



With the U.S. Army Along the Oregon Trail, 1863-66

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Article Summary: The diary of John J Pattison, a devout soldier serving in Iowa, Nebraska Territory, and Colorado Territory from 1863 to 1866, addressing his everyday life in the Army. After his discharge, John J Pattison filed on a homestead in Kearney County and died, leaving his wife and children to establish the frontier home.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Captain John A Wilcox, Governor Kirkwood, Lewis C Williams, Reverend Martin, Sergeant Rowe, Sergeant West, Reverend Amsberg, Lieutenant Comstock, Captain Cromie, Lieutenant Parker, Lieutenant Akin, Blackfoot, Two Face, Captain Fouts, Phillip Alder, Edward McMahan, Richard Groger, Mrs Eubanks, William Osborn, Lieutenant Collins, James H Temple, Anthony Shilling, James Cleland, Alfred Acres, Lieutenant Akin, Lieutenant Detch, Colonel Fleming, Lieutenant Sallee, Judge McDonald, Lieutenant Beldan, Sergeant Hiles, Pat Molally, Fred Smith, Major Almstead, Major David, Major Majors, H H Heath, Henry B Carrington, Lieutenant Whitlock, H H Ross, Rolly, Horace Blanchard

Place Names: Camp Hendershott, Des Moines River, Omaha City, Camp Roberts, Camp Grier, Iowa City, Camp Fouts, Camp Hammer, Camp Murphy, Grenelle, Camp Phillips, Camp Mitchell, Dakota City, Camp McKionall, Camp McKean, Fort Kearny, St James, Camp Parker, Missouri River Valley, Decatur City, Camp Sumner, Camp Butin, Camp West, Camp Rowe, Camp Smith, Camp Davis, Dakota City Hospital, Omaha Indian Mission, Alkali, Beauvaix, Julesburg, Fort Laramie, Nine Mile Ranch, Pole Creek Crossing, Mud Springs, Ficklands Station, Court House Rock, Chimney Rock, Scotts Bluffs, Fort Mitchell, Horse Creek, Horse Shoe Station, Labonta Station, Saparel Creek, Deer Creek Station, Lick Creek, Power River, Wind River, Spring Creek, Mountain Canyon, Red Buttes, Lone Cottonwood, Big Box Elder, Burdoes Ranch, Cold Springs, Horse Creek, Fort Mitchell, Horse Creek Battle Ground, Chimney Rock, Nine Mile Ranch, Platte Bridge, Fort Heath, Lillian Springs, Butts Ranch, White Mans Fork, Sand Hill station, Fort Cottonwood, Mitchells Fork, Browns Fork, Berkadi Butte, Prairie Dog Creek, Solomon River, North Solomon River, Camp Wheaton, Medicine Lake Creek, North Medicine Lake Creek, Fort McPherson, Gilmans Ranch, Pat Molallys Ranch, Dog Town, Big Muddy, Little Blue River, Lemons Ranch, Big Sandy, H H Ross Ranch, Rock Creek, Little Vermillion Creek, Nemaha River, Kickapoo Reserve, Grenada, East Grasshopper Creek, Fort Leavenworth, Davenport, Hannibal, Camp Grier

Keywords: 7th Iowa Cavalry; Battle of Horse Creek

Photographs / Images: General Henry B Carrington; Site of Old Fort Cottonwood; McDonald's Ranch, 1860s (Charles McDonald)



General Henry B. Carrington

. . . whose untimely arrival, June 13, 1866, at Fort Laramie with 700 men to establish military posts along the Bozeman Trail, drove Red Cloud and Man Afraid of His Horse from the treaty council and precipitated the Bozeman Trail War.

WITH THE U. S. ARMY ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL, 1863-66

Diary by Jno. J. Pattison

This day I have taken my post as a soldier in Camp Hendershott, Company B 7th Iowa Cavalry, Capt. Wilcox Com. Trusting that by the Grace of God I may never be left to Disgrace myself as "Christian" or a soldier.

Sabbath morning. Having obtained leave of absence I have worked out some few miles to the house of Brother Copeland and have enjoyed the priveleges of comfortable and edifying Social Fellowship meeting. Having once more realized to my sweet experience that as Iron sharpeneth Iron, so doth the countenance of a man sharpen that of his friends.

* * *

Monday morning, July 17th, 1863.

This morning according to previous arrangement we are under marching order for Desmoines River and thence to Omaha City. After an affectionate and christ-ian farewell I am about to be shut out from all the precious priveleges and Ordinances of the House of God. Farewell blessed gospel under whose droppings I have so long been permitted to sit. Thanks be to God who hath bestowed such great and precious priveleges while the sword is unsheathed in many parts of our beloved land and its citizens are distracted by the calamities of war and garments are rolled in blood we have still been permitted to enjoy comparative peace. Lord we pray that we as a nation, as a Church and as individuals may also enjoy that peace of God which passeth understanding.

* * *

After his discharge from the army, John J. Pattison filed on a homestead in Kearney county, and died, leaving his wife and children to establish the frontier home. This diary comes to the Historical Society through Senator Charles A. Chappell of Minden. Mrs. Chappell is the daughter of James A. Pattison, only living son of John J. Pattison.

Hardships of March to Council Bluffs

Six Companies of the 7th Iowa Cavalry left Camp Hendershott July 27th. Marched about fourteen miles down the river and camped at Camp Roberts. July 28th marched near thirty miles through dust; had a little shower about noon. Camped near Wilton.

July 29th. Rained a little a. m. Marched near twenty miles and camped at Camp "Grier."

July 30th. Left Camp Grier 4 o'clock a. m., and had a pleasant march to Iowa City. Foggy a. m., watered in Iowa River and marched two miles up the river and fixed our tents; took a pleasant bath in the river; took dinner and camped for the night at Camp "Fouts."

July 31st. The boys had a fight or two in Camp. Left Camp at 5 a. m., saluted Gov. Kirkwood. Camped at Camp Hammer.

August 1st. Dry and hot. Left Camp Hammer at 6 a. m. Marched about ten miles through dust, halted near Maringo, dismounted and let our horses graze. Remounted—charged through town, and marched about five miles and camped for the night at Camp "Murphy." The boys had another little "Fight" for variety.

August 2nd. Sabbath. Started at 4 a. m.—without breakfast, and marched about eighteen miles and fed. Remounted again without breakfast. Let our horses graze again about 4 p. m., no breakfast yet. Rained hard during the forenoon—remounted again and marched three miles west of Grenelle and encamped for the night without breakfast, dinner or supper at Camp Phillips.

August 3rd. Had a good breakfast and rested for the day. Received our Carabines. Remounted at 4 p. m. Marched four miles through rain and camped at Camp "Mitchell."

* * *

August 18th. Left Camp at 4 a. m. Marched about fifteen miles through an unsettled country and dismounted; grazed our horses at a small settlement. Remounted and marched to Council Bluffs, a distance of twenty-four miles. Each Company was saluted by the discharging of the Brass Cannon as they passed through town, also serenaded by a patriotic song from the ladies as we moved slowly along the streets. Marched about two miles from town and camped at a splendid spring.

Omaha to Dakota City

August 19th. Started about 6 a. m. Crossed the river on Com., at a time on steam ferry. Marched through Omaha City, N. T. Camped about one mile west of town. Very warm day and cloudy. Scarce of water in Camp.

August 20th. Camp McKionall. Hands up early, got breakfast. One man in Company H, shot through the knee while on Patrol last night. Boys all busy washing and writing letters. Very warm a. m., but cloudy p. m.

August 21st. Dry and hot. Still in Camp awaiting orders. Moved our tents across Ravine.

August 22nd. Very dry and hot. Scarce of water. Inspection this p. m., and Grand Parade through the City of Omaha.

August 23rd. Cool and windy. Several tents blown over and Company C quartered in town today. Very windy p. m., air full of sand and dust.

August 24th. Camp McKean. Company D left for Fort Kearny. Cool and windy. Orders to leave for St. James tomorrow.

August 25th. All hands up and got breakfast. Packed our traps and mounted about 9 a. m. Company E gave three cheers to Company B. Our Major (H. H. Heath) then advanced and gave us a short but impressive address concerning our duty as vigilant soldiers in an enemy's country, telling us at the same time that he now consigned us to the entire control and disposal of our Captain with full confidence in his integrity and abilities. After cheering the Major we resumed our march northwest eleven miles and camped at Camp Parker. Slight frost last night.

August 26th. Left Camp Parker about 7 a. m.; after a pleasant night's rest. Marched about three miles, had a little difficulty with a teamster. Passed through a very rich but thinly settled country to a small clear stream of water and halted for the night; one of our Buglers—Lewis C. Williams was shot by the accidental discharge of a revolver, the ball passing through his left side but no serious injury apprehended the wound being slight. Cool and pleasant all day.

August 27th. Started about 7 a. m. Marched up the Missouri River Valley about twenty-six miles and camped

near Decatur City at Camp Sumner.

August 28th. Left Camp Sumner 7 a. m. Marched through a very broken ridge of country in the Omaha Indian Reserve, had a small Turkey hunt and succeeded in killing two of them, considerable of ammunition having been expended. Camped at Camp Butin.

August 29th. Left Camp Butin about 7 a. m. Very heavy frost last night. Arrived at Dakota City about 2 p. m. Pleasant day, camped on river bank at Camp West.

August 30th. Cool last night. Clear and warm a. m. Boys busy washing, cooking and hunting today, though to their shame be it spoken, it is Sabbath. Had a sermon preached by Rev. Martin O. S. P. Church—From the words, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" Psalm 95, verse 7th and 8th.

August 31st. Camp West. Cool night. Mustered for pay at 2 p. m.

September 1st. Left Camp West at 7 a. m. Passed over a broken and thinly settled country a distance of twenty miles to Ponca and camped at Camp Rowe.

September 2nd. Sent Sergeant Rowe with twenty men back to Dakota City. Remarched over a broken country about fifteen miles and camped at Camp Smith. Cloudy and cool.

September 3rd. Left Camp Smith 7 a. m., and arrived at St. James 2 p. m., Camp Davis.

September 4th. Sergeant West with twenty men detached on service fifty miles west to garrison a town.

September 5th. Sergeant West with twenty men left for Niobrara. The balance moved quarters into Court House.

Sabbath, September 6th. Dakota City Hospital. This evening after the busy scenes of the week that is past I am once more enjoying the inestimable privelege of hearing the word preached. Lord may it be sanctified unto my soul and strengthen and encourage me in the discharge of my duty.

* * *

Friday, October 2nd. This evening one of my fellow soldiers having ridden his horse down the river bank to water was lost in the muddy and turbid waters of the Missouri, another solemon warning "Be ye also Ready."

* * *

Sabbath, November 8th. After a pleasant and bracing buggy ride yesterday and selecting a homestead, I am privileged with a sermon at the Omaha Indian Mission on the Indian Reserve.

Sabbath, November 15th/63. Today being rather indisposed doctor reminded (?) me to remain in my room. Lord do thou bless a silent Sabbath to my soul. This evening feeling better, I am seated under the droppings of God's word from the mouth of Rev. Amsberg. Lord bless and sanctify thy word unto the salvation of our souls.

* * *

Sabbath, November 29th. The messenger of death during the past week has visited the houses of our 2nd Lieutenant Comstock and Mr. Jackson one of our citizens and removed their darling and only children yesterday. I assisted in digging their graves and consigning Lieutenant's child to the earth. The scene was most affecting. I deeply sympathize with the bereaved parents.

(No entry from November 29, 1863, to March 7, 1865.)—Editor.

Indian Country

Tuesday, March 7th, 1865. Started for Julesburg and camped at Alkali—twenty-five miles.

Wednesday, March 8th. Marched twenty-five miles, camped at Beauvaix.

Thursday, March 9th. Marched twenty-five miles, camped at Julesburg, C. T.

Friday. Still at Julesburg and remained until Wednesday 15th, when we started for Fort Laramie. Camped at Nine Mile Ranch.

Thursday, March 16th. Marched twenty-six miles and camped at upper Pole Creek Crossing.

Friday, March 17th. Marched twenty-eight miles, and camped at Mud Springs.

Saturday, March 18th. Marched thirty-five miles, passed Court House and Chimney Rocks, camped at Ficklands Station.

Sabbath, March 19th, 1865. Marched thirty-three miles, passed Scotts Bluffs and Fort Mitchell and camped at Horse Creek.

Monday, March 20th. Marched forty miles and ar-

rived at Fort Laramie.

Tuesday, March 21st. Fitted up quarters. Remained till Wednesday May 3rd. Left Fort Laramie, marched twelve miles, camped on Platte.

Thursday, May 4th. Marched twenty-eight miles, camped two miles above Horse Shoe Station on Horse Shoe Creek.

Friday, May 5th. Marched twenty-eight miles, camped on Saparel Creek three miles above Labonta Station and Creek.

Saturday, May 6th. Marched forty miles and camped six miles above Deer Creek Station and Creek.

Sabbath, May 7th, 1865. Marched twenty-five miles, arrived at Platte Bridge, camped two miles above on opposite side of river.

Monday, May 8th. Left Platte at 7 p. m. Rained and snowed all night, marched twenty-five miles.

Tuesday, May 9th. Marched eighteen miles, camped on Antelope Creek. Snowed all day and night. No fuel but sage brush.

Wednesday, May 10th. Marched forty-five miles, camped on Lick Creek. Sage brush, grease wood and alkali.

Thursday, May 11th. Marched fifty miles over sandy plains and alkali. Passed near Power River and Wind River Ranges of mountains. Camped on Desert Plains.

Game Along March

Friday, May 12th, 1865. Marched ten miles. Camped on Spring Creek, good grass and water—Moved Camp, same day Bat. left column marched eight miles and camped in Mountain Canyon. Good water and grass; several antelope killed.

Saturday, 13th May, 1865. Marched down the Mountain Canyon and camped. Boys killed more antelope than could be used or carried along, saw herds of buffalo.

Sabbath, May 14th. Marched fifteen miles along the base of Willow Creek mountains and camped in canyon on the mountain slope—saw bears, panthers, mountain sheep and antelope; several of the latter killed; had an encounter with a bear.

Monday, May 15th, 1865. Marched twenty miles. Camped on Antelope Creek, (Capt. sick).

Tuesday, May 16th. Marched twenty-five miles,

camped opposite Red Buttes on Platte River.

Wednesday, May 17th. Marched twenty miles, crossed Platte Bridge and camped on Muddy Creek.

Thursday, May 18th. Marched thirteen miles, camped at Lone Cottonwood.

Friday, May 19th. Marched twenty-four miles, camped at Big Box Elder.

Saturday, May 20th. Marched twenty-six miles, camped on Labonta Creek.

Sabbath, May 21th. Marched twenty-five miles, camped on Platte River.

Monday, May 22nd. Marched thirty miles and arrived at Fort Laramie and remained until the 11th of June.

Indians Around Fort Laramie

Friday, May 26th, 1865. "Blackfoot" and "Two Face" hanged at Fort Laramie.

Sabbath, May 28th. Mill party at Laramie Peak attacked and stock run off by Indians.

Monday, May 29th. Captain Cromie left for Fort Kearny.

Tuesday, May 30th, 1865. Lieutenants Parker and Akin mustered.

Thursday, June 8th. Captain John A. Wilcox arrived at Laramie.

Sabbath, June 11th. Started from Fort Laramie with 185 Lodges of (Sioux) Indians. Marched eight miles and camped at Burdoes Ranch.

Monday, June 12th. Marched fifteen miles, camped at Cold Springs.

Tuesday, June 13th. Marched seventeen miles and camped on Horse Creek.

Wednesday morning, June 14th, 1865. "Indians Revolt"—Battle of Horse Creek ensues. Captain Fouts, Private Phillip Alder, Edward McMahan and Richard Groger killed and four wounded—Marched eighteen miles and camped near Fort Mitchell.

Thursday, June 15th. Attempted to cross Platte in pursuit of Indians, crossing impracticable, camped on Horse Creek Battle Ground.

Note:—Regarding the Battle at Horse Creek, Captain L. H. North says: " * * * the soldiers were escorting a band of Sioux,

Friday, June 16th. Returned to Fort Mitchell.

Saturday, June 17th. Started to Julesburg, camped near Chimney Rock. Marched some twenty-five miles.

Sabbath, June 18th, 1865. Camped at Mud Springs, marched twenty-five miles.

Monday, June 28th. Marched twenty-eight miles, camped at Pole Creek Crossing.

Tuesday, June 20th. Marched twenty-five miles, camped at Nine Mile Ranch.

Wednesday, June 21st. Arrived at Julesburg. Met Colonel Heath.

Thursday, June 22nd. Laid over. Mrs. Eubanks leaves on Coach.

Friday, June 23rd. Marched twenty-five miles, camped at Beauvaix.

Saturday, Marched twenty-five miles—camped at Alkali.

Sabbath, June 25th. Reached O. Fallons Bluffs after an absence of three months and eighteen days. Cheered and cordially greeted by our fellow soldiers and regretting the absence of the unfortunate victims who had fallen.

Monday, June, 26th, 1865. Went to Fort Kearny in charge of Indian Prisoners—and remained there until July 5th. Spent the 4th in Kearney as pleasantly as possible under the circumstances—hope circumstances will be more favorable to me next 4th of July (if spared).

Started on the 5th for O. Fallons and arrived on the 9th.

Sabbath, July 16th. Mr. Osborn, Company "C" lost on North Loup Fork; spent the day in pleasant meditation and the night in pleasant dreams of home and far absent friends, wish I could hear from home.

Thursday, July 20th, 1865. Stock stolen above and below from trains.

Saturday, July 22th. Guards fire on Indians and thieves at early dawn.

mostly women and children, from Fort Laramie to be placed on some reservation. I don't know where. The warriors became so indignant at the treatment of their women and girls that they tried to run away the night they camped on Horse Creek and as usual a few of them were killed."

Wednesday, July, 26, Platte Bridge attacked by Indians. Lieutenant Collins killed (Company "M" 11th O. V. Cavalry).

Erection of Fort Heath

Friday, July 28th 1865. Commenced erection of **Fort Heath**.

* * *

Tuesday, September 5th, 1865. On scout with Lieutenant Akin to Mud Creek; saw fresh signs of Indians.

Sabbath, September 24, 1865. On scout up Bird Creek.

Monday, September 25th. Commenced adobe kitchen.

Train of 200 mountain pilgrims attacked on Pole Creek by Indians and 107 horses and mules stampeded and stolen.

Wednesday, September 27th. Wm. Osborn, Company "C" 2nd Missouri Cavalry found on Loup Fork by Company "E" 7th Iowa Cavalry.

Saturday, September 30th, 1865. Train attacked near Bakers Ranch. James H. Temple killed, Anthony Shilling, James Cleland, Alfred Acres wounded.

Saturday, October 21st, 1865. Train attacked at Lillian Springs C. T. One man killed and three wounded; nine Indians killed. Left for Julesburg.

Sabbath, October 22nd. Alkali attacked. Twenty-five soldiers killed (First Nebraska).

Monday, October 23rd. Left Julesburg with 3rd U. S. staid at Butts Ranch.

Tuesday, arrived at Alkali. Encounter with and escape from Indians.

Saturday, October 28th. Lieutenant Akin and Detchin left on expedition. Train attacked near Alkali. Train burned, oxen ham-stringed; four men killed and burned.

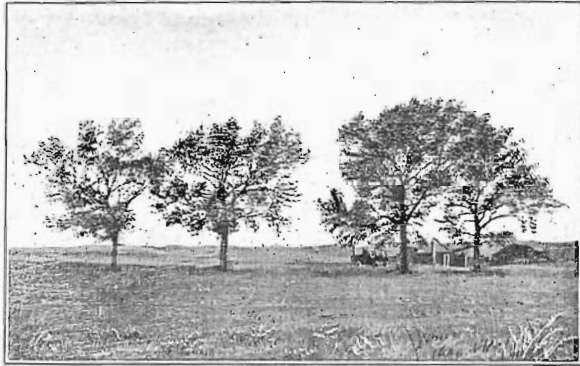
October 29th. Troops (forty-eight men) pursue.

Monday, October 30th. Overtake, whip and kill twenty-five Indians. One white man lost.

Wednesday, November 1st, 1865. Second battle on White Mans Fork. Train attacked and two men killed near Sand Hill station.

Thursday, November 9th. Alkali attacked.

Friday, November 10th. Colonel Fleming started with expedition.



Site of Old Fort Cottonwood

Monday, November 27th. Major Wilcox received his commission.

November 28th. Thirty-three started home.

Escape of Boy Captive

Saturday, December 30th. Major Wilcox relieved duty with Company "B" and assigned to duty in charge of 7th Iowa Cavalry. Expeditionary Forces, Special Order No. 76, E. S. D. Nebraska.

A boy some 10 years old escaped from the Indians (Sioux) at Republican River, 24th of November, 1865, and came to Mount Station on South Platte on the 28th of November, 1865. Clad in Indian costume and speaking the Indian Dialect, he knows not who were his parents—where he was taken prisoner, nor the length of his captivity—he supposes that his parents were killed and he taken captive by the Indians in his infancy. He is now with Lieutenant Sallee, 13th Missouri Cavalry.

January 1st, 1866, at Fort Cottonwood on duty as Q. M. Sergeant of Expeditionary Force under Lieutenant Akin, A. H. Q. M. New Year's Eve Ball at Judge McDonalds "**Boys all Gay and Festive.**"

January 5th. Lieutenant Akin relieved from duty as A. H. Q. M., consequently I as his Sergeant will return with him to Fort Heath.

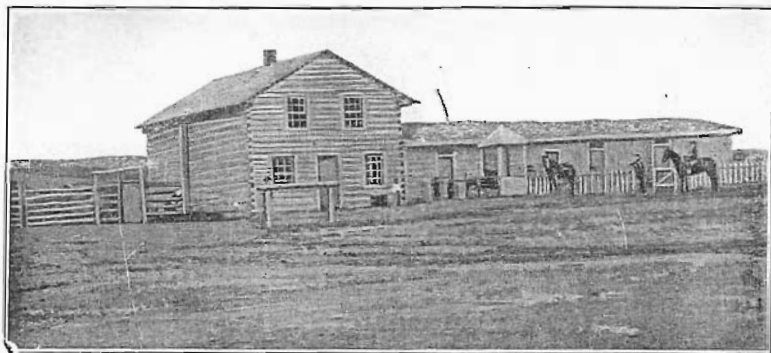
January 6th. Expeditionary forces left Fort Cottonwood numbering in all about 700 men, camped on Medicine Lake Creek—marched twenty-five miles.

January 7th, 1866. Marched twenty-five miles and camped on Mitchells Fork.

January 8th. Marched twenty-eight miles, and camped on Hankins Fork.

January 9th. Marched five miles. Foggy—company guides. Lieutenant Beldan lost today. Two elk killed.

January 10th. Marched ten miles, camped on Browns Fork; day clear, two buffalo and one elk killed. Bridged Creek at Berkadi Bute. Beldan still lost.



McDonald's Ranch, 1860's, at the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon, established in 1859 by Charles McDonald.

January 11th. Marched fifteen miles, day foggy continued. Lost way guide. Lost Beldan joined. Camped on Republican. Twelve buffalo killed. Very cold and windy.

January. 12th. Marched four miles, reached Camp Wheaton.

January 13th. Train started for Cottonwood and Scouts sent out and quarters commenced.

January 16th. Fight with Indians on Sappa-Creek.

January 17th. Three scouting parties returned. Same day I returned to Fort Heath with Lieutenant Akin.

January 18th, 1866. Expeditionary Forces ordered back to Cottonwood.

January 19th. Too cold to move.

January 20th. Resumed labour on Hospital.

January 21st. Sent trains for corn. Day pleasant.

January 22nd. Finished Hospital. Ten wagons came.

January 23rd. Courier brought mail. Two scouting parties sent out.

January 24th. Courier sent to Cottonwood. Day clear and pleasant.

January 28th. Rolly of Company "H" 7th Iowa Cavalry killed on Blackwater.

January 29th. Sergeant Hiles returned from scout on Blackwater.

January 30th. Started for Solomon River. Marched twenty-two miles, camped on Big Beaver.

January 31st. Marched fifteen miles, camped on Blackwater.

February 1st. Marched eighteen miles, camped on Prairie Dog Creek.

Buffalo

February 2nd, 1866. Marched twenty-five miles, camped on Solomon River. Struck Indian Trail. Buffalo ran through Camp.

February 3rd. Followed trail ten miles down River; issued rations and ammunition and sent train back.

February 4th. Snow storm last night, very cold. Marched one mile and camped in brush thicket.

February 5th. Marched eighteen miles and camped on Solomon. Lost trail. Killed three buffaloes.

February 6th. Scouts sent out, found trail eight miles up stream going north. Camped, did not move.

February 7th. Marched thirty miles, camped on North Solomon River.

February 8th. Marched thirty miles, camped on Big Beaver.

February 9th. Marched twenty-five miles, crossed the Republican River and arrived at Camp Wheaton.

February 10th, 1866. Dreamed last night of seeing **My Wife**, looking well and in fine spirits—also our dear Little Flock—"All Gay and Festive."

February 12th. Snowed last night—started for Cottonwood, marched fifteen miles, camped on Browns Fork Republican. Day very cold.

February 13th. Marched twenty-five miles and camped on Medicine Lake Creek. (Weather extremely cold).

February 14th. Still very cold and storming. Remained in Camp. Colonel Brown went to Cottonwood.

Frontier "Leave"

February 15th. Remained in Camp. (Cold). Three of Company "H" deserted in evening.

February 16th. Camp attacked at 1 a. m. by 100 Indians. Regular company sent back to Camp Wheaton. Lieutenant Hance, First Nebraska Cavalry went back with train. Lieutenant Dye, H. H. Q. M., came with train of supplies. Day pleasant.

February 17th. Day clear and pleasant.

February 18th. Started enroute for Fort Cottonwood. Marched fifteen miles, camped on North Medicine Lake Creek.

February 19th. Marched twenty-two miles and arrived at Cottonwood.

February 20th. Expeditionary troops disbanded, started for Fort Heath.

February 21st. Major Wilcox arrived at Fort Heath amid the cheers of C. B.

February 23rd. Lieutenant Potter, Company "A" and twenty men arrived at Fort Heath.

February 28th. Mustered for pay.

Savage Warfare

March 1st. The head of our fellow soldier, Horace Blanchard found and buried Military Honours.

February (March?) 6th, 1866. Major Wilcox called for volunteers to cross the Platte in search of the remains of Blanchard. Myself and nine others volunteered but one man turned back on reaching the River. Crossed both the North and South Plattes after some difficulty on account of quick sands and ice but failed to find the remains of our lamented fellow soldier (a victim of savage cruelty). (In company with three others, I caught two mules and one of the others an old horse in the bluffs.

February (March?), 7th. Returned to Fort Heath and remained until April 1st, 1866.

Sabbath, April 1st, 1866. In accordance with an order from Head Quarters of War Department, Washington City, D. C. Company "B" 7th Iowa Cavalry. Left Fort Heath at O'Fallons Bluffs for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for muster out. Marched twenty-one miles, camped at Morrows Ranch.

Monday, April 2nd. Arrived at Fort McPherson N.

T. Went into Camp with companies "A", "B" and "G", after a march of twelve miles and remained until Tuesday, April 10th, when we, with seven companies "A", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G" and "H" of the 7th Iowa Cavalry started enroute—for Fort Leavenworth in command of Major John Wilcox. Marched fifteen miles, camped at Gilmans Ranch. (Day clear).

Wednesday, April 11th, 1866. Marched thirty miles, camped at Pat. Molallys Ranch—night stormy.

Thursday, April 12th. Marched thirty miles, camped at Fred Smiths Ranch (day clear): Met Major Almstead.

Friday, April 13th. Marched twenty-two miles and arrived at Fort Kearny.

Saturday, April 14th. Horses inspected today.

Sabbath, April 15th, 1866. Anniversary of Lincoln's Assassination, (Major David arrived).

Monday, April 16th. Remained in Camp (all quiet).

Tuesday, April 17th. Major David, 7th Iowa assumed command.

Wednesday, April, 18th (Snow storm). Major Majors arrived.

Thursday, April 19th, 1866. Rained and snowed. Muddy and rough.

Friday, April 20th. Rained.

Saturday, April 21st. General Heaths and Colonel Carringtons "Reception." (Turned over horses).

Going Home

Sabbath, April 22nd. Made Muster Rolls.

Monday, April 23rd, 1866. Left Fort Kearny, marched ten miles, camped at Dog Town "roads muddy."

Tuesday, April 24th. Marched eighteen miles, camped on Big Muddy (Day Fine).

Thursday, April 24th, 1866. Marched thirty-four miles, camped on Little Blue River near Lemons Ranch.* Day clear and pleasant.

Friday, April 26th. Marched twenty-two miles, camped near Lieutenant Whitlock's 3rd U. S., day clear and warm.

Friday, April 27th, 1866. Marched nine miles, camped at Thompsons Ranch.

Saturday, April 28th. Marched twenty-one miles,

*Lemmon's Ranch, see account by G. E. Lemmon, in this issue.

camped on Big Sandy Jones Co. N. T. H. H. Ross Ranch and Postoffice.

Sabbath, April 29th, 1866. Marched twenty miles, camped at Rock Creek, P. O. Jones Co. N. T.

Monday, April 30th, 1866. Marched eighteen miles and camped Seventeen Mile Point, Washington Co., Kansas. Company mustered for pay.

Tuesday, May 1st, 1866. Marched twenty-eight miles, camped on Little Vermillion Creek.

Wednesday, May 2nd. Marched twenty-four miles to Seneca a thriving village on Nemaha River, Nemaha Co., Kansas (splendid country).

Thursday, May 3rd, 1866. Marched twenty-five miles and camped at Walnut Creek on Kicapoo Reserve. Country most beautiful. Fine timber. Near village of Grenada.

Friday, May 4th. Marched twenty miles and camped on East Grasshopper Creek, Atchison Co., Huron Postoffice. (Warm).

Saturday, May 5th. Marched twenty miles and camped on Big (blotted).

Sabbath, May 6th. Marched twenty miles, arrived at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Remained in Camp until May 17th. Then mustered out.

May 19th. Started for Davenport by way of Weston. Took cars at 7 p. m. Arrived at St. Joe at 12 m. Laid over until 6 a. m.

May 20th. Took cars for Hannibal where we arrived at 7 p. m.

Sabbath, May 21st. Took boat for Davenport at 9 a. m. Passed (faded) and Quincy, Ill., Lagrange, Ill., Canton, Mo., Alexander, Mo., Warsaw, Ill., Keokuk, Iowa, Hamilton, Ill. "Cheered by the ladies from every town," Burlington 12 m. Port Louisa 8 a. m. Muscatine, 9 a. m., Davenport.

No. of my Revolver 18938.

No. of my Carabine 11196.