton had gone through the city about a week ago on his way home having been mustered out.

12th  
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Take the Express at 9 A.M. and pass through Missouri and for a long way run along the river of that name. The scenery on the river lacks boldness, yet there are some views that are very fine. The water of the river is very muddy. I think it should be called the Mississippi, as it is of the same nature and appearance as the lower Miss and is moreover the larger and longer of the two rivers.

The season here is fully a month in advance of that in New York. The trees "are wearing the green" and the leaves are almost as large as they will ever be. The hills are covered with flowers and at times the cars are filled with their fragrance, wafted in on the morning breeze. The country along the R.R. where it runs along the river is rather poor, but I am of the opinion that it is better a mile or so from the river. In the central and western part of the state the R.R. leaves the river and runs through a fine prairie country. Took dinner at Herman. A gent. told me that the fruit is not killed and that they will have an abundance of peaches, cherries &c, the latter will be ripe in a week or so. He

May

said that a half mile from the river the vineyards commenced and that there were immense quantities of grapes raised. Took supper at Sedalia Mo and after leaving there found there had been four men left. While we lay in St. Louis many of the men got drunk and six of them were absent when we left, but they all came up in the express train this morning. It seems two of the same party are among those now absent.

" 13<sup>th</sup>  
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Arrive at Kansas City at 1.30 A.M. and immediately go on board a large steamer and at 4 o'clock leave for Leavenworth distant 40 miles. Stop at the town a few minutes and then run up to the fort 2 miles where we arrive about 11 A.M. Report to Bvt. Maj-Genl. Hoffman Col. 3<sup>rd</sup> Infy. Comdg. Post, and as there are none of the 18<sup>th</sup> here and no present opportunity of joining them it is probable Mr. Wood and I will be assigned to the command of some recruits for the 5<sup>th</sup> Infy. Procure board at the Post Mess Room, where most of the officers and many clerks board, at \$1.00 per day. Find at this post one Batt. 13<sup>th</sup> Infy under orders for the Upper Missouri: a few of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, under orders for Fort Riley & c: Two companies 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry permanent garrison: 64 recruits for the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Col Sykes of the latter Regt. is here.

" 14<sup>th</sup>  
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Went to town and saw the sights Find it a city of 20,000 inhabitants having several good hotels, many large stores and being in fact a thriving western city. Tried to find John McCahan but could not not having his address. On our return to camp found orders for Lieut. Wood and myself to report to Genl. Sykes for assignment to duty. This Mr. Wood is from Maine, is a brother of Maj. Wood of the Adj. Genls. Department. He has been clerking for a long time in the Provost Marshal's office Washington. I think he is a fine fellow.

" 15<sup>th</sup>  
" 17

Report to Genl Sykes and are ordered to take command of a company of recruits of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Seven new officer for the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Infy.

May

from Carlisle came today in charge of about 180 recruits for the 2<sup>nd</sup>

cavalry. Drop a note to John McCahan inviting him to call up and see me.

" 16<sup>th</sup>

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Six new officers and 90 recruits came from Fort Columbus, among them Lieuts. Bradley & Little of the 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a rumor that a paymaster is to go across the plains and of course will have an escort. I may have to go part of the way if such is the case. General Pope and staff are looked for every day. They are going to establish their Head Quarters here and the General is going out on the plains on an inspecting tour. I may learn something of my destination when he comes.

" 17<sup>th</sup>

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Went to town and while there was hailed by John McCahan and Rev. David McClellan. You may be sure I was glad to see them. Mr. McClellan is supplying this congregation in Leavenworth with preaching at present. John McCahan seems contented. Expects to go into a banking establishment on Monday next. He says there is a Base Ball club in town which plays on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons. Mr. McC. says that Presbytery is meeting in town now, and have the psalms under discussion. I will try and go down tomorrow if I can.

" 18<sup>th</sup>

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General Pope's staff arrived from St. Louis. The General himself did not come, intending to go on an inspecting tour through his Department. He may come up a day or two before he goes. Major Sherburne his Asst. Adj't Genl. came and intends remaining here, and managing the business of the Dept. He is a friend of Mr. Wood. Am unable to go to town

" 19<sup>th</sup>

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Went to town in the afternoon and learn that Presbytery had<sup>s</sup> adjourned. Go out to the base ball ground and play a very pleasant game our side making 35 to the others 3. Col Moonlight formerly Col of the 11<sup>th</sup> Kansas, and who has the reputation of planing the campaigns and operations executed by General Blunt, was one of the players. John McCahan made 8 and I made 7. Us officers of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infty. telegraphed to Genl I. Thomas requesting 3 months advance pay to procure outfit for the plains. Some three or four



May

of the new officers who have reported here got into trouble in the city last night and were put in the "Calaboose" a deliverance from which cost them \$.25.

" 20th  
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Went down to church. Found a small but very neat little frame church near 5th St. in South Leavenworth. John McCahan was engaged in teaching a class in the Sabbath School when I went in. Mr Smith preached from Ephesians 3rd & 5th last clause. Was introduced to him, Col Houston Judge McCahan Mr. Baldrige & others. The first said he had been at seminary at Canonsburg in 1848, and knew Father and family. Col. H. is a preacher and a cousin of Mrs Martin of C: was a colonel in a Kansas Regiment. Mr. McCahan is an Uncle or Cousin of John. Mr. Smith announced that the relation of pastor and people heretofore existing between the congregation and Mr Baldrige was dissolved. Mr McClellan was there and preached in the evening, but I could not remain, being my day to be on duty, and also not having my revolver with me; for it is not safe to travel between town and the Fort after night unarmed. Quite a number of murders have been committed on the route, especially last fall, when there was a dead man almost every morning. Last evening there was a heavy thunder shower and during its continuance 4 men were killed and one wounded. It seems they were a party of thieves that infested the road between this and the city, and were camped under a tree. One of them remarked that they might be struck by lightning when another said with an oath "let it strike us, it is the easiest death we can die." When it is supposed that he immediately had his choice, as that is the last thing known by the wounded man for several hours.

May 21st  
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The officers and men who came from Carlisle left for Fort Riley. I hear a rumor that those officers who were in trouble in town, have been recommended for dismissal.

CAL...  
6-1-1862

May 22d  
 Recd. telegram from Adj't General that our request for advance pay had been granted and that orders would be sent by mail. Hear that my name is in the Army & Navy Journal, among others, as confirmed as a 1st Lieut to date Feby. 23d 1866. Who says "Republics are ungrateful"?

" 23d  
 Recd. the first letter since leaving home: one from Ben. Jones. Rained all day. It appears to rain here about every three days, and makes the ground very muddy, the soil being light. Then it dries up very fast, on account of the high winds, and the dust is as disagreeable as the mud was. My impression is that Leavenworth City will at some future time become an important place. It has natural advantages, such as high ground gently rolling, a good river landing, &c. The fact that it is not on any of the routes chosen for the Pacific R. Roads may work against its prosperity. Its scenery is in some respects grand. A noble river in front, and inclosed on the east and south at the distance of a mile by a magnificent range of hills, that I foretell will ere ten years be dotted with numerous country residences. The government has a large reservation near town, on both sides of the river, in fact the west end of town is built up to the reservation. The government has given the City 100 acres of fine land for the purpose of a park.

" 24th  
 Another detachment of officers and men from New York came. One officer Lieut Landon for the 18th. We now have six companies most of them full. Lieut Wood was assigned to the command of the sixth co. Capt. Snyder 5th Regt reported yesterday and was assigned to the 5th Co. He has been in the Regt since '61 and is said to never have been with the Regt. Some of the other officers of the Regt. are looked for soon, among whom are Bankhead, Casey, & Curtis. The first named was Lt Col and Inspector Genl. on the 1st Corps Staff. He is the man that arrested Frank Dorrington and Micholls for straggling when they were out buying biscuit at Warrenton Va. in 1863. Oh how my memory carries me back to those by-gone days when

May

the "Knapsack was my pillow". I wish to place it on record here that I think Easton was the best officer and Nicholls the best soldier I have yet known.

" 25th

Some more officers for the 15th and 16th Infty came from Carlisle, but Ballentine was not among them; they informed me that he had been ordered to report to his Regt. direct. Recd. the letter from the Adj. Genl. directing the Paymaster to pay us three months advance pay. There is a rumor that we may go out with Capt Merrill 2d Cav. as far as Julesburg, and from there go to Ft Laramie. Had a "catch" roll call at 10.30 P.M. It was amusing to hear the remarks made by the men, when they were wakened up and called out.

" 26th

Leavenworth City - porch of the "Planter's House" - A sketch - Leavenworth is situated on the right bank of the Missouri River 325 mls from St Louis via P.R.R. and Mo river from Kansas City, which latter place is 42 miles from Leavenworth. The city is built on high rolling ground Below the city about a mile the river takes a bend to the left and close along the right bank of the river a new R.R connecting with Kansas City & Topeka is being constructed. There is a an island in the middle of the river opposite the city. The land on the opposite side of the river is high at the distance of 1/2 mile from the river, and as is common all along the river densely wooded. A view of the river up stream can be had for two or three miles when it turns to the left. The fort occupies a conspicuous position on elevated ground about 3 miles up. Back of the city there is a range of hills forming an amphetheater, so to speak. They are about one mile distant. x We officers of the 18th are in town getting our advance pay. I recd. pay up to the 31st of July. Lieut. Wands and lady of the 18th arrived today, unless they get better transportation than we have the prospect of going, I pity the lady. x

CALL L. C. ...  
6-1-1862

- May On coming back to camp find another detachment of men for the 5<sup>th</sup> and one off, Lieut. Link for the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- " 27<sup>th</sup> An officer of the Barracks. Read some in the Greek Testament. Am sorry I cannot go to hear Mr McClellan preach.
- " 28<sup>th</sup> Saw Lieut. Col. Wessels of our Regt. who has reported here lately. He thinks we can get away in a week or so. He is detailed as Pres. of a Court Mar. for the trial of those offs. who were in trouble in town the other night. The last named gentlemen have been placed in arrest. Col. Wessels is apparently a very quiet, unassuming man. Recd. three letters or rather four. One from Margaretta, one from Mr Reed, one from home & one from Easton. The 5<sup>th</sup> Infty expect to leave for New Mexico one week from tomorrow.
- May 29<sup>th</sup> Nothing of interest.
- " 30<sup>th</sup> Ditto
- " 31<sup>st</sup> Genl. Pope and staff start on a tour of inspection.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> Infty. are ordered to leave on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. for New Mexico. I received an order from Genl. Pope relieving me on that date, and ordering me to report to the commanding officer of my regiment for duty. A Mr Spriggs came up from town, bearing an invitation to act as Umpire of a Match Base Ball game, to be played by two "nines" of the Leavenworth Club, at 3 P M tomorrow. I have received permission from Genl Sykes to go to town and will likely accept, although it is a thankless position. John McCahan is one of the players. Went up on top of a high peak near the Fort where they had an earthwork during the war. It commanded a magnificent view of the country. Could see Weston Mo. and some 20 or 25 miles down the river.
- " 2<sup>d</sup> Went to the City, but it rained so much that the match of Base Ball was postponed until Wednesday. Saw John McCahan & Mr McClellan. The former had received letters from "C" stating that most of the fruit had been killed by the frost.

CALLI...

- June 3<sup>d</sup> Intended going to the city to hear Mr McC preach, but was prevented by being detailed as officer of the guard and moreover by an inspection of recruits by Genl. Sykes, which kept us in line some five or six hours.
- " 4<sup>th</sup> Rained almost all day; Very disagreeable. Received an order from Genl. Pope's Hd Qrs. ordering the officers of the 18<sup>th</sup> to be organized into a detachment under General Wessells and proceed without delay to Fort Kearny whence they would be dispatched to their various Battalions. On Saturday the 2<sup>d</sup> inst heard of Genl. Scott's death.
- " 5 The trial of Lt Brown the last of the three officers tried, was finished today. Mr Wood has been suffering from a severe attack of ulcerated sore throat, for a week past; is better today.
- " 6<sup>th</sup> Went to town and acted as Umpire for the Base Ball match. The game was decided in favor of the challenging party by a score of 49 to 12. Saw John McC. who told me that Mr. Black had died Saturday week ago. Saw the Fenians out parading the streets drumming up recruits. They carried the green flag with the harp on it. The Fenian invasion of Canada has commenced in earnest. I wish them bloody graves. No good can accrue to the U.S. from a conquest of Canada by a mob of Irish Catholics.
- " 7<sup>th</sup> - Received official notice of the death of Genl Scott. order read to the troops at 10 A M after which no work or drilling was done. Went down to the City and attended Bayard Taylor's lecture on Russia & the Russians It was very interesting.
- " 8<sup>th</sup> Mr McClellan & a Mr Briggs called up to see me. Pollock McNary has got appointments in this place during part of the coming year. They fired minute guns every half hour yesterday in memory of Genl. Scott. Officers are to wear crape for 6 months.
- " 9<sup>th</sup> Nothing new
- " 10<sup>th</sup> Was relieved from the comd. of the 2<sup>d</sup> Co. and placed in comd. of Co Q formed

*[Faint handwritten notes]*

June

of men who are not going to go with General Sykes. Was placed in comd of the Det. of the 18th yesterday & made requisition for ordnance for the unarmd ones.

" 11th Expect to leave tomorrow at 2 P.M. go down town and buy a shot gun and a number of other things. Lieutenant Landon 18th who has been drunk in the city for the past four weeks came up and reported.

" 12th Did not go at 2 o'clock, but expect to go tomorrow at 8 A.M. Are to have four ambulances and seven wagons.

13th Started at the appointed hour, and marched about 13 miles. Thus I turn my back on civilization for a time ; how long I dont pretend to guess at.

" 14th March at 5 A.M. the camp being roused at 3 o'clock which are the hours appointed for the march. Traveled 26 miles, passing through some small villages and a very fine parairie country. I cant imagine what a country ours will be, when it is fully developed, when it is settled fully, in this section as it is in the east. Camped on East Grasshopper Creek.

" 15 Crossed a number of small streams, among them two other Grasshopper Creeks, and camped on a small stream, name unknown. Saw quite a number of prairie hens, but didn't get a shot at one. They were out on the road feeding and would remain until the teams would get almost up to them but were more shy of persons. There are quite a number of quails & plover. Passed through Kinokuk & Canadia, - small towns of a few houses each. One of the ambulances broke down "as to the axletree"; take it to the last named town and are to have it again 7 A.M. Passed through the Reservation belonging to the Kickapoo Indians. It is 12 ms wide; 18 long on one side and 22 on the other. Saw a few of the young ones. They are a remnant of the old Miami tribe and are civilized. The only drawback this country has, is the lack of wood. A man told me that there was plenty of coal near this reservation, even cropping out of the ground. Strange to say it has never been worked. He

- June says that the settlers do not charge each other for the wood that may be necessary for fuel.
- " 16 Had a gay hunt after a cerlew. was on horseback and the old horse would follow the bird around as intelligently as could be. This when it was flying. Camped at a place of two or three houses called "Ach Point" Mr Marr, late of the army, and who is going to Montana in the employ of a mining company, joined us, having ridden 90 or 100 miles in a little more than a day. Passed through Seneca county town of Nemaha Co. a place of several thousand inhabitants, and a daily newspaper.
- " 17 Marched some 25 mls and camped on Big Blue River - a stream of 40 or 50 yds width, 2 or 3 feet deep and swift current. Got a good many wild strawberries. Would much preferred to have remained in camp to-day, but the General ordered otherwise.
- " 18th Marched 30 miles and camped on Rock Creek Jones Co Nebraska. The Overland Stage Co. is quite an organization; they have stations every 10 mls where they change horses, and furnish meals to passengers.
- " 19 Marched 20 miles and camped on Big Sandy. We are now in the Pawnee country and will have to look out for our mules at night. The citizens say there are some antelope around here.
- " 20th Marched 28 miles and camped on the bank of the Little Blue. Are now almost outside the pale of civilization. There are a few ranches and they and the stations of the stage Co form the entire buildings. Had a very severe rain storm during the night, I was afraid our tent would blow into the river as it was pitched within eight feet of the brink.
- " 21st Marched 29 miles along the river and camped at Pawnee Ranch Lincoln Co. In Aug. a year ago this ranch, in common with all along the route, was attacked There were about 55 indians & 14 whites. The former lost three killed and the latter, one mortally wounded. This is inside the Pawnee range. The Sheyennes to the number of 500 or 600 are on the Pawnee ground over on the

June

Republicans, which is a source of grief to the latter, who are preparing to drive them away. Lieut Link and Mr. Marr went over the river during the day to hunt antelope. They saw seven or eight but did not get any.

" 22 Marched 26 miles, camping on the Muddy. This is nothing but a treeless swail, in which, at some places, there is some standing water. This is the first time we have camped where there were no trees in sight. Lieut. Wands & Mr. Marr chased 5 antelope that were near the road they were very shy. Saw one later in the day, but it could not be approached.

" 23 Mr Marr chased an antelope from near the road-side, but did not get a shot at it. Arrived at Fort Kearney about 1 P.M. and went into camp near the Post. The Post is sadly out of repair. Old tumble down houses and stables. Capt Ladd A.Q.M. was in command of the Post.

" 24th Genl Wessells left us and assumed comd. of the Post and issued an order placing me in comd. of the Det. and ordering me to report at Fort Laramie, and to detach any officers and men who belong at any posts east of Laramie.

There is no preaching in the neighbourhood. In the afternoon Bvt Lt Col. & Captain Mizner of the 2nd Cav. came from Omahah and wished to accompany us. He has his wife & sister-in-law and one son. Drew a horse, and hope I have got a Bucephalus: (THE WAR HORSE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT)

" 25 Marched at 4.55 arriving in camp 24 miles out at 12.30 Immediately after getting into camp an orderly from the fort came, bringing a telegraphic order from HdQrs Dept Mo. ordering Lieuts Wood & Liddle to report to Major Kellogg at Camp Wardwell, Col. Ter. Passed through Kearney city 2 miles from the fort, a place of 20 or 30 houses, mostly sod or adobe. The P.R.R. from Omaha will be finished up to opposite the fort again Oct. next. I presume it will be to Fort Laramie in 2 years, i.e. if it goes that way.

June 26th

Marched 27 miles camping near Mullally's ranch. I wish to give a short description of the country passed through. Kansas has a fine prairie land



June

and considerable timber. The soil is very rich and were it not for the high winds and scarcity of good building timber, it would be desirable place to live. I think money could be made by herding cattle on the unoccupied prairies during the summer and driving them to the South in the winter. The land in Nebraska is more rolling and broken than in Kan - and I think the soil is not so good. Timber is more abundant, every stream being lined with it. At Valley city we came upon the Platt. This valley is fine but somewhat monotonous, until you get up as far as we now are (55 mls from Kearney) where the bluffs on either side break the sameness. The river is from one to three mls wide and the valley about 6 to 8. The bluffs are covered with grass but are treeless, which is the only thing to hinder this country from becoming one of the finest in the world. The river is not navigable, but Rail-Roads will supply the place in a very few years. Saw one antelope near the road. In the evening walked over to the bluffs thinking it was only a mile or so, but found it was two and a half. Had a magnificent view of the valley & the sunset from one of the Peaks. I will simply say it was magnificent. We are said to be in the most dangerous indian country being at the point at which the Yanktons cross over when coming down after the Cheyennes, &c.

" 27

Marched at 5 AM and camped at 2 P.M. marching 27 miles & camped near Gillman & Wooden's Ranch. 82 miles from Kearney. Intend getting to Cottonwood again 10 or 11 o'clock tomorrow and try and get our horses shod & be ready to march again the next morning. About 9 PM one of the men (Cranston) insulted Lieut Link officer of the guard. He went down to the wagons and ordered him to be tied up to a wagon wheel, he resisted and Lt Link having his revolver out, it was discharged accidentally, striking Cranston in the leg. There was quite a disturbance in camp for a time, and the officers feared that they would be attacked but I knew that I had enough of influence over the men

June

to prevent anything of that kind.

" 25th Arrived at Cottonwood or Fort McPherson about 10 A.M. marching 16 miles.

Had to camp 2 or 3 miles beyond on account of grass. Col Mizner remains there, intending to assume command as soon as the Major of the 5th U.S.Vols. leaves. Left Cranston and two other men and received 8 out of the 18th U.S.I. 2d Cav. & 6th U.S.V. The country around Cottonwood is dreary, but I presume the post would be endurable; the quarters are good, and there are two or three stores in the village. I suppose there are a dozen private houses. The place is miscalled, there being but little Cottonwood near. On the other hand, there is an abundance of cedar.

" 29th Marched at 5 AM and made 26 miles again 1 P.M. Rode up on the bluffs and a fine view of the river and surrounding country. The country is becoming more bleak each day. I dont think there could be any grain raised here without irrigation.

" 30th Marched the usual distance and camped at a station called Alkali. During the day passed Baker's Ranch, which had been robbed by indians of \$500 worth of goods. Yesterday passed the junction of the north and south Platt. Mustered the detachment for pay, being the last day of June, I am at a loss to know what use this muster will do as I have not got the description lists of all the men.

July 1st Marched 24 mls. camping near Beauvais 12 miles from the eastern boundary of Colorado. after going into camp went out and shot 6 ducks at four shots. Was amused and interested in observing the ant hills, that abound here. They all have the entrance on the eastern side from which I conclude that the wind blows from the west most of the time.

" 2d Marched 27 miles and camped at Fort Sedgwick. This I find to be a pretty good post. All the buildings are new and are either adobe or frame. Found Capt Neill Co E. 3rd Batt. in command. He attempted to assume a good deal &

July

objected to receiving any men without Des. Lists, but in the end he backed out of every point. Lieut Bennett <sup>2d</sup> Batt and Lt Dibble new appointment <sup>2d</sup> Batt are on duty here having been detailed by Genl. Pope when he was here. I hear that the Indians have all entered into a treaty. If such is the case we need not expect any trouble. I also hear that Co "D" is stationed at the post at the foot of Big-Horn Mountains. I am somewhat disappointed; having a desire to go to the Yellowstone, but I am sure everything is for the best. Expect to cross the river by fording. As the river is very high there is some danger in crossing; two mules were drowned yesterday, caused by the washing away of a wagon, whereby the contents worth \$1000. were lost.

" 3rd

Left camp about 2 P.M. and crossed the river, which is about  $3/4$  of a mile wide, but the ford is made nearly 2 miles long, in consequence of the winding course pursued. The bottom is formed of quicksands and is somewhat dangerous. The water is from 2 to 4 feet deep. We put 10 mules to each wagon and all went over safely, except two of the first ones, which caused some trouble. The mules fell down and chains broke &c. However got over safely and marched 7 miles and camped on Lodge Pole Creek, in the midst of a violent rainstorm. Placed Lieut Bradley in arrest for disobedience of orders.

" 4th

Marched 30 miles camping at the <sup>2nd</sup> crossing of Lodge Pole Creek. Turned over 7 men to Capt Kostman <sup>6th</sup> U.S.Vols. Comdg. Post. It seems the Q.M. runs a mail from Sedgwick to Laramie. Went out with Mr. Malloney Wagon-master hunting antelope. Saw 6 but didn't get a shot at them. Lieut. Link and Mr Marr went out and saw about 100 but didn't get any, although they got some shots at them. Passed through some "Dog towns" which covered the prairie for miles. Saw some dogs, but they were very shy. They seem to be about as large as a good sized grey squirrel, but of a brown color and have a stumpy tail, about 3 inches long. They sit up on their hind legs upon the little mounds at the mouth of their caves and bark with a sharp short sound somewhere

July between that of a dog and a squirrel.

" 5 Marched 32 miles across a ridge dividing Lodge Pole Creek from the valley of the North Platt. In reality 28 miles brought us across the ridge to Mud springs, but as we did not find any grass there we crossed the ridge between there and Pumpkin Creek and found good grass. Got a view of Court House Rock which rises from the plain some 6 miles west of here. In the morning went out after antelope and saw a great many. Had one or two good chances of shooting but did not do so. I think I will learn by experience that it is best to improve moderately good opportunities. Two of the young ones came very near me, excited by curiosity, the old ones following. "Pumpkin Creek" is about as large as "Plum Run" at home, but is very clear and one of the finest streams I ever saw. It is said to sink so that at the place where it is crossed by the road (a few miles below) there is no water at all. Saw Court House Rock in the distance.

" 6th Rode across to C.H. Rock, and on the way crossed L — Fork a stream twice as large as Pumpkin Creek and nearly as clear. This and Pumpkin Cr are the only clear waters I have seen since crossing the Mississippi. Court H. Rock is quite a curiosity, It is composed of soft sand rock or rather is hard, compressed sand. I think it must be some 300 yds long, 100 wide and about 250 feet high. I climbed to the top and cut my name and gathered some flowers and moss growing there. At a distance it somewhat resembles a Court-house with a dome on it. The scene from the top is magnificent, the Platt being visible for 30 or 40 miles each way. We came on the Platt 18 miles from where we camped last night. In the afternoon visited Chimney Rock, which I think is a greater curiosity than C.H.R. There is a conical hill rises out of the plain about 200 feet and from this there is a perpendicular pillar rises 150 feet. It is about 50 feet in diameter. At the distance of a few miles it looks quite insignificant.

W. H. C. GARDNER  
Collection

July 7<sup>th</sup>  
 7

Marched to Fort Mitchell 27 miles; are either in or very near Dakota. Passed through Scott's Bluff, a very wild rocky pass. When I speak of rock I mean that peculiar formation of hardened sand. There is very poor grass so that I think of making a short march tomorrow instead of lying over, especially as 55 miles is almost too long a drive to make in two days in the tired condition in which the mules now are. At Mitchell met a hunter who had two squaw wives and a number of children. After going into camp 8 indians came into camp, one of whom was a squaw. They are Sioux and are camped nearby, on their way to the South Platt. They have an exceedingly airy suit, consisting of on one shirt and a breech clout each. Their long black hair hangs down over their shoulders in elegant confusion except the scalp lock which is braided. The place where the hair is parted is painted with vermillion also spots on the face. We gave them a few hard tack each, and they left. I am disgusted with the noble indian of the plains. They are a disgusting dirty set, so far as I could judge and I have reason to think that those that were in camp today are a fair specimen.

" 8<sup>th</sup>  
 7

Marched 16 miles, camping on Horse Creek. Found about 25 lodges of Sioux Indians in camp there. The chief's name is "Standing Elk." They are very well dressed most of them having blankets and hats and many having a considerable number of ornaments. One young warrior was stalking around with a sword, seeming to think a great deal of it. Some had cavalry hats and other articles of soldier's clothing. Most wore leggings. I noticed one young boy who had a string of tin ornaments 4 feet long dangling from his hair. I saw many things that I have read of, such as the squaws doing all the work, their carrying their papposes slung in a blanket on their backs. The chief put on a great deal of dignity and didn't want to talk any. He smoked the pipe with the other indians present at the time and passed it to Mr. Wands but did not pass it to Mr. Marr who was present. This I think was a token of disrespect to white men. They moved soon after we came,

July

going over towards Lodge Pole Creek and the Republican, where they are going to hunt. The country passed through today is much tamer than that for the past few days. The days are pretty warm, but not so warm as they are at this time of the year in Penn<sup>a</sup> there being a strong breeze blowing all the time. The nights are cool, sometimes uncomfortably so. We are now in Dakota, Scott's Bluffs which we crossed yesterday being the dividing line.

" 9<sup>th</sup>

Marched 24 miles camping 10 miles from Laramie near Bordeaux' Ranch. Saw Laramie Peak day before yesterday, at a distance from the Fort of 45 mls. The peak is said to be 40 or 50 mls west of Laramie. Passed in sight of about 50 lodges of indians, camped near Horse Creek. The country passed through today is truly a waste. The ranchmen say that they can raise nothing on the land. The north fork of the Platt is gradually diminishing. There is considerable Cottonwood growing in the bottoms & islands which are very numerous hereabouts.

" 10

Arrived at the Fort <sup>LARAMIE</sup> about 8 A.M. Reported to Major Van Voast and Mr. Wands and I took breakfast with him and the other officers of the 18<sup>th</sup> who are Capt. & Bvt Maj Hull, Lts. Hyer, Starring & Brent, (all West Pointers) Received five letters, but none of them from home. The P.M. says several have been sent on to Reno. Major Van Voast retained Lieuts Skinner & Bradley and placed them on duty. I turned the letter over with a short, concise account of the difficulty. I am told that he recd. quite a lecture from the Major. Laramie is built on the west side of the Laramie River and about a half mile from the junction with the Platt. Laramie Peak is said to be 60 miles west. The Black Hills can be seen to the left of it.

July 11

Took dinner with the officers of the post upon invitation. I examined the grave of the wife of "Big Ribs" an Sioux Chief, who died at the post while the treaty was going on. The body together with all her personal effects were put in a square pine box, 8 feet long: 4 wide and 3 deep. This was elevated on four posts some 8 or 10 feet from the ground, and a red blanket was

July nailed on it. They had killed her two ponies and nailed their heads to the eastern posts and their tails to the western. Although I could not see into the box I am told that the top is uncovered to enable the spirit to wing its way to the hunting grounds, where there is no dearth of game.

" 12 Invited the officers of the post down to dinner: Maj. Eull Lieuts Brent and Hyer were the only ones that could accept, owing to a press of business. Are not able to get away on account of there being no forage at the Post. They expect some tonight, if so we will get away in the morning.

" 13 Marched 22 miles camping on the Bitter-Cottonwood Creek. This is nothing but a dry bed, but a few hundred yards below where the road crosses there are a number of springs ooze out which form a respectable stream. During the evening a thunder shower passed between us and the Peak but there was only a slight shower here. In about one hour the dry bed was a raging torrent. Am now up in the "Black Hills." The scenery is very fine in places. Laramie Peak being always in view on the left, and the hills covered with scrubby pines and cedars have the appearance of extensive orchards.

" 14th <sub>7</sub> Marched some 28 miles camping on the Platt, a few miles from Bridger's Ferry. Near here is a gap in the hills where the river runs through. It is a very picturesque, and I would like to go through in a boat. Bring a Chaplain for the 2nd Batt. from Fort Laramie, ~~and a queer genius by the name of Glover,~~ ~~who was sent out to take stereoscopic views of the country at the treaty.~~ He wants to go to Col. Carrington's Head Quarters. About 2 A. M. Lieut. Daniels new aptnt came up, having come to Laramie in the mail ambulance. He brought me a letter from Father; the first for 7 weeks. It contains the sad news of the death of Cousin Mary McNary & Col. Ralph Maclay.

1866

" 15th <sub>7</sub> Marched 23 miles, camping near the mouth of Sage Cr. Crossed the Platt by means of a rope ferry at a place called Bridger's Ferry, about 4 miles from where we camped last night. While at supper last evening Lieut. Bradley

July

killed a rattlesnake under his chair. At the ferry spoken of they charge \$4.00 per load, and only can take one wagon at a time. Day before yesterday they made some \$500. They do not charge for U.S. troops or wagons.

" 16 . After leaving camp crossed some high rugged hills, some of which seemed to contain iron ore. From the top of them I had a magnificent view of the Platt valley. As far as the eye could reach on the right was the straggling trees marking the serpentine course of the river. In front some 50 or 60 miles distant Laramie Peak loomed up in majestic grandeur. On the left the river hid itself by beaking through the hills. While behind is nothing but the barren rough hills with here and there a sage bush. This last named bush grows in great abundance on the poor lands that we are now passing through. The largest are some three feet high and the main stalk perhaps as thick as your wrist. They are said to grow larger in some places. The leaves are of a light green color, somewhat like green tea. The larger stalks are some times used as fire-wood. Twelve miles up the Platt we turned up the valley of Sage Creek, marching 16 mls. The country is very barren, grass enough for the mules being procured with difficulty, and the only water being in a few holes in the bed of the Creek.

" 17<sup>th</sup> <sub>71</sub> Marched at 4.40, the earliest yet, and camped at Humprey's camp at 1 P.M. This camp is on a gulch, which most of the time is dry, but owing to the heavy rains that have been in this locality there are many holes full of water. In the bank of the creek 3/4 of a mile N.E. of the crossing there is a vein of coal 12 feet thick. I think it is cannel coal. It will be valuable some time, provided the country is ever settled, which I think doubtful. Saw two sage hens today, one old one and one young one. Went after them but did not get a shot. The country passed over today is somewhat better than any passed over since leaving Laramie, being rolling prairie with considerable grass, but the absence of water will be a great bar to its settlement.



July 15th There were two roads leading from this place. Did not know which was the right one. Mr. Kirkendal's train took the left hand one and rather than follow behind his wagons I took the other. It had not been traveled for a long time, but came into the other in about 15 miles. I think it is shorter as we came in away ahead of the other train. Saw the Big-Horn mountains dead ahead covered with snow. They are said to be 9000 ft above the sea level. The Pumpkin Buttes are on the right. They are pretty high and have flat tops, apparently good prairie. There is said to be a lake on one of them. Made a very long march of 33 miles camping some where, none of us knew where. Some thought, at Cactus Springs, others at Dry Creek.

" 19th A march of 18 miles brought us to Old Fort Reno on the Powder River, a small stream 20 yds wide. Found Co. "B." 2d Batt in charge of stores, at the Post. Capt. Procter extended the courtesies of the place to us. The fort has a stockade and two long barracks for men and officers' quarters for about two companies. The indians have been troublesome, having run off some 40 head of stock lately, coming right up to the fort for them. Dr. Hines and Lieut Kirtland were out hunting but came in soon after we arrived.

" 20th Marched 20 miles camping on Crazy woman's Fork. This is a day long to be remembered as the one on which I had my first indian fight. As soon as I arrived at the creek Lieut. Daniels and myself rode down the creek about a mile having been told that we would find good grass there. Just as we turned to leave, not having been able to find a good place, Lieut. remarked "look there" and spurred his horse up, going away ahead. I looked over my right shoulder, but could see nothing, but upon looking over my left, I saw between 50 & 60 indians mounted and in full chase, about 150 yds in the rear. I spurred up old Pegasus, punched him with my gun and did everything to increase speed, but the horse seemed to me to be moving very slowly. ~~Lieut. Daniels~~ had gone 200 yds, he was shot with an arrow through the back and fell off his horse, the saddle turning. I could do nothing to help him and did not expect

July

to get away myself, so continued on. The indians had almost surrounded me again. I arrived at the Ford of the Creek and were within 20 feet of me i.e. those behind were. I plunged my horse down an almost perpendicular bank into the creek and as I was half way over the indian closest fired a carbine at me, but fortunately missed. Previously they had fired a few arrows, but seemed to want to capture me. Found the ambulances on the other bank of the creek: got them back and soon had them and the wagons in corral on a little mound, but as there were ravines all around it was not a good place to remain, so after getting some water by sending out an armed party we moved about 3/4 of a mile up the creek to a high bluff. While doing this we had quite a skirmish all the way. The indians being all around us and taking advantage of every inequality of the ground. But they are great cowards, for if you point a gun at them they will drop down and not raise their head as long as you keep it so pointed. After getting on the top of the hill corraled and dug rifle pits. The indians tried to get into camp by creeping up the ravines and running for high ground, but a shot from one of the men sickened one and soon after most of them withdrew. This was near sundown, but they only went a short way and held a council, and leaving a few pickets the majority went into the woods on the other side of where we first saw them. about dusk I saw a dust rising on the road to New Fort Reno, and at first thought it was more indians, but upon looking with the glass discovered that it was a train. In advance of it saw one soldier on foot. As soon as the indians on post saw the dust they left and while going towards their main party discovered this soldier. I fired my revolver to warn him, and he ran about 100 yds and they holding up their guns (a sign of peace) he stopped and walked right up to them, when they killed him. Captain Marr and I rode over to communicate with the train and found it to be one from Reno under charge of Capt Burrows, going to old Reno after supplies. Found the murdered man, who proved to be a Corp. and Lance Sergt. of the Capt's Comp.

July who had been out hunting buffaloes. Our going across the plain didn't give the Indians time to scalp him but they took his coat and trousers. The Capt. crossed his train and camped with us. We then felt pretty safe. I have no doubt but they would have attacked us had no relief come. While I was away the Chaplain and one man started for the Old Fort for some assistance. Had I been there they would not have gone, as I considered ourselves safe, but intended to send them after dark had the train not come up. I was never in my life so glad to see a train of wagons. I, in common with most of the others, had narrow escapes from balls. One man had his gun struck by an arrow, and another had his trouser waistband cut by a bullet. Some of the Indians were armed with guns and some with bows and arrows & spears. A few had rawhide shields. Most of them were naked, except the breech clout, which is their custom when going into action. Nothing but a remarkable interposition of Providence saved me, especially in the chase. I never before thought death so near. Anyone who does not believe in a God must reason against reason and revelation. I couldn't bring myself to disbelieve in his existence, if from nothing else, from the fact he is the answerer of prayer. He gives me everything that I ask for that he considers good for me. From my heart I thank him for his gracious preservation of my life. The funeral of the corporal was a solemn scene. By moonlight, followed by 5 or 6 officers, the body was carried in perfect silence to a grave formed of one of our rifle pits, and all uncovering, it was committed to its last resting place.

" 21st Capt. Burrows thought it unsafe for me to continue; in fact he would not allow me to proceed, even after the escort of 20 men came from the fort, at 5 A.M. Went out with a party and recovered Lieut. Daniels' body which was terribly mutilated, having been tomahocked and scalped, and had 22 arrows shot into it. They cut off one finger to procure a ring that was on it.

July

Marched back towards Old Reno and met a large train about half way out.

The Capt ordered it back, and intend starting all together on Monday.

" 22d  
 11  
 11

Burried Lieut D. in the grave yard at this place. Had command of the funeral escort, consisting of half of Co. B. The chaplain made some remarks at the grave. Last night Kirkendals oxen were in danger of being stampeded the indians getting in among them & trying to run them away, but when they found they would not go they shot their arrows into two of them. One of Capt. Proctor's mules was taken during the night. The Indians creating the trouble are Sioux from the Missouri river. They don't seem to have any regard to the treaty, if indeed they signed it. My opinion in reference to the noble indian has changed lately; annihilation is now the word. Five indians came in among our herd and tryed to stampede the mules but they would not stampede. It was a very bold act, but did not succeed. They did not attempt to shoot any of the horders. Wrote to Mrs. Daniels in reference to the death of her son.

" 23

Marched to Crazy Woman's Fork in company with the two large gov. trains, overtaking Kirkendal's train which had started last evening. The train was then composed of some 200 wagons and extended some 3 miles. Was officer of the guard and had charge of the rear guard. Camped on the west side of the creek near where Lieut Daniels was killed.

" 24th

Marched to Clear Fork which is a magnificent mountain stream of the purest cold water. While nearing the stream indians were seen & skirmishes thrown out. They proved to be Cheyennes and friendly, all had been up at Fort Reno and the chiefs had papers from Col. Carrington. Some of the chiefs with the following euphonious names, "Pretty Bear," "Dull Knife," "Black Horse," &c. After going into camp these men came into camp and in a short time their squaws & youngsters came also. All begging, and having buffaloe robes and dressed skins for sale & "swap" There were several hundred of them.

July

They were well dressed and I think they are better looking than the Sioux.

Took a smoke with them, all sitting in a circle. Capt Burrows gave them some flour and sugar & coffee. Three of them rode back toward Kirkendal's train and soon came back, with a note from the ox train saying that Kirkendal had been and was then being attacked, and that they needed assistance. Capt. Marr and 4 or 5 men rode to Fort Reno for aid. In the evening a few men rode up from the two trains for an ambulance to bring up their wagon master who had been wounded. They had killed one or two indians one of whom was the man with the red breeches, that took such an active part in our fight. They said they saw my hat that I lost in the chase, the other day.

25<sup>th</sup> Arrived at Fort Reno about noon and met Col. C & Lt Dilsay about a mile out. Met Capts Raymond & Ten Eyck & Bvt Capts Phisterer, Brown & Adair. Col Kinney came out and met us before we started from camp with about 70 men and a howitzer. I am to be assigned to his company. They have a very fine place for a fort here Nature seems to have made the place on purpose. An elevated plateau about 600 ft by 800 ft overlooking both forks of the Piney which are clear and pretty well wooded with cottonwood. Fine pine 3 miles distant, which they are hauling for the purpose of building a stockade. They seem to have given up the idea of sending the troops out to the Yellowstone for this winter.

26 Met Bvt Capt Bisbee & lady. Recd. order to report to comdg officer of Co. D. 2d Batt. as a 1st Lieut. Met "Old Jim Bridger" one of the very few relics of the mountaineers of former days. He is an old gray haired man and cant last long. I had expected to see a blustering proud person, and was much surprised to find him very unostentacious, poorly dressed & one of the cautious sort. He says the Sioux would give 1500 ponies for his scalp. He has no confidence in any of the Indians unless perhaps the Crows, who have never been known to kill a white man. He has been in this country over 30 years &

July

says "Long Hair" a Crow Chief gave him permission to hunt all through this country more than 20 yrs ago. The Crow country formerly extended to Powder River but the Sioux and Cheyennes have driven them up to the Yellowstone.

Turned over my men and got rid of all my ordnance.

" 27th  
Reported to Col. Kinney. Could not get a wall tent, owing to some "shenanigan" around Head Quarters, which is only lent.

" 28th  
The "Cow train came up in company with a larger train They lost 3 men, one of whom had his wife with him.

" 29th  
Went on as Officer of the Day. Heard a very good sermon by Chaplain White from Gal VI 7 & 8. Took dinner with Capt Adair, who has taken Capt. Phisterer's place as Regt. Adjt. and A A A G. Mountain Dist. Dept of the Platt.

" 30th  
Had an alarm last night on the picket line, caused by a cow coming in without giving the countersign.

" 31st  
Am informed that I will be Q.M. and Commissary at Fort Rancom. The Post on the Yellowstone will not be established this year. Co. "E" has been attached to the garrison at this post & Co "F" leaves tomorrow for Reno Station. Lieut. Link will be in command after Capt. Haymond goes east, which he expects to do immediatly.

Aug-1st  
Co. F. Capt Haymond & Phisterer & Lieuts Dilsay and Link left for Reno Station. The first 3 are going on recruiting service.

" 2nd  
Am receiving Q.M. and Com. Stores Packed 17 wagons for "Fort. C.F. Smith." Which is to be the name of the new fort on the Big-Horn. Maj. Bridger is going along, & we expect to go tomorrow.

" 3rd  
Did not get ready to go, and sent word to Kirkendall, who had gone on yesterday, to not move until we came up.

" 4th  
Marched early, with a post train of 2 ambulances and 9 wagons, and a supply train of 25 wagons. In addition to the two companies there is a detachmt of 30 mounted men of the garrison who are to bring the train back. Had some

Aug delay in crossing Pinay Fork and about 3 miles out two of the wagons upset; one of them breaking all to smash. Sent back and got another wagon. Camped on

Remo Q Pers creek near where "French Pete" was killed and the garrison had a fight.

The road was very rough. The country is improving in appearance, the little swai: having at least brush growing in them. Saw no indians

5- Marched early, and camped on Goose Creek. We are beginning to come into the country talked of so long - the finest country in the world - It would be better if there were more timber, but there is considerable ash timber. The grass is very fine. Saw a number of buffalo at a distance. Marr rode out and killed one. Sent out a cart and some men and brought in the hind quarters. I saw some very fine scenery. After going into camp a rain storm passed over the mountains. I cant describe the magnificence of it. The country passed over yesterday & today bears sure signs of fire. Some of the rock have every appearance of being the same as lava spoken of by travelers. One wagon upset yesterday.

An off. of the Day. Pickets fired on 30 indians at 3 A.M.

6th Marched at 5 1/2 A.M. and camped on Tongue River, crossed one fork 2 miles before coming to camp. The water is very clear. The men caught quite a number of the finest fish, some of them trout, that would weigh two or three lbs.

Marr killed another buffalo. Had plenty of fresh meat for the men. The country is improving every day. This a fine valley & then the scenery is magnificent.

7th Camped on Little Horn River. We saw any number of buffaloes today, and when we came over into the Little Horn Valley we found it covered with them. I went up on a butte and could see at least 10000 of them at one time. They were scattered over the country like herds of cattle, not in the compact manner that descriptions had led me to believe. Hurrah I am a Nimrod - I have killed my first buffalo. After going into camp, a herd came down nearly to the corrall, and the teamsters shot one. In company with four of them I followed them and killed one. the others killed one also. We wounded three or four. One of them attempted to make a charge but was too badly wounded.

WILLIAM W. ...

Aug. 8th Camped on "Mud Cr." I think it is some 10 miles from Big Horn. I shall be glad when we get there safely. At present I am thoroughly disgusted with the Regular service, but I presume that this will be overcome in time. I have noticed that this has always been the case, when going to any new place, or among new acquaintances. Thousands of buffaloes everywhere. Some were killed close along the road. An officer of the day.

" 9th Marched some 10 mls and camped on Rotten-grass Cr. We are still some 5 miles from Big Horn River. This morning I drove a young buffalo calf up to the train and it was going to stop with the herd of beef cattle but the dogs drove it away. In the evening a large bull charged on the Sutler's train and it was with difficulty that they could keep him off. At last the rear guard killed him, by putting about a doz. of balls in his carcass. Bridger rode down to the ferry and found a number of miners there from Va. City; also a train that had lost all their stock & were waiting for new ones from Virginia. They represent many indians in the neighborhood. One of their men has been wounded. Day before yesterday passed the grave of Georg Pease from Chambersburg, who had been killed by indians on Young River.

" 10th Marched to the river and camped about 4 miles from the ford. The Colonel rode forward and selected a site for the fort. Got the mowing machine out and had it fixed up intending to commence cutting hay in the morning. The grass is good but should have been cut a month ago. I think the river has an average width of about 50 yds. & is muddy and full of islands. The timber is mostly ~~brush, being~~ (Bridger says) a second growth. The Col. reports a good deal of pine near where the fort is to be. The valley on this side at this place is 2 1/2 miles wide. On the other it is more elevated and seems to be more broken.

" 11th Commenced harvesting by cutting about four acres of grass with one mowing machine, and putting 2/3 of it up in shock. Harvesting with one's revolver on, and having pickets posted all around you snacks somewhat of the talos I have



Aug.

heard Father tell of old times in Penn. Mr. McGee, Kirkendal's partner was drowned in the river, while trying to find a ford. The current is very swift. He was buried tonight in an old gun box as his coffin. He is said to have brought this box along after it had been thrown out of the wagons, remarking that it would make a good coffin for some one.

The Col. & other officers rode out today but have not yet decided on the site for a fort. Brannan (the guide) came up from Fort Phil Kearney in search of some deserters from that post. He reports 256 wagons on the way and will be here about Thursday. Some of the small trains composing it were attacked between Laramie & Powder River and 22 men were killed.

at night  
about sunset

" 12 Continue to cut hay. Marched about four miles and, the Colonel having chosen a site for a fort, go into camp. I think the selection is very good. We are a few hundred yds from the ferry and one mile from a creek of pure water. There is considerable pine up in the mountains, within from three to five miles of camp. Unloaded the wagons and have them ready to go back to Fort Phil Kearney. The deserters, nine in number, were captured by a party under Sergt. Profalter of "D." Co. They were at the ferry preparing to cross.

" 13th Wilson's train went back to Phil. Kearney. Brannan the guide and the mounted escort taking the prisoners

" 14th Put up two paulins as a Com. & Q.M. store house. Have details in the woods cutting building timber and in the meadow cutting and putting up hay.

Advertised for proposals for putting up 200 tons of hay.

" 15th Entered into a contract with Mr. Marr for 200 tons of hay with the privilege of 300 tons.

" 16th Met one of the men of the trains who was formerly a Capt. in Hancock's corps and Asst. Provost Marshal of Balt. He recognized me, as having seen me during Wight's trial.

" 17th Sergt. Riley went out after buffalo but seeing some indians returned. A party sent out reported pony tracks at the place spoken of by the Sergt.

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- Aug. Sergt R. is my Q M & com Sergt. & Sergt Major. Accidentally heard that Dick Schuyler of Leavenworth was along with one of the trains crossing the river. Sent my compliments & invited him over. He came over and we had quite a pleasant chat.
- 18th Commenced hewing logs for quarters. Are hewing one side to be put inside.  
" 17 As the timber is quite rough this will necessitate a good deal of chinking between them.
- " 19th I never before so fully realized what it was to have a Sabbath - a day of rest - I have been so hurried for the past week that I have hardly known what I was doing, but now all work is suspended and I can spend the day as I please. How I would like to spend it in O! I think I could keep awake an hour while hearing a good sermon. I spent the day reading the Testament and in sleeping, a most refreshing thing as I have been on short allowance for a few nights past.
- " 20. Everything started off with life and spirit this morning and if they will send us a saw-mill from Fort Phil. Kearney we will soon finish our buildings. Had wood hauled in for to be burnt for charcoal.
- " 21st The Satler went out about seven miles and shot a buffalo. I think they will come around again now that the trains have all crossed the river. They had the effect of scaring away most of the buffalo. I think perhaps the mowing machine may have some effect upon their absence.
- " 22d Four years since I enlisted in the service of the U.S. - It seems an age. -  
" 11 Crossed the river to get a shot at a buffalo that I saw coming down from the bluffs, but before I got over he had forded the river and was on this side, about a mile below. Some men started after him, but he did not linger long enough for them to get within shooting distance. Have been reading "Captain Bonnyville's Adventures," the scene of some of which are laid at this very spot. Here it was that he started his peltry down the river in boats to St. Louis. "Tempora Mutantur!"

- Aug. 23<sup>d</sup> Was on as officer of the day, but everything passed off lovely. Had a lovely moonlight night with the addition of a fine exhibition of the Aurora Borealis. Am quite busy making out vouchers for Q.M>Returns. Have some men burning charcoal for blacksmithing purposes.
- " 24<sup>th</sup> Rode down to the hay field and called on Capt. Marr's party. Thought I saw an indian, but it turned out to be a small cottonwood bush swaying in the wind. When I came back found the camp excited by reports of indians seen by Col. Kinny & others while out about 5 miles from camp. In the evening they crossed the river and went up to the canon and thought they saw one.
- " 25<sup>th</sup> In the evening saw a buffalo come down on the opposite side of the river and act as if he were going to cross. Mounted my horse "Peter" and started to intercept him as came to this side. Arriving on the bank it was some time before I saw him but at length discovered him about 10 feet from this shore, cooling himself off by standing in the water. As soon as he saw me, he came out and started to run up on the bluffs. I headed him off and ran him down towards the picket post. One of the pickets fired at him but I think the ball came nearer me than it did the buffalo. He then ran up on the bluff or ridge along the river and I gained on him, but while going down the other side he ran away ahead of me. They can run down hill very fast. Upon getting on the plain we had a fine level course for four miles. I soon caught up with him, and fired, striking him I think. I then tried to load, but the gun I had (one of Smith & Wesson's breach loaders) was out of order & I couldn't get the shell of the cartridge out. I was very much provoked, and after I found I could not load I rode up close and fired five shots from my revolver into him with no effect than a slight whisk of his tail each time. I then gave up the chase as hopeless, although I could ride all around the buffalo, & dismounting got my gun in trim but not until it was too late to follow the chase up. My horse stood firing first rate and enjoyed the chase hugely, the difficulty being to restrain him. When he first saw the buffalo on the bank of the river he seemed

Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> to comprehend what was up and started straight for him. I can say that authors tell the truth when they describe the excitement caused by riding after one of these lordly beasts, at full gallop with the reins down on the pommel of the saddle. Once when I got in advance of him he turned aside from his direct course and "came for me", but they can easily be avoided by a good horse. Had I have had a Henry Rifle I would surely have killed the buffalo and I think I could have done so with gun I had, had it worked well. The reason I am in some doubt on that point is that I never tried it before and don't know its force. I have tried the other & know it is a splendid gun.

" 26<sup>th</sup> Spent the day in reading & sleeping. Was officer of the day.

" 27<sup>th</sup> About 6 A.M. saw 7 horsemen <sup>a</sup> approaching on the other side of the river. Informed the Colonel and then went down to the fording. They proved to be Indians and upon my calling over "How" the head man answered "Eow" and added Saronka. I knew from what I had read in "Astoria" that that was "Crow". It signified that that was all right and took the boat over for them. In the mean time others had been coming in and soon there were about 60 warriors and squaws on the bank. Brought over three warriors and their squaws and taking them up to the Colonel and there we tried to hold a confab with them but could not understand each other very well. However we learned that they belonged to a large party of Crows that were camped a short way down the river: That they were friendly and wanted papers &c. They were well dressed and the finest looking Indians that I have ever seen. They all swam over the river and came up to camp. It was truly amusing to see them crossing the river. They striped and tying their clothes either on their heads or in packs enclosed in a robe they would swim over and bring them out dry. The packs were fastened by a lariat to the horse's neck and being very light floated nicely. They would start into the river on the horse's backs and after they had got them well started they would slide off and catch their horses by their tails and in that way, whooping and yelling they came to the shore.

Aug. They conducted themselves very peaceably and after we had given them some rations they departed.

In the afternoon 10 miners came down from the mountains on the other side of the river where they had been prospecting. They belonged to a party of 34 and had been out about four weeks from Helena and intend staying some six weeks longer. They intend going to the Wind River Mountains where they think they will find gold. They say they can find a good color anywhere along this river, but no place will pay more than one cent to the pan.

" 25th  
 Ten buffaloes in sight at Reveille two of them on the other side of the river. My horse broke his pickot rope last night and as soon as I could catch him I rode down to the river intending to intercept them when they should cross over. Laid in wait about an hour when they moved up a few hundred yards above where I was and crossed to an island. While I was getting into position, a couple of men ran down from the camp and fired at them one of the balls striking one of them. Of course they returned to the other side of the river and as they were going up the opposite bank they recd. several more shots, one breaking the hind leg of one of them. Another shot from my gun hit one in the back, dropping him for good. Just then indians were reported approaching from the direction in which they had come yesterday. Ceased firing and in a short time, they came up & seeing the wounded bull, with three legs starting away, gave chase. It was a fine scene and one spoken of by everyone, who writes of indians. The indians are certainly bold riders and hard on horseflesh. In this case they ran up close and fired some arrows and then fired two guns which dropped him. I was somewhat provoked at their interfering in my hunting as we could easily have killed both of the buffaloes. Sent the cart over for our buff. (the indians had appropriated the one they killed) and at the same time went over to bring over some of the indians. They came up along the bank of the river singing one of their songs and I could not but remember the songs I heard in an indian show in boyhood. They proved to be another body of

Aug.

Crows from the same village as those came from yesterday, and had a white man along as interpreter. His name was Peter Shane and is one of those French Canadians that are so often spoken of by writers on this section of the country. He lives at Fort Benton most of the time and had been employed by the Crows to take them to Fort Union to the treaty and since then he has been with them. He says they had a treaty at Ft. Benton on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. and that the Sioux shook hands with the white men. All the chiefs had papers from the commissioner signed by authority of A. Johnson and one of them ("White Mouth") had a medal with the bust of the President on it. The following are some of the names of the chiefs; viz: "White Mouth," "White Horse" (who are the biggest chiefs in the Crow tribe) Long Horse, Iron Bull, Pretty Bull, "The Boy Chief" or, "The left-handed," "The man who was shot in the mouth." We gave them papers & some rations and they came up and entered into trade with the sutler, exchanging robes for beads blankets &c. They say there is a village of 1500 Sioux on Tongue River, who have banded to put a stop to all travel on this road. They say these and the Arrapahoes have been at their camp trying to get them to enter into a treaty with them to carry out the same object. The Colonel held a long talk with them, telling them not to make peace with the Sioux until they should make peace with the whites, and promising that we would be good friends and would all live together in peace and intimating that we would back them up against the Sioux. They all jumped up saying "How", "How" and shaking hands all around. Just as we got through shaking hands "The Boy Chief" took ~~my~~ hat off and putting his arm around ~~my~~ neck repeated something entirely unintelligible to me and I didn't know but he was saying that he hoped he would have the pleasure of scalping me at some future time. However the interpreter said that he was saying that he loved me so much and wanted me to love him in the same way. He then repeated this ceremony with the other officers, and said he had had his say and that the others would talk.

Aug. This Boy Chief is about 70 yrs old, but I suppose he received his name from his diminutive size, he being very small. "White Mouth" said "His Great Father" had promised to reserve a large tract of land for him, where he could live and go to farming, and would send a trader to live with him. As it was now he was like a crazy man had no place to go to trade. He said he had not yet picked out his reservation, but would do so and have it ready next year. I believe by the terms of the treaty the Crows are to receive \$25,000 a year for 20 years.

In the evening a train came up from the States. They say they have not seen an indian this side of Laramie. They represent that the Q.M. at Phil Kearney is trying to let a hay contract at \$45. per ton. They think it doubtful whether we receive a train with Q.M. Stores for some time, as they seem to be nearly frightened to death at the Fort.

August 29<sup>th</sup> At daylight saw a buffalo moving down very leisurely & saddling my horse made for him but although I ran close up on him did not succeed in getting him.

Although I emptied my revolver in him Oh! how exciting it is to chase them. I only wish I could be joined by some of my Nimrod friends of the east.

" 30<sup>th</sup> The Col., two Drs, myself and 12 men went out to look for timber. Went up on the hills on the left of where the river breaks through them and found it to be an elevated plateau with good grass on it, and commanding a most extensive view of the country. About 5 miles up the river there is a small stream comes in from the south through one of the grandest canons in the world. It must be a thousand feet from the level plateau down, almost perpendicularly, to the water. Most of these banks are densely studded with pines, but are inaccessible, except to Rocky Mountain sheep, wolves &c. Then there are bluffs jutting out into the canon composed of the peculiar redish gray rock which abounds in this country, and of which, in fact, the hills are formed. These washed by rains and worn by winds resemble castles and present all the fantastic shapes, that the imagination can conjure up. I think it is the

Aug. grandest and most impressive scene I ever saw. Saw a few buffalo but were not hunting then. On the return shot a an antelope and seperating from the main body I chased 9 but couldn't get a shot at them

" 31st Mustered the troops i.e. Col K. did. In the afternoon had target practice, with prizes composed of hats shirts & a pair of gloves.

Sept. 1st Went after three buffaloes immediately after reveille, and had a grand chase. Drove them down near camp where there was quite a fusillade, and the buffaloes came out safe and swam the river. Some citizen teamsters on the other side shot one of them. In the evening were somewhat surprised to see a mulatto ride into camp. He proved to be the redoubtable "Jim Backwith" formerly chief of the Crows. He came to announce the approach of Genl Hazen Asst. Insept. Genl. Dept. of the Platt. The Genl. arrived soon after, accompanied by a Lieut. formerly of his staff and who had recd. his appointment in the Regular Army while at Phil. Kearney. The Genl. took dinner with us. Capt. Paxson Com Sub. Vols. was also with him on a kind of inspecting tour. Lieut. Bradley and 25 men formed the escort. They expect to go from here with pack mules across the country to Fort Benton and have their wagons go to Virginia City where they will meet them when they return & go from there to Salt Lake, City & from there the Genl goes to San Francisco & N.Y. Lieut. B. returns from Virginia City. Dr. McCleary is ordered to accompany them and return with Lieut. Bradley.

" 2d The Genl. inspected the troops and Post, and when taking a list of Com-supplies on hand, asked me how many beef cattle I had on hand and then asked how many buffaloes. I replied innumerable. He then said he would put down 10000.

3rd I recd. a mail on the 1st and got 11 private letters as my share. I dont know when I will have time to answer them. I am very busy fitting up Genl. Hazens party with everything that they need.



- Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> Recd my commission as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. in the mail. It has been on the way since June 14<sup>th</sup>. Vary busy making out papers. Yesterday commenced digging holes for posts Commissary building.
- " 5<sup>th</sup> Too busy to write. Genl Hazon, Dr McCleery & party left with pack mules for Fort Benton on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- " 6<sup>th</sup> Very cold indeed; a foretaste of the kind of weather we are going to have this winter.
- " 7<sup>th</sup> Still very cold. A party of 7 miners came in from up the river. They say they are the advance of a party of one hundred, that are going to come down and winter here. The Sioux ran off five of Mr Leighton's mules. Marr and a few men followed them about 12 miles and came on about 100 of them, and of course did not think it best to proceed any farther.
- " 8<sup>th</sup> Marr and Leighton went out again and came upon the large body of indians on this side of where they were seen last night; on Rotten Grass creek. My office tent blew all to shreds last evening, during a wind storm.
- " 9<sup>th</sup> Col. Kinney has been quite unwell during the past day. Read some in Proverbs, and did not work much. Beckwith and the four men came back They left Genl. Hazon on the other side of the Yellowstone, all well.
- " 10<sup>th</sup> Saw three buffaloes on the other side of the river. Took Corpl. Miller's Henry Rifle and laid in wait for them when they should cross. They attempted to ford, but became so tired that they turned back. As soon as they came to land Hancy, (who was with me) and I shot and after a few shots I had the pleasure of seeing one of them drop. I shot him just as they were disappearing around some bushes. Yesterday morning the tops of the highest mountains to the South were covered with snow, but this morning it is all gone. A train, or rather three trains of 25 wagons in all came in today, loaded with com- supplies & corn for me. They did not see any indians along the route.

COLL. B. ...  
Collection.

Sept. 11th Unloaded all the trains and found the stores in splendid condition. The mail party consisting of Sergt. Murphy and some 15 men started for Phil. Koarney about 8 P.M.

12th Rested a little after my busy time

13th About 20 indians came down off the hills on the other side of the river and a few of them came down the road to the fording. I didn't like their looks at any time but the officers and Beckwith said they were Crows &c. Beckwith & myself went down to the ferry and he talked with one that came down to the bank, but when he saw the guard taking arms (I being officer of the day,) he ran away from the bank. Beckwith said they were Crows and wanted to go over to them. I saw that this would be the quickest way of finding out who they were, and got the canoe out and went over with him taking the precaution of taking 4 armed men with me. As soon as Beckwith had a few words of conversation with one of them he whispered to me that they were Sioux. I am free to confess that from that moment I didn't feel safe, and urged Beckwith to recross the river. He felt quite safe and wanted to talk. I stood it about 10 minutes until I saw some coming around on the right and left and then told "Jim" that "he must cut his talk short." During this time three or four others had come up and had said "how" and shaken hands. I wanted a couple of them to come over to camp, but they said the whites didn't love the Sioux & would not consent. They said they had been over to the Crows & had made a treaty with them & wanted to make peace with the whites through them, and that there was a Crow chief then with them going down to Tongue river to their village, where there were 1200 lodges. All this means that they had been over to get the Crows to make a treaty with them to clean out all white people from this road. Well I told them to send this Crow Chief up and they said they would. We had not much more than got into our canoe, before they rode off about 200 yds from where we had talkod and killed a minor that was

Sept. coming down from the mountains with two horses loaded with game. They tried to get his horses, but two other miners coming up just then they took flight, without getting anything. I have no doubt they intended to kill us if they had been able to take us off our guard. They invited us to go out about 200 yds to where they had killed a buffalo calf and get it. I told them I couldn't see it. They (after killing this man) rode down the river and some of them crossed over and took Mr. Smith's horse, which was out grazing, and sighted around Marr's place, and wanted the wood-choppers to go down to the river with them. They certainly played a treacherous, cunning game.

" 14th Was roused out about 6 A.M. after I had been up & gone to bed again, by an alarm of indians firing on the wood-detail down in the woods. Ordered "fall in" and in 4 seconds was on the way with 25 men. Again we got down we learned that about 15 indians had chased one of Marr's men, and had come so near getting him that he had to leave his horse and take to the bushes, the indians getting the horse, of course. He was slightly wounded by an arrow. On the way back skirmished through the woods but didn't see anything.

" 15th The scouts report the train with Bacon & c near by. About 9 A M they come in. They were attacked on Rotten-Grass Creek and the rear <sup>car</sup> train cut off and the driver killed & the wagon robbed. They cut the covers off and took some flour some corn meal & some sugar. I think they were not very well closed up. Some of the men killed a very large Cinnamon bear. I think it would nett 500 lbs. Unloaded some of the wagons loaded with flour sugar & bacon. The stores are in good condition.

" 16th Very busy unloading the rest of the wagons. In the morning Swartz a man belonging to Co. "A." came in on the other side of the river. He was Genl Hazen's orderly, and got seperated from him on the other side of the Yellow-stone on the 9th inst somehow thus. He stoped to cut off some meat from a buffalo and while doing so four indians came upon him, and as he couldn't

Sept.

catch his horse he broke for some large rocks nearby and hid. The indians followed and fired arrows at him which he answered with four revolver shots. They then left & turned their attention to capturing his horse. He remained the until nearly dark and then followed up the trail of the party until he got on the top of a mountain, from which he hoped to be able to see their camp fires, but upon his arrival he was doomed to be disappointed, as nothing of kind could be seen. Next morning went down the other side of the mountain and passed for a long way along its base, but couldn't discover the trail, and then turned back with a gloomy enough prospect before him. Alone in the midst of an indian country, 150 miles from any white settlement, without a gun and only two loads in his revolver, and without matches or other means of making a fire, were a combination of circumstances enough to appal the stoutest heart.

However he started back intending to try and return to this Post. Upon arriving at the top of the mountain he found an American horse branded "U.S." and which had the appearance of having been ridden within an half hour, the marks of saddle being fresh, and his back very sore. He caught him and making a pad of grass and putting this upon his back and his overcoat upon this mounted & as he was very fast soon came to the river (Yellowstone) ¶As he didn't think the horse could swim over with him, he turned him loose. The horse then swam over & he proceeded to tie two logs together and having done so got on them and tried to paddle himself over the river, but the current was so strong that after working for 5 or 6 hours he had made but a few feet from the shore. He however floated down the river some 20 miles and finally brought up on a sand bar and his logs ran under some drift wood there and he narrowly escaped.

¶Made another raft and after going down the river some 30 miles further landed on this side. He then struck out in an easterly direction and soon came upon a river which he took to be the Big Horn. Following this up in four or five days he came in sight of camp, but he says he could see nothing but the long Commissary tent at first and didnot know what to make of it, thinking it might be some kind of an indian building,

Sept. but coming farther up on the bluff he distinguished the other tents and says he thought he would be at camp in a few moments, but thought before he got here that that was the longest road he ever traveled. He had been out about nine days all the time without food with the exception of an handful of wild plums, and piece of a rabbit that he killed with one of the two remaining loads in his revolver. He was coming along one day and a rabbit started up before him and ran 50 yds and stopped. He took dead aim and had the pleasure to see him drop as soon as he fired. Runing up to it, he tore of the hind quarters and greedily devoured them.

What an adventure he must have had? It does not cause any excitement here, but if he were in many places in the east he would be a hero.

" 17th At the request of the Col. I went out with the scout at daylight. It was quite cool when we started and while out on the mountain it commenced snowing which made it very cool riding against the wind. Our object was to find some long timber for ties for the large buildings. There was none that suited at the place to which we went, but we saw plenty of fine timber over on the mountain opposite, at the distance of 6 miles from camp. Saw nothing living except an antelope and some wolves. The dogs ran after the latter but as the course was up hill the wolves beat them. I tell you it is invigorating to ride out this way, part of the time above the clouds and all the time a mile above the sea level. It gives one a fine appetite for breakfast.

" 18th Beckwith says there is something bad going to happen as his medicine did not act right laast. night. he has some of the indian ideas of premonition and dreams, and a good deal more of cunning. He has undoubtedly imposed greatly on the Crows with whom he lived. The day passed without our knowing anything of anything bad having taken place. It is very cold unpleacant weather, snowing & raining all the time.

" 19th The weather cleared up somewhat in the afternoon, so that one could take some comfort in being out of doors.

" 20th In the afternoon, Whalen of D. Co., who had been out with some men cutting hay,

CARL R. GILSON  
Collection

Sept.

came in and reported that Corporal Staples and another man had left the detail to go after some buffaloes and that soon after they had heard some shots in the direction they had gone, and then saw some indians ride away from that place. I volunteered to go out with a squad of ten men, and went as far and farther than Whalen had described as the place that he heard the firing proceed from but could find nothing, with the exception of one fresh moccasin track. Came back to camp and learned that I hadn't gone as far as where W is now said the firing had been. But from the present appearances it seems as if these two men had been killed: it is too late however to go out for them tonight.

" 21st  
7

Immediately after Reveille 25 men went out to the spot pointed out by Whalen, and found the bodies of the missing soldiers. They had evidently been waylaid and fired on while passing a large rock. From appearances the Corpl had been killed by the first shot, but Fitzpatrick had run about an hundred yards and there been killed, and horribly mutilated, having his skull crushed in and a number of arrows shot into him. The Corpl also had several arrows in him, in addition to two bullet wounds. Buried them in the afternoon, with military honors. A great many buffaloes are in sight today in the direction of where these men were killed, which indicates the presence of indians on the other side. At Reveille there was a band of the buffalo within 100 yds of camp.

" 22nd  
11

The mail party under Sergeant Murphy returned, having 15 miners in company, who had been out prospecting and had joined them at Phil Kearney. They had been attacked on the route several times and Hackett of D.Co. wounded through the leg & head. They brought him in on horseback, one riding on either side & holding him on. The first day out the ambulance broke down & they sent it back to Phil Kearney, and packed the mail and some ammunition on their horses and mules. They have been unfortunate down at Kearney, having been attacked two or three times and lost most of their stock. The indians rode right up to the fort and didn't seem to have any fear of the cannon. They lassoed one man

CALL D. ( )  
60000

- Sept. ~~Sept.~~ went under the guns, and carried him off prisoner. The old "special artist" ~~was killed~~ while on his way from being out taking views. Received a number of letters, but haven't time to answer them.
- " 23rd Very cold and disagreeable
- " 24th Ditto
- " 25th I have hired some men to work hauling logs &c. Some of them are miners and some are emigrants on their way to Mon.
- " 26th The miners who came from below intend going on to Helena tomorrow and the emigrants are going with them.
- " 27th The miners and party started this morning and in the afternoon two of them came back having fallen out by the way. The indigent citizen who is in the hospital went along.
- " 28th We haven't seen any indians for some days, but I am afraid that is a bad sign.
- Sept 29th Bridger & Williams came back bringing John Richard a halfbreed Sioux along who has three wagon loads of potatoes along for sale. Also Mr. Koover of Gallatin Valley, who owns extensive mills there and is looking out for a chance to supply the government with timber and supplies. Bridger saw the Crows on Clarks Fork; They are not intending to come in this winter, but may. They are anxious to see Beckwith They also report that the Sioux have been invited to Laramie again.
- " 30th Bought Mr. Richard's potatoes at 24 cts per lb. (6450 lbs)
- Oct. 1st Mr. Koover & Richard and all the miners but one returned to the north. I forgot to say that Beckwith and Thompson of D.Co. went out by themselves at dark night before last intending to go to the Crow village.
- " 2nd The Dr. had Eckett on the amputating table intending to amputate his wounded limb, but came to the conclusion that it would be useless, and did not perform the operation.
- " 3rd. Finished the second Com. building, and commenced the stockade. Conn of D. "Co." cut one of his feet very badly with an ax.