



The Journal of an Indian Fighter: the 1869 Diary of Major Frank J. North

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Article Summary: After North learned the language of the Pawnee and earned their trust, he led Pawnee scouts in the Indian Wars. His brief diary entries describe distances travelled and numbers of Indians killed or taken prisoner. General Carr's more detailed record is provided in footnotes.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Frank Joshua North, Luther ("Lute) Heddon North, Mary Louise Smith North, James E North, E A Carr, Thomas Duncan, Chief Tall Bull, William Cody, S R Curtis

Nebraska Place Names: Pawnee Reservation, Nancy County; Columbus; Fort McPherson, Lincoln County

Keywords: Republican River Expeditions, Union Pacific Railroad

Photographs / Images: Frank J North in his uniform as major of cavalry (1867); North in civilian clothes; Mary Louise Smith North; Thomas North (father of Frank J North); Jane Townley North (mother); Luther H North (brother); E A Carr, commander of the Republican River Expedition of June-July 1869; artifacts from the Plains Indian Wars; Man and Chief; Pawnee Killer; Pawnee scouts (2 views); map indicating lines of march of scouting parties in the Department of the Platte in 1868 and 1869

THE JOURNAL OF AN INDIAN FIGHTER
THE 1869 DIARY OF MAJOR
FRANK J. NORTH

EDITED BY DONALD F. DANKER

DURING the Civil War and for over a decade thereafter a series of actions was fought between United States forces and the Plains Indian tribes which were resisting the westward penetration of the whites. These Indian campaigns have affected our traditions, literature, and history and rank high among the historical topics which command the interest of historians and the general public. There emerged from this conflict many colorful individuals and groups of fighting men. Not the least of these were Frank North and his Pawnee Scouts.

Frank Joshua North, a son of Thomas and Jane Townley North, was born in New York on March 10, 1840. In 1855 his father and his older brother James came to Omaha from Ohio, and the remainder of the family followed the

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next year. Thomas North was frozen to death in a blizzard on March 12, 1857 while working with a surveying party west of Omaha. Frank and James North went to the new town of Columbus in Platte County in 1858, and the rest of the family moved there in 1859. Frank obtained a position as clerk at the Pawnee Reservation in Nance County at the present site of Genoa. There he became acquainted with the Pawnee and learned their language.¹

In 1864 a unit of Pawnee was organized for service with the United States forces under General S. R. Curtis on the Kansas frontier. Frank North served as a lieutenant on this expedition and in December of the same year was authorized to organize a company of Pawnee Scouts and to serve as its captain. This company served in the Powder River Expedition in 1865 and was mustered out in 1866. In 1867 North was commissioned a major and given command of a Pawnee battalion of four companies recruited for the protection of the construction crews of the Union Pacific Railroad. Two companies served in 1868, four in 1869, two in 1870, and one company was recruited in the final service of the Pawnee Scouts in 1876 and 1877.²

Pawnee warriors were anxious to serve in the scouts and they felt that Frank North and his brother Luther were their true friends. The exploits of the Norths and the Pawnee Scouts were being related among the tribe over fifty years after the last campaign had ended.³

Major North's diary was presented to the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1952 by his daughter, Mrs. Stella

¹ Clarence C. Sheldon, "History of the North Family," Ms. All manuscripts and microfilms cited are at the Nebraska State Historical Society unless otherwise noted.

² Robert Bruce, *The Fighting Norths and The Pawnee Scouts* (New York, 1932), p. 2.

³ Gene Weltfish, "Some Stories About Major North's Pawnee Scouts as Reported to Gene Weltfish by Mark Evarts at Pawnee, Oklahoma, 1928-30," Ms.

North Chambers of Columbus, Nebraska.⁴ The diary covers the year 1869. In that year the Pawnee Scouts participated in the Republican River Expeditions under Brevet Major General E. A. Carr in June and July and under Brevet Brigadier General Thomas Duncan in September and October. Several skirmishes were fought, the chief action being the destruction of the Cheyenne village of Chief Tall Bull at Summit Springs on July 11, 1869.⁵

Major North's entries, though often terse, provide a record of military activities and give a description of day-to-day events in the field and in the frontier forts. They also illuminate social and economic activities in the town of Columbus, Nebraska. The impact of the newly built transcontinental railroad upon frontier development is apparent from numerous diary entries. The use of the railroad to transport troops, officers and horses underscores its military value in providing mobility to the military forces in operation on the Plains. North's frequent business and pleasure trips to Omaha and other points illustrate the social and economic opportunities that the railroad brought to the frontier communities along its route.

There was a difference of opinion as to the military value of the Pawnee Scouts. Their military manners, appearance, and discipline were a far cry from the well drilled units of the regular army, and some officers were doubtful as to the wisdom of their use. Two reports by General E. A. Carr, one made near the beginning of a campaign and the other at its close illustrate the first impression and final evaluation of the Pawnee Scouts by a noted Indian fighter

⁴ The editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance and advice in matters pertaining to the diary and its publication of Mr. Clarence C. Sheldon of Columbus and Miss Marguerette Burke of Omaha.

⁵ James T. King, "The Republican River Expedition, June-July, 1869" (M. A. thesis, University of Nebraska, 1957). This thesis is a detailed study of the Republican River campaign of 1869. A major portion of the work is drawn from the records of the War Department.

of the regular army. On June 17, 1869 Carr wrote of the Pawnee: "They are rather lazy and shiftless, but I hope to make use of their Indian qualities. I would, however, like to exchange all but thirty of them for good cavalry soldiers." However, at the close of the campaign and after the battle of Summit Springs, he reported, "The Pawnees under Major Frank North were of the greatest service to us throughout the campaign. This is the first time since coming west that we have been supplied with Indian Scouts and the results have shown their value."⁶

Frank and Luther North ended their military service with the mustering out of the final company of Pawnee Scouts in 1877. In that year the North brothers formed a partnership with William Cody and established the Cody-North cattle ranch along the Dismal River in the Nebraska Sandhills. The Norths managed this ranch until the summer of 1882 when the partners sold their holdings to John Bratt. Frank North joined the Wild West show of William Cody in 1883. While traveling with the show he became ill and returned home to Columbus where he died on March 14, 1885. Luther North lived until April 18, 1935.

The diary has been reproduced with the original spelling and punctuation. In the few cases where an error in meaning has obviously been made the correction appears in brackets. Inconsistencies in the rank of officers mentioned in the diary are due to the frequent reorganization of the Pawnee Scouts and to the system of brevet commissions whereby an officer received higher rank during a campaign.

⁶ Gen. E. A. Carr to Gen. George D. Ruggles, June 17, 1869 and Report of Operations, June 20, 1869 to July 20, 1869, Records of U. S. Army Commands, Selected Documents, Hdqrs., Dept. of the Platte, Letters Received, 1867-1869 (National Archives and Records Service, Record Group 98, Ms., microfilm.) Hereafter these documents will be cited as NARS, RG 98.

January, Friday 1, 1869.

Happy New Year to all.

Today we ran around town all day had a good time and a big dance at night I did not dance much as Mary⁷ was sick

Saturday 2.

This morn Charlie and I hauled one cord of wood to the R.R. This eve Jim Galley⁸ & sister were here and we had vocal and instrumental music Started for Kearney tonight but was too late for train which pleased Mary.

Sunday 3.

Started on No 1 this morn for Kearney arrived at 3.15 found a saddle mule for me sent by my friend McCauley Crossed the river and had a good visit with Mc

January, Monday 4, 1869.

Today we spent the day in the Fort and at night went to Kearney City⁹ and danced all night had a very good time.

⁷ Mary Louise Smith and Frank North were married on December 25, 1865. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut, June 3, 1845 and came to Columbus with the family of her uncle, Samuel C. Smith. She died on February 9, 1883. (J. Sterling Morton and Albert Watkins, *Illustrated History of Nebraska* [Lincoln, 1905-13], II, 177; Sheldon, *op. cit.*)

⁸ James Henry Galley was born in England in 1840. The Galley family settled in Platte County in 1859 after a brief stay in Utah. James Galley became a prominent merchant of Columbus. (G. W. Phillips, *Past and Present in Platte County, Nebraska* [Chicago 1915], II, 221-224.)

⁹ Kearney City was located about two miles west of the fort at the edge of the military reservation. It was commonly known as "Doby Town." Its residents sold supplies, liquor, and entertainment to the emigrants and soldiers. (*Nebraska Republican* [Omaha], April 18, 1860; *Huntsman's Echo* [Wood River Center], April 25, 1865; Violet Saltzburger, Ms., Nebraska State Historical Society.)

Tuesday 5.

This morn I took the ponies over on the Island and left them with the boys to feed Came home just in time to go adobe town¹⁰ after Tom Russell. Came home and wrote a letter to Mary

Wednesday 6.

This morn took ponies on the Island again and I went over the river to the Indian Camp Came home and we all went to adobe town again Came home at 6 o'clock and sat up till one had lots of fun.

January, Thursday 7, 1869.

Today I slept until 11 o'clock then got up and ate breakfast. did not go out at all today. sat up till 10 o'clock tonight. had lots of fun Tom full as usual had a theatrical play from Tom. very good.

Friday 8.

Left Kearney

Today had very little fun. day passed very slow as it was my day for going home. left the Fort at 3 P.M. arrived here at the station at 4½ P.M. will go down on the Passenger Train. Tom full as usual.

Saturday 9.

Arrived home this morn at 5.10 found Mary awake for me

¹⁰ See Footnote Number 9.

at the American¹¹ this afternoon we went over and saw all of the folks Jim North¹² and the boys came home at dark with wood. I went back to town. Traded property with Geo Clothier¹³ today also leased Earnst my mules

January, Sunday 10, 1869.

This morn hitched Dobbin to a buggy and Fred and I went up to Jims place and counted telegraph poles 168 in number got home just in time for dinner. Mary and I went up to my place this afternoon.

Monday 11.

This morning went over to the old house. packed up all of our goods and I took them up to the farm and then hitched Ginnie to the buggy and drove over to Charlie. Came back and took freight train to Omaha.

Tuesday 12.

Arrived in Omaha at 4.30 went to the St. Charles.¹⁴ after

¹¹ The American was a well known hotel at Columbus. It had been constructed by the Columbus Town Company in 1857 and 1858 and was purchased by Rosina Baker in 1861. (Donald F. Danker, "Columbus, A Territorial Town in The Platte Valley," *Nebraska History*, XXXIV, 281-282.)

¹² James E. North, the oldest brother of Frank and Luther North, was born in New York in 1838. He engaged in trade with the Pawnee and later entered the real estate business in Columbus. He served as sheriff of Platte County, mayor of Columbus, and state senator. He died in 1913. (Margaret Curry, *The History of Platte County* [Culver City, Calif., 1950], p. 835.)

¹³ George Clothier came to Platte County in 1859. He was associated with his father in the lumber business and later became proprietor of the Clothier House. He could speak the Pawnee language and carried on a fur trade with the tribe. (*Ibid.*, pp. 40, 644-645; A. T. Andreas, *History of Nebraska* [Chicago, 1882], p. 1276.)

¹⁴ The St. Charles Hotel was located in Omaha on Harney Street between 12th and 13th streets. (Charles Collins, [comp.], *Collins' Omaha City Directory*, 1868 [Omaha 1868], p. 140.)

Breakfast done my business at different stores and after Dinner Sumner Oaks¹⁵ and I went to the Bluffs got back just in time for west train. met Mary at Columbus and we came on to Kearney.

January, Wednesday 13, 1869.

Arrived at Kearney at 2 A.M. went to Bed slept till 9 got breakfast and left Mary at station Came over here on Walkers Horse. found the friends all glad to see me. had a very pleasant day and evening then went to bed

Thursday 14.

Today we loafed around the post until afternoon. then I went with an ambulance across the River after Mary and Mrs. Walker¹⁶ we got back here at sundown and after dinner we went to the Theatre it was splendid

Friday 15.

This morn ate breakfast at 11 A.M. then with the Ladies we called on Mrs. Sydenham¹⁷ then came over here to the station with the intention of going to Harnards but train is too late. Ladies had to get out of Ambulance twice. (6 P.M.)

¹⁵ Sumner Oaks was a clerk at the St. Charles Hotel and son of the proprietor, George D. Oaks. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁶ This reference may refer to J. F. Walker, aged twenty-nine, who was the railroad agent at Kearney City. His wife, S. M., was aged twenty-two. (U. S. Census, 1870, Nebraska, Ms., microfilm.)

¹⁷ H. Electa Atwood married Moses Sydenham in 1863. He was a pioneer resident of the Kearney area. He was postmaster at Fort Kearney in 1858 and after the fort was abandoned he was postmaster at Kearney City. As the editor of the newspaper, *Central Star*, he promoted Kearney as a site for a new capital of the United States. (Morton, *op. cit.*, I, 98.)

January, Saturday 16, 1869.

This morn Mary and I went up the road on No. 1. Mary stopped at Harnards and I went on to Willow Island.¹⁸ had a visit with old friends and came down on No.6 got Mary at Plum Creek¹⁹ and we arrived at Kearney at 10 P.M. went to bed.

Sunday 17.

Today we came from Kearney to Lone Tree on No.4 stayed with Joe Adams²⁰ all night had a good visit found him and folks all well

Monday 18.

Today we started for Columbus at 12 M. and arrived here at 3.15 P.M. found Jim & Lib²¹ here and in the evening Ma²² Charlie & Tom came from the Reserve,²³ Lute started

¹⁸ "Willow Island. A telegraph and passenger station 250 miles from Omaha and 20 miles beyond Plum Creek. . . . Here may be seen a few board and log houses with their sides pierced with loopholes and walled up with turf, the roofs being covered with the same material." (Bill Dadd [Pseudonym of John H. Williams], *Great Transcontinental Railroad Guide* [Chicago, 1869], p. 41.) Hereafter this work will be designated as *Railroad Guide*.

¹⁹ "Plum Creek. This station is 19 miles west of Elm Creek and 230 miles from Omaha. . . . It is a telegraph, passenger and freight station, named after an old stage station and military camp on Plum Creek." (*Ibid.*, p. 41) Lexington, Dawson County, Nebraska is now located at the site of Plum Creek.

²⁰ Lone Tree was a telegraph and passenger station on the U.P.R.R. It had been a station on the overland trail and was located near the present site of Central City. Joseph Adams was the railroad station agent at Lone Tree. (*Ibid.*, p. 39 and U. S. Census, 1870, Ms., microfilm.)

²¹ Elizabeth North, wife of Sylvanus E. Cushing, was the sister of Frank North. Jim was the nickname of Sylvanus E. Cushing. (Sheldon, *op. cit.*; Bruce, *op. cit.*, p. 40.)

²² Jane Townley North was the mother of Frank North. She married Thomas North in New York in 1837. (Sheldon, *op. cit.*)

²³ The Pawnee Reserve was an area of land thirty by fifteen miles along the Loup River. The village was near the present site of Genoa. (George Bird Grinnell, *Two Great Scouts and Their Pawnee Battalion* [Cleveland, 1928], p. 57.)

today for Fort Randell after his Horse²⁴

January, Tuesday 19, 1869.

This morn Mary and I went over to Charlies and had a good time. went with Tom and Eddie skating after supper Mary and I went home and I took the 8 P.M. freight for Omaha

Wednesday 20.

Arrived in Omaha at 6:30 A.M. 2 hours later after doing my commerce I went to Council Bluffs got my pass to Chicago and went back to wait for Col. Ransom.²⁵ went to Theatre. saw Mirians Crime & Mdle Lamour

Thursday 21.

Today started with Cols. Litchfield²⁶ & Ransom for Chicago arrived at Boone for supper and after supper went to bed in the sleeping car

January, Friday 22, 1869.

This morn took breakfast at Chicton and arrived at Chicago

²⁴ Luther Heddon North, 1846-1935, was Frank North's younger brother. His horse had been stolen from a stable on the Pawnee Agency and he learned that it was at the Whetstone Agency in Dakota. He related, "We started for Whetstone on the eighteenth of January 1869. We went to Sioux City by railroad and from there to Fort Randall by stage." After some difficulty he recovered his horse, a favorite named Mazeppa, and rode it back to Columbus. (*Ibid.*, pp. 167-173.)

²⁵ Brev. Lt. Col. Hyatt C. Ransom of the Quartermaster Corps was born in New York. He died March 16, 1874. (Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* [Washington, 1903], I, 816.)

²⁶ Brev. Lt. Col. Henry Gardiner Litchfield, Captain, U. S. A., was aide-de-camp and acting assistant adjutant general, Department of the Platte. (Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 293.)

at 1 P.M. instead of being alone as I expected I found lots of old friends and had a good time until 9 P.M. then started for Toledo

Saturday 23.

Arrived at Toledo for Breakfast went on to Monroeville and from there to Plymouth thence to Shiloh and then to Rome,²⁷ today I met any amount of old friends did not know any of them stayed all night at Dave Aziur

Sunday 24.

This morn Dave Nelse George Snapp and myself drove down to Hen Chires had a good visit. Came back and Nelse Joel Pifer and I went to Shiloh. I stayed all night at Shupes. had a good visit. talked Nebraska strong

January, Monday 25, 1869.

This morn went to Plymouth saw Louis North & family Telegraphed to Mary I was starting home. Came to Hillsdale [Michigan] stopped off there six hours had a good visit with Smiths and came on for Chicago in the night

Tuesday 26.

Arrived at the Sherman House just in time for a good breakfast. traveled around town until 3 P.M. then started for home got supper at Dixon took sleeping car

²⁷ The Thomas J. North family had lived in Richland County, Ohio, before coming to Nebraska in 1856. Rome was a village in Richland County. (Sheldon, *op. cit.*; *Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World* [Philadelphia, 1859], p. 1611.)

Wednesday 27.

got Breakfast this morn at Boone and diner at Dunlap and then skedaddled for Omaha. arrived at 8 P.M., bought my lumber and went to the Theatre and started home at 12 midnight on freight train

January, Thursday 28, 1869.

Arrived home at 7.10 A.M. just in time for breakfast, took Mary and went over the River gave the folks a discription of my trip and we all came over to Ira's.²⁸ stayed there to dinner. Came back for supper.

Friday 29.

today I have stayed in the house all day. the weather is too cold for out door business did not have much fun. tonight Lieut Bullock from Cannada came up from Omaha

Saturday 30.

this morn Lieut Bullock and myself went out through the country the Lieut is much pleased with our Country after dinner Doddridge²⁹ Cruchon Lieut. George Lehman,³⁰ and myself went skating had lots of fun. tonight I started for Kearney.

January, Sunday 31, 1869.

²⁸ Ira Mullen, forty-three years of age in 1870, was born in New York and farmed in Columbus Precinct. (U. S. Census, 1870)

²⁹ W. B. Doddridge was U.P.R.R. station agent at Columbus. (*Ibid.*)

³⁰ George Lehman, twenty-two years of age, was a clerk in a lumber yard. (*Ibid.*)

this morn Walkers team came and brought the Lieut & myself over here & we got horses and went to Doby town and had a good time Came home just in time for an elegant dinner at Dr Bradleys.³¹ tonight was made hideous by Tom

February, Monday 1.

Today we spent most of the day in our quarters as the weather is too cold to go out. Talbot³² came over with his pickalow and gave us some music. went to bed at midnight

Tuesday 2.

this morn still very cold. started over the River in an ambulance after breakfast, and got fast in the River. took the mules and rode over to the station had dinner with Mr. Walker. no train till midnight.

February, Wednesday 3. 1869.

Arrived at Columbus this morn for Breakfast the day is very cold. this afternoon Fred, George Barclay³³ & I unloaded a car load of Lumber I have not worked so hard for many a day as I did this afternoon.

Thursday 4.

³¹ Dr. William H. Bradley was a contract surgeon at Fort Kearny in 1869. (Lyle E. Mantor, Kearney, to editor, March 19, 1958.)

³² John Talbot, a native of Ireland, enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1855 and was discharged at Ft. Kearny in 1859. He acquired land west of the military reservation and erected the first buildings in Kearney City or "Doby Town." (Saltzberger, *op. cit.*)

³³ George D. Barclay was first lieutenant of Company B, Pawnee Scouts. (Muster out roll, November 10, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

This morn Fred Mathews³⁴ and I went over the River and brought my mules over and hauled my sills for my building over on the lot and tonight Mary and I went to Kearney

Friday 5.

Arrived at Kearney at 2 A.M. and Walkers folks got up and gave us a bed. this afternoon we went over to the Fort. Walker and I, we attended the show had lots of fun and went to bed at 2 A.M.

February, Saturday 6. 1869.

this morn we came over the River with five six mule teams Lieut Mc came along and I await the arrival of my mules. will go back to the Fort in the morning

Sunday 7.

This morn the teams came over from the Fort after Mac's supplies and I came over with them. on my arrival here I took a good nap and then got up for dinner had an Elegant meal

Monday 8.

This morn I walked out with Mac to see the Ponies they are all doing very well. I came over the river this afternoon and now Mary and I are ready to go home we will go down on the Passenger at 12 o'clock midnight

³⁴ Fred Mathews, 1831-1890, was a lieutenant in Company A of the Pawnee Scouts during the campaign in 1869. Mathews drove a stagecoach west from Columbus during the years 1864-1866. He later was a stagecoach driver in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. (Phillips, *op. cit.*, p. 215.)

February, Tuesday 9. 1869.

Arrived at Columbus this morn for Breakfast and after eating Fred took the mules and drove us over to Jackson³⁵ and Cruchon inspected our wood. had 133 cords came back and in the eve went to the dance had a gay time

Wednesday 10.

this morn I went to the Depot at 5 o'clock A.M. to take the train for Omaha but found the train ten hours late I went back home and at one o'clock P.M. received orders to recruit one company immediately³⁶ tonight I go to Kearney.

Thursday 11.

Arrived at Kearney this morn and crossed the River recruited 50 men clothed mounted and equipped them. all today. have got our horses all shipped for McPherson³⁷ hope to arrive there early and then return home

February 12. 1869.

Arrived at McPherson today at noon, marched over to the fort drew pants [?] guns amunition forage and Grub went into camp and it rained teribly. All got wet and nearly froze during the night.

³⁵ Jackson was a flag station on the U.P.R.R. between Columbus and Silver Creek. It is now called Duncan. (*Railroad Guide*, p. 38.)

³⁶ Company A was recruited and placed under the command of Luther North as captain and Fred Mathews as lieutenant. It took part in a winter campaign led by Capt. Henry Noyes, Second Cavalry. (Grinnell, *op. cit.*, pp. 177-179 and Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 753.)

³⁷ Fort McPherson was located on the south side of the Platte River near Cottonwood Springs in what is now Lincoln County, Nebraska. Established in 1863, it was first known as Cantonment McKean, then as Post Cottonwood Springs, and in 1866 it was officially designated as Fort McPherson in honor of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson. (*Nebraska History Magazine*, XII, 254.)

Saturday 13.

this morn started for Morrows ranche³⁸ and oh what a fearful storm we had, only went 2 miles and got our horses & men under shelter and stayed all night. the night is very cold and stormy

Sunday 14

This morn started Lute with the scouts for Republican³⁹ and I came across the River to McPherson Station and took an extra passenger train for Lone Tree got down to Grand Island and the train was ordered to stay all night. I slept in the palace car

February, Monday 15. 1869.

Started this morn after Breakfast and stopped off at Lone Tree. went down to the River but could not cross. water very high. stayed the ballance of the day at Adam's. left in the night for home

Tuesday 16.

Arrived home at 5.10 after breakfast I hitched my mules to the carriage took Mary and went to the Bridge met Chas & Tom and Chas drove home & I went over & bought

³⁸ Jack Morrow's road "ranche" was located about twelve miles west of Cottonwood Springs on the Oregon Trail. Morrow sold supplies to freighters and emigrants, traded with the Indians, and raised cattle. Morrow was born in Pennsylvania in 1831 and died in Omaha in 1876. (Frank A. Root and William E. Connelly, *The Overland Stage to California* [Topeka, 1901], pp. 208-210 and *Omaha Daily Bee*, July 7, 1876, p. 4.)

³⁹ The Republican River flows from its source in eastern Colorado through the northwestern corner of Kansas into southern Nebraska where it passes through eight counties before re-entering Kansas and emptying into the Kansas River.

a mule team came home & got my wagon together & then went to the Indian Camp ate lots of Buffalo meat

Wednesday 17.

got up this morn at 4:30 and went to the Depot but no train. went back & rode Zep around town & at 4 P.M. I started on extra train for Omaha. arrived in town & went to theatre it was not worth seeing stayed at St. Charles with Whaley, Speace & Barnum⁴⁰

February, Thursday 18. 1869.

got up this a.m. at 7—and ran around town and done all my trading and left Omaha for home at 4.20 P.M. arrived at home at 8.45 P.M. found Jim Albin at Columbus. took a good bath and went to bed

Friday 19.

This morn hitched up Minnie & Zep and drove down to the Bridge⁴¹ and from there went over and saw Ma the girls Charlie & Jim. Came home for supper.

Saturday 20.

Today I was going up the road but the weather is too cold will go up tomorrow. hitched up this afternoon & scraped the dirt away from my cellar

⁴⁰ The U. S. Census of 1870 for Platte County recorded Christopher Whaley, aged forty-eight, farmer; C. W. Speice, aged thirty-nine, lawyer; and G. C. Barnum, forty-five, farmer.

⁴¹ A pontoon bridge was built across the Loup River near Columbus in 1863, and the Union Pacific bridged the river in 1866. (Andreas, *op. cit.*, p. 1269.)

February, Sunday 21. 1869.

today I have stayed in the house all day, the weather has been very cold. Mary popped a lot of corn for me. I ate it in milk.

Monday 22.

today loafed around home until after dinner then took the mules & Mary & I went up to Mullens and spent the afternoon & took supper had a nice meal today the cellar to my outfit was finished

Tuesday 23.

This morn I took Zep over the River then Charlie came over with his team and I went down & saw him over the River again. took Mary too ride this afternoon and this eve we went to Mr Goodales⁴² to reading circle. heard Lute arrived at McPherson today all right

February, Wednesday 24. 1869.

today Jones returned my mules. I have not been out at all today. had a dispatch from Lute. I telegraphed him to come home tomorrow. tonight I attended the bridge meeting we propose to have a bridge.

Thursday 25.

today I have been in the house all day have been nearly

⁴² Rev. Samuel Goodale was born in Massachusetts in 1814. He came to Nebraska in 1866 as an Episcopalian missionary along the U.P.R.R. He located in Columbus in 1868. (*Ibid.*, p. 1277.)

down sick. went to the Depot tonight and expected to hear from Lute but nothing from him.

Friday 26.

this morn Lute came down and I went over the River & visited all day had a real good time and a good dinner which we all enjoyed very much. Came home for supper. found Frankie very sick indeed.

February, Saturday 27. 1869.

stormy weather

this morn I took my mules & went over the River after Mother to come over & tend to Frankie he is very sick. Lute brought Doll over & him & Jim Allen went to the Reserve. bought a nice pony today & had my little mules shod

Sunday 28.

this morn I went over the River after some corn and from there went to Charlies & brought Lib Tom & Olive over to the Hotel. Morse⁴³ team broke in and had a hard time getting out. Jim hauled the corn up with my team. Lute went west tonight

March, Monday 1.

this morn my hired man took the team & commenced haul-

⁴³ Charles E. Morse was the husband of Alphonsene North, sister of Frank North. (Sheldon, *op. cit.*)

ing wood for Bremer⁴⁴ I drove Doll down to Buck Island.⁴⁵ when I got back took Mary a riding then took Doll over the River & started her for Charlies. came home & spent the afternoon. my team hauled till 2 P.M. when the ice broke & they had to quit hauling

March, Tuesday 2. 1869.

This morn I went to Wells & got some Lumber and came back to the Hotel & was summoned as Juror on Remer & Cooks Case but I got out all right. my mules hauled wood all day. tonight we all went to reading circle I started for Kearney at 8.45

Wednesday 3.

Arrived at Kearney at 2 A.M. lay in the Depot till morn then had breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Walker then went to the Fort with Charlie Saw all my friends & then came home had a hard time crossing the River. I go home tonight. fearful weather today.

Thursday 4.

Arrived home at 5.10 A.M. have slept most of the day. not much doing in town today. had a very cold time coming down on the train. heard from Lute & Fred today. I gave Fred permission to come down tonight. today Gen. Grant is inaugerated

⁴⁴ Charles Bremer, a native of Germany, was one of the first settlers in Columbus. He was one of the early brewers in the state, operating a brewery in Columbus from 1864 until his death in 1875. (Phillips, *op. cit.*, I, 56.)

⁴⁵ Buck Island is located in the Loup River just above its confluence with the Platte. It is about one mile long and contains over three hundred acres. (C. C. Sheldon to editor, March 21, 1958.)

March, Friday 5. 1869.

this morn Jim Allen & I went down & brought up a load of wood and found the weather too cold to go a second time Jim Cushing brought my little mules over the River this eve then I took him to the bridge

Saturday 6.

this morn Allen & I went for one load of wood then I put Dick to hauling. Baker is using my little team today. Dick hauled three loads from Species wood, I went to the bridge & got load of blocks for foundation

Sunday 7.

this morn took Ma & Mrs. Whaley to the bridge. Mary went along then we came home & I went to Church. The eve Mary & I went to the bridge & got Ma & Mrs. Whaley. they had a nice visit over the River

March, Monday 8. 1869.

today I went over & scraped away the dirt from my house so they could raise it. then Fred & I went over the River and got a stove Fred bought of Ma. we had to carry it accross the bridge weather fine today

Tuesday 9.

This morn I got up at 4.30 & went to the Depot took the train for Omaha in Company with Gus, Barnum & Hoffman. done all my trading in Omaha then Gus drove me down to the Depot and I came out home arrived at 9 P.M. weather very cold tonight

Wednesday 10.

Today has been too cold to go out much. I drove my mules down to Buck Island to see the crossing it is very bad. I went and helped Fred scrub his house preparation to receiving his folk the weather is bad tonight. it is snowing some.

March, Thursday 11, 1869.

This morn I took my team down to the bridge and Charlie & Tom took them & went to Iras & came down to town with Henry Carriag.⁴⁶ this afternoon I have remained in the House. weather cold

Friday 12.

this morn took a walk over to the Depot and after dinner Barnum, Fred, Allen, and me played Cribbage until supper was all ready. the eve Mr & Mrs Field⁴⁷ Mr & Mrs Whaley and Mary & I went over to Goodales & spent the evening weather cold

Saturday 13.

This morn went over to my building & paid Wells for Lumber then came back and after dinner Mary & I went to Coolidges⁴⁸ and stayed to supper and in the eve Coolidge made a fine lot of Candy. Came home at 10:30 P.M. beautiful weather

⁴⁶ Henry Carriag settled in Shell Creek Precinct, Platte County, in 1859. (Phillips, *op. cit.*, II, 93.)

⁴⁷ Frank Field was a farmer, twenty-six years of age, and born in New York. (U. S. Census, 1870.)

⁴⁸ H. P. Coolidge was born in Illinois in 1835. After service in the Union Army he came to Nebraska where he was employed on the Pawnee Reservation. In 1868 he opened a hardware store in Columbus. (Andreas, *op. cit.*, p. 1276.)

March, Sunday 14. 1869.

today was very cold and I stayed in the house all day. Billy Harvey & Eagen came down from Kearney this morn. No news from the scouts as yet. I hope they are doing well.

Monday 15.

today has been very cold, my carpenters could not work. Chas & Tom came down from the Reserve but we did not see them as they went straight home. Doc Beebe came up tonight from Omaha Geo. & I went to Depot afoot

Tuesday 16.

this morn I took Charlies Furniture down to the River then came back and shortly Ma & Tom came over. they stayed to dinner then Chas came and I took them down to the bridge. Allen worked half a day today.

March, Wednesday 17. 1869.

this morn Fred, Gus, Mary, & I took a Carriage Ride, after dinner I went down to the bridge with Doddridge and then walked over to Charlies. his team brought me to the bridge & I walked home. Jim & family came down tonight

Thursday 18.

this morn got up at 5 A.M. and started for Omaha. Fred and I went over to Council Bluffs and met his folks. came back & Gus & I played a game of Billiards then had supper & this eve all went to Theatre. good time

Friday 19.

this morn went up and saw Gen. Myers⁴⁹ and did not get any money and had to come home with but little cash Gus drove me around the city & this afternoon Fred got a carriage & took his folks & Gus & myself all over Omaha came up tonight on No. 3 arrived on time

March, Saturday 20. 1869

weather pleasant

This morn Flagg took my mules and went to Union Creek he is going to work them a while putting in wheat. At 11 A.M. Mary & I went up to Iras with Jim took dinner & supper then came over the River J. Cushing met us at the R R Bridge

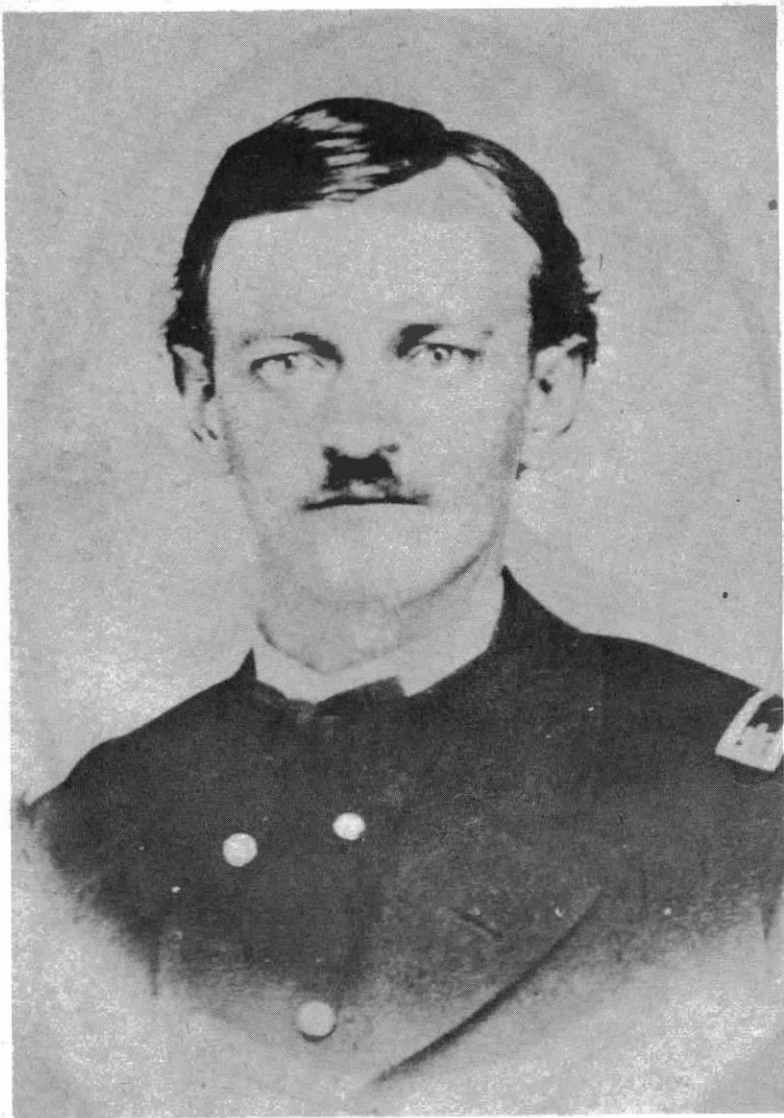
Sunday 21.

Weather Foggy. This morn Charlie, Jim, Lib, Tom, Mary, & I came down to the bridge and Ira met us. went up to Jennies took dinner then came to town. this eve went to church service good.

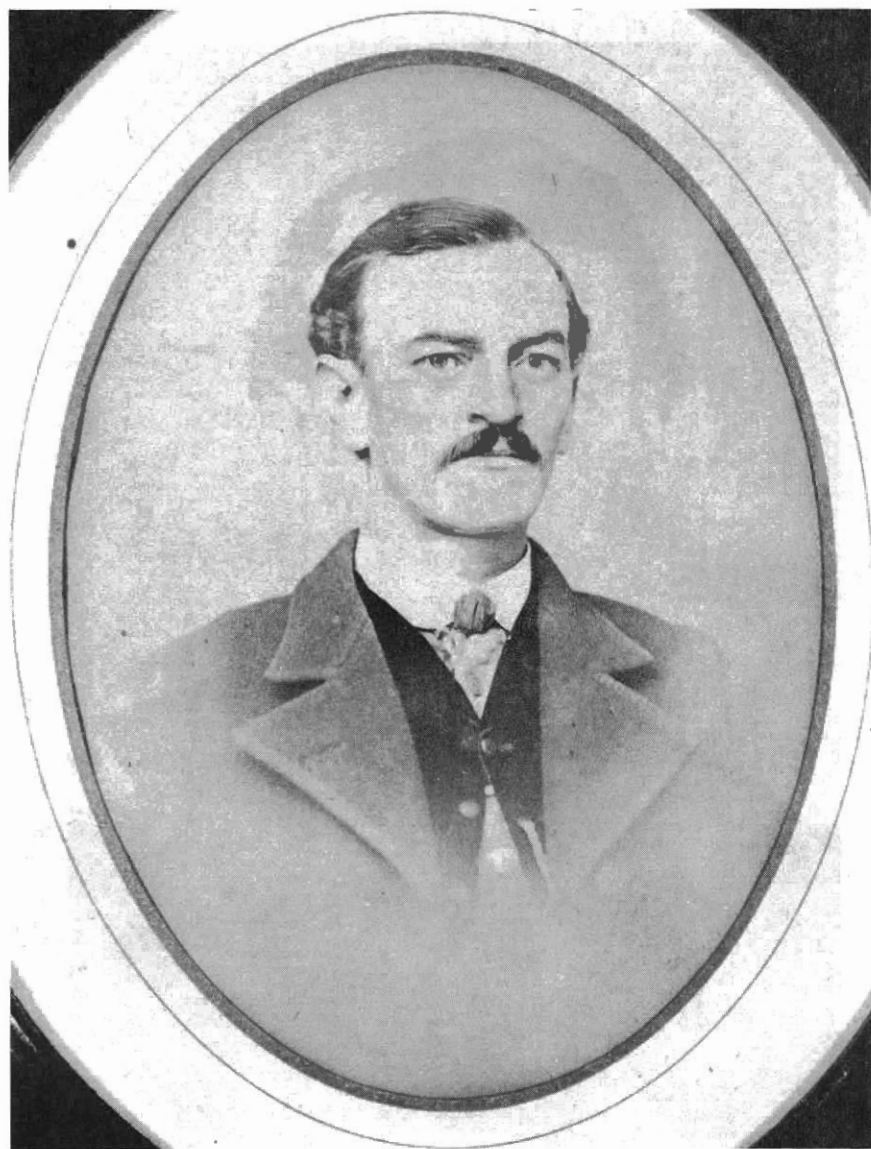
Monday 22.

weather beautiful This morn drove winnie up to my place & rented it to a farmer. Came home & after dinner went with Charlie & Jim down to the bridge and helped them get over their farming machines. Came home to supper. this eve we had a Grand council of all the chiefs. it is now 10 P.M.

⁴⁹ Brev. Brig. Gen. William Myers, Chief Quartermaster, Department of the Platte. (Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 293.)



Frank J. North in uniform of major of cavalry
(Photo 1867)



Frank J. North



Mary Louise Smith North, wife of Frank J. North



Thomas North, father of Frank J. North



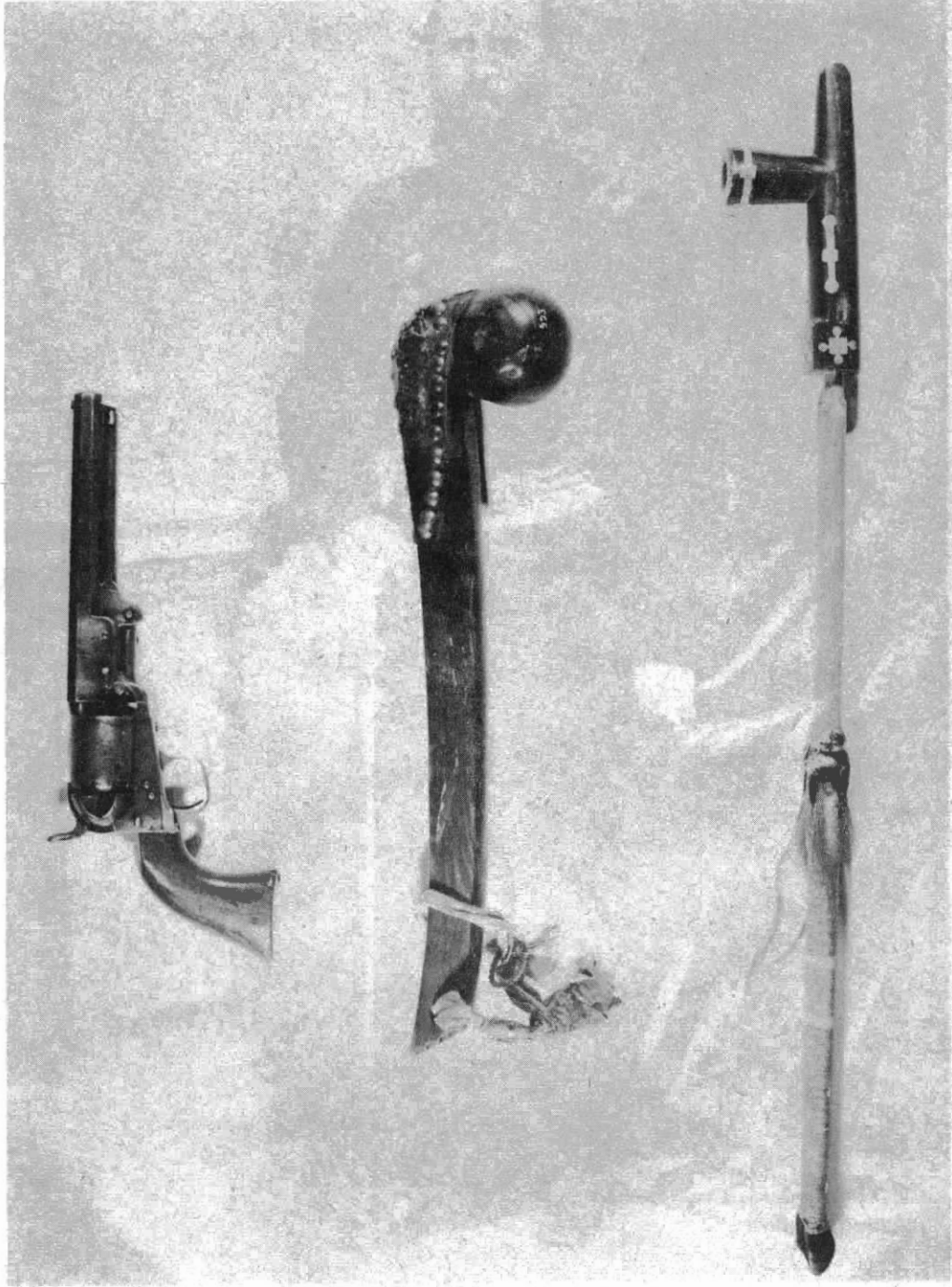
Jane Townley North, mother of Frank J. North



Luther H. North served in the Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry and was later associated with his brother Frank in the Pawnee Scouts.



General E. A. Carr, commander of the Republican River
Expedition of June-July 1869



WAR AND PEACE ON THE PLAINS.

Colt revolver carried by Major Frank North, Pawnee war club collected by the missionary, Samuel Allis, and Pawnee pipe, smoked at the Peace Ceremony (1925) between the Pawnee and the Sioux at the site of Massacre Canyon Battle.

March, Tuesday 23. 1869.

This morn Fred & folks Mary & I went over the River had a splendid dinner then hitched up my little ponies & took a ride up to Freds place came back & after supper Jim & Lib brought us to the bridge. walked half way home & a team met us & we rode.

Wednesday 24.

This morn got up wrong end first. have been nervous all day. Lute wrote that some of the boys had run away. Mary & I went over to Freds house. this eve Fred & I started for McPherson. I stopped off at Lone Tree & at

Thursday 25.

3.15 this morn I came back to Silver Creek⁵⁰ & got a horse & rode over to the village after my boys got them & came back at 5 P.M. pretty tired. I go to McPherson tonight. had a good supper at Kah Lo hah la shars house

March, Friday 26. 1869

Came up today arrived at McPherson at 12 M. walked down to the River and one of the boys went over the River & brought a boat over & we got over all right horse met me there. Came to camp. went up & played Billiards Lute got beatten

Saturday 27.

⁵⁰ In 1869 Silver Creek consisted of a telegraph and passenger station on the U.P.R.R. with a few adjacent buildings. It was located eighteen miles west of Columbus. (*Railroad Guide*, p. 58.)

This morn got up & beat Stowe several games of checkers. Then went up to the Fort & drew clothing for the men then played several games of billiards Geo & Lute beat Fred & I then went to camp ate dinner then to the station & tonight for home.

Sunday 28.

Arrived home this morn at 5.10 after breakfast I took a good bath and then read till diner & after diner took Mary out riding with Hen Welshs team & when we came back I took both Mrs Whaley & Mary & went up to Needhams for a ride. This eve we all went to Goodales Church. weather fine.

March, Monday 29. 1869.

This morn slept late and after breakfast wandered around town till after dinner and then took two cills over & fixed my house after that I came home. after tea Freds sisters came over & Mary & I went home with them & had a nice visit

Tuesday 30.

This morn walked over to Charlies then rode Zep to the bridge & came up on hand car and this eve Mary & I went to the bridge with Lib & Tom & Jim & Chas. Ma came over tonight, I went up to Muries⁵¹ tonight just got back 12 M

⁵¹ James Murie was listed as a farmer, born in Scotland, in the Census of 1870. He served as a captain in the Pawnee Scouts and married a Pawnee woman. He died in the Grand Island Nebraska Soldiers' Home. His son, James Murie, was graduated from Carlisle Indian School and was interested in the preservation of Pawnee history and lore. (*Nebraska History*, IV, 16.)

Wednesday 31.

This morn started for Omaha with Yost & Murie & Pete. I stopped off at Fremont went on on the freight arrived at 4 P.M. done some trading then after supper went to the Theatre and afterwards played billiards till 12.

April, Thursday 1. 1869.

This morn after getting my money I had a few games of billiards and then started for home. train two hours late arrived home at 10 P.M.

Friday 2.

This morn started for Union Creek after my team only went little way & found they were coming. Came back home & after dinner went over the River. Came home in an awful storm it is now 9 P.M. and somewhat plasant.

Saturday 3.

This morn started for Omaha with four Pawnee Cheifs expecting to go to Fort Harker.⁵² got a dispatch from Gen Auger⁵³ stating that he was bringing the Prisoners. I came out home on the freight arrived at 2 A.M.

⁵² Fort Harker was located in Kansas on the Smoky Hill River near the crossing of the Old Santa Fe Stage Road. (Thomas H. S. Hamersly, *Complete Regular Army Register* [Washington, 1880], Part II, p. 136.)

⁵³ Brev. Maj. Gen. Christopher Columbus Augur was commander of the Department of the Platte in 1869. He was born in 1821 and died in 1898 after a career which included action in the Civil War and the Indian Wars. (*Dictionary of American Biography* [New York, 1943], I, 427-428.)

April, Sunday 4. 1869.

This morn took mule & pony & drove over the Bluffs to look at land found some nice desirable locations. arrived home just as Charlie Jim & the girls came over. in the eve drove them down to the Bridge my pony gave out.

Monday 5.

This morn intended to go to Omaha but did not get up. passed most of the day pitching quates⁵⁴ this eve went to the theatre, to see Fanny Morgan Phelps had lots of fun weather pleasant

Tuesday 6.

This morn went to Omaha and had a talk with General Auger. did not get much encouragement, came out home on No. 3 arrived at 9 P.M. found everything all right.

April, Wednesday 7. 1869.

This morn Bart took Mary & I down to the bridge and we were lucky enough to find a team there which we drove up to Charlies where we stayed to dinner & supper then we came home. Rickleys⁵⁵ team met us at the bridge.

Thursday 8.

This morn got Darlings team & went over to Pete Beckers⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Quoits is a game similar to horseshoes, played by pitching a flat disk at a fixed point.

⁵⁵ John Rickly was one of the founders of Columbus. He established a saw mill there in 1857. (Danker, *op. cit.*, pp. 278 and 279.)

⁵⁶ John P. (Pete) Becker, a member of the party that founded Columbus, established the first grist mill in the community. (Phillips, *op. cit.*, p. 56.)

mill ate dinner at Beebes after dinner rode up the Creek & came home. then went over to my building it is progressing slowly Jim North came down tonight

Friday 9.

this morn I sold my little mules to Tiffany⁵⁷ and after dinner I went over & cleaned up my Room for the dance No ladies came and we had to abandon the Idea. Lute came down this morn, he went over the River. Jim North went home today

April, Saturday 10. 1869.

This morn went over to my Hall with Bowman⁵⁸ & arranged for the Bar then came home & took a ride on the mule. After dinner made arrangements for a dance and we had a fine one. lots of fun weather cloudy

Sunday 11.

This foresnoon I put on some clean duds and lay around the house till after dinner then went over the River and sold my ponies and brought them accross the River & this eve sold three mules wagon & harness to Tiffany

Monday 12.

This morn got up at 4.30 & went to Omaha and bought the glass for my front. played a little pool then left Omaha at

⁵⁷ In 1870 Joseph Tiffany was a farmer, thirty-two years old, and a native of New York. (U. S. Census, 1870.)

⁵⁸ J. W. Bowman was listed in the Census of 1870 as a saloon keeper, twenty-four years old, and born in Virginia.

4.20 arrived at home at 9 P.M. found the folks all well. I have got to go to Omaha in the morn

April, Tuesday 13. 1869.

This morn went to Omaha again and got there just in time to meet the Prisoners. They came up on the Glasgow.⁵⁹ I brought the men up tonight & they have gone on home.

Wednesday 14.

have been half sick all day. did not go out much Jim & Frank Fields came down from the Reserve today stayed to dinner & went back

Thursday 15.

today have been sick Charlie & Jim came over to dinner. Lute came down from the Reserve rode Eddies pony down. I feel better tonight.

April, Friday 16. 1869.

This morn drove Florence & the mule down to the bridge took Lute down & brought Charlie & Tom back then went down again and took Charlie & Tom & brought Ma back. this eve we ran ponies Kittys pony beat all bought boots of Dale Jim & family came over today

Saturday 17.

⁵⁹ The steamboat *Glasgow* operated on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers between 1862 and 1873. It sank near Bajou Sara, Louisiana, on February 3, 1873. (Charles P. Deatherage, *Early History of Greater Kansas City* [Kansas City, 1927], I, 456.)

Last night at 11.30 Mary was taken sick and gave birth to a fine Girl baby⁶⁰ this morn Lute went over the River and in the eve he went to the bridge & Charlie Jim Tom & Lib came over to see the new born they are all pleased and I am of course. Lute & Jim Cushing went to North Platte tonight

Sunday 18.

Jims folks went home this morn. I took the little ponies over the River today. went accross all right. Mary seems quite well today.

April, Monday 19. 1869.

was called up this morn at 1 A.M. Mary was real sick and I went for Doc and him & I set up till day light. we had lots of Callers today. just before dinner I rode up to the bridge then to my farm then home

Tuesday 20.

This morn went to Omaha with Joe Baker Yost & Negro Henry. the Negro under arrest for selling Whiskey to Indians had the trial and put the Negro to Jail. I got orders today to recruit another Company. Came home tonight & will go to the Reserve in the morn

Wednesday 21.

This morn drove over to Muries & got Jim Murie & we went to the Reserve to recruit but when we were ready

⁶⁰ Stella North, the child of Frank and Mary North, married Edwin Chambers of Columbus in 1888. (Sheldon, *op. cit.*)

the Cheifs said they must see their father so we brought two of them down & got Whaleys⁶¹ consent. so we are all right for tomorrow

April, Thursday 22. 1869.

this morn Jimmy brought his team down & we went to the Reserve again and today had good luck. got the Company full⁶² and will go down tomorrow.

Friday 23.

this morn drove over to the villiage and got the men & started for home. got here at 2 P.M. and this eve got two cars & have now got the men loaded for Kearney. I go up on the Express

Saturday 24.

Arrived at Kearney. This morn at 2 A.M. and after breakfast I came over the River with Col Litchfield and our party and at noon our men came and we drew our tents and teams & the men were mustered into service. I was over to see Mrs & Mr Doc Bradley tonight they are real well

April, Sunday 25. 1869.

This morn I drew & issued arms⁶³ & horse Equipments and

⁶¹ Charles Whaley was agent to the Pawnee. He was appointed in 1867 and served until 1869. He was succeeded by Jacob Troth. (George E. Hyde, *Pawnee Indians* [Denver, 1951], pp. 216-217, 221-227.)

⁶² See entry for April 20.

⁶³ North requested that the Scouts be armed with the "improved Spencer Carbine." (Frank North to Gen. G. A. Ruggles, May 9, 1869. NARS, RG 98.)

then we pulled out for Kearney station, arrived at 5 P.M. got tents put up and oh how it rained. farmers all looked pleased Sure. found Cushing here Lieut Cushing went down tonight

Monday 26.

today it kept on raining until noon. then Mac came over with clothing and after issuing it I drove over to the fort to exchange guns and get Bayonets for Picket pins. tonight I go home

Tuesday 27.

this morn I voted for Barnum⁶⁴ & then went to bed & slept till noon. After dinner Jim & Frank Fields came down & Jim & I went up to my place & surveyed out forty acres for Earnst to brake. Barnum is Elected by a large majority.

April, Wednesday 28. 1869.

today I have felt very bad and have been in the House most of the time. Jim & Lib came over after dinner and Lib will stay with Mary & Jim and I go to Kearney tonight

Thursday 29.

Arrived at K at 2 A.M. went over to the tent and went to bed. after breakfast took both teams & drove to the fort drew 31 days rations came back got in the River and about 4 P.M. started the Company out they are encamped in sight.

⁶⁴Guy C. Barnum was elected as a county commissioner. He took his seat on the board on May 3, 1869. (Minutes of the Board of Commissioners, Platte County, May 3, 1869, Ms. copy.)

Friday 30.

Arrived at North Platte at 6 A.M. just in time for breakfast Lute & Fred were in bed. I had the men clean up their arms and then had inspection & muster then we had some billiards came home and played cent anti⁶⁵ till bed time

May, Saturday 1. 1869.

this morn I was going down home but no train so I had to wait til 8 P.M. pitched Horse shoes some played a few Billiards and a few checkers and this eve started home had a poor sleep

Sunday 2.

Arrived home and found Mary & Lib up. had been up all night with the baby. she is real sick. After dinner took Mary out riding went down to the soldiers camp the baby is sick yet tonight hope she will be better in the morn

Monday 3.

this morn I went to Omaha and after a good deal of running around I got through with my business and came home on no.3. found the baby all broke out with measles.

May, Tuesday 4. 1869.

got up at 4.30 and went to Omaha went to the Court House and liked to have roasted Oh how warm. I came home tonight and found the folks better

⁶⁵ They perhaps played penny-ante poker.

Wednesday 5.

this morn went to Omaha again and after being relieved for one week Gen Auger ordered me to Grand Island to Guide troops to shell creek.⁶⁶ arrived at G. Island at 12 M got a bed at the Hotel & had a nice sleep.

Thursday 6.

got up at 7 and ate breakfast got a Horse of Mr. Orr⁶⁷ and rode to soldiers camp delivered my message and we started at 8 A.M. for Loup Fork arrived at 4 P.M. saw lots of antelope killed none

May, Friday 7. 1869.

At Jim Norths. I arrived here today after a long hard ride. This morn I attempted to cross the Loup 30 miles above here and got thrown into the River waist deep. Oh how cold. Could not cross came down south side and crossed here troops on south side

⁶⁶ A detachment of the Fifth Cavalry commanded by Maj. E. W. Crittenden was ordered on May 5, 1869 to establish a camp on Shell Creek in order to protect the Pawnee Reservation and nearby white settlements from raids by hostile Sioux. North was ordered to guide troops from Grand Island to Shell Creek. He was soaked in crossing the Loup River and became ill before reaching the Shell Creek area. He returned to Columbus and sent another man to guide the soldiers. He also arranged for the purchase of beef and other supplies for the unit. The force remained in the locality for the rest of the year conducting several scouting expeditions and pursuits of small raiding parties which were believed to have come down from the Ft. Randall area. (Gen. George Ruggles to Maj. E. W. Crittenden, May 5, 1869; Maj. E. W. Crittenden to Ruggles, May 8, 11, 1869; North to Ruggles, May 9, 1869; Lt. Robert Edwards to Crittenden, May 11, 1869; Lt. Henry Noyes to Ruggles [includes map] July 19, 1869. NARS; RG 98.)

⁶⁷ The U. S. Census of 1870 listed a Mr. Sylvester Horr, aged forty, as a resident of Grand Island and a teamster by occupation. A Mr. Horr is said to have been a horse dealer in early day Grand Island. (Peter Stuhr, Grand Island, to editor, April 9, 1958.)

Saturday 8.

this morn after breakfast I rode down & crossed the River went out and met the Command & brought them across and we camped tonight on Looking glass.⁶⁸ I came down home. arrived in time for supper

Sunday 9.

was very sick all day and am not much better yet. I hope to gain some in a day or two. Capt Wilson⁶⁹ returned to the Reserve again today with his supplies John Bloomfield went as guide. Bill Boman came up last night and put up his tables today.

May, Monday 10. 1869.

I am some better today and will try and go to my saloon this afternoon I did ride over with Joe Tiffany and played several games of billiards rode home at night with Joe. rained today. heard tonight that Louie Smith was shot.

Tuesday 11.

today I feel a great deal better. went over to train town this forenoon and also this eve. I sent Stowe⁷⁰ up the road tonight have not heard from the boys for one week. I go to Omaha in the morn if nothing happens

Wednesday 12.

⁶⁸ Looking Glass Creek flows through the western portion of Platte County and empties into the Loup River.

⁶⁹ Capt. Robert P. Wilson, Fifth Cavalry. (Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 1048.)

⁷⁰ Elias Stowe served as second sergeant of Company A, Pawnee Scouts. (Muster out roll, November 10, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

this morn got up and went to Omaha done all my running around and came home at night. Aunt Clara & G.P. came from Missouri tonight

May, Thursday 13. 1869.

today took Whaleys team and Mary and me went to Uncle Sams to the funeral. Came home in time for supper this eve I stayed out late almost too late for my good.

Friday 14.

this morn Mary and I went over the River had a splendid visit and I came home, left Mary & baby there tonight I go to North Platte⁷¹ and perhaps to Ogallala to see my men. two of them deserted a few days ago.

Saturday 15.

Arrived at North Platte for breakfast and then went on to Ogallala⁷² and am now at Kearney having returned here tonight. had a splendid dinner today lots of antelope stake

May, Sunday 16. 1869.

this morn I went over the River with Walker and got part of my pay and came back and went to Plum Creek this

⁷¹ North Platte is the county seat of Lincoln County, Nebraska. It was a boom town during the construction of the U.P.R.R., but by 1869 it had been reduced to "about 25 wooden and log buildings, including a jail, three stores, nine saloons, and three hotels." (*Rail-road Guide*, p. 43.)

⁷² Ogallala, the county seat of Keith County, is named for the Oglala Sioux. In 1869 it was noted that a company of cavalry was stationed there. (*Ibid.*, p. 45.)

afternoon and took supper at Harnards. Mrs. Harnard goes to Omaha tonight. I have to go through to get Pay Rolls

Monday 17.

Hired Wm. D. Farren, teamster⁷³ and sent him up the road tonight. today I done all my running and came home tonight found Frankie Whaley⁷⁴ had died at 1 A.M. today, I received money today for Co "B."

Tuesday 18.

today I went up to my farm and back. then after dinner I went to the funeral of Frankie Whaley. went up to the bridge with Charlie and Tom. Came back to supper and tonight I started for Plum Creek. no sleep tonight.

May, Wednesday 19. 1869.

Arrived at Plum Creek at 4 A.M. rode to camp and after breakfast started on the march west arrived at Willow⁷⁵ at 1.30 P.M. tonight I stay in Camp and leave for the west on No.3 paid off Co "B" today.

Thursday 20.

got up this morn at 5—and found Col Wright we got off

⁷³ William D. Farren was discharged as teamster of Company A in September 1869. (North to Gen. William Myers, September 13, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

⁷⁴ Frank Whaley, aged one, died of the measles. (U. S. Census, Death Record, 1870.)

⁷⁵ See Footnote Number 18.

at Brady⁷⁶ and went up 1 mile to Noyes Company⁷⁷ Col p'd off the men then got grub and went to Ft. McPherson I drew 4 horses and got my prisoner came back sent the horses down to Cushing and came to North Platte tonight

Friday 21.

stayed at North Platte all night and this morn brought the boy prisoner up rained all forenoon and after dinner I sent out some men and they killed six antelope we had lots of meat. the Paymaster came up this eve and tomorrow the men get paid.

May, Saturday 22. 1869.

this morn men got their pay. they are well pleased. I collected all of Jim's money for him. After dinner we pitched horse shoes and raised ned Generaly. tonight Fred and I started home. got some grub at old Majors

Sunday 23.

arrived home at 6 30 A.M. after breakfast I sent over the River for Zep and Doll. they came over and after dinner we drove to the Reserve, and are now at Jims.

Monday 24.

this morn went to the council and after dinner came home

⁷⁶ Brady Island was a telegraph, military, freight and passenger station on the U.P.R.R. eighteen miles west of Willow Island. It was named for an island in the Platte River. In 1869 a few fortified buildings constituted the settlement. (*Railroad Guide*, p. 42.)

⁷⁷ Henry W. Noyes was born in Maine and appointed to West Point from Massachusetts. He was made brevet major of the Second Cavalry in April 1865. (Hamersly, *op. cit.*, p. 668.)

and oh what a shower we had got wet through tonight I took Ma to the bridge and Charlie met her there. Fred went up the road tonight

May, Tuesday 25. 1869.

This morn went & fixed up business with Johnny Boman⁷⁸ he is to give me \$40-pr month for my house after dinner I went up to my farm & measured of my 40 acres for breaking. Eddie & Jim are here today.

Wednesday 26.

this morn Jim, Eddie Geo Lehman and I started for Omaha. arrived one hour late rained all day awful hard. we all went to the circus tonight.⁷⁹ had lots of fun Eddie enjoyed himself finely.

Thursday 27.

this morn after breakfast I strolled all over town and after dinner we went to the circus but had to come home before it was half out. we came up on No.3 tonight arrived at 9 P.M. Everything quiet.

May, Friday 28. 1869.

⁷⁸ It appears that North owned a building that he had fitted out for a saloon and that he rented it to John Bowman. On June 7, 1869 Bowman was granted a license to sell liquor at a location on Lot 7 in Block 86 in Columbus, property owned by Frank North. (Town of Columbus, Minute Book of the Council, June 7, 1869, Ms. [microfilm]; Walter Burgess, city clerk of Columbus, to editor, March 28, 1958.)

⁷⁹ Dan Castello's Great Show, Circus Menagerie, and Abyssinian Caravan was showing in Omaha on May 26 after appearing at Hamburg, Iowa, Nebraska City, and Council Bluffs. (*The Council Bluffs Evening Bugle*, May 24, 1869, p. 4.)

this morn got out my Croquet and we had a fine game. lots of fun. I took Zep & Doll over & had their feet trimmed and after dinner played Billiards Johnny Bomans case was decided today against him. I go west tonight

Saturday 29.

Arrived at Plum Creek at 3:40 a.m. and at noon Murie arrived with his Company. After loading Rations I came down to Camp and stayed all night with the boys had a good supper and some fun.

Sunday 30.

This morn rode up to the Depot wishing to go to North Platte on Castello's⁸⁰ train but was too late went up at noon and was to late for the show Lute came down on No. 3 and we all came to Plum Creek. I came on

May, Monday 31. 1869.

Arrived at home at 5:10 a.m. after breakfast got George to go up to the Reserve and I loafed around till after dinner then I took a nap and Mary and I went to Clothiers and Well's.

June, Tuesday 1.

This morn George Clothier and I went to Omaha. Geo bought a large lot of goods I loaned him \$200.00 and went his bail for 200 more. I came home tonight and tomorrow I go west

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

Wednesday 2.

This morn I went around and paid a lot of debts and then I went over the river with Charlie and came back in the eve. stayed with Mary this eve till train time old Bill got pretty drunk tonight. I met Wes Bennett on the train tonight

June, Thursday 3, 1869.

Arrived at Ogallala at 9 a.m. and at 10 a.m. I received orders to be at McPherson by Sunday night. I moved after dinner and we came to Roscoe⁸¹ where we are now camped and a nice place it is. The boys are on it.

Friday 4.

Moved this morn at 7 a.m. and arrived at Alkali⁸² at noon where we met Lieut. Wheelen⁸³ with 2nd Cav. going to Ogallala. we camped about 3 miles above O'Fallon.⁸⁴ I went down to the station on hand car and from there to Plum Creek on No.4 slept with Brown on the floor.

Saturday 5.

returned to North Platte this morn on No.3, and waited

⁸¹ Roscoe was listed as "a small unimportant station" east of Ogallala. (*Railroad Guide*, p. 45.)

⁸² Alkali was located in Keith County. The U.P.R.R. station referred to here was located on the north side of the South Platte River. A stage station of the same name had been located on the south side of the river in the same locality. (*Ibid.*; Root and Connelley, *op. cit.*, p. 113.)

⁸³ James N. Wheelan, born in Pennsylvania, was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy from New York and was commissioned a first lieutenant of the Second Cavalry on July 28, 1865. (Hamersly, *op. cit.*, p. 852.)

⁸⁴ O'Fallon's station was located in Lincoln County on the north side of the South Platte River across from O'Fallon's Bluffs, a well known land mark of the Oregon Trail. (*Railroad Guide*, p. 44.)

till noon when Lute came with his co. and I took them down and crossed the south Platte. Lute, Fred and George did not come down till we were all fixed in camp and Geo. and Fred were pretty tight. Lute, Geo. & I came back to North Platte and I came home on No.4.

June, Sunday 6. 1869.

Arrived home at 5:10 a.m. stayed with Mary all day and came back to Brady Island on No.3. Jim Cushing came along. I won 5 dollars from Bill Gisholt on the weight of a pony.

Monday 7.

Arrived at Brady at 4:30 a.m. found Co. "B"⁸⁵ waiting for me. we crossed the River after a great deal of hard work and arrived at the Fort at noon. I went back to Brady after wild ponies and to ship Indians horses home. returned to the Fort at 11 p.m. in an awful rain storm. 1 Bay struck by lightning.

Tuesday 8.

This morn went up to post and made arrangements for my outfit wagons and after dinner I turned in all my tents and just as I was ready to go to camp I got orders to go to Pawnee House⁸⁶ and enlist another company. Fred and I go down tonight. Gen Alvord⁸⁷ in Company. River high.

⁸⁵ Company B of the Pawnee Scouts was commanded by James Murie.

⁸⁶ The schoolhouse at the Pawnee Reservation was known as Pawnee House. It was a two-storied building 42 by 125 feet and was built in 1864. (Andreas, *op. cit.*, p. 1125.)

⁸⁷ Brev. Brig. Gen. Benjamin Alvord, Paymaster, U.S.A. was chief paymaster of the Department of the Platte. (Collins, *op. cit.*, p. 293.)

June, Wednesday 9. 1869

Arrived at Columbus at 5:10 a.m. Mary and baby are over the River. Fred got Dale's Buggy and we drove Doll to Reserve arrived at noon. have filled the Company and will start down in the morn. Skeedes^{ss} ponies came tonight from Silver Creek.

Thursday 10.

This morn got the Company together and started for Columbus met Col. Litchfield and he came back and we mustered the men in this eve we are to buy horses here tomorrow. rained tonight.

Friday 11.

Today have been very busy buying horses. have bought forty eight head have five more to buy. Mrs. Harnard is here tonight. she came to visit Mary. will go on up the Road tomorrow.

June, Saturday 12. 1869.

Today finished buying ponies and shipped all but one for Kearney and we sat up till 1 o'clock waiting for train. we had a poor sleep of it on the train.

Sunday 13.

Took breakfast at Grand Island and arrived at Kearney at 9:30 a.m. saddled all the ponies and took them off the cars

^{ss} The Skidi were a band of the Pawnee tribe. (Frederick Webb Hodge, *Handbook of American Indians*, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30, Part 2, pp. 589-590.)

and issued arms, clothing etc. am very tired, tonight, stay here having no train

Monday 14.

Charlie Walker⁸⁹ took a team and brought our traps to the River and then ferried them over we swam the River and drowned four ponies. we drew clothing, tents etc. and stayed at Kearney tonight. Fenton and Mac done all they could for us

June, Tuesday 15. 1869.

This morn we took breakfast at Bairds and then started for Republican.⁹⁰ Oh what a long dry march mules horses and men nearly perished. Marched thirty-five miles Camp on dry creek. plenty wood and water.

Wednesday 16.

Today marched to Dog Creek and came in sight of Carr's⁹¹ outfit I sent man with request for wagon. It came and we moved about 4 miles when a heavy storm sent us into Camp wet to the skin lost 1 horse

⁸⁹ Charles Walker, aged thirty-two, born in Germany, was listed as a retired country merchant at Kearney City. (U. S. Census, 1870.)

⁹⁰ North was ordered to go south from Fort Kearny with Company C of the Pawnee Scouts and to locate and join General Carr's command. He also carried dispatches to Carr. (Ruggles to North, June 11, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

⁹¹ The command had camped on Prairie Dog Creek 6.3 miles south, southeast of the Republican River. It was found impossible for the wagons to cross the creek without bridging. Carr ordered that the wagons be left with an escort, and pursuit was made of Indians who had attempted to stampede the command's horses and mules as they were being watered in the Republican. (Journal of the March of the Republican River Expedition, Consisting of Troops A, B, C, D, H, I, L, and M 5th Cavalry and A B C Pawnee Scouts. . . . Entries for June 15 and 16, NARS, RG 98.) Hereafter this document will be designated as Journal of the March.

Thursday 17.

This morn moved on and overtook Command at 3 p.m. all glad to see me. Camp tonight on Blind Bluff Creek.⁹²

June, Friday 18. 1869.

This morn I sent Gus and ten men out on scout down this Creek we are on I also sent 5 men accross the Solomon⁹³ to Scout south of the Solomon. None found anything of importance. I scouted north till noon, found one old Buffalo.

Saturday 19.

This morn moved at 6 a.m. and came back on our old trail to Dog Creek. I found a trail of one lodge made since the rain. perhaps we will have to follow it we marched 25 miles pretty tired.

Sunday 20.

Today we lay in camp all day have a fine place lots of wood water and good grass. rode over and saw the General this eve he is very pleasent in the morn I start a scout out at daylight to go up dog Creek we are camped about ten miles from mouth of this creek.

June, Monday 21. 1869

This morn moved at 5 a.m. and marched 28 miles without

⁹² The Journal of the March listed this camp as on a branch of the Solomon River, a creek whose name was unknown. It also noted that "Troop C of the Pawnee Scouts under Major Frank North joined here from Fort Kearney." (*Ibid.*, June 17, 1869.)

⁹³ The Solomon River is in northwestern and north central Kansas. It joins the Smoky Hill River near the town of Solomon, Dickinson County, Kansas.

water. have a very good camp tonight on Short nose.⁹⁴ nothing of importance occured except some fun riding one of our bucking horses. it threw Wallace⁹⁵ 3 times. finally a lieut. rode it all well no sioux signs.

Tuesday 22.

Today we marched 25 miles over hills and through ravines and finally camped on the same creek we left in the morn. I have a fine Camp here it takes 18 men to form a chain guard around my camp

Wednesday 23.

Moved at 5 a.m. Came accross the country to little Beaver,⁹⁶ killed lots of Buffalo had lots of ribs marched about 20 miles. Lute lost his pocket book with 95 dollars in it in a buffalo chase. I, Lute and several of our men went out after dinner and found it.

June, Thursday 24. 1869.

Moved at 5:10 a.m. this morn and came accross the country

⁹⁴ This camp was located below the divide between the Republican River and Prairie Dog Creek at a site where grass was not very plentiful but wood and water were in abundance. (Journal of the March, June 21, 1869, NARS, RG 98.) Short Nose and Prairie Dog Creek were the same stream. (See map on page 174.)

⁹⁵ Sam Wallace was first sergeant of Company B of the Pawnee Scouts. (North to Brig. Gen. William Myers, April 15, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

⁹⁶ The Journal of the March recorded that the command "reached a small branch running from the southwest to the northeast and flowing into Little Beaver Creek which empties into the main Beaver Creek about eight miles west of where the latter flows into the Republican River. . . . Camped on the south side of the Little Beaver." (Journal of the March, June 23, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

to big Beaver⁹⁷ here we find splendid fuel wood and water. the boys caught 2 horses and 1 mule today. one horse was the one I lost on Republican last fall. had a false alarm today.

Friday 25.

This morn shot one of our horses and moved camp 2 miles Crossed the Beaver and camped in a beautiful place, good grass, one of our Co. "B" boys accidentally shot himself in the leg yesterday and one in the arm today.⁹⁸ rained all day.

Saturday 26.

Moved camp at 7 a.m. marched in the rain all day made 15 miles camped on Drift wood Creek,⁹⁹ will go to Republican in the morn. Gus was over to Republican on scout, did not find anything. we saw a few Buffalo today, they came near camp. Water, wood and grass good.

June, Sunday 27. 1869

today moved at 7 a.m. and went accross to the Republican

⁹⁷ Beaver Creek flows into the Republican River in Harlan County, Nebraska. It passes in a northeasterly direction through northwestern Kansas. The Little Beaver Creek joins Beaver Creek near the town of Atwood in Rawlins County, Kansas.

⁹⁸ Luther North recalled that one Scout shot himself in the hand, the bullet emerging from the elbow. The wounded man refused to allow the surgeon to amputate the arm. On June 30 he was sent from the command to Fort McPherson and five days later when he reached the post his arm was infected and badly swollen. He was sent on to the Pawnee Reservation and the tribal medicine man treated his wound. When Luther North saw him again in the autumn his arm was cured except for a slight stiffness of the wrist. (Recollections of Captain L. H. North, Ms.)

⁹⁹ Driftwood Creek flows into the Republican River from the southwest. It is located in Hitchcock and Red Willow counties, Nebraska.

and there marched up the valley. had a fine road all the way marched nearly 29 miles. Lehman¹⁰⁰ is quite sick. the wounded men are doing well. we are camped near where Lute was last winter.

Monday 28.

This morn we moved at 5 a.m. marched 5 miles and camped I sent Barclay¹⁰¹ over to White Man's¹⁰² fork. he found train there and he came back tonight and brought lots of mail, 2 letters from Mary. oh ain't I glad to hear from her. had several scouts out killed 10 Buffalo

Tuesday 29.

today was busy all day getting ready to muster Sam Wallace out on Scout today he returned at 6 p.m. found trail pretty fresh. The train arrived today at 2 p.m. and brought lots of stores. we will live high again for a while.

June, Wednesday 30. 1869.

got up early and mustered all the men this morn. had inspection mounted and had some fun. Gus started out on 3 days scout with Crittenden.¹⁰³ drew five days rations today. the train went back today. I sent our wounded men and the squaw home, pleasant today. I sent mail to Mary today

¹⁰⁰ George Lehman was second sergeant in Company C. (North to Brig. Gen. George D. Ruggles, July 27, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁰¹ See Footnote Number 33.

¹⁰² Whiteman's Fork is now called Frenchman River and flows into the north side of the Republican River through Chase, Hayes, and Hitchcock counties, Nebraska.

¹⁰³ Eugene W. Crittenden from Kentucky was commissioned major of the Fifth Cavalry in July 1866. He died on August 1, 1874. (Hamersly, *op. cit.*, p. 382.)

July, Thursday 1.

today has been very dull. Gus returned at 2 p.m. found no Indians brought in a lot of nice calf meat. Jim Murie is quite sick today. received orders tonight to march at day light. Lute got all the Cowis¹⁰⁴ he wanted tonight.

Friday 2.

this morn moved at 6 a.m. and marched about 15 miles and camped on Republican near thickwood. Jim Murie is quite sick today I am real sorry I did not send him home with the train. The boys killed an antelope today

July, Saturday 3, 1869.

moved this morn at 5:30 marched up north fork of Republican River. I sent Sam and ten men out on scout they found trail of thirty Lodges. two white men went with them and one has not returned. George is out on little scout. marched 15 miles, good camp.

Sunday 4

Moved at 5:30 marched 25 miles camp on same stream as last night. sent Gus, Barclay and Wallace with 50 men out on Scout with Col. Royal¹⁰⁵ to follow Indian trail. Sam came

¹⁰⁴ Ka wis was a Pawnee delicacy consisting of a thin strip of tender meat placed with some water in a section of intestine, with both ends tied. This was roasted in the coals and was not unlike a frankfurter in appearance and popularity. (Gene Weltfish, New York, to editor, April 5, 1958.)

¹⁰⁵ Maj. Gen. E. A. Carr in command of the expedition reported that "On the 4th of July, believing that the Indians were near I sent Bvt. Col. W. B. Royall with three companies of 5th Cavalry and one of Pawnee Scouts, amounting to about one hundred men, with three days rations to follow the trail." (Report of Operations, June 30, 1869 to July 20, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

in tonight. nothing of interest from the camp. killed 5 buffalo today.

Monday 5.

today lay in camp all day no excitement drew 15 days rations. one of Lute's parties came in at 1 p.m. with news from Col. Royal. I think he has found the Indians before this time. Gus writes me that they are nearing the camp. one horse played out.

July, Tuesday 6. 1869.

today marched in a half circle about 25 miles. Sand till you can't rest. no news from Royal today. Sam and Bart¹⁰⁶ walked about ten miles for disobeying the q.m. Lute whipped Steve tonight. killed 8 or 10 Buffalo nice fat meat.

Wednesday 7.

today has been a great day for the Scouts. Gus returned at 2 p.m. with scalps from 3 Indians and 8 captured animals. 2 with U.S. brand which I turn in. 6 I gave to the men. I am in hopes we can find the small village in a few days heap of dance¹⁰⁷

Thursday 8.

¹⁰⁶ This reference possibly referred to Samuel Wallace, first sergeant and Barton Hunt, a teamster, both of Company B.

¹⁰⁷ Luther North described the action in a letter to his uncle, John Calvin North: "We followed right up the River and on the morning of the 6th some of our men that were out scouting ran across a small party of Indians and succeeded in killing three of them but it let the Indian camp know that we were in the country and the next day we lost the trail. . . ." (Luther North to John Calvin North, November 28, 1874, Luther North Papers, Ms.)

This morn moved at 6 a.m. marched 15 miles back to our old camp on north fork no game today. I camped on north side of Creek opposite the General. misquetoos very bad. went to bed at 9 p.m. and was awoke at 11 by firing in camp. five Cheyennes charged our camp. one of Fred's men was shot by our own men not bad.¹⁰⁸

July, Friday 9. 1869.

In camp on Becher's Battle ground.¹⁰⁹ arrived here 4 p.m. marched 30 miles without water and oh how hot and dry. the wounded man is doing fine. we have very poor water nothing but standing rain water. one antelope today.

Saturday 10.

this morn moved at 6 a.m. and followed Indian trail 35 miles passed three of the Indians camps. water poor. in the morn we move early and take 3 days rations on pack mules and light out for the Indians. we will have a fight tomorrow sure. I hope we may come out victorious. I shall be careful for the sake of dear ones at home.

¹⁰⁸ Gen. E. A. Carr reported, "About midnight, an attack was made on our camp by a number of Indians who charged in among the horses, yelling and firing into camp. They did not succeed in getting any animals or injuring anyone. Sergeant Co-rux-to-chod-ish (Mad Bear) Pawnee who was Sergeant of the Pawnee guard, ran out after one of the Indians whose horse had fallen and thrown him and was about to overtake and kill him when he was shot down by a bullet from our own side." (Report of Operations, *loc. cit.*)

¹⁰⁹ This camp on "Bechers Battleground" was evidently on or near the site of the skirmish on July 6 in which three Indians were killed by Pawnee Scouts under the immediate command of Lt. Gus Becher. The Scouts were a part of a scouting party commanded by Colonel Royall. The site was in the sandhills approximately thirty miles north of the north fork of the Republican River. It is not to be mistaken for the better-known site of the Beecher Island battle of 1868. Beecher's Island was in the Arikaree River over thirty miles south of this campsite. (Journal of the March, July 9, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

Sunday 11.

Marched this morn at 6 a.m. with 50 of my men and 200 whites with 3 days rations followed trail till 3 p.m. and came up to the village made a grand charge and it was a complete victory took the whole villiage about 85 lodges killed about 60 Indians took 17 prisoners and about 300 ponies and Robes etc.¹¹⁰ innumerable. rained pretty hard tonight.

¹¹⁰ General Carr's report indicates the considerable part that the Pawnee played in locating the hostile camp and in the subsequent Battle of Summit Springs. He wrote, "Next day [June 10] we followed the trail which led up the Frenchman Fork, passed two of their camps and encamped on a third. . . . They had left it that morning and I determined to leave the wagons and push for them.

"I took all available men; that is all whose horses were fit for service, and they amounted to two hundred and forty-four (244) officers and soldiers and fifty (50) Pawnee Scouts out of seven companies of the 5th Cavalry and one hundred and fifty Pawnees. This shows the necessity of having the horses well fed and cared for and of having extra animals on every expedition. . . .

"When we reached the breaks of the Platte Bluffs the Pawnees reported seeing two horsemen, and recommended taking the whole command into the ravine which was done. . . .

"We galloped about an hour through low sand hills and loose sand and saw no sign of Indians, and I began to think the whole [affair] was a humbug . . . when some Pawnees beckoned me to come to them, which I did with the command, though I had little hopes of finding anything. . . . The Pawnees pointed out a herd of animals about four miles off in the hills. . . . I thought it were possible it might be Buffalo but of course determined to go and see.

"The Pawnee stripped themselves for the fight, taking off their saddles and as much of their clothing as could be dispensed with and still have something to distinguish them from the hostiles. . . . When concealment was no longer possible, I placed the three leading companies in parallel columns of two's, directed Major Crittenden, 5th Cavalry to take command and sounded the charge. We were over a mile from the village and still undiscovered. The leading companies with the Pawnees on their left put their horses at speed while the rest followed at a fast gallop. . . .

"They [the hostiles] proved to be Dog soldiers, Cheyennes and Ogallala Sioux. I had only one man slightly scratched by an arrow. One horse killed and twelve died in the chase. [Fifty-two Indians were killed on the field and seventeen women and children captured.]

"The Pawnees under Major Frank North were of the greatest service to us throughout the campaign. This has been the first time since coming west that we have been supplied with Indian scouts and the results have shown their value.

"The place where the battle took place is I believe called Summit Springs." The Summit Spring site is located about twelve miles south and five miles east of Sterling, Colorado. (Report of Operations, *loc. cit.*) "This band proved to be 'Dog Soldier Cheyennes'

July, Monday 12, 1869.

Invoiced property today¹¹¹ and burned what we did not want and started on the march at 12 m. for the Platte River arrived in camp at 4 p.m. find good grass and plenty of wood such as telegraph poles. we are 65 miles from Julesburgh.¹¹² George and ten men went to Julesburgh with dispatches.

Tuesday 13.

Marched at 6:30 a.m. this morn came down the Platte 21 miles camp at River Side¹¹³ Fred's old stage station. good

commanded by Tatonka Haska or "Tall Bull" who was killed in the engagement after a desperate personal defense." (Journal of the March, July 11, 1869.) While there has been some dispute as to who killed Tall Bull it is probable he was killed by Frank North. (Grinnell, *op. cit.*, p. 198.)

1 56 rifles	319 raw hides	40 saddle bags
22 revolvers	361 saddles	75 bridles
40 sets of bows	31 mess pans	28 women's
and arrows	52 water keys	dresses (new)
20 tomahawks	64 brass and iron	50 hammers
47 axes	camp kettles	9 coats
150 knives	200 raw hide	100 lbs. of tobacco
50 lbs. of powder	lariats	200 coffee pots
20 lbs. of bullets	16 bottles	(tin)
14 bullet molds	strychnine	1500 dollars (in gold
8 bars of lead	85 lodges	and national
25 boxes percus-	complete	bank notes)
sion caps	125 travois	25 horses and
17 war shields	9300 lbs. dried meat	mules killed
17 sabres	160 tin cups	In addition 274
9 lances	180 tin plates	horses and 144
13 war bonnets	200 dressing knives	mules were
690 buffalo ropes	8 shovels	captured.
502 panniers	75 lodge skins	
15 moccasins	(new)	

(Report of Operations, *loc. cit.*)

¹¹² Julesburg was a station on the U.P.R.R. located in Sedgwick County, Colorado. In 1869 the place was described as "deserted, except as a point for receiving military supplies for Fort Sedgwick, four miles south and on the south bank of the river." (*Railroad Guide*, p. 45.)

¹¹³ Riverside was a stagecoach station and was located near the present site of Iliff in Logan County, Colorado. (H. L. Thayer, *Thayer's Map of Colorado* [Denver 1882]; Journal of the March, July 13, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

feed plent[y] wood. the Officers of the 5th Cav. selected all the best ponies and kept them. I have in charge 180 ponies don't know what will be done with them.

Wednesday 14.

Marched at 6:30 a.m. came down to antelope station¹¹⁴ on the Platte distance 20 miles. nothing of importance transpired today. roads good. Gus with 4 men goes to Sedgewick¹¹⁵ tonight at midnight I telegraph home also write. I hope I can go home in a few days.

July, Thursday 15. 1869.

Marched this morn at 6 a.m. and arrived at Sedgewick at 12 m. found a very poor kept post. did not visit the post tonight. will go up in the morn.

Friday 16.

This morn went up to the Fort and had 1 game of Billiards and came to Camp just in time to see Gen. Auger. we had a council today with the prisoners.¹¹⁶ the Gen. will take them to Omaha. divided the ponies tonight.

Saturday 17.

today loaded the ponies and left Julesburgh at 2 p.m. arrived at North Platte for supper Jimmy Murie and Jacob

¹¹⁴ Antelope station was located on the South Platte River near the eastern edge of the Fort Sedgewick military reservation. (*Ibid.*)

¹¹⁵ Fort Sedgewick was established in August 1864 at the junction of Lodge Pole Creek and the South Platte River. It was abandoned in 1871. (*Dictionary of American History* [New York, 1942], V, 55.)

¹¹⁶ Seventeen women and children were captured at Summit Springs. (Report of Operations, *loc. cit.*)

Haupt¹¹⁷ came down with me Jimmy is not at all well. One car load of horses died on the way down from heat.

July, Sunday 18. 1869.

got a lunch this morn at Grand Island and arrived home at 2 p.m. found Mary, Baby and Lib waiting to see me. am glad I am here again they are all well. Mrs. Murie met Jimmy at Depot. unloaded horses and traps today.

Monday 19.

this morn looked up some of the Baggage and put all the bal in the Depot. I am waiting for train to go to Omaha it is nine hours late. I started to Omaha at 11 p.m.

Tuesday 20.

Arrived at Omaha at 4 a.m. went to bed at the St. Charles hotel slept till 7 a.m. had breakfast and then went to see the Indians. they all act guilty of the McMurty Murder.¹¹⁸ I go home tonight on No.7.

July, Wednesday 21. 1869

Arrived home at 1:45 a.m. got up this morn at 7 a.m. and after breakfast delivered all the Packs to the Indians and then gave them the horses that were marked. Mary and I took a ride on horse back, went to Aunt Sarah's.

¹¹⁷ James Murie was captain and Jacob Haupt was a teamster of Company B, Pawnee Scouts. (North to General Myers, August 15, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹¹⁸ Edward McMurty, a resident of Pepperville Precinct, Butler County, was killed on an island in the Platte River by persons believed to have been Pawnee Indians. (Andreas, *op. cit.*, 453-454.)



PETA-LA-SHA-RA (Man and Chief), Pawnee Chief
(Photo, Bureau of American Ethnology)



Pawnee Killer, leader of hostile Sioux band



PAWNEE SCOUTS. Left to right, LA-ROO-RUTK-A-HAW-LA-SHAR (Night Chief) and LA-ROO-RA-SHAR-ROO-COSH (A Man That Left His Enemy Lying in the Water)

(Photo by Jackson about 1868, Bureau of American Ethnology)



PAWNEE SCOUTS.

Standing, left to right—John Buffalo, John Box (Fox), High Eagle, Seeing Eagle

Seated, left to right—Captain Jim (White Hawk), James R. Murie (son of Capt. James Murie, officer in Pawnee Scouts), Billy Osborne

(Photo 1911)

Thursday, 22.

this morn went around town and after the train arrived I went to the Reserve with Al to make some arrests. Bob and the wounded Sergt. came down today. arrived at Ira's at 8 p.m. Rose and I went to the villiage and served the warrant.

Friday 23.

Brought the Prisoners down today. arrived at Columbus at 3 p.m. I traded for Antelope horse today gave 2 ponies. I sent the Prisoners down on No.8 and I came in to Omaha tonight on No.4 arrived at 11 p.m. stayed at St. Charles.

July, Saturday 24, 1869.

This morn took witnesses and prisoners before the Judge and had them examined. They were all dismissed. I bought a carriage and harness today and had them shipped out. I started home at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 25.

Arrived home at 1:45 p.m. took a good sleep and this morn got my buggy off the train and had a ride. This eve Mary, Baby & I went down to Aunt Sarah's. The buggy does fine.

Monday 26. This morn went over the River and had a good visit, came back and took train No.4 for Omaha. arrived at 6 p.m. went to theatre tonight came to the St. Charles at 10 and went to bed.

July, Tuesday 27, 1869.

Got up at 6 a.m. had breakfast and went and saw Gen.

O'Brien.¹¹⁹ After dinner went out to the Barracks and came back in time to come out home on No.7.

Wednesday 28.

This morn Jim came over the river and said he wanted to go to Omaha this afternoon. So I drove down to bridge for him. I started to Reserve at 4 p.m. with Mssrs. Hoil & Baldwin.¹²⁰

Thursday 29.

Called Council this morn and told the Chiefs we would take them to Omaha and keep them till we found the guilty parties.¹²¹ So we came to Columbus in time for supper.

July, Friday 30, 1869.

No train down today till 2 p.m. so play billiards will have to pass off the time. After dinner I took Mary a ride and at 2:50 p.m. I start to Omaha on freight with the Indians. Arrived in Omaha at 11 p.m.

Saturday 31.

This morn we brought the Indians out and had a little talk.

¹¹⁹ George M. O'Brien had been commissioned a brigadier general of volunteers during the Civil War. He located in Omaha after the war. He was United States commissioner and a member of the law firm of O'Brien and Baldwin. (Alfred Sorenson, *The Story of Omaha* [Omaha, 1923], pp. 375-376 and J. M. Wolfe, *Omaha Directory for 1870* [Omaha, 1870], p. 183.)

¹²⁰ Joseph T. Hoile was United States marshal and C. A. Baldwin served as prosecutor in the trial of the accused Indians. (*Omaha Weekly Herald*, November 10, 1869 and Wolfe, *op. cit.*, p. 132.)

¹²¹ The newspapers reported that Hoile brought three Pawnee chiefs to Omaha as hostages until the murderers were given up. (*Nebraska Herald* [Plattsmouth], August 12, 1869 quoting the *Omaha Republican* of July 31, 1869.)

postponed the trial till Monday. I went home on freight train arrived at 1:45.

August, Sunday 1.

This morn Geo. Clothier drove my team to the River and took Mary and I and we crossed in a skiff. Then went to Charlies and had a fine visit came back by the bridge and found my team waiting for me.

August, Monday 2. 1869.

this morn to [took] Mary and the baby out riding the weather is beautiful and we enjoy it finely. took Charlie Whaley with us. After dinner I took the train for Omaha. arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday 3.

This morn at 9 a.m. we commenced the trial and kept it up for 6 hours when the Indians were all sent home but six who were indicted and could not be let off. I went to Elkhorn tonight and came back.

Wednesday 4.

This morn got my matters fixed up and went to races came back to Omaha just in time to come out home on No.4 arrived home at midnight.

August, Thursday 5. 1869.

This morn took Mary and baby and drove over to Jimmy's and paid him for July and what I owed him came back and at 12:40 I took train for Julesburgh arrived at 4 a.m.

Friday 6.

This morn got the news that the Command was at Ogallala so I came down on No.8 and met Lute at Depot we crossed the River and rode to camp.

Saturday 7.

This morn crossed the South Platte with the whole command and moved north crossed North Platte and camped I went with Lute to the Depot this morn and paid him and gave him a pass home.¹²² I then rode over to North Platte arrived just in time to cross with Column.

August, Sunday 8. 1869

Move at 7 a.m. and had a long dry march and camped on a little slough where the Indians camped a few days ago.¹²³ The trail here is very plain and I have some hopes of overtaking the Red devils hardly think wagons will come here tonight.

Monday 9.

This morn moved at 6:30 a.m. and marched about 20 miles passed lots of water and three of the Indians camps. I think we will get them tomorrow. we start with 5 days rations.

¹²² Luther North wrote, "I had a few words with General Carr and when we got to the Fort [Sedgwick] I resigned and came home the first of August." He was replaced by Gus Becher. James Murie also resigned and was replaced by S. E. Cushing. (Luther North Papers, *loc. cit.*; Frank North to Gen. William Myers, August 7, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹²³ The command was attempting to overtake the survivors of the Summit Springs fight. This attempt was designated as the Niobrara Pursuit. (Robert Bruce, *The Fighting Norths and the Pawnee Scouts* [New York, 1932], p. 71.)

I leave my money and watch in Camp and trust in god for safety.

Tuesday 10.

This morn moved at daylight in a heavy fog with five days rations on pack mules and 120 Scouts and 300 whites on the trail marched 30 miles passed two Indians camps and camped on a very bad lake for the night. trail seems fresh George is out with 20 men.

August, Wednesday 11. 1869.

Moved out early this morn and came up to Barclay about 8 o'clock a.m. and moved on fast as horses would stand it. Kisslingbury¹²⁴ in advance. camp on Niobrara marched 35 miles Fred did not come in 2 horses gave out and went back

Thursday 12.

Col. Royal abandoned the Chase¹²⁵ and we lay here till 4 p.m. then move back. I sent for Fred this morn he came in about 10 a.m. and this p.m. we issued all the Rations and started back marched 14 miles had nothing to eat tonight.

Friday 13.

¹²⁴ Fred F. Kislingbury was first lieutenant in Company A of the Pawnee Scouts. (Muster out roll, November 10, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹²⁵ Maj. W. B. Royall reported by telegram to Gen. George Ruggles, August 18, 1869 from a camp on the North Platte River: "Pursued Dog Soldier Indians 8 miles north of the Niobrara, 128 miles north and west of the Platte over the most desolate sand hill country. . . . There were but two [enemy] camps between the Platte and Niobrara. They abandoned 42 head of stock. I have lost 17 animals and am leading many barely able to walk." (NARS, RG 98.)

This morn moved early and came back to our first camp out have plenty of meat nothing else occurred on the trip back worthy of notice.

August, Saturday 14. 1869.

today we are bound to make the Wagons in order to get something to eat. we are nearly starved out. The Cavalry lost ten horses today. Gave out and shot. arrived at camp at 9 p.m. very tired. Eat heap tonight.

Sunday 15.

Lay in camp all day today. one of Fred's men died and was buried he was taken sick the day I left here and nothing could be done to save his life. I don't know what the disease was.

Monday 16.

Moved today at 6 a.m. and came back to our first watering place from the Platte. water is rather poor and grass poorer still. nothing occurred today.

August, Tuesday 17. 1869

This morn moved at 4:30 a.m. and we marched hard all day without water and arrived at Platte at 3:30 p.m. wagon came in late 4 of our horses were left today and several Cavalry horses.

Wednesday 18.

Today marched down north side of North Platte 21 miles

and camped in a miserable place. Misquitoes and high weeds are very plenty. too much so for comfort.

Thursday 19.

This morn moved at 6:30 and we marched about 20 miles and are in camp on Bird Wood Creek¹²⁶ and we have a most beautiful camp lots of good grass and water. I let Charlie Hudson¹²⁷ go over to O'Fallons station to see his brother. I telegraphed Mary today.

August, Friday 20. 1869.

Moved this morn at 6:10 a.m. and came down the Platte and crossed the R.R. below Platte Bridge and camped about 3 miles from the bridge have nice camp 1 horse died today. Fred and Jim went to Platte City¹²⁸ no news or candy.

Saturday 21.

Moved at 6:10 a.m. this morn and at 12 m we were at Fort McPherson with our command and the band playing a fine serenade went below the Fort 2 miles and camped in a fine place. Misquitoes plenty here not much sleep tonight.

Sunday 22.

Got up at the usual hour and had breakfast then took a

¹²⁶ Birdwood Creek flows into the North Platte River through Springdale and Birdwood precincts in Lincoln County, Nebraska. (*Plat Book of Lincoln County, Nebraska* [Rockford, Ill: W. W. Hixson & Co.])

¹²⁷ Charles Hudson was second sergeant of Company B. (North to Gen. Wm. Myers, April 15, 1869, NARS, RG 98)

¹²⁸ North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska.

smoke. it rained by spells all day and we all lay in camp. Kiss starts east on leave today.

August, Monday 23, 1869.

Went up to the Fort this morn and transfered 11 ponies to the A.A.Q.M. and the Officers all drew clothing for their men at 6:30 we went up and saw a horse race between Cody¹²⁹ and Doherty the latter winning \$20.00 aside.

Tuesday 24.

this morn we got up early. tired enough having fought misquitos all night. Nothing transpired only I got message from Gen. Auger allowing me to go home.

Wednesday 25.

this morn started with the horses¹³⁰ and came to McPherson station found I just had time to load ponies for train. are now on move. got supper at Harna[r]d's.

August, Thursday 26. 1869

Arrived home at 5:30 left Cap. Cushing at Silver Creek¹³¹ to see to unloading ponies. he came down on No.4 and we all went over the River had a good visit came home

¹²⁹ William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) served as scout for the Fifth Cavalry on the Republican River Expedition.

¹³⁰ Forty-two horses unfit for further military service were given to the Pawnee on the condition that they would be transported to the reservation without expense to the government. This decision was made on August 14, 1869 by a two man board composed of Major Royall and Frank North. (Proceedings of the Board of Officers, August 24, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹³¹ See Footnote Number 50.

Friday 27.

started to Reserve this morn hired a man to drive the ponies to Reserve Mary and I went in Buggy arrived just in time for dinner distributed the ponies today.

Saturday 28.

this morn got a pair of mules of the Indians and went to Silver Creek and brought over the bundles for the Indians. had a rough time. Mary and I came home tonight arrived at 10 p.m.

August, Sunday 29, 1869.

went over the River this morn and had Cushing come over and go to McPherson I drove out a mile or two and then went to Coolidges to tea. Mother took the Baby over the River tonight Mary and I go down in the Morn [to] Omaha.

Monday 30.

This morn we took train and arrived in Omaha at 1 p.m. stopped at the St. Charles. After dinner we rode up to Florence and saw Zura Mrs. Mitchell and Bigsleys family. came back to Omaha after tea.

Tuesday 31.

This morn after breakfast I went to court and remained all forenoon after dinner I took Mary and Mrs. Kate McCausland to Purchase visiting I came back and at 5:30 I went up and took tea then came down and we all spent the Evening at McCauslands.

September, Wednesday 1, 1869.

this morn took Mary to the Depot and started her for home. I was in court all day talking Pawnee.¹³² this eve we all went to the Comique¹³³ had some fun.

Thursday 2.

today another seige at Court and tonight we visited the Academy of fun it is a very poor excuse for a show, went to bed late.

Friday 3.

today we had not much to do at Court as no new witnesses were brought. I went around town with Boman till 5 p.m. when I got away from him and went home on No.7 arrived at 2 a.m.

September, Saturday 4. 1869.

this morn went to Omaha on No.4 and had an investigation in the afternoon nothing new brought to light. a bill was found by Jury and the two Indians were asked Guilty or not Guilty to the charges. They plead not guilty. came home on No.7.

Sunday 5.

this morn is quite dreary it rained nearly all night and the

¹³² Frank North served as interpreter at the McMurty murder trial. (*Omaha Weekly Herald*, November 17, 1869.)

¹³³ The Comique, a music hall, was the scene of a disturbance the night before North attended. A male dancer had kicked over a glass of beer belonging to a female patron and thus touched off a near riot. (*Ibid.*, September 1, 1869.)

country is nearly flooded. I stayed in the house all forenoon and after dinner I took my pacing pony and Mary, Baby and I went to Kelly's came home in the rain and were all sick in the night.

Monday 6.

went to Omaha on No.4 and arrived just in time to find that court had adjourned until Nov.3. I came home again on No.7 had the Phthisic¹³⁴ all day real bad am feeling some better tonight.

September, Tuesday 7, 1869.

this morn Geo. Clothier and I went over the River to look at some horses with a view to purchasing found none to suit after dinner Mary baby and I went to Aunt Sarah's visiting had a splendid supper and a good visit.

Wednesday 8.

this morn we went to Al's to have Baby's picture taken got one the first time and it is good I left at 12:40 for Fort McPherson arrived at 9 p.m. found horses and wagon for me. Came to Camp.

Thursday 9.

this morn Fred and I went to the Fort to see the Gen'l and I made a horse race with Cody and got beat and we waited

¹³⁴ North suffered from asthma.

to see the race between Hays and Mason. Hays won by big odds.¹³⁵

September, Friday 10. 1869.

today the boys draw rations and forage to last all this month. I have not been out of camp at this writing. remained in Camp all day had a little horse race tonight. our own horses. no money

Saturday 11.

Today went up town and had a good time generally. some Ladies and officers visited us this eve. ladies appeared to be very much afraid of the Indians. had a fearful rain storm tonight.

Sunday 12.

Rained all day and was all we could do to keep from freezing. stayed in Camp all day. The men did not drill today. to bad weather. I had a letter from Mary today all were well I wrote home yesterday.

September, Monday 13. 1869.

Today Fred and I played Billiards and ten pins. nothing occurred worthy of notice.

Tuesday 14.

¹³⁵ Cody, in his autobiography, mentioned racing with Lt. Mason and Luther North. It is probable that this entry refers to Lt. George F. Mason and Lt. Edward M. Hayes of the Fifth Cavalry. (William F. Cody, *Buffalo Bill's Life Story* [New York, 1924], pp. 194-195; Hamersly, *op. cit.*, pp. 500 and 607.)

this morn we was to have moved but got orders countermanding the move. I took the Battalion out and drilled them for two hours then went up town and got two six mule teams.

Wednesday 15.

Moved this morn at eight a.m. and came to Medicine Lake¹³⁶ had a very pleasant trip the teams were very late and we were very hungry. got orders tonight to start one company for Pawnee House in the morning,¹³⁷ I have designated Fred's company.

September, Thursday 16. 1869.

Fred started this morn I kept 4 of his boys with me to make the campaign. I sent Gen. Emory¹³⁸ a saddle of venison. it will please him I know. we lay over here today and move south in the morn.

Friday 17.

moved this morn at 8 a.m. and we marched 18 miles camped

¹³⁶ The command traveled south from Fort McPherson through Cottonwood Canyon, then turned southwest and followed an old wagon road used by wood chopping details for about seven miles along a ridge, turned left down into a canyon "evidently the head of a small branch of the North Fork of Medicine Lake Creek. The canyon was followed about three miles when the command reached running water and camped." (Journal of the March of the Republican River Expedition Consisting of B, C, and M troops of 2nd Cavalry, A, B, E, F, I, L and M troops 5th Cavalry and A, B, C Troops Pawnee Scouts, Brev. Brig. Gen. Thomas Duncan, commanding, NARS, RG 98.)

¹³⁷ General Duncan had been ordered to send the weakest company of Pawnee Scouts to the Pawnee Reservation because the Sioux were threatening. (Gen. W. H. Emory to Gen. Thomas Duncan, September 15, 1869, *Ibid.*)

¹³⁸ Brig. Gen. William H. Emory, Fifth Cavalry, did not accompany the expedition but remained at Fort McPherson because of court-martial duties. (General Emory to General Ruggles, September 16, 1869, *Ibid.*)

in a large bend of the Medicine.¹³⁹ finest camp I ever saw. lots of plums and lots of meat. it is where we camped last fall with Gen. Auger. it looks natural to me.

Saturday 18.

Today moved at 6 a.m. and came ahead of the Column and marched 21 miles. Camped on a small creek emptying in the Medicine we are awfully crowded tonight the train mules are all around our tents. Grass is fine.

September, Sunday 19. 1869.

today moved ahead again and came to Republican.¹⁴⁰ George, I and two Indians went out and killed two Buffalo we marched 14 miles Buffalo are in sight everywhere. lots of fun ahead.

Monday 20.

today all moved at 6 a.m. marched 20 miles killed lots of Buffalo and plenty more here near Camp. had some bad streams to cross and we were late getting in camp.

Tuesday 21.

today all moved early and marched down the Republican

¹³⁹ Medicine Lake Creek, now called Medicine Creek, flows into the Republican River through Lincoln, Frontier, and Furnas counties, Nebraska.

¹⁴⁰ General Duncan reported that the command camped on September 19 at an old stockade on the Republican River. (Journal of the March, September 19, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

20 miles and camped on a little stream¹⁴¹ putting into the Republican. I went out today with 5 Boys and killed five Buffalo. and our men killed some calves and Elk after we went into camp.

September, Wednesday 22, 1869.

this morn crossed the Republican and marched to short nose¹⁴² 21 miles I went out buffalo hunting and killed a cow and calf my horse is very wild. After we camped I sent out a lot of men and they killed 15 or 20 Buffalo.

Thursday 23.

this morn I went up short nose with the Gen. to hunt a better camp. found a nice one 2 miles up. The command moved up at noon. the Gen. Cody and I killed 13 Buffalo our men killed lots. George¹⁴³ went to Solomon today.

Friday 24.

this morn we moved early and marched about 15 miles and camped again on short nose. lots of Buffalo. one of Georges men came back he lost his gun and went to find it and came to camp.

September, Saturday 25, 1869

this morn I took stores and 8 men and went Buffalo hunting

¹⁴¹ This camp was reported to be on Spring Creek where it joined the Republican River. Beaver Creek joined the Republican on the opposite side of the river. (*Ibid.*, September 21, 1869.) The mouth of Spring Creek was approximately twenty-five miles east of the mouth of Medicine Creek. (See map on page 174.)

¹⁴² See Footnote Number 94.

¹⁴³ George Lehman, second sergeant, Company C., Pawnee Scouts. (North to Ruggles, July 27, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

we killed ten came to camp and had a nice feast. lots of fat Ribs. we camped again on short nose marched 19½ miles.

Sunday 26.

today we marched 24 miles and I and Cody came ahead to the Creek and 6 Indians got after us and gave us a lively chase you bet. I got my men out and they killed one Indian and got two ponies a mule and lots of trash.¹⁴⁴

Monday 27.

today moved 8 miles. we stopped where the Indians had been camped and destroyed all their Lodges, Robes, saddles, meat and everything they left. George and Kiss were out on scout found 3 horses and 1 Jack. no Indians. we have a nice camp here. tomorrow we go for Beaver.

September, Tuesday 28. 1869

this morn Stowe with 6 men accompanied 2 co's of Cavalry

¹⁴⁴General Duncan reported the following, "The Indians attacked Major North, the Commander of the Pawnee Scouts, and guide William Cody who were hunting buffalo a short distance ahead of the pioneer detachment. The main column was about a mile and a half in rear of the pioneers. Lt. William J. Volkmar, 5th Cavalry, who was in command of the pioneers at once charged with them to rescue the two men whom the Indians were either trying to kill or capture. . . . The Indians retreated across and up the creek soon showing themselves in considerable force. The pioneer detachment after a charge of about five miles gained an eminence on the south side of the creek, from which a large Indian village was seen among the trees on the stream. The Pawnee scouts joining the pioneer detachment, another charge was made, and the Indians abandoned their village, flying in a westward direction up the creek. Pursuit was continued until dark. One hostile Indian was killed and a number believed to be wounded. A great deal of camp equipage and provisions were captured in the village. No casualties on the side of the command." (Journal of the March, September 26, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

for Sheridan with Mitchells mules.¹⁴⁵ we moved accross the country to little beaver and found Grass so poor we came on to a little fork. Grass is splendid. marched 15 miles found a mule.

Wednesday 29. This morn Major Brown¹⁴⁶ with 2 co's of the 5th and Barclay with 12 of his men started up middle Beaver to see where the trail goes. we came up the divide and accross to Big Beaver and camped in a beautiful Bottom marched 19 miles. no fresh signs of Indians Geo had 3 days ration

Thursday 30.

This morn we started at the usual hour and came up Beaver 6 miles and camped nice feed wood and water. Nothing occured today worthy of mention. we are glad to get a little rest. we have been in the saddle every day for two weeks.

October, Friday 1, 1869.

today we did not move. our horses needed rest and we expected Major Brown to return but he did not. we read

¹⁴⁵ A herd of mules captured at Summit Springs was taken to Fort McPherson. Orders were issued to deliver the animals to Sheridan, Kansas where they would be turned over to Moore and Company. Mr. Mitchell, an employee of Moore and Company, was in charge of the herd. He accompanied General Duncan's expedition until September 28 when he was given an escort of B and M troops, Second Cavalry, and sent on to Sheridan with the mules. Sheridan was a station on the Kansas-Pacific Railroad, approximately twenty miles northeast of Fort Wallace. (General Emory to General Duncan, September 15, 1869 and Journal of the March, September 28, 1869, NARS, RG 98; *Colton's General Atlas* [New York, 1870], map 78.)

¹⁴⁶ William Henry Brown was brevet major of the Fifth Cavalry. (Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* [Washington, 1903], p. 254.)

most of the day. read over all the old papers in camp. no news today.

Saturday 2.

this morn we moved earlier than usual and came for Republican my scouts in advance Caught an old squaw that strayed from the villiage she was nearly starved we fed her and will take her to the fort¹⁴⁷ arrived at Republican at 2 p.m. found Br wn and George here waiting for us. 25 miles.

Sunday 3.

today we lay over I spent the whole day in reading, and this eve I read several Chapters in the Bible to Clark and Dick. have had an awful head ache all day I take some pills to-night and salts in the morn.

October, Monday 4, 1869.

Lay in Camp all day today. this eve the Gen. sent for me and ordered a detail of 1st Lieut. and six men to go to White man¹⁴⁸ after mail and bring the train to us at Big

¹⁴⁷ The woman was questioned through the interpreter, John Y. Nelson, and through a Ponca Indian serving with the Pawnee Scouts. The Ponca talked to her in Sioux and translated her statements into Pawnee, which Frank North translated into English. She said that the band was led by Pawnee Killer, Whistler, and a head soldier named Little Bull. She had lost her way in the flight and was trying to walk to Spotted Tail's camp to the northward. She insisted that she was merely an old woman and that the warriors had not told her of their plans. Questioned later at Ft. McPherson, she stated that she was Pawnee Killer's mother and that Whistler was responsible for the hostility of the band. (Journal of March, October 3, 1869; General Emory to General Ruggles, October 11, 1869; NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁴⁸ Whiteman's Fork or Frenchman River. (See Footnote Number 102.)

timbers.¹⁴⁹ Kislingbury goes over. we move in the morn down the River.

Tuesday 5.

today we moved two miles and camped out on the open prairie on a small Creek emptying into the Republican. Our Boys killed 3 antelope and 1 buffalo we had some good Ribs for supper. Kis went to White man today after mail and he can't bring it to quick if he runs.

Wednesday 6.

today we lay over again and the train came in at noon. I wrote home today. we are to follow trail, north. Stowe, with his six men got in tonight from Fort Wallace¹⁵⁰ saw 3 Indians yesterday did not see any trail.

October, Thursday 7. 1869.

today we lay in camp and got our mail ready for to send in. Gen. Emory went in today. we drew 20 days more rations and are to go west and then down Beaver to Medicine.

Friday 8.

today marched 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, passed our old camp on porcupine and came up six miles, and camped on little Creek emptying

¹⁴⁹ Big Timbers referred to a location on the Republican River, an estimated thirty miles above the mouth of Frenchman River. It was named for the large cottonwood trees in the area. (Eugene F. Ware, *The Indian War of 1864* [Topeka, 1911], pp. 470-471.)

¹⁵⁰ Fort Wallace was built in 1865 at the junction of Pond Creek and the South Fork of the Smoky Hill River about two miles south of the present town of Wallace, Kansas. (*Dictionary of American History*, V, 270.)

into Republican. I discharged Sinon¹⁵¹ this morn. Co Rux is driving.

Saturday 9.

this morn we moved at 7 a.m. for the forks of Republican I sent Kis and fifteen men out on 3 days of scout. I arrived at the forks with my command at 11 a.m. having marched 12 miles we encamped here till Monday. tomorrow two scouts go out one up north fork and one up south fork of Republican.

October, Sunday 10. 1869.

this morn sent Stowe and Deyo¹⁵² and 15 Indians with Lieut. Wheeler up south fork had 5 days rations. Barclay-Hunt & 15 Indians with Major Irwin up North fork.¹⁵³ we did not move today and the Grass is rather poor here.

Monday 11.

this morn we moved at 7 a.m. went up the River about 2 miles and waited 2 hours for the Gen. and Command the[y] finally came and we camped in a fine place. Kis arrived this eve from his scout. he saw no fresh signs.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵¹ Samuel Sinon had been hired as a teamster. (North to General Myers, September 13, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁵² Elias Stowe was second sergeant in Company A and James Deyo first sergeant of Company C. (Muster out roll, November 10, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁵³ A and I Troops of Fifth Cavalry were sent to scout Rock Creek, Black Tail Creek, and Arikaree Fork. B Troop, Second Cavalry, and M Troop, Fifth Cavalry, were sent to scout up the South Fork of the Republican. (Journal of March, October 10, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁵⁴ B and E Troops, Fifth Cavalry, returned from Frenchman River and reported that the Indian trail had crossed it and gone north by northwest. (*Ibid.*, October 11, 1869.)

Tuesday 12.

this morn I took about two miles ride and came back to Camp feeling fine. sent to Col. Crittenden after some papers and read the ballance of the day. Oh this laying in Camp is fearful dull. am anxious for the days to pass by so we can go in and go home.

October, Wednesday 13. 1869.

today we lay in Camp played cards and read papers all day. Nothing occured worthy of mention. Gus and me rode out today for our health we are all feeling fine.

Thursday 14.

this morn Gus and I rode out again about two miles and back before breakfast. we put in the day as usual reading and playing cards. George came in tonight from his scout saw no signs of Indians captured 2 horses and 1 mule.¹⁵⁵

Friday 15.

this morn Gus & I rode out again for health. Stowe came in this afternoon with good news for us no Indians in the country. we move in the morn toward home no news.

October, Saturday 16, 1869.

this morn we moved at 8 a.m. shot 1 horse before leaving camp. marched 12 miles and camped. sent Stowe to Mc-

¹⁵⁵ A and I Troops, Fifth Cavalry, returned at 2:30 p.m. and reported that they had scouted thoroughly and had found no sign of Indians. (*Ibid.*, October 14, 1869.)

Pherson tonight with mail.¹⁵⁶ I wrote to Mary hope Stowe will bring orders to go in at once.

Sunday 17.

this morn we moved at 8 a.m. and came down to Big Timbers where we are now camped. tomorrow the command separates and half go down this stream and half over to beaver. I go to beaver Cushing goes down Republican.

Monday 18.

Moved this morn at 8 a.m. and after crossing to the south side of Republican the command separated 2 companies of the 2nd Cav. and Capt. Cushings Company went down the River to the stockade¹⁵⁷ where we will meet them the 26th. We came accross the country to the beaver where we arrived at 5 p.m. Marched 26 miles.

October, Tuesday 19. 1869.

This morn we got up and found the ground covered with snow. we got ready to move and the Gen. sent word that we would lay over today. I was glad for we are in a nice

¹⁵⁶ A courier party was sent to Fort McPherson at 6:00 p.m. (*Ibid.*, October 16, 1869.)

¹⁵⁷ B and C Troops, Second Cavalry, were detached with all the weak stock to march down the Republican to the old stockade below the mouth of Medicine Lake Creek, there to await the remainder of the command. The main column took its old trail southward to the Beaver. (*Ibid.*, October 18, 1869.) The "old stockade" mentioned in this entry has not been identified. General Carr described it when he visited the locality on June 14, 1869. He wrote, "Reached the Republican River striking the 'bottom' at a point about five or six miles below the mouth of Medicine Lake Creek. An old and decayed defensive stockade was found on the north bank of the river at this point—by whom built or when was unknown." (Journal of March, June 13, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

dry camp and if we move we will have snow to Camp in. Killed 1 Buffalo last night and 3 today.

Wednesday 20.

This morn we moved at 8 a.m. and came down the Beaver 17 miles and camped.¹⁵⁸ roads very good several Buffalo killed today. I went hunting with the Gen. we did not kill any game.

Thursday 21.

Moved at 8 a.m. and came down Beaver 19 miles saw lots of Buffalo. Gus and 3 men went out and killed 3. have lots to eat tonight. Gen. Duncan sent me a Turkey and we roasted it and I think it the best eating I ever had.

October, Friday 22. 1869.

Today it snowed all day and of course we did not move camp. we hauled a lot of wood up with a mule and we sat by the fire all day. Nothing occurred of importance.

Saturday 23.

Moved at 8 a.m. and the Gen. invited me to take a hunt down the Creek¹⁵⁹ with him and I don't think I have been so tired this trip as I am tonight. Gen. killed 2 turkeys. Barclay brought us the good news tonight that we were to

¹⁵⁸ This camp was located one mile from Elephant Rock. (Journal of the March, October 20, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁵⁹ William Cody described General Duncan as a "blusterer, but a jolly old fellow" who was very fond of hunting. (Cody, *op. cit.*, p. 206.)

move for McPherson¹⁶⁰ command marched 15 miles down Beaver.

Sunday 24.

Moved at 8 a.m. and came straight accross the country to the mouth of medicine where we are now camped. the mail goes in tonight and I write to Mary. she will be glad to know that we go for home now after a 40 day trip. I am tired.

October, Monday 25. 1869.

This morn the command moved north for the Medicine and I took Kiss and ten men out hunting. was out all day and killed 6 turkeys and 3 buffalo. we got to Camp very late and was awful tired but a good supper made us all right the march 15 miles.

Tuesday 26.

This morn we moved at 8 a.m. and at 12 m. we were in camp at our old camping ground. Marched 16 miles, one of the men killed a Buffalo today and we will probably get some antelope before night.

Wednesday 27.

Moved this morn at 8 a.m. and came to Medicine Lake¹⁶¹ 22 miles nothing occured on the way. we arrived at 2 p.m.

¹⁶⁰ "Courier party from Ft. McPherson reached camp bringing orders for the Expedition to proceed to that post, preparatory to being disbanded." (Journal of March, October 23, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

¹⁶¹ Medicine Lake was located about five miles southeast of the present town of Stockville in Frontier County, Nebraska. (Arthur Carmody to editor, April 2, 1958.)

tomorrow takes us to the Platte if nothing happens. the boys killed one Buffalo today.

October, Thursday 28. 1869.

Moved this morn earlier than usual all being very anxious about seeing civilization. we arrived at the Fort at 2 p.m. and camped down on the River. I went up town tonight and stayed a few minutes.

Friday 29.

This morn I got orders to move down the road on Sunday next and quarter at the Agency.¹⁶² we are all on tip toe to get home. I received all my ponies today, that we left here. Gen. Auger comes tonight.

Saturday 30.

this morn Gen. Auger sent for me and told me to turn in all my property and go home on the cars. we hurried around pretty lively and got through and over to the station before 10 o'clock I start down tonight.

October, Sunday 31. 1869.

Arrived at home at 9 a.m. and found Lib, Mary and Stella at Depot waiting for me. I am glad to get home my baby has grown so I hardly knew her. have not been out much today.

¹⁶² "Special Orders No. 44. . . . received this day breaks up the Expedition. . . . The Pawnee Scouts [are ordered] to their reservation." (Journal of March, October 28, 1869, NARS, RG 98.)

November, Monday 1.

Today I drove my pacer around town all day had a good Ride Lib, Lon and ma were over today. My officers came down today. we had some fun.

Tuesday 2.

This morn I came to Omaha, and reported for the trial it will not come up for several days and I hate to stay here so long.

November, Wednesday 3. 1869.

This morn I rode around town town with Tom Palmer¹⁶³ and bought some ponies I drew the money for our outfit today.

Thursday 4.

this morn I went and got Jim started west with 13 ponies we had bought paid Palmer \$20.00 for helping me buy them. the trial of the Indians came up.¹⁶⁴ done very little today.

¹⁶³ Thomas Palmer was a horse dealer in Omaha. (J. M. Wolfe, *op. cit.*, p. 188.)

¹⁶⁴ The Pawnee, Yellow Sun, Horse Driver, Little Wolf and Blue Hawk were tried in the United States District Court in Omaha for the murder of Edward McMurty. All four were convicted. Upon conviction, Horse Driver and Yellow Sun attempted suicide and Blue Hawk escaped as he was being led from the courtroom. He made his way back to the reservation. He was located there by North but refused to return to Omaha and was supported by many members of the tribe. It was only after soldiers were sent out from Omaha that Blue Hawk consented to go back to jail. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the United States District Court on the grounds that the state of Nebraska should have tried the Indians because the murder was committed off the reservation. (*Omaha Weekly Herald*, November 17, 24, 1869; May 11, 1870.)

Friday 5.

kept all days on the Indian case Kummers¹⁶⁵ Dance comes off tonight but I can't go home.

November, Saturday 6, 1869.

trial continued and no new evidence. I came home tonight on No.7.

Sunday 7.

drove my pacing ponies this morn had run them a little trip when I saw the train so I had to go back to Omaha had a big time with Chas. Hays tonight.

Monday 8.

The trial came up again and was continued all day. They got through with me but not in time to go out tonight. I went to see Outetanchet played tonight.

November, Tuesday 9. 1869.

Started home on No.3 arrived at 2 p.m. took a drive my men will be paid tomorrow. they are already mustered out.

Wednesday 10.

Got ready this morn to pay off. General Alvord¹⁶⁶ arrived

¹⁶⁵ Vincent Kummer, a native of Switzerland, was one of the founders of Columbus. In 1876 Kummer was a member of the Columbus Music Hall Association which erected a dance hall. (Phillips, *op. cit.*, pp. 55 and 285.)

¹⁶⁶ See Footnote Number 87.

at 2 p.m. and we commenced paying at 4 p.m. and was done at 6 p.m. sold several ponies today done very well.

Thursday 11.

today is very cold I tended the corrale all day. sold several more ponies they do not sell as fast as expected. All well.

November, Friday 12. 1869.

Today Mary, Stella and I went over the River and stayed all night had a splendid time.

Saturday 13.

this morn we all went to Nells and were all there to dinner all of the North family had a splendid time. I drive Donkey for Eddie lots of fun. came home to supper.

Sunday 14.

This morn took a little drive and at 2 p.m. Mary, Stella and I went to Lone Tree had a nice visit Jim and Billy are here trading.

November, Monday 15. 1869.

I left Mary, Stella at Adams and I went to Columbus on freight, returned again to Lone Tree with Jessie Turner

in search of Blue Hawk. went to Platts Lodge¹⁶⁷ and stayed all night.

Tuesday 16.

Got two ponies and Turner and I went over the River found Blue Hawk¹⁶⁸ but he refused to go with us. we returned to the station and telegraphed to Hoile I am nearly dead with the Phthisic Oh how I suffer

Wednesday 17.

came home this morn on No.4 am some better today. hope I will get well soon drove out this eve had a nice ride.

November, Thursday 18. 1869.

Today went down to Uncle Browns to Thanksgiving dinner. had a splendid visit came home in the eve. ponies drive fine.

Friday 19.

this morn went with Mr. & Mrs. Allen the 2 Elsie's, Mary Stella and I all rode accross the New bridge to Charlies had a nice ride came home to dinner, went to Concert tonight I am door tender nice crowd.

¹⁶⁷ Lester Platt had been a missionary teacher among the Pawnee. He had first come to Nebraska in 1843. In 1869 he ran a trading post a short distance outside the reservation. His wife Elvira was a teacher at the school on the reservation. (Hyde, *op. cit.*, pp. 191 and 192 and Elvira Gaston Platt, "Reminiscences of a Teacher Among the Nebraska Indians, 1843-1885," *Transactions and Reports of the Nebraska State Historical Society*, III, 125-143.)

¹⁶⁸ See Footnote Number 164.

Saturday 20.

Drove out this morn. took Mamy Mullen home. then took Kitty a little ride. Came home to dinner went to Concert again tonight. rather slim. Mr. Kelly died¹⁶⁹ last night.

November, Sunday 21. 1869.

Hitched up my team this morn and Luhanan and I went up to meet the funeral. Came back after Crape drove down from my farm in 7 minutes. went to the sermon then to the cemetery.

Monday 22.

Drove out this morn the weather is very bad. I telegraphed to Schuyler for music for our dance. had a good time.

Tuesday 23.

Went to Omaha this morn. could not do my business so I came home again on No.7.

November, Wednesday 24. 1869.

This morn drove over the River and found I had a new niece. born last night.¹⁷⁰ came back and after dinner slept till supper time.

Thursday 25.

¹⁶⁹ John Kelly, aged sixty-five, born in Ohio, occupation carpenter, died of a kidney infection in November 1869. (Death Record, Platte County, Nebraska, U. S. Census, 1870, Ms)

¹⁷⁰ Myra B. Morse was born to Charles E. Morse and Alphonsene North Morse in November 1869. (U. S. Census, 1870.)

this morn I and Mary went over the River the folks are doing well came back and after dinner took another drive.

Friday 26.

This morn drove out a little while but found one of my horses lame and came back after dinner I drove my white horse with Holinans my horse is the fastest.

November, Saturday 27. 1869.

this morn took my ponies to Cooks and had the shoes pulled off. this afternoon Mary Stella and I went over the River Drove Lemyer folks all well.

Sunday 28.

This morn rode Lemyer over the River and sold two ponies. Came back to dinner and this afternoon I took the Elsie out riding then Mary and baby. drove the sorrel.

Monday 29.

Today Lute Fred and I worked all day on our papers got along very slow papers are awfully mixed hard to work on.

November, Tuesday 30. 1869.

This morn we went to work again and I fixed up all of Lutes papers. mine are way behind, hope I will get them fixed after a while.

December, Wednesday 1.

This morn I went to Omaha on No.4 was a little late did not do much business today. Myers is not here and I won't get my money, went to theatre tonight Miss Price played Lancastershire Lass.

Thursday 2.

this morn got up early on account of being nearly frozen. I slept very cold, went and done all my business today and can't get my pay till the 10th went to Comique.

December, Friday 3. 1869.

Came out on No.3 this morn in Company with Gus Becher and Lady¹⁷¹ had a nice visit think Gus has done well. Arrived home at 3 p.m. found the folks all well. worked on my papers today.

Saturday 4.

Lute came over today and we worked all day on his papers got them nearly finished Eddie and Allen Beebe came to see me today had dinner then I took them to ride some fun. am supeonead for to attend Brady's Lawsuit. he is taken up for Larceny.

Sunday 5.

Today Mr. Flymer and I went over the River hunting. Killed 3 chickens had a nice time. Came home in time for supper. no news.

¹⁷¹ Gustavus G. Becher married Le Anna Bradford in Bon Homme, Dakota Territory, on November 29, 1869. (Phillips, *op. cit.*, II, 570)



Section of Outline Map Indicating Lines of March of Scouting Parties in the Department of the Platte in 1868 and 1869

(Map courtesy the National Archives).

December, Monday 6. 1869.

Today attended the trial between Brady and the state. the evidence was awful. Miller called for a Jury.

Tuesday 7.

Went again to the suit and at 12 o'clock the Jury were ready and business commenced Mary and I stayed to Whalley's to dinner and supper.

Wednesday 8.

The Jury decided last night in favor of Tom Brady. I am at work very hard on my papers today. had a big oyster supper tonight.

December, Thursday 9. 1869.

Went to work again and got all my q.m. stores made out and fixed all Lute's, it is very tedious work.

Friday 10.

Today worked again and oh how it rained cold as Greenland, sent Lute's papers over to him today.

Saturday 11.

This morn Lute came over and we fixed up the balance of his papers and got them ready to send off.

December, Sunday 12. 1869.

This afternoon I went to Omaha am here at Oaks and very lonesome am afraid of Phthisic tonight.

Monday 13.

slept very little last night. got up early and done all my trading and got pay Rolls fixed and paid. went to theatre tonight, saw Annie Ward as Fanchon.

Tuesday 14.

Came home this afternoon and found our little darling sick, she feels real bad.

December, Wednesday 15. 1869.

This morn we were to start East but are far from it. I am sick and the baby is getting no better. I have a very high fever tonight. Billious

Thursday 16.

got up awful sick this morn hardly able to move. suffered all night with my head. and expect the same tonight I dread it much.

Friday 17.

Am some better this morn but very weak had a hard time again last night. This eve I feel very much better than I have since I was taken sick.

December, Saturday 18. 1869.

Today I am nearly well. feel fine played some billiards.

Sunday 19.

Today is very cold I tended baby while Ma and Mary went to Church. This afternoon we went to Charlies Jims, and down to Brown's bid them all good bye. tomorrow we leave for East.

Monday 20.

Today we bid all good bye and at 11 a.m. we left Columbus for Washington arrived at Omaha at 4:30 p.m. stopped at St. Charles went to theatre tonight.

December, Tuesday 21, 1869.

Came over the River this afternoon and got passes and lit out for Chicago had a section in sleeping car.

Wednesday 22.

Got Breakfast at Davenport and dinner and [at] Bureau¹⁷² and supper in Chicago got passes to Cleveland and return. took sleeper

Thursday 23.

Arrived at Hillsdale at 7 a.m. Lut met me at Depot wrote to Mother today. have a nice time here took a good sleigh ride this p.m.

¹⁷² Bureau, Illinois, is a small town between Davenport, Iowa and Chicago. (*Encyclopedia Britannica, Atlas* [Chicago, 1948], XXIV, 134.)