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Article Title: The Second Nebraska's Campaign Against the Sioux

Full Citation: Richard D Rowen, ed., "The Second Nebraska's Campaign Against the Sioux," *Nebraska History* 44 (1963): 3-53

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1963Campaign.pdf>

Date: 6/26/2012

Article Summary: Three sources document the activity of the Second Nebraska in the 1863 campaign. The journal of Robert W Furnas is his official record as regimental commander, the diary of Henry W Pierce describes the problems of the enlisted men, and the drawings of George P Belden depict the camps and activities of the regiment. The article includes a reference list of the regiment's commissioned officers.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Robert W Furnas, Henry W Pierce, George P Belden, Alfred Sully, Henry Hopkins Sibly

Place Names: Whitestone Hill, Dakota Territory

Keywords: Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry, Sioux Indians, Robert W Furnas, Henry W Pierce, George P Belden

Photographs / Images:

pdf p 18: map showing the route of the Second Nebraska Regiment with the camps numbered to match Colonel Furnas' Journal

Pdf p. 51: [Above] "Twelve Mile House. 12 miles north of Sioux City, Iowa in Dakota Territory. G P Belden." Probably Tucket's Station, one of the stage coach stations passed by the expedition. (Editor's note: Identifications of this and the following illustrations which are quoted are those inscribed on the original drawings by George P Belden, the artist.); [Below] "Little Spirit Hills. 30 miles north-north west of Vermillion—highth unknown—Indian fireplace on top formed of boulders." June 22, 1863.

Pdf p. 52: "Our camp near Fort Randall, Dakotah. 3 miles above on the opposite side of the river. GPB June 29th 1863." The vignettes are labeled "Adjutants Office," "Q.M.," "Major's Qr's," "Col. Furnas," "Captains tent," "Shelter Tent," and "Hospital"

Pdf p. 53: "Camp above Fort Randall D.T." June 28-July 5, 1863

Pdf p. 54: "Indian Encampment and Trading Post opposite Fort Randall, D.T." June 28-July 5, 1863

Pdf p. 55: "Indian Burying Ground. The burying ground of the tribe of Yankton Dakotah Indians around the bluffs opposite Fort Randall Dakotah . . . July 1st, 1863."

Pdf p. 56: "Winnebago village. Above Winnebago agency Dakotah Territory." July 11-31, 1863

Pdf p. 57: [Above] No identification is written on this partly finished sketch of a Winnebago encampment. July 11-31, 1863; [Below] "How Are You?" "What's Up?" "I'll see you again." "Good Bye." Belden drew this cartoon of a prairie dog village near Fort Pierre August 3, 1863.

Pdf p. 58: "No. 3. Hd. Qrs. 2nd Neb. Cav. 5 m. above Winnebago Agency, Dakota Territory" July 11, 1863

Pdf p. 59: "Stay awhile!" "Dont be in a hurry." In this sketch Belden depicts the expedition battery firing a shot to halt the steamer Shreveport for service in the military campaign. July 22, 1863.

Pdf p. 60: Camp No. . . . D.T., Camp on Snow Creek, 8 miles from our camp near Winnebago Agency, 8 miles from our camp on the river and the village on the river 5 miles above Agency Missouri 10 miles from Winnebago Agency." Belden is probably referring to the camp on Froze Creek, July 31st, 1863.

Pdf p. 61: "Chapeall Creek." Probably the camp on Chapelle Creek, August 1, 1863.

Pdf p. 62: "Rush Bottoms. Rush Bottom Camp—We arrived at on our way to Fort Pierre, August 2nd, 1863—The best grazing ground we have had on our way"

Pdf p. 63: "Camp 2 ½ miles below Ft. Pierre." August 3, 1863.

Pdf p. 64: "200 yards above Gen. Sully Hd Qrs." The two steamers are labeled the "Alone," on the left, and the "Belle Peoria." The blockhouse in the foreground is evidently Ft. Bartlett. August 9, 1863.

Pdf p. 65: "Camp No 2 above Fort Pierre . . . 1863." Probably August 13, 1863.

Pdf p. 66: "Hd. Qrs ½ mile above." Belden's identification of this scene is incomplete, but it probably depicts the arrival of the steamer "Alone" at camp 21 on August 15, 1863.

Pdf p. 67: "Camp No 22, Aug 22nd. Our first cold windy camp."

Pdf p. 68: "Camp No 23, Aug 23d, 1863

Pdf p. 69: "Camp No 24, Aug 24th- 1863"

Pdf p. 70: "No. 24 river" [?] This sketch may be a duplicate view of camp 24 from a vantage point closer to the site.

Pdf p. 71: "No 26." This sketch probably depicts camp 26 on Beaver Creek, August 26, 1863.

Pdf p. 72: "Camp No 31." This camp was located on a lake shore which appears in the lower left corner of the sketch.

Pdf p. 73: "Camp No. 32 September 2nd 1863 Indian Expedition." This encampment is again on the shore of a lake.

Pdf p. 74: Belden did not identify this sketch and the location of the scene is uncertain. It appears to be near the Missouri River, which is shown in the lower left corner of the picture.

THE SECOND NEBRASKA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SIOUX

EDITED BY RICHARD D. ROWEN

THE Territory of Nebraska contributed two Regiments and a number of other units to the Civil War. The First Nebraska was recruited in the early summer of 1861 and sent to the front. First stationed in Missouri, it later fought at Donelson and Shiloh.

A Regiment sent to the front seemed a substantial contribution from the new territory, but by the late summer of 1862 Nebraskans felt a need for further military effort. A series of Indian attacks began in August 1862 with the Sioux uprising in Minnesota. The outbreak of the Civil War had caused the Federal government to recall troops that had been stationed in frontier forts for action in the theatre of war. As news of the Indian trouble in Minne-

Richard D. Rowen, Curator of History on the Society staff began work on this account when he became interested in the Belden drawings in the Society collections. After further investigation he undertook the preparation for publication of the three accounts here utilized.

The article was virtually complete when Mr. Rowen was killed in an automobile accident January 26, 1963. Roger T. Grange, Jr. completed preparation of the manuscript for publication.

sota reached Nebraska, and as some of the Indians involved in Minnesota fled west into Dakota Territory, the citizens of Nebraska Territory became more and more concerned. The Territorial legislature asked the federal government for permission to raise a second regiment to defend Nebraska Territory, and as a result the Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry was recruited.

The Second Nebraska made a significant contribution to the military achievements in the area of the Upper Missouri during the Civil War. Nine of the twelve companies raised participated in the military campaign into Dakota Territory in which a column under General Alfred Sully moved up the Missouri to join another column that moved overland under the command of General Sibly. This action culminated in the battle at Whitestone Hills.

The activity of the Second Nebraska in the campaign in 1863 has not been extensively treated. Three accounts of the expedition, of widely varying character, are in the collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society and are published here. They are a journal kept by Robert W. Furnas, a diary of Henry W. Pierce, and a series of drawings by George P. Belden.

Colonel Furnas was in command of the regiment during the campaign. His journal is thus an official account of the activity of the Command. It gives a good picture of the difficulties of maintaining a cavalry regiment on the plains, especially in a severely dry year. Colonel Furnas was editor of the *Brownville Nebraska Advertiser* before his military service and was engaged in other publishing activities. He was Colonel of the First Indian Home Guards at the time the Second Nebraska was formed and resigned that post to accept command of this Territorial unit. Later Furnas served as Indian agent to the Omahas and was Governor of Nebraska (1873-1875).

The keeper of the diary, Henry W. Pierce, was a Corporal in Company K of the Regiment. Pierce had settled near Fremont in 1857 and returned to his farm after com-

pleting his military service. His diary is an excellent complement to the record of the regimental commander. He tells of the "gripes" and dissatisfactions of the men with their officers and with the conduct of the campaign, and reveals the problems that the enlisted men encountered. It is interesting to compare the reaction of the regimental commander and the soldier to the campaign day by day.

The third account, that of George P. Belden, a private in Company F, is perhaps the most valuable of the three and a type of account most infrequently published. Belden was from Brownville and had worked for Furnas on the *Nebraska Advertiser*. He enlisted in the First Nebraska as a drummer at the age of 17 in 1861, and had been discharged for ill health in April, 1863. June found him re-enlisting in the Second Nebraska, however. After this expedition Belden continued his military service and became a Lieutenant in the Second United States Cavalry. He was cashiered from the regular army in 1869 and became a trapper. In 1871 he was killed by an Indian near the Standing Rock agency in Dakota Territory. He wrote an account of his exploits that was published in 1870 under the title *Belden, the White Chief*.

While on this march with the Second Nebraska, Belden made a series of drawings of the camps of the regiment and of other aspects of the activities of the expedition. First published here, these drawings add an important dimension to our understanding of the campaign.

In transcribing the journal and diary original spelling, punctuation and usages have been retained except for spelling out words where ditto marks had been used. Interpretations, enclosed in brackets, have been inserted only when they seemed essential to convey the author's meaning.

JOURNAL OF COLONEL ROBERT W. FURNAS AS COMMANDER OF THE 2D NEBRASKA VOLS. CAVALRY FROM JUNE 16TH 1863 TO [SEPTEMBER 12, 1863] INCLUDING THE MORE IMPORTANT EVENTS TRANSPERING IN THE REGIMENT ITSELF.

Camp Sully June 16. Name of the encampment altered today from "Camp Cook" to "Camp Sully" in consequence of a chang in Brig. Comdr. In compliance with orders from Dist. Hed Qrs. I directed Lieut Bayne to report to Genl Sully for the purpose of taking command of the Battery which is to accompany the Expedition. I also recd orders to be ready to march upon the 18th inst. Such preparations as were necessary to be made like shoeing the horses of the command I immediately provided for; and the life and activity incident to military movements suddenly took the place of the *ennui* and inertia of "long in camp."

Camp Sully June 17 & 18. Nothing of any importance happened save the busy activity of preparation.

Camp Sully June 19. In accordance with orders from Genl Sully I directed the Comdg officers of "F" & "G" to commence their march for Fort Randall to-morrow morning at 5 o.c. a.m. with their companies; to complete 22 miles of the journey (to Miles Heall Point) the first day; to cross the Vermillion R. the next day (6 mi distant) and there await further orders. This for the purpose of guarding a wagon train.

Camp Sully June 20. "H" & "L" ordered as above.

Camp Sully June 21. I recd the expected orders to march with the rest of my command and one Battalion of the 6th Iowa Cav. for Fort Randall at 5 o.c. a.m. to-morrow.

Camp No. 1. June 22. Marched in compliance with the above orders making 22 miles (Miles Heall Point)¹ on the Missouri. Fine grazing and a beautiful country. Arrived in Camp about 4 o.c. P.M.

Camp No. 2. June 23d. Marched to and crossed the Vermillion near its mouth At this point in consequence of

¹ Miles Heall Point camp was located approximately on the line between Union and Clay Counties, South Dakota, about six miles east of Vermillion.

the set-back from the Missouri it is six or 7 rods wide.² I received the following report from Sergt Ward³ of a trip I allowed him to take accompanied by Private George Belden up to the Sioux Forks thence to the Vermillion and down that stream to its mouth:

"Col. Furnas.

Sir

In accordance with your permission in company with Private George Belden I started from Camp Sully June 19 to make a brief reconnoissance of the Sioux and Vermillion rivers. The first day we kept the main route up the Missouri for 9 miles (N.W.) thence 11 miles (N.N.W.) to near the mouth of Brule Creek. The day was cold and very windy—blowing directly into our faces.

During the journey to-day I began to experience some apprehension with reference to the Isantee Indians⁴ in consequence of the excited and positive statements of the inhabitants along the route that it was little less than foolhardiness to attempt the journey without more men. I determined however though with some little hesitancy to push ahead. This course was adopted because the stories told us were considerably confused and seemed to originate more from fear than any definite knowledge. At night we were hospitably entertained by a Mr. Taylor a man of energy & pluck. His ever-loaded rifle convenient to reach indicated that we were approaching the region where cowards run and brave men prepare themselves for fighting.

We found the land along our whole journey to-day to be similar each part with the rest—very rich and covered with an exuberant growth of grass making it a splendid grazing country. Near our stopping place where the Sioux & Brule bluffs approach each other &

² A ferry was used in effecting the crossing of the Vermillion.

³ Sergeant Smith G. Ward, Co. K, age 25, resident of Omaha. Identifications of all individuals are from *Roster of Nebraska Volunteers From 1861 to 1869*, compiled by Edgar S. Dudley, Wigton and Evans, Hastings, Nebraska, 1881.

⁴ The Isantee or Santee Sioux are an eastern division of the Dakota, consisting of the Mdewakanton, Wahpekute, Sisseton and Wahpeton. The Mdewakanton and Wahpekute were transported to Fort Thompson, Dakota Territory, in 1863 for their participation in the outbreak in Minnesota of 1862. They later made their home in north-eastern Nebraska on the Santee Reservation.

terminate in a sharp point is the Co. Seat (somewhat imaginary) of this, Cole County.⁵ By ascending the bluffs here (which are simply the terminus of prairie rolls) the beginning of that celebrated plat of land called "The Coteau des Prairies"⁶ extending 400 miles north can be distinctly seen. Its commencement is clearly marked by an abrupt and even rise of 15 or 20 feet from the lands between the Missouri and Sioux and apparently extends in an exact right-line east and west from the Sioux to the Vermillion which latter stream though 20 or 25 miles dis can be discerned. Towards the S.E. the high rolls of the Sioux flatten out into an almost inclined plane they apparently having jumped the river to this side and flattened out somewhat in their fall. At the distance of a mile or so to the East may be seen 10 or 12 beautiful crescent formed lakes of pure clear water with no visible inlet or outlet from 4 to 60 sq rods in extent nestling quietly upon the bosom of the bottom lands, which with the gentle woody Sioux and the bluffs form a scene for an artist.

June 20th 1863, Dozen Lakes

Started from Dozen Lakes about 9 A.M. The cold wind prevailing. Passed along the side of the bluffs (distant from the Sioux R. from one to four miles) experiencing considerable difficulty from the very high grass, and reached what I call Limpid Creek a clear stream of considerable size. Passed up this stream six or eight miles it being impossible to cross it short of that distance. It is fed by two forks of quite swift pure water apparently extending up the country 25 or 30 mi At this distance from the Sioux (10 mi) the prairie rolls become better adapted to farming country. We reached our encampment after traveling about 30 mi the country all way devoid of inhabitants & possessing in the main similar features. To-day we saw numerous indications of the recent presence of Indians. For the first

⁵ Cole County was named for Austin Cole, a Pennsylvania immigrant to this area in 1860. Organized by the first legislature, the county seat was located where the village of McCook now is, but in 1862 was moved to Elk Point. The county was later renamed Union county.

⁶ "Hills of the Prairie", a French reference to hillocks or rising grounds as distinguished from "cote", or hill. There are two systems of coteaus in South Dakota, the Coteau des Prairies and the Coteau du Missouri.

time we saw to-day (about 40 mi from Sioux City) upon the higher bluffs numberless stone from the pebble to the rock some of them apparently of igneous formation.

3d day. Got an early start determined to see the forks of the Sioux and after great difficulty in marching 15 or 20 mi. to get 10 we finally came in sight of the goal. And it was a magnificent sight. As far as the eye could reach both up and down the stream the eye was filled with the brightest colors pertaining to a river—its broad green valley, its meandering peaceful course its emerald trees all forming a vision of the utmost loveliness. The flattening prairie rolls here become more level spreading out as it were into infinity. The first appearance of this view was at what I called "Eureka Rock" a very large stone 14 ft long 10 ft broad 4 ft of it extending out of the ground. It was of a bright pipe-stone color very smooth & hard stratified the strata being from four to ten inches wide, the interstices being filled with some thing like black cement as hard as the rock itself. The mass upon the stone was petrified Its size, appearance and situation (upon one of the highest bluffs) makes it a thing for study and interest. My conclusion after seeing the Sioux R. for 60 mi of its course is that it is one of the finest streams in the world, the marshy bottom of the lower Sioux giving way to a moderately swift-current and sandy channel 25 mi from its mouth.

At this place commenced traveling west towards the Vermillion and encamped about 20 mi from the Sioux traveling much of the time upon the ridge or watershed separating the numerous lateral branches of the upper and lower Sioux and the upper part or W. fork running E. giving us a very fine and extensive view of the prairies which become quite level only lacking convenient wood & water to make them a fine farming country. The compass here is drawn aside toward the E. some 20 or 25°. This is owing doubtless to mineral substances in the earth. Reached the Vermillion about 40 mi from its mouth where it is nothing but a little creek. Made to Little Spirits Hill⁷ called so by the Indians who say that little Devils with large heads & small bodies inhabit its *penetralia*. From this hill can

⁷ Located some seven miles north of Vermillion; visited by Lewis and Clark in 1804.

be seen as magnificent a view as there is in this part of the c[ountry] particularly at sunrise the Missouri, James, Vermilion & Sioux R. all being easily discerned & the cumulative distance of river scenery is 115 or [1]20 mi. After recovering somewhat from our journey (distance of about 160 mi in four days) which was rendered more severe from lack of plenty of provisions & water we reported to you at Vermilion."

S.G. Ward

Camp No. 3. June 24 (James R.)⁸ Reached this place about 2 P.M. a distance of 22 mi weather warm & dry. Nothing of interest transpiring. Route lay along the Mo. bottoms which are quite wide the whole distance.

Camp No. 4. June 25 (Yankton) Reached this place (6 mi distant) after crossing the whole command about 12 O.C. Noon, and encamped near the Town. It is a small place of some 20 houses of fair construction.

Camp No. 5 June 26 (Bonhomme)⁹ Reached this place 22 mi distant about one O.C. Day hot and grass scorched to a crisp along our whole route in consequence of continued drought. Land quite level and apparently rich.

Camp No. 6. June 27 Distance 22 miles. Weather hot. Nothing of interest.¹⁰

Camp No. 7. Opposite Ft. Randall) June 28. Distance 30 miles. Weather warm. Went into encampment on the bottom lands on the opposite side from and N.E. of Ft. Randall.

Camp No. 7 June 29. Day passed off without anything of special interest.

Camp No. 7 June 30. Mustered for pay today. Rained heavily a great portion of the forenoon rendering the Camp ground very wet & muddy. Moved the Camp back about a mile upon higher grounds.

Camp No. 7 July 1. Day hot.

⁸ The James River, nicknamed the Jim, was officially termed the Dakota River.

⁹ Named for Jacques Bon Homme, the French mythical patron. First settler arrived in 1828. Later settlement was begun in 1858. The area is now under the waters of Lewis and Clark Lake.

¹⁰ The command camped on Choteau Creek.

Camp 7 July 2d. Weather hot with strong S.S.W. wind. Living on half forage and limited rations.

Camp 7 July 3d (Note) The bluffs first appear on the left bank near Yankton and these with the country along the bottom lands present many striking peculiarities often approaching the grand & sublime. They increase in size & irregularity to within five or six miles of Bonhomme where the roughness becomes comparatively smooth and the heights sink away into the plain. For the first five or six miles from Yankton they are not particularly interesting though some of them present a favorable outlook of the surrounding country which towards the full north appears an unbroken magnificent stretch of slightly rolling prairie and in Nebraska the vision is filled with rugged hills increasing in size and raggedness towards the south. Here the chalk bluffs begin, the first I saw being a small one standing out alone as if lost and wearing on its top a sort of hat with its brim extending some two feet beyond the main part of the quarry. On top of this is an Indian draft of a war horse which for perfection is seldom surpassed by white artists, together with other hieroglyphics the meaning of which I could not decipher. I understand that frequent inscriptions of battle scenes etc. beautifully colored and artistically formed are to be met with in this vicinity. Passing along up the bluffs from this point we find them gradually growing larger until they approach 300 feet above the bottoms all of them extending toward the R. in parallels, some having bald peaks on top, which seem to have been worn bold and circular by rapidly running water. Quite a number of hills have been washed perpendicular & present huge masses of chalk rock supported by quarries of unstratified stone somewhat harder than that above and of a slatey complexion. Some of the highest present a peculiar appearance capped by overhanging masses & the smooth surfaces beautified by concentric circles & flutes formed by parts *pulled* away. Ravines abound down which foaming waterfalls (at some seasons) dark gloomy & impenetrable rush to the river. About six miles from Bonhomme on the summit of bluffs 300 feet high are left the banks of an old lake about a mile in diameter which yet remain clearly marked save where the water has worn sluice ways from the watershed around & above them. Near this place the bluffs again lose their

ragged character & sink away simply as the bank or terminus of the Prairie. The fortifications of Lewis & Clarke said to be here in Bonhomme I. are a myth told to gull a people ignorant of the country they were describing.¹¹ Here the chalk begins to dwindle away into a whitey earth with a substratum of blue, and the rain wearing away this semi-rock cuts fantastic figures on the bluffy banks scooping into and down making large perpendicular fissures more inland at the bottom than the top corresponding to the different hardness of the various strata which are from 4 inches to as many feet thick. About ten miles from the Yankton Agency¹² S. the hills are somewhat different from any I have yet seen there being on some of them 1st soil from 3 to 10 ft thick increasing symmetrically in depth down the sides from 5 to 25 ft more presenting something of a clayey look indicating the presence of standing water during its formation; 2d thinly stratified yellowish rock from 15 ft to 50 in depth & 3d a dark substratum of stone similar to slate. Quite a number of them have channels worn into them from the extreme summit down the centre of the front to the bottom regularly increasing in width & depth from a foot to 25 Another thing struck one as singular. Many of the bluffs are worn (the rock part) roof shaped by the water—the soil having been deposited subsequently to the cutting through of the substance making rock

Camp No 7 July 4. Save a semi-celebration on the part of each individual and the firing of a national salute this day passed off as other days.

Camp No. 8. July 5. Started upon our march for Fort Pierre. Made about ten miles and encamped on the recently formed bottom lands near the R. Some of the way the roads are very rough and some of the wagons belonging to the Supply train were overturned. Day quite hot—succeeded by a strong wind in the evening and night which blowing the loose sand in clouds made it a very disagreeable camping ground. Away from the bottom lands which are here quite narrow the country as far as can be seen from the hill tops is very rough.

¹¹ These "fortifications" were composed of sand blown from the bars of the Missouri River bottom. Area is now submerged under the waters of Lewis and Clark Lake.

¹² The original Yankton Reservation was established in 1858 with the Missouri River as its southern boundary.

Camp No. 9 July 6th Commenced the march about sunrise and made sixteen miles Weather very hot everything being nearly the same as since we left Yankton, scorched by the destructive drought prevailing all over this country. The march most of the time extended along the Plateau of the Missouri to reach which some long hard hills had to be climbed. The route either the general or river route are not of any particular interest. I could not find any indications of Lewis & Clarkes petrified fish (45 ft long).¹³ It has probably swam up one of the numerous dry creeks abounding in that (Cedar Island) vicinity. Near us in a sand bar lays the War Eagle¹⁴ a boat belonging to the Expedition unloading freight. The Belle Peoria¹⁵ is in the same situation eight miles above.

Camp No 9 July 7. Passed the day here in consequence of - - - - Weather warm and pleasant except in the middle and after part of the day. The Ther. in the sun reaching 110° Camp on Platte Cr. about a mile from the Mo. near Hamiltons¹⁶ flanked by high hills and in a thickly wooded grove. An admirable location for troops. In consequence of the destructive drought existing all through this region north of Sioux City to British Am. [Canada] the creek is nearly dry, water found only in sink holes and being of a very inferior quality

Camp No. 10. July 8. Left Camp about 4 O.C.A.M. Kept along the Coteau where it begins to break in ridges towards the Missouri. The ground to the right was considerably broken by large prairie rolls almost devoid of verdure. Country uninteresting particularly at the present time. Five buffalo seen to-day for the first time. The Indians say this animal has crossed to the other side of the R. in consequence of their being hunted down so closely here by the Yanktons.

The route along the river again begins to present scenery approaching the mountainous and abounding in perpendicular bluffs of aqueous rock of triangular

¹³ A vertebra of the fossil collected by Lewis and Clark was deposited in the Smithsonian Institution.

¹⁴ This boat operated on the Missouri from 1858 until it burned at St. Louis, August 24, 1869.

¹⁵ This boat was destroyed by ice above Ft. Pierre during the winter of 1864.

¹⁶ Joseph V. Hamilton and his sons settled on Platte Creek in 1859.

face where innumerable swallows have built their nests. River bottoms begin to contract very much. The numberless ravines or watersheds leading down from the Plateau are longer and more crooked than usual. The bluffs too seem to be thrown together without reference to system and they stand in almost every conceivable relation to each other. Some of them as high as sixteen in number of similar size and formation stand facing each other perpendicular to the river line and each furnishing its tribute of surface water to make a common and very abrupt course to the R. So numerous are the ravines that a trip along the banks is almost impossible. You pass up one abrupt side to find one still more difficult and vertical to descend. At numerous places black rock similar to iron ore in appearance crops out in large quantities upon as black a background of hard brittle soil entirely devoid of verdure. Upon examination however I found that the stones were principally of aqueous formation and had been blackened and burnt by previous fires that have existed at some time in many of these hills. Creek beds now dry filled with a continuous pile of boulders—some very large. Weather hot and dry. Distance 16 mi. Camped on Snake Cr.

Camp No. 11. July 9. American Cr. Started about 10 O.C. A.M. keeping a northerly direction nearly the whole route and at quite a distance from the river viz—on the smooth hard and dry plateau. This for today consisted principally of gentle swells. The bluffs of Snake Cr. which we first saw about 2 O.C. A.M. loomed up in the uncertain light—a high continuous hill—parallel with our route for several miles and resting squarely upon a crest of the Coteau. The weather up to 7 or 8 O.C. was cool and comfortable inspiring the horses into a rapid walk. But weariness accompanied by the tramp, tramp, tramp over the hollow sounding prairie induced to drowsiness and a consequent cadenced nodding side and shifty shuffle through the whole column. Maj. Pearman taking the lead in this very graceful and ludicrous movement. Dick¹⁷ accompanying me for a short distance dashed suddenly out of the column to the rear muttering something about that damned train and having exhausted himself in setting

¹⁷ This is apparently a nickname of Regimental Quartermaster Josiah S. McCormick; Peirce's diary entry for August 23rd refers to Dick McCormick as the Quartermaster.

things to rights crept wearily into one of the wagons, "to watch the teamsters." But little grass, no timber, no game and no water until we arrived here where a cesspool would be a luxury and the shade of a tent a necessity—Distance 30 mi, 6 mi from the Mo. Reached Camp about 11 O.C. A.M.

Camp No. 12. July 10. Crow Creek. Direction nearly north. Distance 15 miles. Time of departure sunrise. Of arrival about 10 O.C.A.M. Weather a little more cool than yesterday. Kept along the plateau until about three miles of this place we came suddenly upon the massive black and very irregular bluffs of this Creek. These present a very dreary appearance. Some of them burnt from previous internal fires and the rest having much of the appearance of the Black Hills scorched by fire recently sweeping over them. We encamped between an old creek bed and the new surrounded by timber and having better water than usual. A very strong wind from the N. commenced about noon caused by the Indians setting fire to the grass above us, which accompanied by the smoke made matters considerably unpleasant. There was a sprinkling of rain in the earlier part of the night the first for a long time. This was seized upon as an occasion but the bare legs and disappointed expectations of the fishermen were more numerous than their fish. A few were caught however.

July 11 Camp 13. Crow Creek Agency¹⁸ (1500 miles up the Missouri) We arrived here (some four miles above the Agency buildings) about noon pitching our tents near the Missouri river. The weather was very warm. The Indians here are 1500 Isantee Sioux and 2000 Winnebagoes the latter having been recently transported here from Minnesota in consequence of the recent massacre in that state. Among the Sioux here there are but few "bucks"¹⁹ the greater part being squaws and papooses.

Camp 14 July 31st Froze Creek.²⁰ Left No. 13 about 7 O.C. A.M. bound for Fort Pierre having remained at

¹⁸ Established by Clark W. Thompson, superintendent of Indian Affairs for the northern superintendency, in May 1863, for the Winnebagoes who participated or were reputed to have participated in the Minnesota uprising of 1862.

¹⁹ The Indian men were either away hunting or imprisoned after the Minnesota uprising.

²⁰ Probably a branch of Soldier Creek.

the Agency Camp since July 11th. The Agency is situated midway between the Mo. and the bluffs upon a handsome slope of about a mile in width and eight miles above Crow Creek. When we arrived there were but two or three small buildings up, with a sorry excuse for work. During our stay however three or four buildings of fair dimensions have been built which with the construction of a moderate sized Fort (indicative of a permanent post) gave quite an air of life and activity to this otherwise wild and unoccupied country. The whole is under charge of 'Col' Thompson. While here the Indians particularly the Isantee squaws (seeking substitutes for 'Bucks' I presume, in which I opine they were quite successful) swarmed our Camp from 'early morn to dewy eve' their dusky forms frequently seen flitting in the pale moonlight performing their 'rites' among the shrubbery and stumps to a much later hour — filthy hags whose ugliness was only equalled by their want of anything like modesty or virtue. These Winnebagoes made me a dance one day in front of my tent which relieved somewhat the monotony of our stay. It made considerable sport for the boys and altogether was a pleasant affair. We made eight miles to-day going almost directly N. passing up to and upon the Plateau which all the way to Pierre as a general thing is not very high above the R. Some of the bluffs leading up to the Coteau present an appearance somewhat similar to the Mauvaise Terres²¹ in the burnt conical hills among them and the singular irregularity of their arrangement.

Froze Creek like all the streams we have passed since leaving the Dakota consists of nothing but stagnant pools even these being scarce. The boys succeeded however in digging pseudo springs of passably good water. Grass very poor and the thermometer at 102° in the coolest shade made it decidedly unpleasant in Camp.

Camp No. 15. Shappel Creek²² August 1st Started little before 4 O.C. intending to reach the Cr. in 25 mi, the morning being the warmest we have yet experienced and indicating a very warm day. But happily towards sunrise a cool breeze arose from the W. and rendered the marching comfortable for the greater part of the

²¹ The Badlands of South Dakota.

²² Chappelle Creek.

journey. About miles from Froze Cr. we passed around the right angular bend of the Mo. where it turns S. from W. A little short of this point where the road approached the summit bluffs of the R. we passed an 1856 camping ground of Little Thunder²³ with 2 or 3000 warriors the place being recognized by large numbers of stones placed in *tipi* circles more with reference to convenience than system. Eight or ten miles from this place we passed a couple of trails made recently by the Isantees in crossing from the upper Sioux and Dakota Rs over the Mo. The march generally speaking was over a country consisting of flattened rolls or swells the ridges of which were from 5 to 8 mi apart. In consequence of the creek being nearly dry where we first reached it being nearly dry & furnishing only the worst kind of stagnant water we were obliged to pass three or four miles down it to within about a mile of the Mo. Here the water was a little more abundant. The best spring we have had since leaving Sioux City was dug here. At times there must be heavy falls of water in this vicinity for the Cr. now nearly dry has indications of being sometimes 6 ft deep. In fact it is evident that the country from Yankton to 10 or 12 mi this side of Crow Creek is usually much more devoid of rain than either above or below it as indicated, almost with the distinctness of a line of light, by the passage from a dry and sterile region to one comparatively fresh and green and blessed with recent rains. Query: Is not this demarcation the result of the hot, dry and usually prevailing west winds coming from the Mauvaise Terres? Our camp was situated up on a very fine and large bottom land of some eight or ten miles in length. Near by is a trading house built by Brugyer²⁴ for barter with the Yanktons. Some of the burnt hills here present from the bluffs above them a very unique appearance the black parts laying in distinct and completely circular layers of two or three feet depth extending from near the bottom to the summit the top one being handsomely and symmetrically rounded. Distance 27 or 28 mi.

²³ A chief of the Brule Sioux who took part in the battle of Ash Hollow, Nebraska, with General Harney in 1855.

²⁴ A fur trader who married two daughters of a Santee chief, War Eagle, and who operated several trading posts on the upper river.

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²⁴ A fur trader who married two daughters of a Santee chief, War Eagle, and who operated several trading posts on the upper river.

Camp 16 Aug. 2 (near Medicine Cr) Continued the march this morning about 4 O.C. passing along the bottom lands a few miles then reaching quite a rough broken and hilly section approaching the R of 4 or 5 miles in width and to Medicine Cr. a stream of considerable size but tinctured somewhat with alkali. We went into Camp about two miles above this Cr. on a very fine rush bottom of the Mo. Weather rather warm. Distance 12 mi.

Camp No 17 Aug 3d (Mile and a half below Fort Pierre)²⁵ Arrived here about 10 o'clk in the forenoon, camp on a plateau on 2d bench of land near the bank of the river. Abundance of good grass. The evening after our arrival Genl Sully and Staff who are in camp 4 miles above the Fort visited our Camp, returning the same evening.

Aug. 4—Fire broke out in grass near river, but was extinguished without damage—

Aug 5 Started train back to Camp 13 to bring up sick.

Aug 6—Fire broke out in grass 5 miles below Camp and was extinguished with difficulty before infringing materially on our supply of grass for feed—

Aug 7 Windy and dusty all day. In afternoon a terrific gale blew up prostrating tents, and dust flying until we could not see: during the time fire again broke out in grass, but was extinguished promptly. Never experienced such continued high winds as within the past 3 or 4 days. Still waiting for boats from below to enable us to go up the river further—

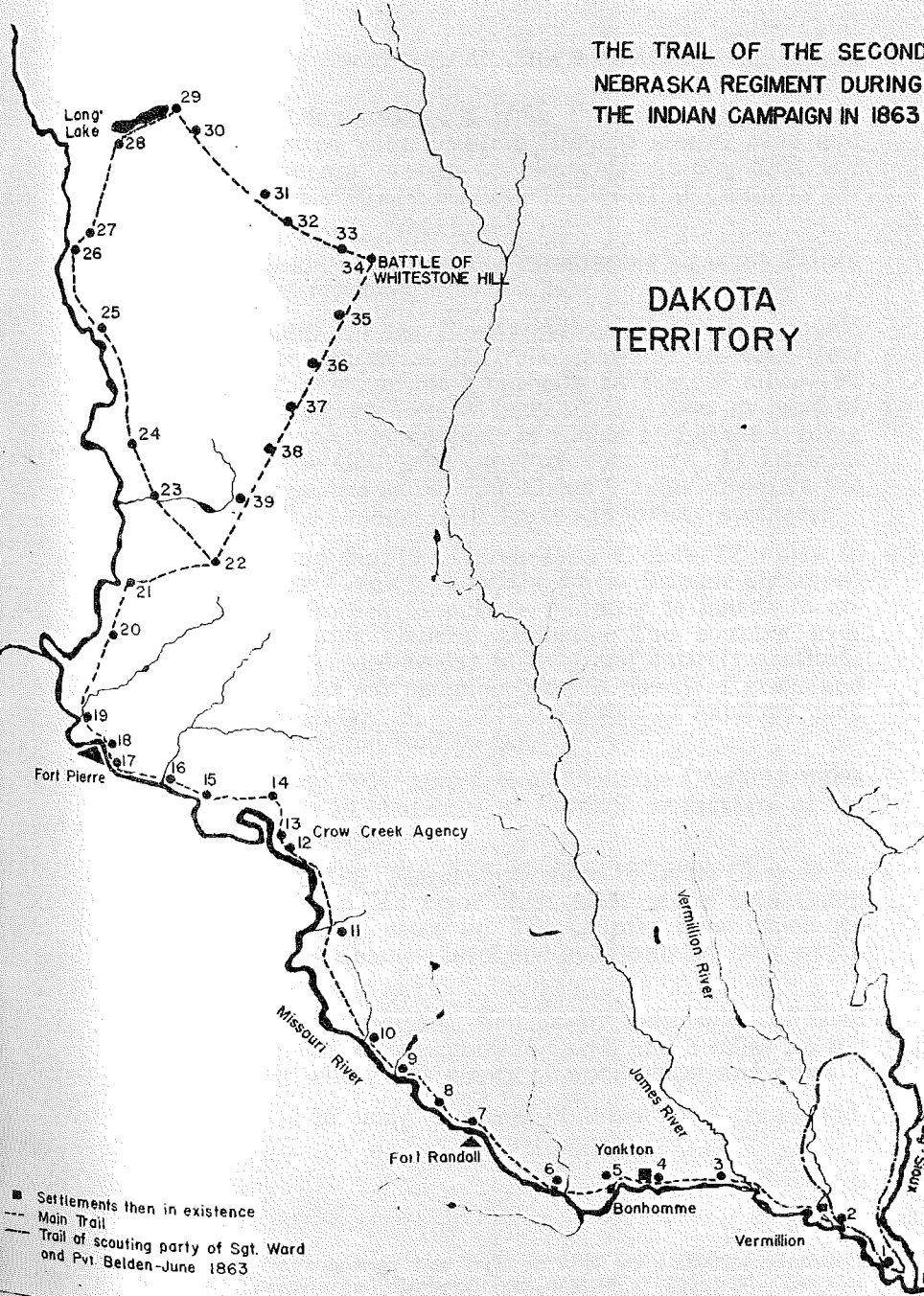
Aug 8 Day opened pleasant but warm no wind up to now at time this entry was made. The Steamer Belle Peoria came up in the evening.

Aug 9—Sunday clear warm morning. no wind— Preaching by chaplain in grove close by Should before have made the entry that on Genl Sully's arrival at Ft Pierre he broke up that post on the west bank of the river, and moved on to the east bank, where he erected a large block house mounting in the 2d story thereof a 6 pound siege gun. Calls the post Ft Bartlett, is being erected under the superintendence of Lt. Col. Bartlett of 30th Wisconsin Infantry

²⁵ This would be below the fort now referred to as Fort Pierre II.

THE TRAIL OF THE SECOND
NEBRASKA REGIMENT DURING
THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN IN 1863

DAKOTA
TERRITORY



This map is a reconstruction of the route with the camps numbered in accordance with Colonel Furnas' Journal.

Aug 10—Monday—About 2 o'clk this morning we were again visited with a severe thunder storm, wind and rain. The day opened up pleasant. At 9½ o'clk the train with sick and others left behind at Camp 13 arrived

Aug 11—Tuesday—Day opened remarkably pleasant Rained lightly at night

Aug 12 Camp No 18 Cloudy While at breakfast rec'd orders to march at 10 o'clk marched to near Genl Sullys Hd Qrs on bluff opposite Ft Pierre 8 miles—Ft Pierre is situated on W bank of Mo. river at head of what once was heavy body of timber and is the trading post of the *Old American Fur Company*. Ft Lafsambau²⁶ is on the same bank about 3 miles above at the foot of the timber Both Forts are mainly stockades

Aug 13. Camp No 19 Marched at 4 o'clk 12 miles to Ok-o-bo-zic Creek²⁷ where the whole Brigade encamped and will proceed to-morrow morning to march in accordance with General Orders— The country over which we passed to-day is level and entirely destitute of grass. At our camping place is plenty of grass and stagnant water. Saw quite a number of antelope, jack rabbits, fox and wolf to-day

Aug 14 (Camp 20) March from Okobozi Creek 15 miles No change in character of country or matters of interest transpired

Aug 15 (Camp 21) Marched 25 miles to Little Cheyene at its mouth on Mo river Just after going into Camp Steamer Alone came up The country over which we passed about same—level and good country over which to travel.

Aug 16 Sunday morning Neb 2d by permission of Genl Sully moved across Cheyene Creek and 2 miles up the Mo river where was plenty of wood water and grass

Aug 17—Still in camp Nothing of importance transpired.

²⁶ Fort LaFromboise was built in 1862 by LaBarge, Harkness and Co. Francois LaFromboise had charge of the post. He also served along with Dick Richards as a guide for the expedition.

²⁷ Okobojo Creek.

Steamer "Alone" went down to meet Shreveport²⁸ and lighten her up. Very warm—106 in the shade

Aug 18—Still in camp during day Still very warm and dry In evening clouds arose in north indicative of storm—tents all well pinned down at 11½ o'clk wind blew perfect hurricane horses stampeded, tents blew down, followed by the heaviest rain we have experienced

Aug 19 Still in camp The day opened out calm and pleasant Steamer Shreveport arrived at 3½ o'clk and we were ordered to unload her and make preparations for marching. A Detachment from Co A 2d Neb was on the Shreveport as Guard, Sergt Bowen²⁹ in command

Aug 20—Day opened cool and cloudy Reed orders to draw 8 Days rations and to Send back to Ft Bartlett all sick, unfit for duty disabled and surplus horses During the afternoon one of the most terrific storm occurred—rained flooding over camp with over a foot water and hailed most fearfully

Aug 21—Genl's Hd Qrs and Iowa 6th marched to head of Cheyene Creek 8 miles leaving orders for Neb 2d to follow next morning

Aug 22 (Camp 22) Marched at 4 o'clk and reached Genls Hd Qrs at 8 o'clk. Wheeling very heavy in consequence of the rains day previous Marched above his camp watered stock and took on wood for night, then marched at 11 o'clk and marched to a slew about 6 miles. Several wagons swamped and had to be pulled out by hand during the march. At night quite cool & damp

Aug 23—(Camp 23) Day cold and windy. Marched 10 miles to Swan Creek. Drizzle damp After going into camp Lt McCormick went out hunting and soon found a buffalo wounded him and ran him into camp where he was soon dispatched and distributed through the command rained at night and still quite cold

²⁸ General Sully impressed the Shreveport with Captain LaBarge in command into service to haul supplies for the expedition. See the Peirce diary, July 23.

²⁹ Commissary Sgt. William R. Bowen, Co. A, age 26, and of Florence, Nebraska. Company A was left on duty at Ft. Randall while the remainder of the command went north with General Sully.

- Aug 24 (Camp 24) marched 20 miles to Hidden Wood Creek.³⁰ Fine grass all day, and any quantity of antelope. Expected to see plenty of Buffalo on the march but saw none The country for 3 or 4 days past has been fine level and soil excellent
- Aug 25 (Camp 25) Marched 25 miles to Bugger Creek. Country and grass fine. During the day Buffalo and Antelope were seen in abundance fine sport in hunting 15 or 20 Buffalo were killed in sight of the command. Qr. M. McCormick killed 3 Command halted and a great many of the boys went in pursuit and were quite successful one horse was shot and a matter of surprise that many more were not as most of them who went out were inexperienced
- Aug 26 (Camp 26) Marched 35 miles to Beaver Creek Did not reach Camp until after dark Mules very much fatigued, in fact many of them gave out entirely During the day hunters captured 2 squaws and 3 children who telling conflicting stories were retained as prisoners. By order of Genl Sully, Companies F and K 2d Neb Cav were sent in advance as scouting party in hopes of capturing a small Band of Indians supposed to be encamped somewhere on Beaver Creek They did not find our Camp to-day. During the day thousands of Buffalo were seen in every direction A great many were killed Lt. Stewart Co. E killed his horse by an accidental shot. At night the Genl issued an order forbidding any more hunting until on the return Had better water to night than since leaving Mo river Have now travelled three days due north
- Aug 27 (Camp 27) Marched at 12 o'ck M. 5 miles to a small branch of Beaver river where we found excellent water, but not a stick of wood. Company "K" came into camp this morning before we marched having got separated from Co F. No tidings from Co "F"
- Aug 28 (Camp 28) No tidings yet from Capt Laboo. Marched 25 mile to Long Lake³¹ The morning was exceedingly cold. Not over a dozen Buffalo seen all day.

³⁰ Bois Cache Creek now called Blue Blanket Creek.

³¹ Long Lake is located a few miles southeast of Bismarck, North Dakota.

To-day an old Indian³² was captured at Long Lake who informed us that Genl Sibly had been here before us and had had two fights with Indians in which a great many Indians were killed Little Crow³³ among the number. The Indians are reported to be scattered in every direction At 1 o'clk at night still no tidings from Capt Laboo The Genl ordered me to send out one Battallion to Mouth of Beaver river and the out-let of Long Lake where it is said there are 100 lodges in camp who had been whipped by Sibley and ran across the Mo river and after Sibley left recrossed to this side for game. Sent Maj. Pearman with Companies E, G, L, & M. We learned here that a mackinaw Boat had been captured a few days before our arrival coming down the river by these same Indians It is supposed to be the Boat of Maj Culbertson All the party aboard are said to have been murdered³⁴

Aug 29 At 4 o'clk this morning Maj Pearman marched with the Battalion before mentioned: the remainder of the entire command remaining in camp awaiting the reports of scouting parties which had been sent in various directions by Genl Sully. About noon rec'd orders to be in readiness to march at a moments notice with wood for 4 days by which we suppose the command will likely next move in the direction of the Cotah-de-Prairie 50 miles East of where we are now in camp At 2 o'clk p.m. Capt Laboo and company came in which greatly relieved all parties. He had scouted in various directions near 200 miles in less than 4 days. Made many valuable discoveries but found no Indians Found deserted wagons and others burned on Beaver and Wolf Creeks Also white female wearing apparel

Aug 30 About day-light a detachment sent out by Genl Sully from Iowa 6th to investigate the report of Genl Sibley having been at the mouth of Apple Creek,³⁵ re-

³² Belden refers to this Indian as old "Keg" who had been left to die on the prairie and was rescued and treated by the expedition which he then accompanied as a guide. *Belden, The White Chief*, G. P. Belden, 1874, p. 357.

³³ The report of the death of Little Crow at the hands of Sibley's army was mistaken. Sibley had several encounters with the Indians before he began his return march August 1, 1863.

³⁴ The boat was reputed to have had a party of 21 men and 3 women, and possibly some children, aboard. After an all day battle they were all killed by the Indians and the boat looted.

³⁵ In the general area of Bismarck, North Dakota.

turned confirming the report. His train trail was found and an earth fortification appearing to be 3 or 4 weeks old. A report also came in from Maj Pearman who had made no discoveries. We left Camp at 9 o'clock and marched 20 miles to Long Lake Camp No 29. The Lake is low and strongly impregnated with alkali, so much so that many horses refused to drink it. Some few fish however were caught in it. The surface of the country level and beautiful—grass abundant

Aug 31 About day-light Maj Pearman and command came in bringing no new intelligence, nor found any Indians. We marched at 8 O'clock to a fine trio of clear pure springs distant 10 miles to Camp No 30. The finest camping ground we have had during the campaign fine grass, pure water good ground in every respect yesterday we found a dead Indian the Prairie. The most of our march to-day until within a mile of our Camp was very broken, sandy and barren, difficult to get over with the train. Mustered for pay after going into camp.

Sept 1st Marched at 6 o'clock. The latter part of the night and this morning quite cold again: so much so that over coats were worn all day. Marched 20 miles to a Lake Camp 31. Nothing of interest transpired during the day. Travelled S.E. most of the day: passed quite a number of Lakes all of which appeared to be more or less alkali.

Sept 2d (Camp 32) Marched at 6 o'clock 20 miles to a Lake where was good grass and moderate water. Nothing of particular interest transpired. The scouts reported having discovered recent signs of a small band of women and children. Course most of the day S.E. Latter part in order to reach water N.E.

Sept 3d Marched at 6 o'clock 18 miles to a Lake Camp 33. During most of the day over fine level prairie abounding in Lakes filled with Geese and Ducks passed 15 fresh Buffalo carcasses within sight of each other. Travelled during the day nearly due South. We are now said by the Guides to be within 100 miles of Ft. Abercrombie³⁶. Minn and 15 miles of head of James River. Early part of the day cold and appearance of rain: latter part clear and mild. To-day the Genl sent

³⁶ Ft. Abercrombie, located on the Red River in Dakota Territory, served as a military base from 1858-1877.

out 40 men under Lt Deyo and one Battalion of Iowa 6th under Maj House as Scouting parties

After going into Camp news came that a camp of 600 Lodges had been discovered 8 miles distant The Genl immediately ordered out all the forces The 2d Neb being first ready was given the right and we put out at a gallop After marching about 4 miles the Genl ordered the 2d Neb forward We then went at full speed When we discovered the camp they were all in full retreat about 1500 in all. I flanked them on the right formed a line of Battle and made an attack completely routing and killing large numbers of Indians and horses We commenced at about dark and fought as long as we could see. We lost 2 men and 7 wounded and several horses. We held the ground until morning, in line

Sept 4 Camp 34 No Indians save dead were to be seen. The whole country for miles was covered with roving howling dogs, and ponies. The Indians fled leaving *everything*, tents, meat, cooking utensils, and 15 or 20 small children. About 500 of Medicine Bear's Band gave themselves up to Genl Sully before the fight commenced. The engagement was a success. We camped for the day on the ground occupied by the Indians when they were discovered.

Sept. 5 Having sent Dr. Bowen and a small party back to camp 34 [33?] for ambulance to convey wounded and dead, and they not being heard from we remained in camp during the day. Several parties were sent to look for them. At 11 o'clk a party of 30 men under Lt. Hall, Co. F, were driven in by the Indians, 4 of their number having been killed (one of Co I and 1 of Co K) Genl Sully immediately ordered the 2d Neb Cav out in the direction of the enemy. I made a circuit of about 20 miles, discovering no Indians in force. I found 4 stragling Indians who I killed and brought in one small Indian prisoner. 2 of my men were wounded in hunting an Indian in some tall grass.

Sept 6 Marched 18 miles to a Lake Camp 35

Sept 7 Marched 25 miles to Lake

Sept 8 Marched 20 miles to Lake

Sept 9 Marched 25 miles to Lake

Sept 10 Marched 35 miles to head of Little Cheyenne

Sept 11 Marched 15 miles to our old camp at mouth of
Little Cheyenne

Sept 12

DIARY

of

HENRY A. PEIRCE

[The first few pages of the diary are missing with the first entry beginning on Tuesday, June 23, 1863, in the middle of a statement.] “. . . . our delay at the ferry³⁷ the good citizens of round about brought pies & cakes for our stomachs sakes for which postage was freely given. We drove about a mile & camped on the Vermillion River. Latter pies & cakes found their way into the camp for which we were exceedingly thankful. Fresh beef was distributed today. Great care seems to have been take by our Commissariat to provide for our health & comfort. The large drove of beef cattle that follows the train is by no means a mean sight to behold. Our Sutler came in today with his choice selection of goods adapted to soldiers wants. A squad of fifteen men were detailed from Company K to act as scouts for two days, commanded by 2nd. Lieut. Wms. They were all hale fellows select men from Co. K that if there was any hard duty & “recon” they could do it under the wise head of their beloved Lieut.

Wednesday, June 24.

At 2 o'clock this morning the reveillee sounded. In a few minutes all was astir, breakfast got & ate, horses fed, saddled & packed, & at 4 o'clock the column was again in motion, Co. K as advance guard. The Sioux City Cav (1 Co.)³⁸ joined us the day before, a fine company, you bet. We marched till about noon, camped at Dakota river. No better place for grazing our horses could be wished for. We passed over about 15 ms. of road. The country through which we traveled this day was the valley between the Mo.

³⁷ The command was delayed in crossing the Vermillion River.

³⁸ The Sioux City Cavalry became Co. I of the 6th Iowa Cavalry.

and Vermilion rivers, rich & fertile, abundant with grass, timber rather scarce than otherwise, settlements thin, some houses unoccupied. Corn just high enough to cultivate. Potatoes & wheat were the best crops we saw. Rations issued to the Cos. today. Inspection of arms daily.

Thursday, June 25, 1863

At sunrise we were again in motion, was delayed a long time at the ferry, only one small boat to work with. Dakota or St. James river is a clearer stream than we have camped upon yet. At last all was over, each company hauled their own wood for several miles. Camped tonight at Yanc-ton, the Capital of Dakota Terr. Yanc-ton is located close to the shore, & has one of the finest landings north of Omaha. The levee was stone, distributed there probably by the action of the water, affording a good solid bottom to lead stock down or to water. A rich district of land surrounds this point & facilities for raising stock above other points on the Mo. river & in time, if the Indians are quiet, Yanc-ton will become one of the heaviest stock markets in the northwest. A large body of timber across the river, that will afford a supply for farm use. Most of the buildings were neat & comely. Tonight whiskey displayed itself in all its meanness by some of the boys getting "tight" & confiscating a peddlers wagon containing cakes & fruit. Such depredations on the kindness of the settlers will relieve us, to our mortification, of many luxuries. Lieut. Wms. & his squad returned, report no Indians.

[The following entry was out of order and at the end of the original diary. It is badly faded and difficult to read.]
June 25th [?]

..... of Dakota [?] to
escort Gen Sully here and at his permission fired
rounds from the howitzer

Friday, 26 June 1863

At sunrise the column was again marching, the weather was heavy today, prospect of rain, fog. The column made a halt for the purpose of gratifying the artist³⁹ a few minutes. Hope to see a sketch of us in the history of the campaign. Somewhat of a forced march to day to get to wood & water.

³⁹ George P. Belden.

Camped at Bon Hom. Here the drouth was manifest, the ground was dry & parched, grass dry enough to burn, yet there were a few settlers there. Farms forsaken probably on account of the Minn. trouble. County grows still more dry, barren & stony. Horses getting somewhat tired. Prosecuted a citizen for selling whiskey to soldiers, & was kept as prisoner on the march tomorrow.

Saturday, June 27th/63.

At half past 2 this morning the band played the reveille, about 5 all left this miserable camp of sand & drouth & parched fields. Traveled today over a district of country that would starve a forlorn hope of catapillars, farms opened up & deserted again, & may God speed every man that deserts this part of the country for it is destitute of wood & water & destitute of grass, destitute of game, save only now & then a couple of poor half starved choked Jack Rabbits who through their poverty barely escaped being surrounded & taken. One was carelled by a few & the men killed him with a sabre. Camped tonight where there was nothing wanting to our comfort, save grass, good feed could be obtained, however, by going a good way up the ravine. The water for the camped was obtained from a pond hole close by, which abounded with fish & frogs till you couldn't rest. Many suppers of frogs were ate this night, & your humble servant, for the first time, overcame his spleen & partook a meal of frogs, (just the thyes only were cooked.) Speckled trout cannot compare with the delicacy of such a dish. Whenever I can get frogs enough to eat I'm going to have them. It's bed time, good by.

Sunday June 28th.

Orders last night not to march today hence we slept till broad daylight & did not want to get up then, but the reveille sounded & all was astir. The business of the day was first, killing beef & distributed it, cooking, eating, taking care of our horses, for today 1/4 rations of grain, cleaning arms, washing, repairing clothes, tents, & horse equipment, etc., etc. Preaching in camp today by our chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Smith.

Had a nice shower of rain today. The stage station⁴⁰ (is) 4 miles back from where we camped. The country here is hilly, with gravely soil & boulders sticking out very

⁴⁰ Described as Tucket's Stage Station by John Q. Goss, regimental commissary officer of the Second Nebraska Cavalry.

think [thick]. No timber of any account. Country subject to drouth, no settlers except the stage stations.

Monday, June 29th.

At two o'clock the music played, all were up, & a good while before sunrise we were on the march. Drove several miles, halted to feed, water a little distance but could not be got at.

Forced march today. Arrived opposite Ft. Randall, camped & awaiting for further orders. Country still destitute of timber, & water. Steamboat lying at Ft. R. We are in the Indian Country. Saw their cornfields & mode of burrying their dead, i.e. platform built up about 10 ft. from the ground, the dead placed on them, & covered up with clothes.⁴¹

Water little alkalied.

Tuesday, June 30th., 1863.

Today was mustering day. Got on our horses. Came up a heavy shower of rain, all got wet, drowned our camp, moved up on the bench of land high & dry. Mustered in the afternoon. Clear weather dried our clothes.

Wednesday, July 1st.

Weather fine. Mail came in from the Ft. today. Your humble servant did not get any. Rations not issued till late in the evening. Men growled, cursed the commissary. Made out a supper however on tea & crackers. Drill daily while we stay here.

⁴¹ The following description was written on the back of his sketch of the Indian burial by George Belden: "The burying ground of the tribe of Yankton Dakotah Indians around the bluffs opposite Fort Randall Dakotah, and across the river, occupying all the bluffs within sight of camp. (3 miles above Fort Randall) They bury some in the ground, but as a general rule elevate them 10 or 12 feet above ground on four forks as seen in the sketch. Everything the deceased owned is buried with him or hung up on the forks or on the poles supporting him. If he was the possessor of a pony, or a dog, or any live stock, that is led over his grave or under him, and shot. Plenty of provisions and water are supplied him, as they think the journey to the Spirit Land a long one, and he will need something to eat on the route. The sketch on the opposite side of this sheet represents an Indian buried in a red blanket (or rather, "hung up to dry") about a quarter of a mile below our camp. With and around him, are 3 more on stakes or forks, and three in the ground. (They also bury them in trees in the place of forks) We seldom see more than 5 or 6 in the same place or on the same bluffs but they are scattered all around. G.P.B. July 1st, 1863."

Sat—July 4th, 1863.

Nothing transpired of any int. since July 1. The daily routine of camp duty, i.e. issuing rations to the Cos. Commissary then to the messes. Mountain Cactus discovered here on the hill sides. Liberty today was given to the regiment to go to Ft. R. A few guns were fired here & also at the Ft. in commemoration of our forefathers. Ft. R. is located on the table land rising high above the river. The buildings are large & comfortable, adapted to the health & comfort of the men. Streets are decorated with trees. Women & children were there which made the place look like a thriving eastern village. A school is sustained for the benefit of the families. A park or drill ground in the centre, in which was the flag staff of freedom, towering high above all other objects. Co. A of the 2nd Neb. Cav. is supposed to be stationed at the Fort during their term of service. Orders for the reg't to march. Co. K remains as rear guard for the citizen supply train. The forces are actually under motion. We are advancing into the heart of the Indian country. We expect to see something. All are to anxious to smell powder.

Sunday, July 5.

Today we struck our tents & forward marched, Co. I remaining behind for a while, Co. K moved about a mile to better grass, wait for the supply train. Indians said to be on their hunt, their houses here all empty. Soldiers broke in & rumaged their things, their curiosity also incites them to disturb their dead, a dangerous passion to indulge in, even among hostile or peaceable tribes.

Abundance of grapes in the woods, your humble servant picked his hat full, stewed them in a mess pan & sweetened them with the best of New Orleans two & six molasses. The sauce was beautiful.⁴²

Monday, July 6th./63.

We remained in camp today, washed, patched our clothes, bathed in the Big Muddy & refreshed ourselves & horses. Fresh beef issued today. A tremendous getting ready to march. Low stage of water, boats above here stopped on a sand bar. No grass except in low places.

⁴² Dr. W. S. Latta, Assistant Surgeon of the Second Nebraska urged the men to gather wild goose berries to supplement their diet which consisted mainly of coffee, tea, hominy, rice, beans, sugar, molasses and vinegar.

Country generally barren, land not arable except small tracts along the river. The valley of the Mo. is becoming contracted almost to nothing. Country exceedingly rough almost mountainous. Now & then a half breed settler or a Frenchman, with a squaw for a wife. Some of the fences round their fields are good. Indications of coal.

Tuesday, July 7th.

Orders this morning was March, then there was a big bustle in camp, & a good deal of swearing about military rules & practice. There is no preliminary explanation to soldiers, as to what they are going to do, or where they are going, or why the orders to march today, when almost positive assurance was given yesterday to remain a few days, but perhaps this is military discipline, military rules according to the articles [of] war, —if so, I don't like it, for my part I would prefer to know if possible, what was before me, that I might have time to screw up my courage to any emergency, hence save the mortification of being dashed on to something by surprise, & become unmaned & if my nature is like anybody's else, (& I profess to be human) it is so with many others, & I know that throughout this reg't the same feelings of regret are expressed, that they can't "know any thing" before hand. But I will here remark to the credit of military officers, that the more experience they have the more agreeable their commands are. They give reasons why they command thus & so, & their men are satisfied, & are more attached to such officers: the best fortress an officer can have is the attachment of his men. There is a desire in an army of men for a leadership & one they have confidence in. When such a one is found, there is a kind of love growing out of the men toward their leader that will incline them to willingly stand by him even unto death, & here I believe that this was in a great degree, the secret of Bonapart's success. He knew *how* to govern men, hence France loved him. He had only but to stamp upon the earth & millions rose to his call.

We drove about 10 miles & camped. with the Iowa 6th. One or two wagons upset today.

July 8th./63.

At 3 o'clock this morning the bugle blew us out of bed to roll call, —breakfast got, ate, horses badly scared with a little corn., some wasn't scared at it, - did not see any. Horses of Co. K remained saddled a long time, feeding, waiting for the supply train. The men lay down on the

grass & refreshed themselves in almost insupportable heat. Summer here has only fairly commenced. It begins in the latitude of Omaha in the Spring.

Prairie Dog village a little north of camp. Our course has been directly west, the Mo. takes that course. Creeks when we find any, partake of alkaly. There is no grain in these parts, the country is too poor to subsist it. Scarcely a bird is seen or heard. All the crops being raised by these french & half breeds is corn, potatoes, turnips, melons. Potato bug ravages the crop. Co. K marched about mile to some timber to wait for the supply train. No prospect of it. Marched back to the old camp, pitched our tents. Orders to march in the night to overtake the reg't. Struck our tents, packed our duds, loaded the wagons, horses all saddled & bridled ready. Orders countermanded, wait till 3 o'clock in the morning. Co. K was ready. Train didn't come till broad day light. Whose fault was all this blunder? Not any one of Co. K.

Travelled all day without water. Camped on the Mo. with the Iowa 6th. Grass poor, river low, none but small boats can run. The War Eagle left here for down the river for supplies. New Gaty⁴³ steamed up on destin. Ft. Peer.

Thursday, July 9th. 1863.

This morning at day light we were under motion. Co. K is rear guard to the supply train. Traveled all day over a desolated country. No wood, no water, no grass except in ravines. The character of the country is marked by one continued drouth for years past successive. It is indeed a desert wast[e] of land. The land lay handsome for farm use, rolling prairie the undulations looming up before us to the farthest stretch of vision, not a tree or a shrub arrested our sight & still no game except now & then a poor half starved rabbit, tugging along with a haver sack hanging to his neck. We turned our course towards the river & camped again on its shore. No water on the road. The War Eagle left here for down the river for supplies. The New Gaty left also for Ft Peer with supplies

July 10 Friday 1863

At sunrise, we were again in motion. The 2nd Neb is one day in advance Co K is travelling with the Iowa 6th & Sioux City Cav. Drove about 20 miles today, camped by a

⁴³ The Sam Gaty operated on the Missouri from 1853 to 1868.

ravine, not much grass., plenty of stone & snakes. Water sufficient for our stock, several wells dug, water cool & refreshing. Hard wind, accompanied with smoke. No water on the road.

July 11 Saturday /63

Marched this morning at sunrise. A little rain last night. Cold & windy this morning. Overcoats & mittens are desireable. Forced march today over a still drouth parched country. No water on the road. Camped by a slew. Frank Dosier⁴⁴ & others on a hunt today, saw antelope but did not get a shot at them. Buffalo trails & their wallows along our road. Buffalo seen while in camp gave chase to them. The atmosphere exceedingly smokey. Prar's burning on our left, supposed be set a fire by hostile indians to thawrt our progress. One of Ge Sully's servants was unfortunate today by being accidently thrown from a horse, his ankle badly sprained & dislocated. The health of the reg't is generally good with few exceptions. We passed a ledge of rocks today.

July 12th Sunday /63

Once more we are under motion: the weather comfortable cool, nothing but buffalo grass for several days past & the scarcity of water makes it rather severe on our horses. Crossed Crow Creek today, got water there on the road for the first time since we left Ft. Randall. Passed through the Winebago Reservation: the new building designed for them were in short all right they were entrenched & fortified, soldiers stationed there. The New Sam Gaty lay there at the landing. We drove a little further & camped in the woods close to the shore wood & water handy.

Monday July 13th.

Prospect of us stopping here a few days to make arrangements to further our supplies up the river, prospect for marching any further up the river is rather dim; no grass for our stock.

All quiet on the Mo.

July 14

A few drops of rain fell last night & this morn accompanied with hard wind.

⁴⁴ Farrier in Co. K, age 24, a resident of Omaha.

15th & 16th hard winds and flies like snow. The pork for the reg't is all spoiled, obliged to bake our bread without grease. Low stage of water boats can't run any further then this point (Fizzel Point). No grass reported on the road above here. Had a hard rain for a few moments, laid the dust.

Saturday Ju 17th

Paymaster here with the Greenbacks. Paid off the Cos. Steamer Sam Gaty arrived with supplies from Ft Randall, unloaded & on the 20th went back, low stage of water prevent any further navigatione. All quiet on the Mo.

July 21

Events unimportant, save horse racing occasionally, card playing - money lost & some won, those that win enjoy the bet the best, fish are caught occasionally with set hooks.

We have had some rain the weather is generally dry, now & then a sudden change from heat to cold, nights generally cool. The Winebagoes are dissatisfied with their reserve, there is no game here & it is to dry here to farm it. The[y] intend going back if they can.

[The following entry was out of order and at the end of the original diary.]

July 23 The steamers the Robt Campbell junior & Shreveport came down a few days ago loaded with furs but.....

They were challenged by our battery and retained for service The R C to the loading for.....

..... with her immense cargo of furs The Shreveport loaded here with for Ft Peer⁴⁵ These two boats had a battle with the Indians about 250 miles above Ft Peer For miles the shore was lined with indians who made signs of distress saying the Sioux had chased them to kill them some of the chiefs wanted to come aboard the capt sent five men over with the yawl, to invite them in, & intended to make them presents. when

⁴⁵ The Robert Campbell Jr. was too large to navigate upriver under the existing low water conditions; the cargo from the Shreveport was transferred to the Campbell when the Shreveport was impressed into service. *Nebraska Advertiser*, August 15, 1863. This portion of the Diary is badly faded and illegible.

the men came to the shore, some of the indians came into the boat & shook hands & with the other commenced stabbing the men killing two and wounding one. the other two with the wounded one fell back into the water and escaped to the boat. During this time the steamers hauled round & gave them battle for an hour with grape shot & rifles. The crew used the same rifles they intended to give the indians as presents. They report killed 42, how many more they cant tell & wounded as many more. One indian ventured to the bank of the river to get his dead comrad but remained with him. The indians followed the boat for several days afterwards keeping at a great distance off on the bluffs The first indication of indians was noticed when the boat hauled too to take on wood one man, a great hunter went in search of game. when the indians broke from the bluffs & in large numbers & rushed for the men & the boat & then a day or two afterwards a squad of the indians played friendship & took advantage as before stated. Two or three times they prevented the boat from taking on wood. The steamer Nellie Rogers came down soon after these other two boats. She had no difficulty to contend with only sandbars, as did also the other boats. A rather laughable incident occured while the Miss Nellie passed Ft Peer. She did not intend to stop at the Ft hence she was challenged by a gun which she mistook for a salute, & returned the compliment with two guns thinking that was giving a heroic answer. Next thing I knew said an officer of the boat there was a charge of grape fell within 50 feet of my front. I took the hint then & hauled round to see what they wanted. The Nellie Rogers was just as handsome a boat as Nellie Rogers ought to be. Her cargo consisted of the choicest lot of robes & furs I ever saw. She was retained for examination, but was excused on account of low water, her size & being a stern wheel being harder to manage over sandbars

July 25

News still unimportant. All quiet on the Mo. Orders for the reg't to drill daily. The common routine of daily duties are performed. Revillee at sunrise, & long after, sleepy orderlies are seen with husky voice & dusty faces creeping out from under their tents, making vain endeavors to gather the men that are more sleepy than themselves to roll call, horses fed on their $\frac{1}{2}$ rations of grain. A good deal of growling about the commissary stores falling short. strong suspicions resting upon the Com's serj of a certain

co of trading more than the surplus rations to the Winebagoes for goods, what he bought with the rations we could'n't tell; we didn't see what he bought. A few days ago the indians gave a dance before the Col's tent, though the indians are said to be fairly civilized yet their music & mode of dancing was wild & radical to us still.

Orders for the reg't to drill while we stay here. Cos somehow didn't drill for what reason we know not. The Capt of Co K came out one night with a tremendous threat, that if the Co did not drill next day "that all the non commissioned officers that were not otherwise excused, he would reduce to the ranks & all the soldiers that were not on duty that did not drill he would arrest. So help me God." This was a curious threat for a capt to make to men. It only rekindled the fires of dissatisfaction that had burned in the heart of the Co since the Capt assumed his shoulder straps. He had treated his men more like slaves than men. All winter had this Co been marked worthy obedient to their superior officers, with this dissatisfaction still burning in their breast, till at last it culminated into perfect hatred. This aristocratic treatment might do with Russian Serfs that had never lived in any other, but the military world, but with men that were born & educated among the free institutions of the east but left their homes of plenty, to endure the privations of frontier life, & at their country's hour of need, to offer their lives for the protection of their homes, wives & little ones against the ravages of the red man, to be treated thus ungentlemanly & like slaves was more than human heart could bear & it needed but one stroke more of the hammer to burst the cap that covered those volcanic fires of hatred, which would break forth in open rebellion, let the consequences be what they would.

The next step of this *gallant* Captain was to prefer a charge to the Col against the 2nd duty sergeant for not being out on drill the next day according to orders, the penalty of which was to reduce him to the ranks. This Serj. be it known was a man of large military experience, more than any other man in Co K, & one much thought of & respected by all that knew him, & this act of the Capt moved the Co in direct opposition to his charge. The Col manifested little sympathy on the Capt's part but more in behalf of the men. That day a request was got up, signed by all the men of Co K (save nine) for the Capt's resignation, & these nine only refused their names for some imaginary policy thinking it would not benefit them in so doing

but on the third day this charge was withdrawn & for what reason I never learned. But let me say in detail, now that I am on the track, that had serj't B⁴⁶ been reduced to the ranks Co K would have been broke up worse than Co A was or could be. The difference between Cos A & K were this i.e. Co A disliked most of their non Com officers only & did break up & elected those to suit them. Co K was in favor of all their officers but two, & those were the Capt & a non Com officer that was quite worthy of the title "Husky Cuss"⁴⁷ & this last named officer there was nothing in particular the matter with him, only it was verily believed that he would steal more rations & yet impart more to the Co again, than was possible to do: but to explain it, for all the trade he carried on with the Winebagoes no doubt he got rich returns for it.

But to his Excellency the Capt in withdrawing his charge saved the co from an honorable break down, hence the Co runs with the same old officers, consoling itself that their time is most out, & they will forbear still a little longer. But in my imagination I tremble sometime when this forbearance ceases to be a virtue. A sad & unfortunate circumstance happened to Co F of 2 men having difficulty between them, the one discharging his revolver at his com-rad missed him but seriously wounding two others while they lay in their tents.

Friday July 31st - 1863

Left Crow Creek Agency for Ft Peer. Weather pleasant, warm. Stopped awhile to wait for the freight train, horses baited on buffalo-grass. No water on the road. Camped by a ravine & little wood & bad water. Country still subject to extreme drouth. Travelled about 10 miles today. The Mo. about 1 mile from camp. Picket guards out tonight. All quiet in camp.

Saturday Aug 1st

Left camp at 4 o'clock this morning, weather cloudy & cool. Indications of having more rain this way, grass looks green, & more of it. Met a part of the freight train that went up to Ft Peer, a few days ago. Character of the soil gravely with boulders sticking out. One wagon broke down loaded with Co truck. Camped near Mo. River. Water tol-

⁴⁶ Sergeant Hugh S. Blair, age 28, a resident of Omaha.

⁴⁷ This probably refers to Commissary Sergeant Jacob A. Denham, 34, of Omaha.

erable good, wood a plenty. As we advance into the indian country, discipline becomes more rigid & necessary. Comisary serj'ts carry a stiff upper lip over their rations dealt out according to the book. Passed an indian grave yard large stone piles at every grave. Every evidence of indian living here once, traces of their camping grounds. River low & narrow. Considerable timber & more bottom land.

Aug 2nd Sunday

Before 4 o'clock the column was again in motion. Our road was along the Mo. bottom on the eastern side, old grass not yet burnt, feed generally better, bluffs at our right covered with stone, & large rocks. Crossed a creek today with water in it. Such a treat on our road has been exceedingly rare since we left Yancton, capital of Dakota Terr. We are now within one days march of Ft Peer. Our camp tonight affords us plenty of grass & good water from the old big Muddy.

Monday Aug 3

Started this morning at 4 o'clock, arrived within 4 miles of Ft. Peer. Camped on the big Muddy, tolerable good grass, plenty of wood & water. Arrived at Camp about 9 o'clock a.m. Gen Sully came down in the afternoon, a detail of 2 men from each Co to go to Ft Peer started at 5 o'clock next morning to report for duty. Our camping ground was high & dry on a bench of land. Weather exceedingly hot.

Tuesday Aug 4

Considerable speculation in relations to the prospect of a battle with the indians. Indians keep retreating as we advance. The expiration of the time of service of the 2nd Neb is nearly to a close. Men appear to be all anxious to see & have a brush with the indians before their discharge. Reports come to Gen Sully that indians have masercered some families in the vicinity of St. James, & families of the men of Co I.⁴⁸ A great sensation prevails in the reg't in regard to that locality. A majority of the men in that part enlisted for patriotic motives, & now they have been called away from those homes that they desire to protect. No greater abuse to the Territory of Neb never was offered in calling its own reg't out of its own lines, to chase retreating indians over a country that is cursed by drouth & famine.

⁴⁸ The five children of Private Henson Wiseman, Co. I, were murdered in their home near Helena, Nebraska, by a small group of Sioux Indians.

Where is the home protection forces that was raised with such confidence & assurance of remaining to protect its own soil. They have gone from their homes, their wives & the babes that are dearest to their life, & the Indians have fallen in our rear commenced their savage & brutal massacres. May God forgive the man that called us hence, & console the mourner over his dead babes & insulted wife. Two of the men of Co. I have gone to mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Had a strange storm one night - hot wind blew furiously, atmosphere so heavily charged with electricity that every thing that moved would sparkle the wind blowing upon the horses would cause a stream of sparks to roll off them & out of their ears & nostrils, the wind was so hot it was uncomfortable to face. Heavens artillery opened upon the storm & played a lively part while clouds of dust arose in almost impenetrable masses from camp, with the hot wind blowing with tremendous dashes, blowing tents & camp equipage helter skelter. The roar of thunder frightened horses & excited men, running each man to his horse, made the night indeed fearfully grand. It rained only a little but the wind abated after awhile, & men & horses lay down to rest. When daylight appeared the camp was in a laughable dilapidated plight. More than one half of the small tents were strewn and covered with dirt & men supposed to be white (but judging from their dusty faces would not know what tribe they belonged to) going from one Co to another inquiring for stray hats & other apparel.

We remain here awhile waiting for supplies to come up the river. The boat at last came up, & we march now in a few days. Mail came in bringing the friendly missives from loved ones at home. Your humble servant received one from his wife, wasn't that a treat?

Our beef cattle continue to diminish in numbers daily, which is indeed a luxury this far up the river. Plenty of plums & grapes & buffalo berries, the boys pitch into them. One of Co E's men caught a fawn it was but a few days old. They have kept it a few days.

Target shooting today the boys think they could give the indians hail -

August 12th, Wednesday, 1863

Today orders came to march forthwith & we obeyed forthwith. Passed Ft Peer & camped between it and the Iowa

6th, opposite the new Fort.⁴⁹ It rained a little while we were getting ready, the weather cool & pleasant. Camped upon a dry high place with nothing but buffalo grass for our horses, wood scarce & water a good ways off. Watered our horses at the River. Stony bluffs between us & the river. Discovered a thorn apple tree at the side of a dry creek, fruit about half grown. Orders to march to morrow at eight o'clock. Orders from the Col for all sick & disabled men to remain behind at Ft Peer. About 70 or 80 men reported themselves unfit for duty in the reg't. We are now in full pursuit of the indians, hence none but sound men are desired to go. Remarks are made about some of the men being troubled with the same complaint that Belshassar was when he saw the handwriting on the wall, their knees would tremble if they should see an indian. But I think the charge is unjust. We in this campaign are all bravados.

Thursday Aug. 13th/63

Started this morning at 8 o'clock. Our whole force now are on the chase after Mr. Injun. Eight Co's of Neb 2nd, the 4 cos low 6th & a part of the 7th infantry compose our fighting force. We are now camped together & make indeed a formidable appearance. And we are confident we can thrash any force of indians we may meet. From this time up, we expect to endure something of the fatigue of war, i.e. - rapid marching & short rations. All our sick & disabled are left behind & nothing to clog our progress. The next ten days will be days of anxiety & hope. We are all anxious to accomplish the object of our campaign, & return all safe & sound to our families. Camped tonight by a slew, poor water, plenty of wood & buffalo chips. Expect wild game in abundance. Weather hot. Some half dozen deserted from the Reg't. One man died this morn, Co. G. & also one from Co. F.⁵⁰ Each died of the bowel complaint.

Friday Aug 14th/63

At six o'clock we were ready to march, but lost cattle & horses prevented at that hour. A detail was sent after lost stock, & we are now in camp & they have returned only with five head of beef cattle out of 16 that were missing. The night was dark & somewhat stormy & it needed

⁴⁹ Ft. Sully, also called Ft. Antietam for a short time.

⁵⁰ Private William C. Penn, Co. G, age 18, a resident of Falls City and Private Anderson F. Witty, Co. F, 25, a resident of Nebraska City.

the utmost vigilance on the part of the guard but they were careless or else they would not have been lost. There should have been picket & patrol guards out, but there was not, - there are a good many men that go out & sleep with their horses, & probably it was thought that would be sufficient but such go out into ravines & dark places & look to their own horses only. But for the want of diligence of a few men, probably 50 men will have to be called into service tonight. Our march today was over a worse looking country than we had yet seen, no water, wood or grass. It was a slow but tedious dusty march & we are camped tonight at a slough & bad water. Our wood we hauled from the last camp & mix it with buffalo chips. Prospects of a storm tonight. The hot wind blow almost unbearable. Comes in sudden dashes. Lightning & thunder all around us. More wind than rain. Our camp ground was new hence the dust did not blow as much. This hot wind storm was not as furious as the former. The lost cattle came in tonight after sun down. No horses could be found.

Saturday Aug 15th

At six o'clock this morning we were all under motion. Co K as extreme rear guard, the best place in the whole column, out of the dust & smuge of the command. Their Capt rode with his command today for the first time in a good while. An Elk crossed our track today. Serj Merrick⁵¹ shot at him at a dead rest on Gen Halleck's⁵² shoulder. His sight was not high enough hence the ball fell far short. Six men of the Iowa 6th was retained as prisoners today. Camped at the welcome shore to the old big Muddy, plenty of wood, feed & water. A little strip of bottom land along the river that affords feed for a few days. A steamer is just above us unloading its freight. Watered & fed while about eight miles from camp at a pond hole, a little alkali. A long march today of about 30 miles. Little Crow⁵³ reported to be about 3 days march ahead. The column marches in battle-array. The companies at proper distances from the waggons for their protection & picket guards off a couple of miles each side of us scouring the country.

⁵¹ Sergeant Albert W. Merrick, Co. K, age 30, a resident of Omaha.

⁵² This is either Private Abel Hallock, Co. K, age 20, a resident of Omaha or Second Lieutenant Jacob H. Hallock, Company I.

⁵³ Little Crow, a chief of the Kaposia division of the Mdwananton Sioux, aided materially in bringing about the outbreak in Minnesota in 1862. He was killed by a white settler on July 3, 1863.

Sunday Aug 16th/63

At six this morn the Neb 2nd was ready for marching, was delayed awhile to bridge a dry creek, Little Cheyene. While standing there on our horses, mail came in, a rich treat you better believe "this far up the Creek." Your humble servant got another letter from his wife: Soon we moved about 2 miles then camped, in good feed plenty of wood & water close by. Hot winds blew today. The cause of these hot winds I do not pretend to explain, but will give my opinion. Since we left Yancton, the country through has been marked by drouth & barreness (with only now & then a small verdant spot in some ravine or low place) for past years successive, & I have reason to believe this dry country extends in breadth to the Rocky Mountains & covering an area of country which might well be termed the American Desert, & the altitude of the country being high above the Atlantic & Pacific Ocean, the air being light, the heat does not rise as fast, hence it blows along the ground, making such wind storms very oppressive, Mr. Reader give us your opinion.

Monday 17th/63

Do not march today. Our horses & ourselves have time to recuperate from the fatigue of marching. When we shall start again I don't know. Hot winds blew today strong. Washing & patching clothes, repairing horse equipment. Tremendous getting ready to march. The Col made a speech tonight & also read the Gen Sully's orders in regard to marching, which was in substance - leave all our loose baggage & send it to Ft Pierre - which will be safe under guard.

Aug 22 Saturday 1863

Left Little Cheyene. At 2 o'clock this morning the revelee sounded, & at 4 we were marching. & after long delays on account of short rations & low stage of water which made it almost impossible to run a boat at all, we at last got supplies enough to start with on our rapid chase after indians. We leave the old Big Muddy with much regret, its muddy healthy waters is always a welcome sight. The Iowa 6th started yesterday about noon to the eight mile place. We arrived at this place at half past 9. The Iowa 6 join us here. We stop awhile here on the Little Cheyene Creek to take on wood to our next camp, good grass, watered our horses. Traveled about 10 miles further, camped by a ravine, with a little water caused by the late

heavy rains. Mixed our wood with buffalo chips. We see more game as we advance. We have passed for days & days over a buffalo country strewn with their bones, but by their bleached appearance & the oldness of their trails should presume they 2 or 3 yrs old.

Sunday Aug 23rd/63

At six o'clock we were all saddled & ready & left our camp for another one somewhere else. The weather was cold with chilling (north) winds accompanied with rain. We drove on hard to another creek. Water low, stored in pools. Wood scarce mixed with buffalo chips. Rained that afternoon, but the men kept up good spirits. Late in the afternoon the whole camp was aroused by the appearance of a huge buffalo being drove into camp by our quarter Master Dick McCormick⁵⁴ & others, the men ran after him & the gentleman was soon carelled & shot by McCormick. Ropes were attached & men enough hold of them to pull him along up out of the creek & into camp. He was fat & nice young. This is buffalo No. 1. Cold night, a light frost. Some of the men are clothed very thin, suffer some with cold. Good grass on our road, poor water, not much wood.

Monday Aug 24th/63

At six o'clock were again under marching orders & are doing it. Cold bleak winds. Made a big drive, our course was a little east of north. Co K as advance & picket guard under command of their (*gallant*) Captain. Camped to night all high & dry at a creek with pools of water. A long time was consumed before the Capt could satisfy himself as to when the guards - he appeared to be afraid the men would get their suppers before going out on guard. Capt. run to headquarters to see what to do, came back after a *long* time, concluded to post the guards, & then let the reliefs come back & get their suppers. After gathering all the common sense he had, the Co went out on their several posts. The night was cold & chilling but the grass was "bully."

Tuesday Aug 25/63

At sunrise onward we move. The weather was cool but pleasant. A forced march today. The supply train kept up with the command. Although the march was long & it was late when we got in, yet, we were all in high spirits. Our

⁵⁴ Regimental Quartermaster Josiah S. McCormick.

hunter had a grand time killing buffalo. About 15 were killed today, most of which were young cows & calves, which was secured for us by our commissary. The meat was fat, tender & moist, excellent & we ate it as hungry men would. Our wood was a little brush & buffalo chips. Jerry Pyles⁵⁵ of Co K met with a serious loss, & narrowly escaped with his life in an encounter with a buffalo bull. He shot him twice, wounded him, the bull turned upon him, frightened his horse who threw him, but for the timely aid of who shot the buffalo dead, but his horse run off with rifle, sabre, blankets, etc & has not been seen since. The boy was young & inexperienced in this mode of hunting. He left the ranks without permission & this was his penalty for not minding his own business. His horse & equipment were worth \$150.

Wednesday Aug 26/63

We left this morning in good season. Our horses plenty good grass, & their third rations of grain which they had been stinted with for some time past. Nevertheless the horses stand it first rate. But today has been one of more excitement then usual. It has been one continual sameness almost since we left Sioux City. Nothing happening to break the monotony of our long & tedious marching through a dry & famishing country. But the spell has been broken by a grand chase after buffalo. They came in thick & fast & near camp. They were shot easily & without much trouble. One calf came into the command while standing for water. There was no firing at him but men on horseback & on foot gave him chase, carrelled him, & some man struck him with an ax & laid the little gentleman cold. It was fine fun for both men & boys. While the buffalo catching & shouting was going on Capt. Laboo & the guide came in with two Santee squaws & one pappoose prisoners. They report their tribe on a hunt a few miles from here on Beaver Creek. One battallion was immediately sent under command of Capt Laboo in search of them. We went after them breakneck rate, & rode almost till pitch dark before camping. We went to the spot where we were directed to go near a lake (now dry) where we supposed they were camped, divided up into two squads to surround them but haply for them, they had either left on suspicion or we had mistaken the report of the prisoners as to their locality. On our chase we saw thousands of buffalo all around us. They came so near the men shot them with ease. One of

⁵⁵ Private Jeremiah Pyles, age 18, a resident of Omaha.

the guides shot one dead the first shot at a distance of 80 or 100 rods. Indeed it was fun to see them fall. We left several buffalo dead along the route. Went to Beaver Creek to find Capt Laboo, but (did) not find him but supposed him to be on the creek about 4 miles of us. We went down into bed of the creek & camped for the night. Made a fire & broiled our beef & ate it without salt. It rained as we came into camp but it cleared up & the moon shone in all her queenly beauty upon a little squad of men that would have suffered by a nightly attack by the indians. A guard was put out, & the men all slept as sound as a log. Our camp was well selected in a hollow surrounded by high bluffs & the creek. No one could approach us without our knowing it, for the night was almost like day. In the morning Lieut James, then Commander of our squad detailed me to look up the command, which was found about 5 miles from the creek, & with no breakfast we marched to our command where we found our QM & Comms & a few others cooking our breakfast. We had buffalo meat that morning till we couldn't eat any more. The whole command marched about 8 miles further & camped for the day by the side of a running babbling brook with a stony bottom & clear water. The weather was very cold.

Friday Aug 28th/63

We had a cold disagreeable march today. Arrive at Long Lake. Made a short halt, saw an indian, took him prisoner, found him to be crippled. Learned from him that Sibley had been here about 4 weeks ago, fought a battle & had gone back. Said we would cross his trail in one days march. Reported also the indians in considerable force in the vicinity of Apple Creek. Various & extravagant rumors in regard to Sibley's force. Nothing reliable yet has come to my knowledge concerning the indians or the fate of Sibley. Co F of the 2nd Neb has not yet returned. A great sensation prevails in regard to them & their safety. Part of the Iowa 6 scout has returned, bringing intelligence of what they suppose to be the condition of Capt Laboo (Co F) by observations of what they had taken. They report they are surrounded by indians in too great a force to effectually resist them. They need assistance. They had only 1 days rations of crackers. If this report is true, Capt is in a perilous condition. We camped on Long Lake, plenty of wood & water & grass for a day or two. The weather a little warmer tonight.

Saturday Aug 29th/63

Today was one of great mental speculation as to our course from this point. Four companies, E.G.L.M. from the Neb 2nd together with 2 Cos of the Iowa 6th started this morning at 4 o'clock to go to Apple Creek & also to look up Capt Laboo. Success to them. But in the afternoon Capt Laboo & his party came back all safe & sound from their fruitless search for indians. He reports a trail & wagon tracks going into the Mo river from which he inferred the red rascals had gone over the other side of the river.

Sunday Aug 30th/63

Two Cos of the Iowa 6th came in early this morn from scouting & reported the discovery of Gen Sibley's trail. Also his entrenchments, pieces of shell & a part of a guard detail dated, July 28th & positive evidence where there had been a late battle. Skeletons of men found in different places. Orders to march today, Co K as picket guard. Marched a little east of north. Discovered a dead indian on the prairie, he appeared to be very old, his hair was entirely grey. Camped tonight on Long Lake. Quite a large body of water, strongly saturated with salt & soda. Water whiteish clear. We dug wells, the water was bitter. Swans & sea-gulls on the Lake, fish also.

Monday Aug 31st/63

Scouts came in last night from the painted woods.⁵⁶ Report nothing alarming. At the mouth of Apple Creek. Saw entrenchments what they presumed to be Sibley's work. Also parts of guard details of July 1863, further evidences of there being a battle fought by Sibley comes to light from evidences from the old Indian prisoner. He reports the manner somewhat of Sibley's fighting. Says there was a heap indians made a break for Sibley's wagon trail, divided it, threw it in some confusion. Sibley shooting guns that would make a noise going through the air, then all load up again & shoot second time, kill heap more indian that time.

Mustered for pay today after one day's march. Camped tonight on good grass in the vicinity of a clear cold spring of pure sweet water. Horses replenished themselves most bountifully on good grass & good water. Weather warm.

Tuesday Sept 1

⁵⁶ Painted Woods Creek.

Left camp at 7 o'clock. Marched a little south of east. Country rough & sandy resembling the sand plain of Nebraska. Weather cool. Scouts report a new trail. Signs of indians. We are in hopes to overtake them. Camped by a slew & lake. Water strongly saturated with salt & soda. It does not seem to hurt our horses yet. It being more salt than any thing else. We've had no wood since we left Long Slew where we loaded all the spare waggons with wood to take across the country. Buffalo chips has been our dependence for fuel, good enough, only have a plenty of them. We will soon be out of the buffalo country, then our wood will come in play.

Wednesday Sept 2nd/63

At six o'clock our little army was again in motion. As it moves & meanders around the hills through ravines & over hilltops, it presents a somewhat grand appearance.

Sept 3th/63 Thursday

We camped by the side of one of these lakes that has composed a chain for two or three days march. Rather a forced march today. The country through here is spotted with little lakes of some mineral water, some is very bad to the taste, our horses picketed, our suppers got & nearly all had eaten, when the scouts came in at full rate under the whip stating the indians were camped within eight ms [miles] of us! To horse, & boots & saddles were sounded in quick succession & all was excitement for a fight & quick as could be the 2 regiments were on the double quick after them.

Battle of White Stone Hill

caught them, formed a line battle, the Iowa 6th on our extreme right, Neb on the left, all in separate battalions so as to surround them. I think one battalion of the Neb 2 commenced firing first & so continued to fire each Co on the left in succession until all were earnestly engaged. We loaded & fired at will. Never could I have supposed that 9 months men, raw recruits, wholly unused to fire, could advance with such coolness & steady nerve under such galling fire as did the brave sons of our own Nebraska. Our foe were completely surrounded & they fought like enraged men that had nothing but their lives to lose or a victory to gain. Volley after volley flew the leadened hail from our enraged foe. Still onward did Neb reg't move loading & firing as they went, till they came within arrow shot which

the indians did improve & now both lead & arrows filled the air, but they melted away at our advance, like grass before the flames. The night closed over us, & put an end to our bloody work, also our forces were closing in on to the indians so as to bring our fire in direct opposition to each other, that there was danger from each others fire.; therefore it became necessary to retire from the field. Had it not been for the danger of lapping on to each others fire & our position forced us to do so, we would have swept the field clean of our foe. The indians were in a ravine with all their families & spoil. The two regiments were on three sides & were driving them out around a hill where the battery was stationed, which would have poured their grape & shell, till that ravine would have run blood. Infants & innocent children & women alike shared the fate of their guilty fathers. But happily for them, the battle was over before the battery was needed, the night was to dark to continue the fight, the indians fought well, they were like caged beasts, but there must have been 5000 indians on the field including their families, but they reeled before our fire like trees before the gale. It was the hand of the Almighty, he had made a space between each man & horse for the deathly missile to pass. We lost only 4 killed & 13 wounded, both regiments lost 19 killed & 32 wounded. One of the wounded has since died, he was shot through his sabre clasp & entered the abdomen, his bleeding was all internal. One man of Co E lay on the field all night he was wounded in the ankle and was unable to travel, his company lost him, & the indians did not find him hence he lived the night was cold & chilly he suffered greatly but in the morning he was found, & kindly cared for.

To show with what dispatch we called up our forces - it was just 55 minutes from the time the alarm was given that we were 8 miles after them. Our horses were all picketed out & we were eating our suppers, but as soon as the alarm was given, we all broke each man to his horse double quick, brot him saddled bridled, & with two legs across, off we galloped. We took 160 prisoners.

Sept 4th Friday

At early dawn we left the battle field for the camp but first went to the scene of slaughter to plunder their spoils, the dead were laying about the field but most of them had been packed off in the night expecially the braves. We found one wounded squaw lying among the dead. There were several children & 2 or 3 young girls, on the field this

morning. There was liberty given to the soldiers & all to plunder what they could of their robes & fancy fixings. They were taken by surprise & were driven away from every thing. Never was a tribe of indians so completely cut up as they all that they needed, they were obliged to leave behind them, & escape with their lives if they could, a good many of their horses were shot & also a few of ours, mostly of the Iowa 6th, the indians endeavored to break through them, hence that reg't suffered most. We busied ourselves today in stroling about the field & picking up whatever we wanted. Many of us before night had made leggins, made saddle robes & Mittens [?], trimmed our bridles with indians fixings, replenished our outfit of cooking utensils, cups, plates, knives, spoons, camp kettles, till you could not rest, & as our own kettles were nearly worn out these came in play. We used their tepee (tent) poles for wood, the were of pitch pine brought from the mountains. Tonight was an alarm given of the prsence of indians driving in our pickets. We were all called out, & formed a living breast work around our camp. We lay upon our arms looking for an attack. Pickets firing every now & then, at some dog or imaginary object & also in camp, accidental shots from men being excited & alarmed, no damage done only two or three horses killed, but it might have been men, but near morn we all went into camp & lay down with our arms on till morning.

Saturday Sept 5/63

Scouts were sent out today to scour the country around here. They were driven in by indians with the loss of 2 from Co I, 2 from Co K 2nd Neb & 2 of Co E Iowa 6th.⁵⁷ Those returned report a large force of indians about 10 miles. The 2nd Neb was sent in pursuit. A small battle or rather a big hunt was the result of this days excursion except killed 4 indians brought in one pappoose, prisoner. We remain on the field today to complete our destruction on our hapless foe, burning their spoils, & the smoke of more than a thousand fires went up as incense of our fury & their sin. I don't think there ever had been a battle so fierce & destructive to any one tribe as this, we captured a

⁵⁷ The scouting party was led by Lt. Charles W. Hall, Co. F, age 21, of Nebraska City. He died of typhoid fever October 24, 1863. The men from Co. I killed were Private James C. Freeman, age 21, of Dakota City and Private Thomas H. B. Packwood, 21 also of Dakota City. The men from Co. K killed were Sergeant Hugh S. Blair, 28, of Omaha and Private Luke Johnson, 18, of Columbus, Nebraska.

good many of their ponies, all that they needed to make themselves comfortable such as tools for tanning their hides, beads, paints, procupine quills & trinkets of every name & shape was at our mercy but we spared them not.

All this spoil was burned today, buffalo jerk meat, tens of thousands of pounds nice sweet & good was consigned to the flames & their property kettles, dishes, robes & trinkets such as the soldiers didn't want, went on to the same pile.

One indian boy was shot through the head & still lives, the ball entering at the eyebrow came out at the back of the head, he has never cried or appeared to suffer pain, but is as well as anybody.

September 6th Sunday

Marched today about 40 miles with big picket guard out. Camped by a lake as muddy as fury, so full of wild gooseberries so thick that water was green, but it was drink that or nothing. Prisoners a dog found outside the corral with several pounds of ammunition on him. He was captured & a double guard put around them.

Wednesday Sept 9th/63

Made a long & tedious march today, over a comparative level country, going southward toward Ft Pierre. An unfortunate circumstance happend to J. Taylor⁵⁸ of Co K. In putting a loaded rifle into a wagon it went off & shot off his forefinger & came nearly killing him besides. We camped by a slew & good grass, water very good, no wood & buffalo chips are nearly played out. In hopes we shall get to wood soon. This makes the 19th day we have traveled without seeing any timber. Watered on the road, a rare thing we find.

Thursday 10th Sept/63

Marched this morning at 6 o'clock, heavy picket guard continue to be thrown out. We have not been surprised or received a night attack. As yet all has been managed the best possible manner. We are making marches towards Pieere with our company of prisoners the most ridiculous looking outfit of human beings I ever saw.

Camped near one of our former camps on the Little Cheyene.

⁵⁸ Private Joseph W. Taylor, age 21, of Omaha.

Friday Sept 11/63

Again we are on the way towards Ft. Perre. Stop awhile to graze. Our rations are getting short horses without corn as we near Ft Perre grass gets poorer, report in camp that there is 8,000 indians on our track probably false report. A long march today arrived near the mouth of the Little Cheyenne at our old camp where we were 20 days ago. Those 20 days are days that will be remembered by this little force. Neb 2nd, Iowa 6th—& one Co of Sioux City Cav. A boat lays there waiting for us, our sick & wounded were put on the boat

Mail came in tonight bringing those welcome visitors from dear ones at home.

Saturday Sept 12th/63

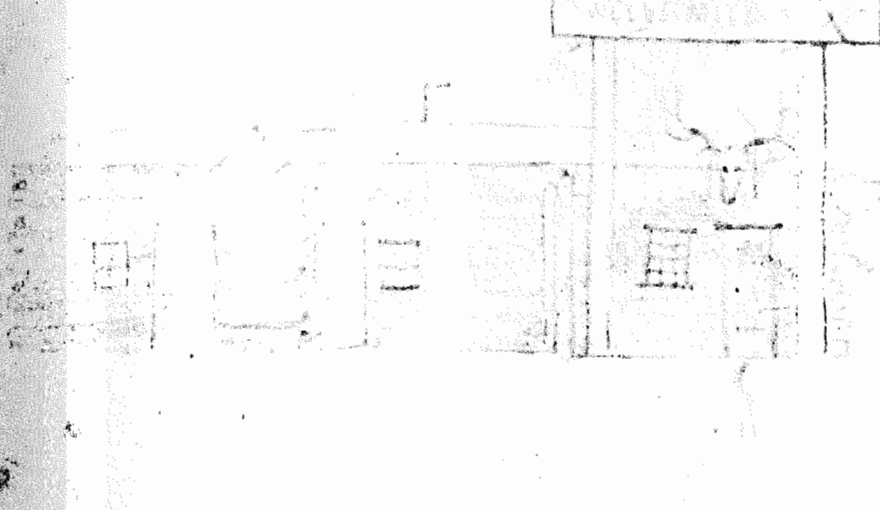
We left the Little Cheyene this morn with an addition to our grub pile. A little more grain for our horses. Grass exceedingly poor. Camped by a slew where we had stopped while when we went up to bait our horses.

Sunday 13 Sept/63

Started this morning in our old trail towards Ft Peirre & are making homeward strides as fast as possible. Camped at one of our former camping places on a long slew. A dispatch came up from Ft. Peirre to Gen Sully. He & his body guard started to night for the Ft. Runner says there is indians at the fort. A deal of speculation to the probability of another fight.

Monday 14 Sept/63

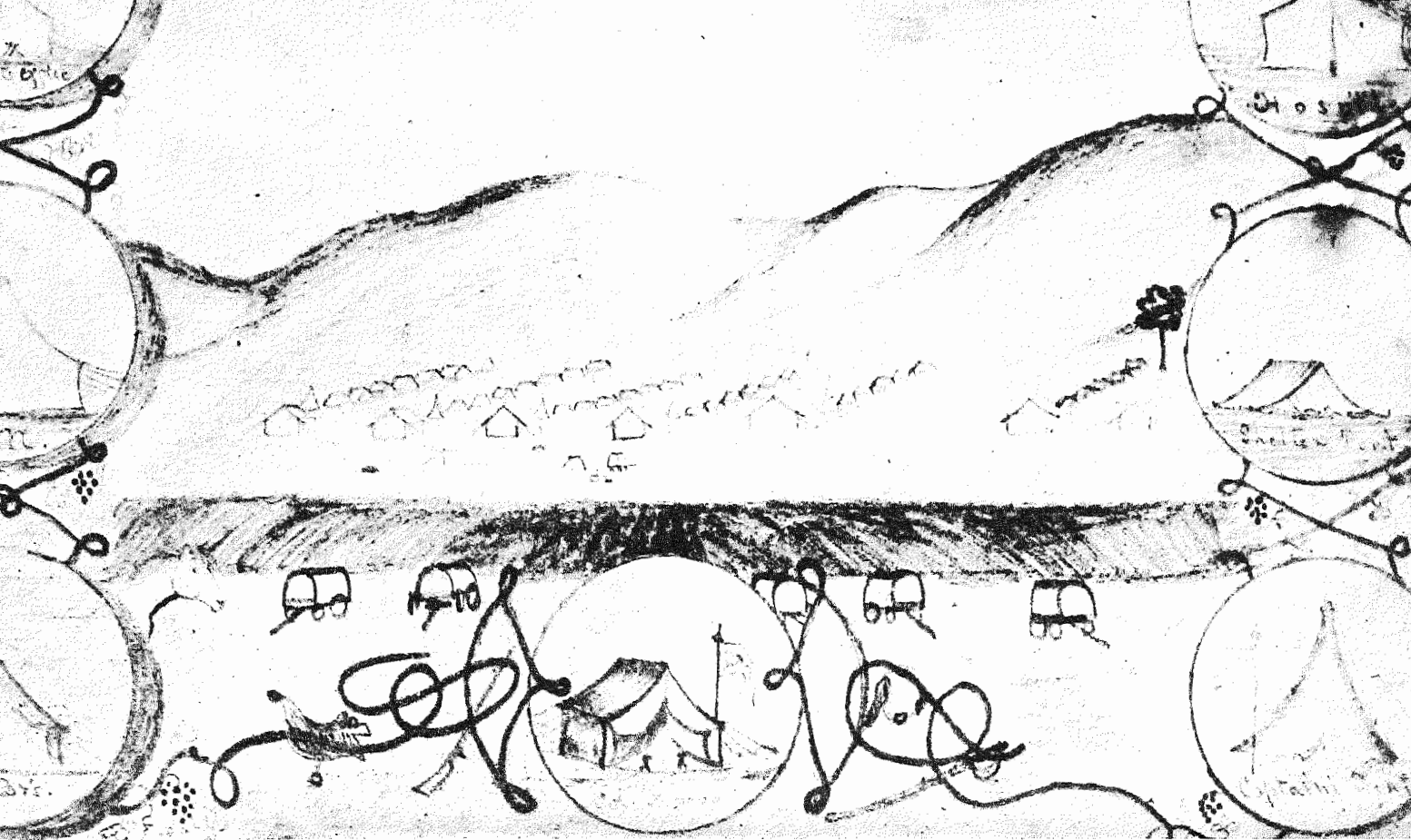
Marching again through this dry & famishing country. Our horses will suffer for the want of proper feed. Arrived at the block houses above Ft. Piere where our baggage was left. Camped early tonight looked after our packs. Some things lost. Your humble lost his overcoat & mittens. A row at the sutlers store the result of which was big threats of somebody being wrongfully accused of dishonesty. The tent cut through on one side, some fruit taken, & considerable money. A guard was called from Neb reg but was too weak. The infantry was called on to the ground, they walked, double file at charged bayonets through the crowd. They swept the road clean from all before them & the riot was quelled. As our regt was to move it was necessary to guard the store till the goods was put into the wagon for the purpose of moving with us. & he is now ready to move



Above—"Twelve Mile House. 12 miles north of Sioux City, Iowa in Dakota Territory. G. P. Belden." Probably Tucket's Station, one of the stage coach stations passed by the expedition. (Identifications of this and the following illustrations which are quoted are those inscribed on the original drawings by George P. Belden, the artist.)

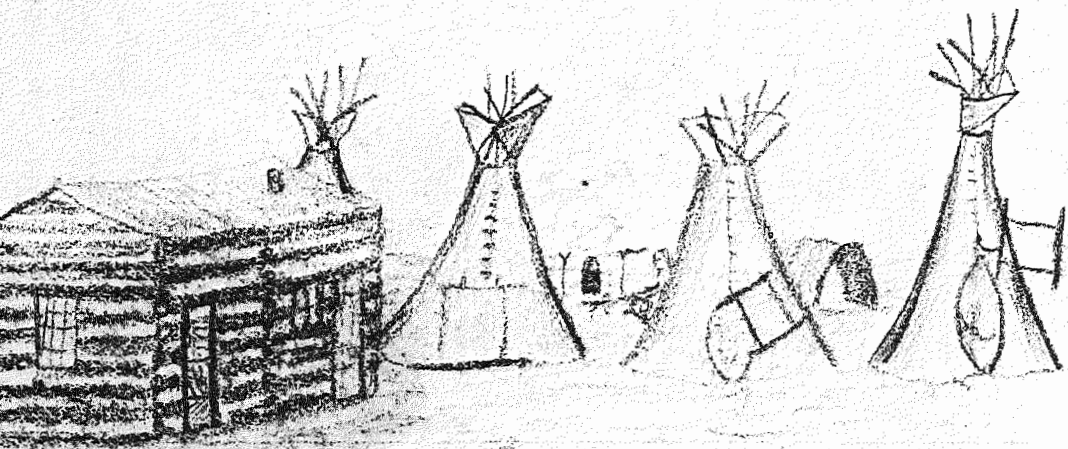
Below—"Little Spirit Hills. 30 miles north-north west of Vermillion—highth unknown—Indian fireplace on top, formed of boulders—"June 22, 1863.



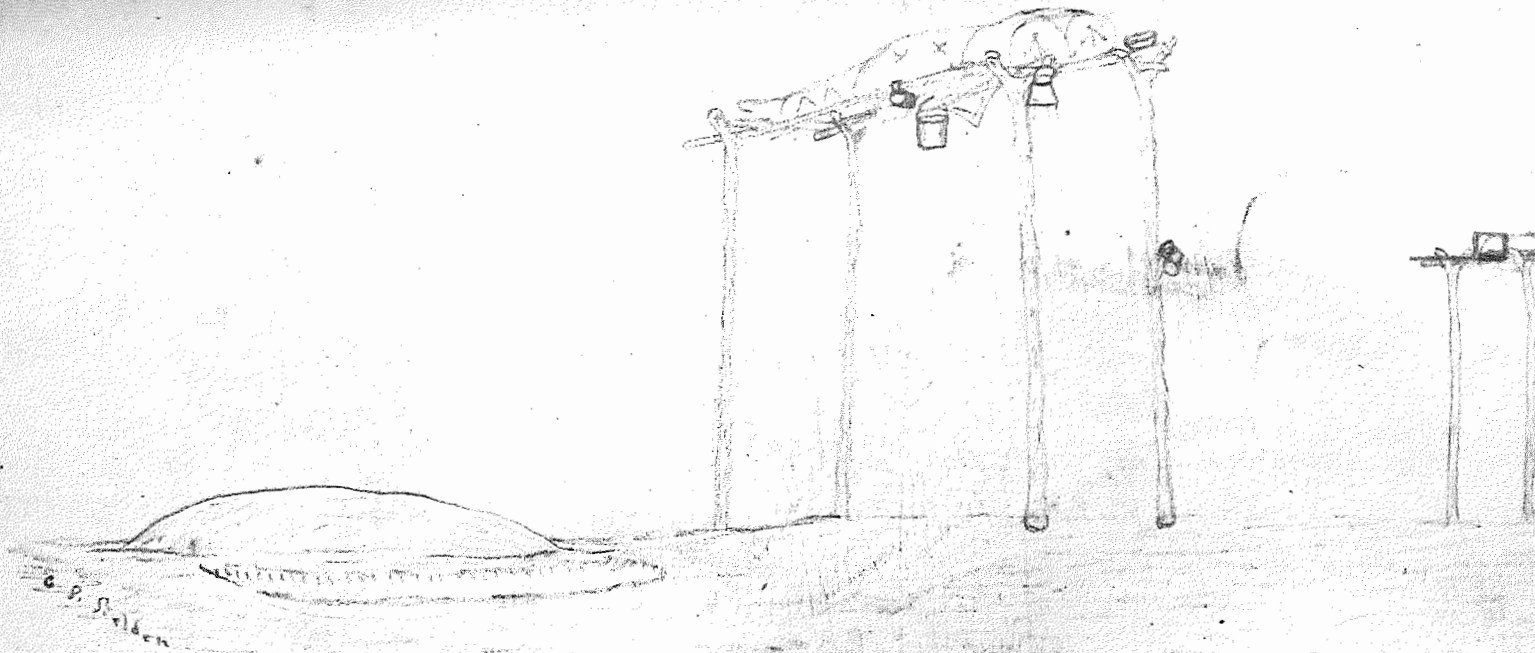




Camp above Fort Randall

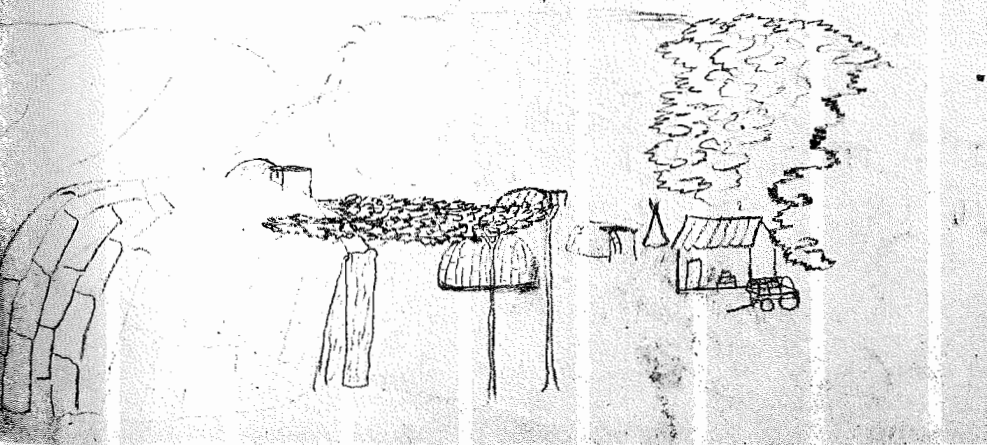


Indian One camp and Trading P. R.
Opposite Fort Randall, S.D.



Indian Burial Ground.





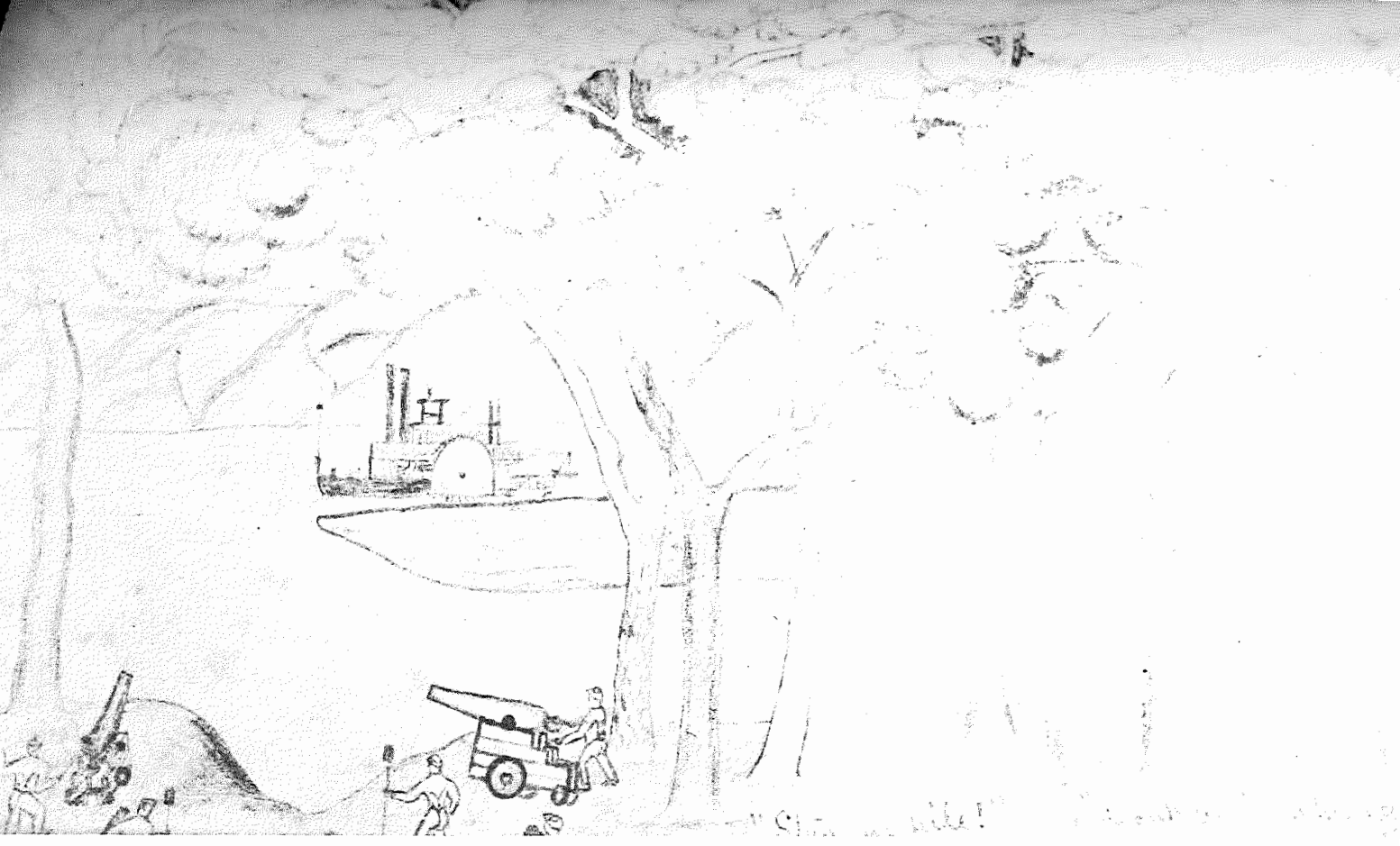
Above—No identification is written on this partly finished sketch of a Winnebago encampment. July 11-31, 1863.

Below—"How Are You?", "What's Up?", "I'll see you again", "Good Bye". Belden drew this cartoon of a prairie dog village near Fort Pierre, August 3, 1863.



Dakota Territory





"Shin... wile!"

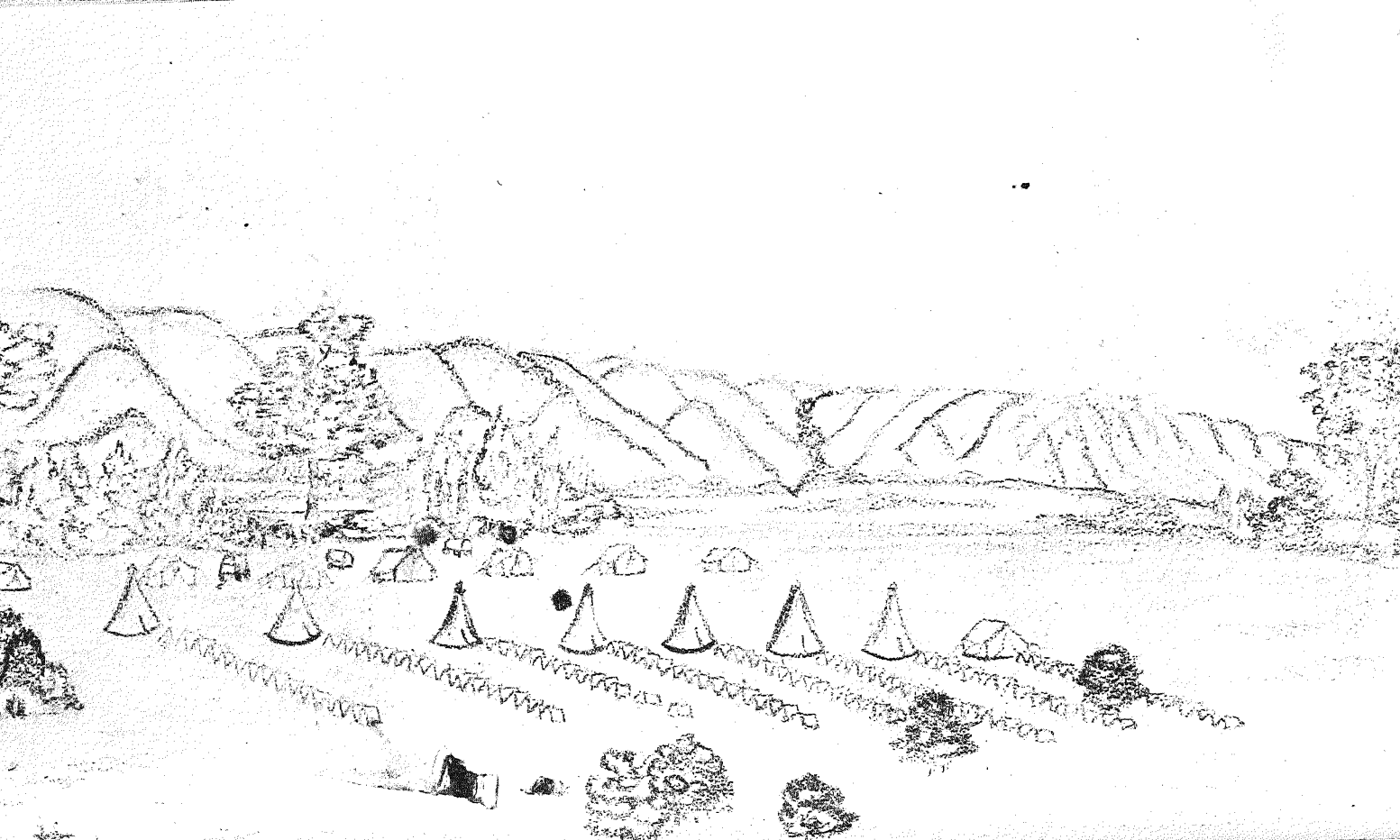


Camp No.

D. C.

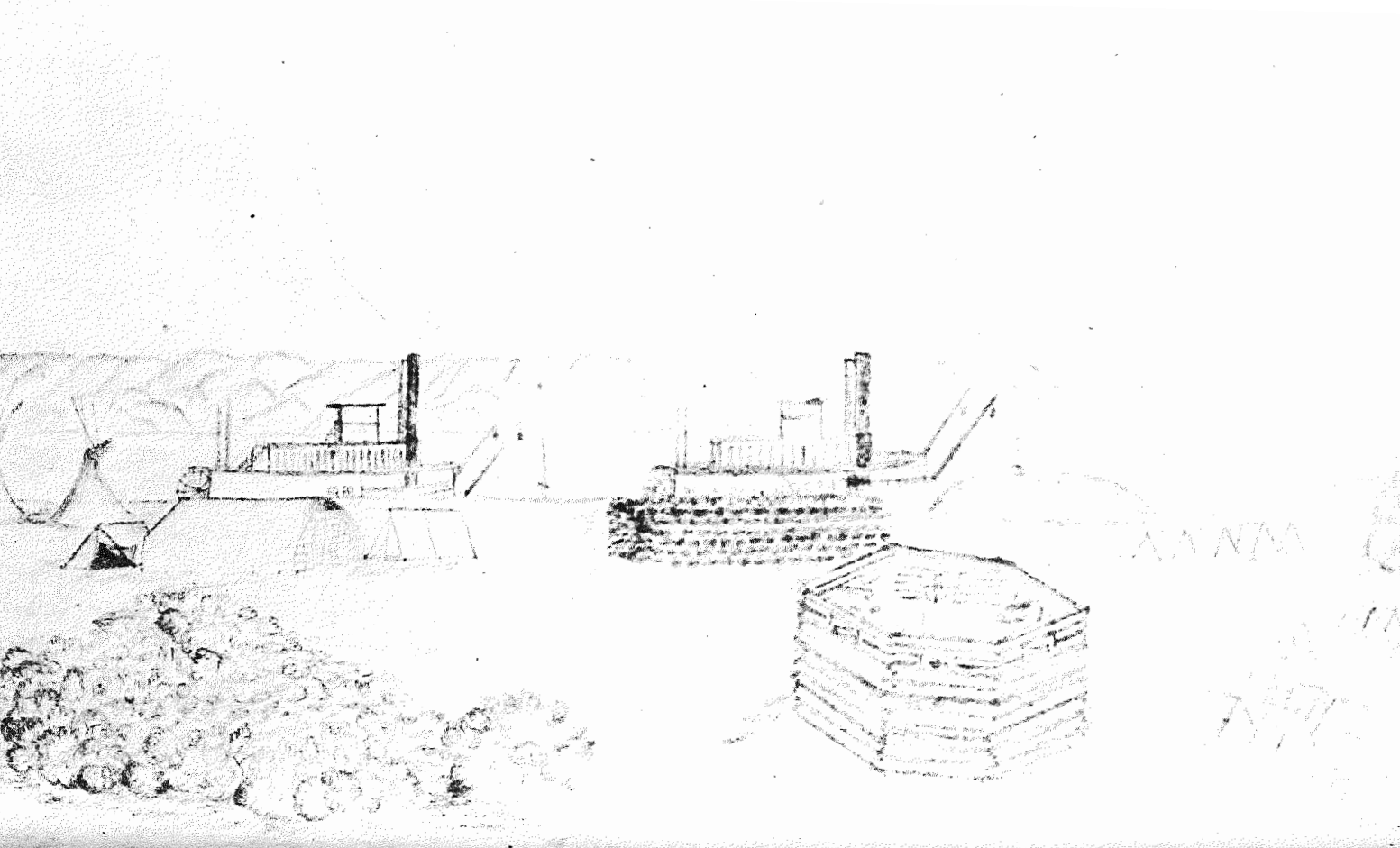


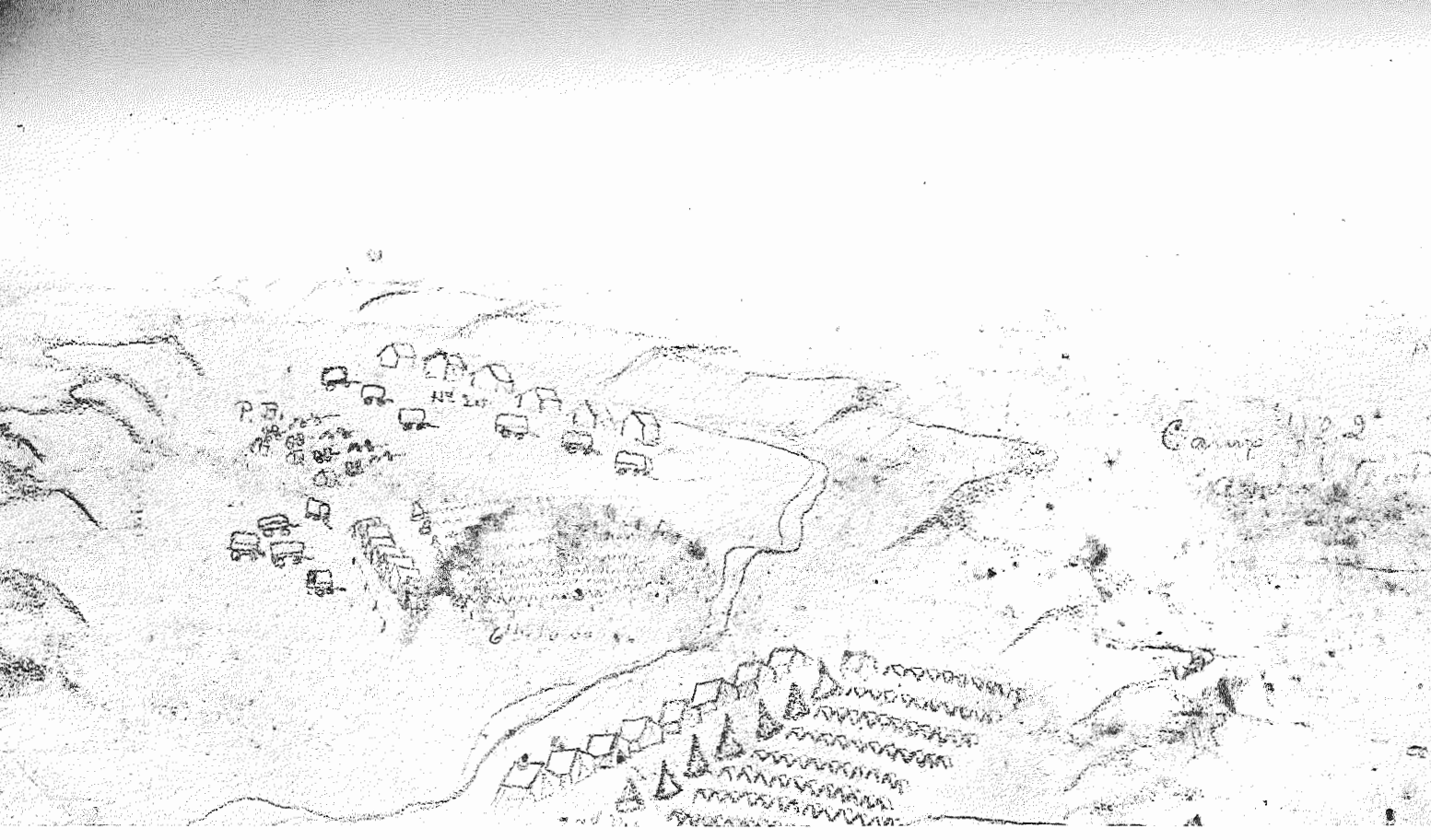
Chapman Creek.

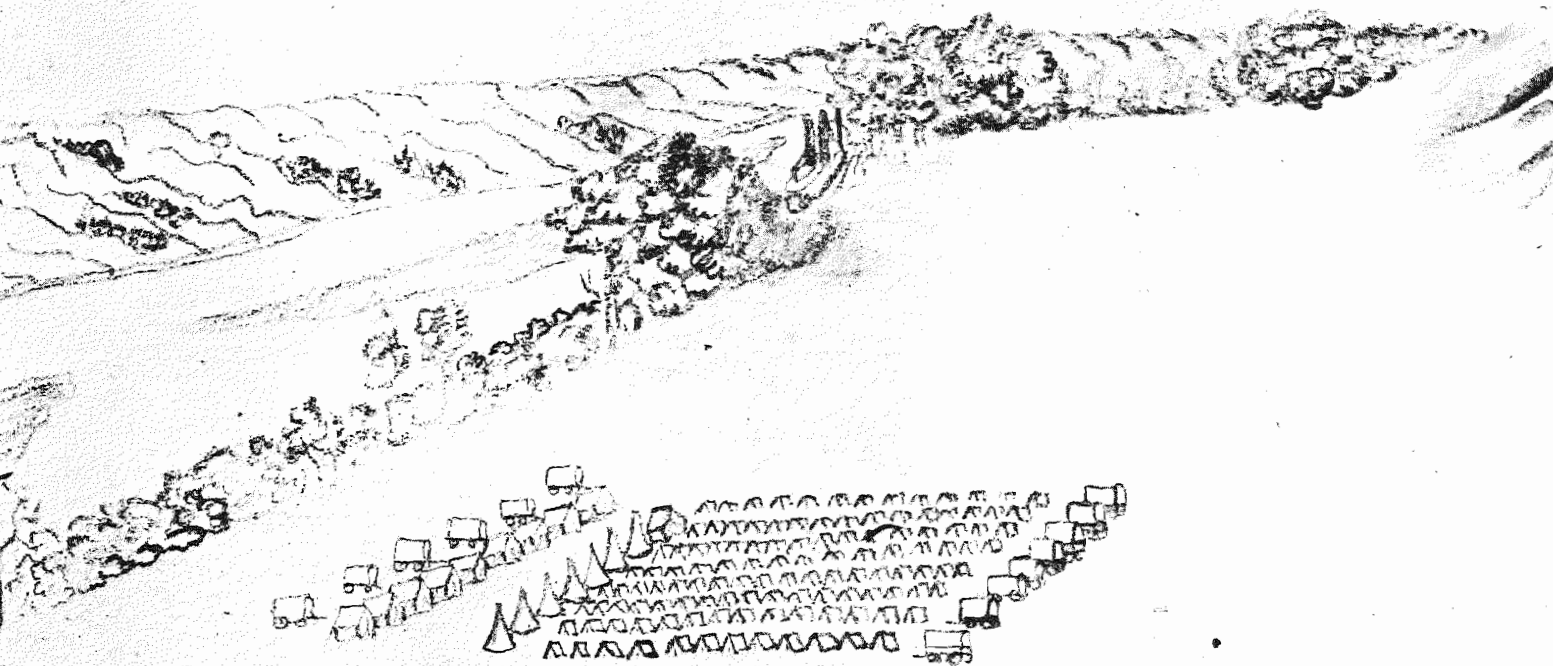




Cambridge, Mass. 1874

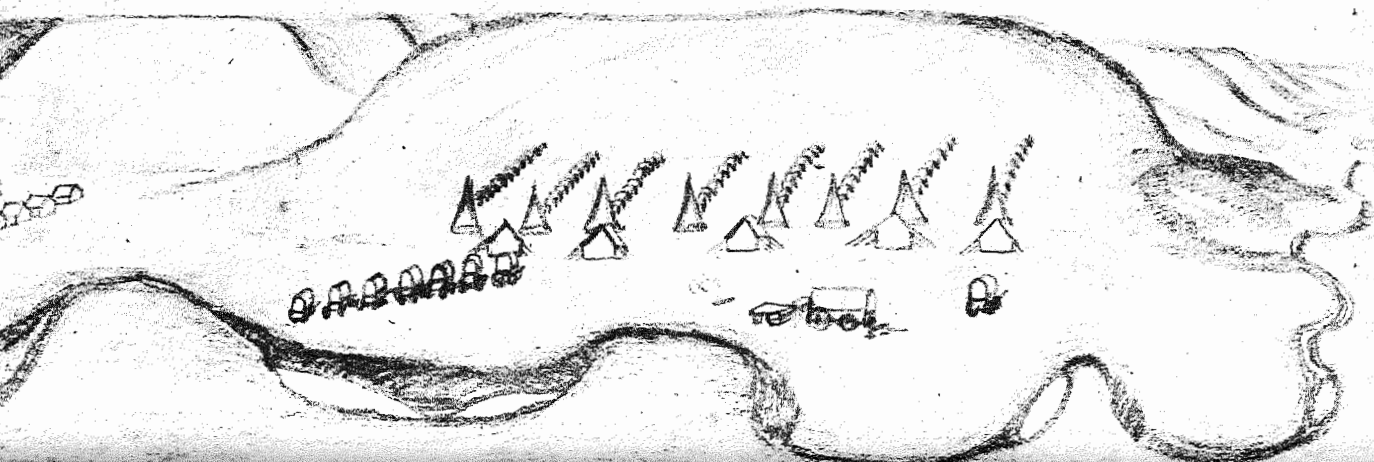


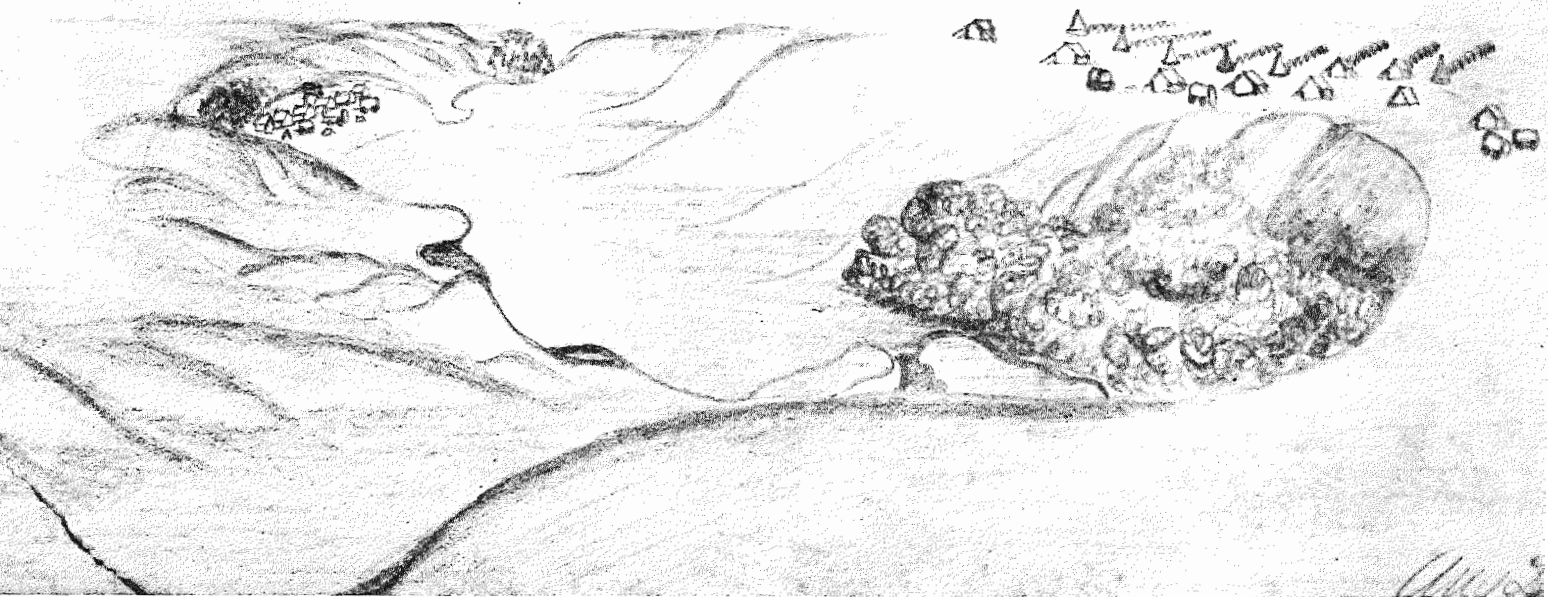


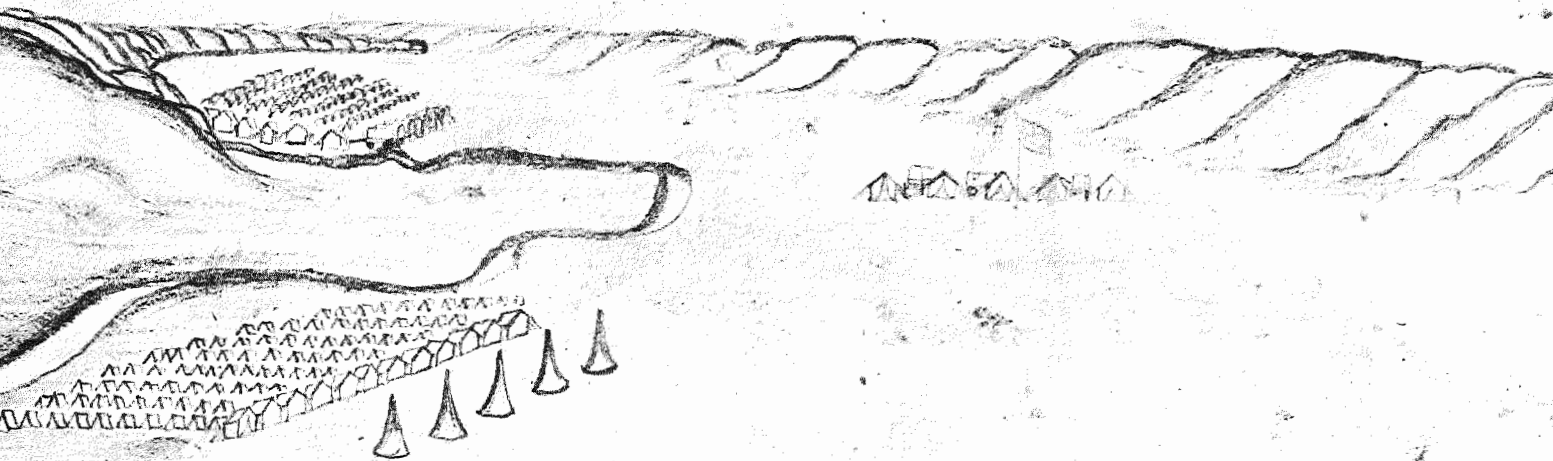


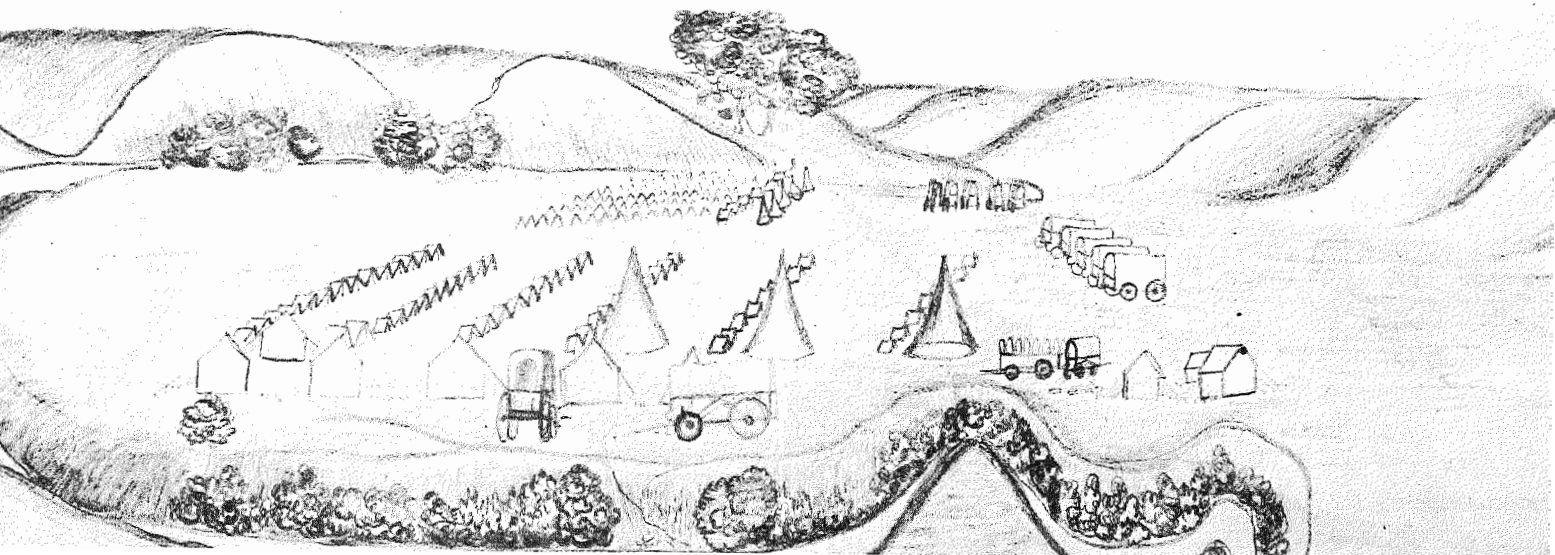
[N92]
1/2 mile above

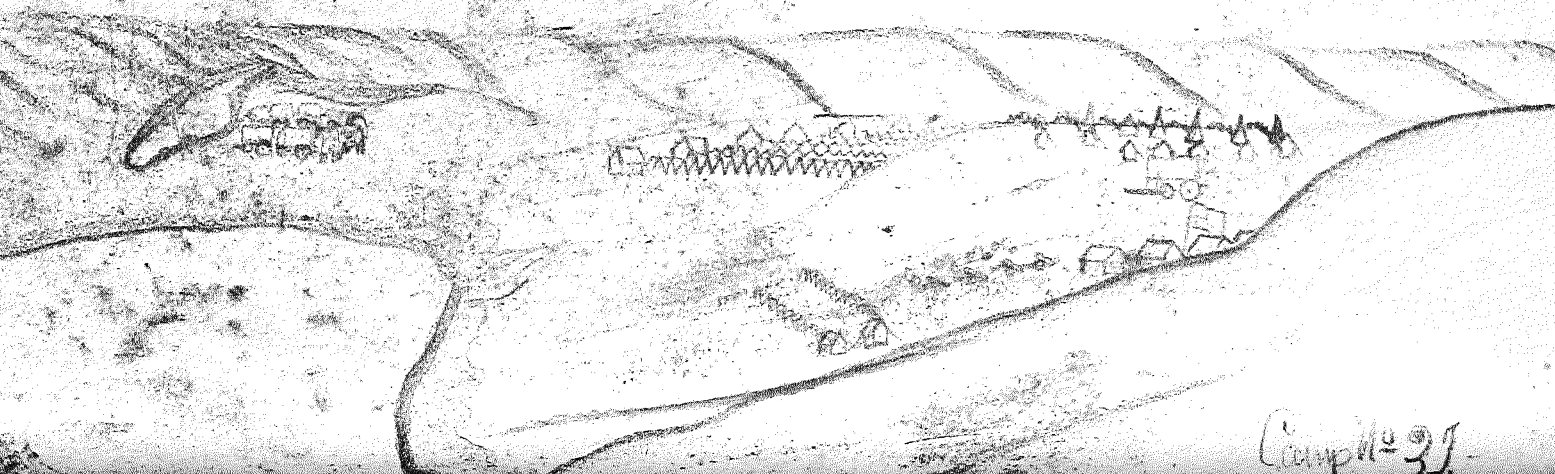




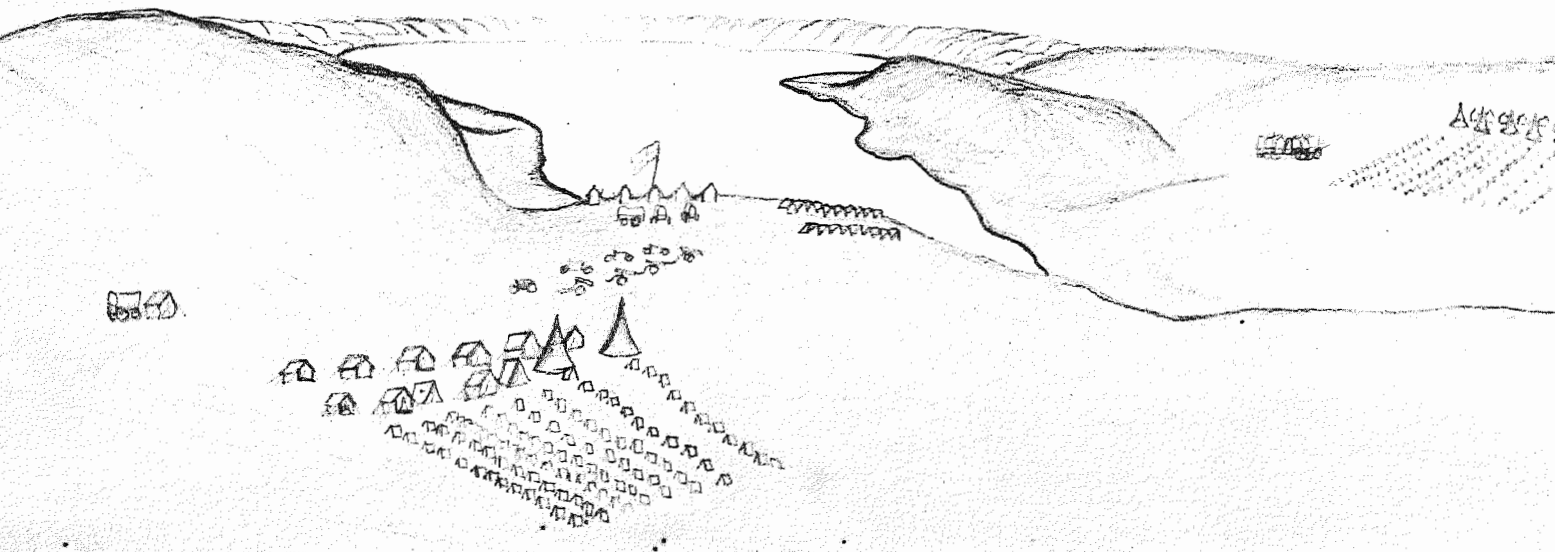








Camp # 27





& all is quiet. The cause of this was the suttlers wine was a little to strong.

Tuesday 15th/63

Left Ft. Pierre at 9 o'clock this morning still keep one old trail. Stopped awhile to bait on dry grass near one of our old camping places. Camped tonight on rush bottom.

Wednesday 17th Sept/63

Lay over here today to arrange things, & untangle the affair incident to a long march. One of our wounded from Co. F⁵⁰ died last night, he was wounded just below the lungs by a ball striking his sabre clasp & penetrating it. He was not supposed to be dangerous. Good feed here, our horses rest. A detail of 8 or 10 men sent to escort a messenger to Winebago agency.

Thursday 18th Sept/63

No marching today.

19th. Marched today. Camped near one of our old camping grounds. Good feed.

Sat 19

Made a short march today. Camped on Medicine Creek one of our former camps. Grass exceedingly dry, short rations of corn issued tonight. Weather pleasant

Sund 20th

Still keep moving Sunday or no Sunday, made no difference, necessity drives us onward. Made a long march to reach Fizzle Point (Crow Creek Agency) arrived about dark. A sort of homelike feeling pervaded the whole force as we came in sight of the old camp. Thank fortune we feel as though we were most home.

⁵⁰ Probably Private Joel Hoppes, age 40, of Falls City. He served in Co. L and Peirce may have been in error in stating Co. F.

REFERENCE LIST OF THE COMMISSIONED OFFI-
CERS OF THE SECOND REGIMENT NEBRASKA
CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS

Field and Staff

Colonel Robert W. Furnas, Brownville
Lieutenant Colonel William F. Sapp, Omaha
Major George Armstrong, Omaha
Major John Taffe, Omaha
Major John W. Pearman, Nebraska City
Surgeon Aurelius Bowen, Omaha
Assistant Surgeon, William S. Latta, Nebraska City
Assistant Surgeon H. O. Hanna, Omaha
Adjutant Henry M. Atkinson, Brownville
Quartermaster Josiah S. McCormick, Omaha
Commissary John Q. Goss, Bellevue

Company A

Captain Peter S. Reed, Fontenelle
1st. Lieut. Silas E. Seely, Fontenelle
2d. Lieut. Elias H. Clark, Fort Calhoun

Company B

Captain Rogert T. Beall, DeSoto
1st Lieut. Charles D. Davis, DeSoto
2d Lieut. Charles F. Porter, Decatur

Company C

Captain Theodore W. Bedford, Brownville
1st Lt. James W. Coleman, Brownville
2nd. Lt. Jacob B. Berger, Brownville

Company D

Captain Henry L. Edwards, Bellevue
1st. Lt. Henry Gray, Omaha
2nd. Lt. Wilbur B. Hugus, Omaha

Company E

Captain Lewis Hill, Brownville
1st. Lt. John H. Mann, Brownville
2nd. Lt. Alexander S. Stewart, Brownville

Company F

Captain Dominic Laboo, Nebraska City
1st. Lt. Charles W. Hall, Nebraska City
2nd. Lt. Robert Mason, Nebraska City

Company G

Captain Oliver P. Bayne, Falls City
1st. Lt. Chauncey H. Norris, Falls City
2nd. Lt. Joseph S. Wade, Falls City

Company H

Captain John W. Marshall, Plattsmouth
1st. Lt. Isaac Wiles, Plattsmouth
2nd. Lt. Abraham Deyo, Rock Bluffs

Company I

Captain Silas T. Leaming, Decatur
1st Lt. Moses H. Deming, St. James
2nd Lt. Jacob H. Hallock, Dakota City

Company K

Captain Edwin Patrick, Omaha
1st. Lt. William B. James, Omaha
2nd. Lt. Philip P. Williams, Omaha

Company L

Captain Daniel W. Allison, Falls City
1st. Lt. John J. Bayne, Falls City
2nd. Lt. Daniel Reavis, Falls City

Company M

Captain Stearns F. Cooper, Omaha
1st Lt. Obadiah B. Hewett, Nemaha
2nd Lt. Francis B. Chaplin, Nemaha