

Captain Charles Meinhold  
3rd U.S. Cavalry

Personal Records,  
U.S. National Archives

Nebraska State Historical Society, MSS  
donated by Susan Martin, researcher for

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CAPTAIN CHARLES MEINHOLD - PERSONAL PAPERS, NA.

1. Military History written by Meinhold

"Served 13 years in the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, I was discharged as Sergeant Major January 5, 1862 by having been appointed Acting 2nd lieutenant and assigned to duty on staff of Lieut. Col. B. S. Roberts, Comdg. Southern District Dept. New Mexico as Acting Assist. Adj. General. In that capacity I took part in the battle of Valverde and the subsequent engagements at Albuquerque and Peralto New Mexico. July 14th, 1862 I was commissioned 2nd lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Cavalry. I joined the Regiment at Memphis, Tenn. March 1863 I was assigned to duty as Assistant Commissary of Muster of the 14th Div. 13th Army Corps, Brig. General E. A. Carr Commanding. I participated in the battle of Port Gibson, Magnolia Church, Champion Hills, Black river bridge and the assault upon Vicksburg May 22nd where I had one horse wounded and another killed under me. After fall of Vicksburg July 6, 1863-July 26, 1863 I was on leave of absence on account of ill health. On my return I was ordered to preform in addition to my duties of mustering officer those of A. A. G. of the Div. A month afterward the Divisions of the 13th Corps having been reorganized. I was assigned to the 1st Div. Major General Washburn Commanding as Adjutant Commissary of Muster. With this division I served throughout the campaign in the Feche Country participated in the engagement of Carrion Crow Canyon the expedition to Texas at Matagerda Island, Indianola until May 1864 when I was ordered to report to Major General John A. McClelland, Commanding 13th Army Corps at Grand Ecore Louisiana I reported for duty the day General Banks crossed to Atchafalaya? and was assigned to duty as Aide-de-Camp to Brig. General Benton Comdg. 13th Corps. With him I served until July, 1864 when at my request I was relieved and ordered to join my Regiment. I reported for duty July 24, 1864 at Little Rock, Arkansas when I was appointed Regimental Quartermaster-September 23, 1864 I was again detached and assigned to duty as Chief Quartermaster of the Cavalry Division of Army Corps. I served as such until March 1865 when the organization was discontinued. I then was assigned to the Post Cavalry Brig. at Little Rock as Quartermaster. One subsequently after the troops composing the Brigade were sent to different park or mustered out, to duty as A. A. Q. M. Headquarters Dept. of Arkansas in addition to my duties as regimental Quartermaster. In July, 1865 I was relieved of duty as A.A.Q.M. and until the present day I have served with the Regiment. December 1863 I was promoted 1st Lieutenant October 16, 1865. I received the appointment of Captain by brevet to rank as such from March 13, 1865 for gallant and meritorious services during the war."

(preceding was enclosed in a letter to C. H. Morgan, Capt. 4th Artillery, Bvt. Col. Dept of Washington from Meinhold Camp W. S. 3rd Cavalry Little Rock Arkansas-April 20, 1866)

(Once again in reference to the above synopsis of his military history Meinhold states in the preface to the letter to Capt. C. H. Morgan..."In conformity with your letter dated March 1866, I have submitted a brief synopsis of my military history during the war.")

2. Extracts from Recommendations and Tributes to Meinhold

B. J. Roberts - Lieutenant Colonel Commanding

"It is with great pleasure that I mention Lieutenant Charles Meinhold who acting as my aid on the battlefield distinguished himself by his coolness and bravery and rendered me valuable assistance."

(Headquarters S. M. District New Mexico - Fort Craig  
New Mexico, February 24, 1862)

E. A. Carr - Brig. General Commanding - Headquarters  
14th Division. In Field, May 11, 1863.

"To my staff too much praise cannot be given. They exposed themselves freely going into the thickest of the fight whenever it was necessary and displayed the greatest coolness and good judgement (Carr then named a few of the staff)...and Charles Meinhold, Assistant Com. of Musters A.A.D.C."

E. A. Carr - Headquarters 14th Division Camp near  
Vicksburg, Mississippi June 10, 1863.

"2nd Lieutenant Charles Meinhold, 3rd Cavalry Asst. Com. of Musters and Acting A.D.C. showed great bravery in all the battles. He had his horse killed under him at Vicksburg and is entitled to great credit for his courage and intelligence. He is well worthy of promotion."

3. Recommendation for Meinhold to be commissioned a Colonel sent from the Field, Matagorda Island, Texas to the base Camp of the 3rd Cavalry Little Rock, Arkansas - August 22, 1865.

"We, the undersigned respectfully recommend Lieutenant Charles Meinhold 3rd Cavalry Asst. Com. of Musters, 1st Division 13 A. G. as a proper person to be invested with authority to raise a Regiment of Cavalry in the State of Texas. We have served with Lieut. Meinhold during the Campaign of Vicksburg and as his position as aid-de-camp to General E. A. Carr then commanding the Division brought him under our personal observation in every battle and engagement the Division has participated in. We are thus enabled to bear witness to his bravery and military experience and cheerfully subscribe the following remarks of General Carr, made in his official report...'Lieut. Charles Meinhold, 3rd U. S. Cavalry Camp Mustering Officer and Acting A.D.C. showed great bravery in all the battles. He had his horse killed under him at Vicksburg and is entitled to great credit for his courage and intelligence. He is well worthy of promotion. Lieut. Meinhold has served in the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen (now U.S. 3rd Cav.)

15 Sept. '66. Susan Martin G

from 1850-1861 as First Sergeant and Sergeant Major while he was commissioned as First Lieutenant and Adjutant of Colonel C. Carson's Regiment of Mounted New Mexican Volunteers and assigned to duty on the staff of General B. P. Roberts Commanding U.S. Forces in the Southern District Dept. of New Mexico as Assistant Adjutant Gen. In that capacity he took part in the Campaign against the rebel forces under Sibley invading New Mexico and his conduct in the battle of Valverde was such that General Roberts in his official report dated Fort Craig New Mexico February 25, 1862 says: 'It is with great pleasure I mention Lieut. Charles Meinhold who acting as my aide on the battle field distinguished himself bravery and coolness and rendered me valuable assistance.' In 1862 he received a commission of lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of Cavalry and upon General Carr's application was assigned to duty as Mustering Officer of the 14th (now the 1st) Div. 13 A. C. We respectfully express our opinion that Lieut. Meinhold is not only deserving of promotion but that his military experience, past conduct, and well-known zeal for the service fit him for the promotion he seeks and we therefore respectfully and earnestly recommend that he be authorized to enlist and organize a Regiment of Cavalry of the loyal portion of the people of Texas willing to take up arms and that in proper time he be duly commissioned as Colonel."

Signed: W.D. Benson, Brig Gen. Volunteers  
J.E.G. Rauson, Brig. Gen. Vols.  
W. J. Laudram, Col. Co. 4 Div. 13 A.C.  
James Keigwin, Col. l.q. Indiana Vols.  
Fitz Curry Warren, Brig. Gen.  
Charles Harris, Col. Commanding 2nd Brig. 1st Div.  
H. P. Washburne, Col. 18th Indiana Vols.  
George W. K. Bailey, Col. 99th Illinois Vols.  
L.H. Potter, Lieut. Col. Comd 33rd Infantry (Ill.)  
W. H. Morgan, Major and A.A.G.  
David Hank, Col. 8th Indiana Infantry  
M. Malony, Major 1st Infantry

4. Letter to Brig. General J. Thomas from Capt. George W. Rowland, 3rd Cavalry Headquarters Little Rock, Arkansas - August 30, 1864

"I have the honor herewith to report that I have appointed Charles Meinhold Regimental Quartermaster subject to the approval of the Honorable Secretary of War to take from the 29th of July 1864 - Lieut. Henry Sachs resigns."

5. Letter to Secretary of War E. M. Harrton? from Col. M.S. Howe U.S. 3rd Cav Little Rock, Arkansas - August 28, 1865.

States that a large number of officers of the regular army have received "Brevets" and learning that "my officers have been mentioned in high terms for their gallantry on the battlefield on several occasions I would respectfully call attention to the enclosed papers in case of 1st Lieut. Charles Meinhold Regimental Quartermaster fully impressed that if it is only necessary to have the attention of the Secretary called to his case and others of the Regiment to obtain for them such marks of distinction as has been given to officers in similar cases."

6. Oath of Office - Appointed Captain by Brevet Sworn and subscribed before M.S. Howe Col. 3rd Cavalry in Little Rock, Arkansas November 24, 1865

Letter to Major General L. Thomas Washington, D.C. from Meinhold, Little Rock, Arkansas November 24, 1865.

"I have the honor to accept appointment of Captain by brevet. I am 39 was born in Berlin, Prussia and have been in the military service of the U.S. since 1851."

(1st Regiment Mounted Riflemen and 3rd U.S. Cavalry)

7. Letter to Adjutant General, Washinton, D.C. from Frank Adams, Rush River Jefferson County Ohio - March 28, 1866.

Inquires whether Meinhold is still in the army and if so what is his present rank, station, and address.

8. Letter to General L. Thomas Adjutant General Washinton from Meinhold Santa Fe, New Mexico - February 15, 1867.

He acknowledges letter sent to him January 22, 1867 informing him that his name would be submitted by the President to the Senate for appointment of Captain in the 38th Infantry..."I respectfully beg leave to decline the appointment. I have served 17 years in the Cavalry and in the same Regiment and wish to remain in it."

9. Oath of Office - Appointed Captain 3rd Cavalry Fort Craig, New Mexico - May 20, 1867 (Meinhold - age 42)

10. Letter to 1st Lieutenant J. B. Johnson, Post Adjutant from Capt. Charles Meinhold 3rd Cav. commanding Troop B Fort McPherson, Nebraska April 27, 1872.

"In obedience to verbal orders of Brevet Major General J. J. Reynolds commanding Post I started 7 o'clock a.m. on the 25th instant with 1st lieutenant Lawson 3rd Cav. and 45 enlisted men of my company, 47 in the aggregate, to overtake and punish a marauding party of Indians who had stolen seven horses from parties at McPherson 1 station on the 24th instant. Dr. G. W. Towers accompanied my command as medical officer. Mr. William F. Cody was the guide aided by Mr. Omehendeu who volunteered his services. I arrived at about 11 o'clock at Pawnee Springs and from the trail of the Indians to point towards the Loupe in a northwesterly direction entering the rough and sandy (land) bordering the valley of the Platte. Having already been delayed four hours in bringing the wagon furnished to me to transport provisions and equipage across the swampy bottom of the Platte I concluded to send it back to the Post. I issued 5 days rations to every one of the command with estimation that they had to last seven days if necessary and unencumbered by anything else I started on the trail at 3pm and followed it until dark when I encamped without grass, wood, or water. Next morning I started at 4 o'clock a.m. following the trail until it brought me within 5-6 miles of the Loup. Being satisfied that the Indians must strike the Loup I left the trail and marched to the river turning into a more easterly direction thinking that it would be easier to approach unperceived the Indian camp by moving up the river than to follow the trail descending the bluffs where the Indians could have seen. Finding a little grass in an arroya near the Loup, I unsaddled, ~~I~~ let the horse graze for 2 hours as they had had hardly any food since I left the Post, in fact we all stood in need of rest. I argued in this way: The Indians were either still encamped on the Loup 8 miles above me, in which case the locality which I had chosen for a stopping place would secure me from observation or they had crossed the Loupe contriving their flight in which case the 2 hours delayed would be of no moment, at least compared to the benefit I would *derive* from resting and feeding the men and horses about half past 2pm I started. I detached a party of 10 men under Sergeant John H. Foley with Mr. Cody for a guide to move up on the south side of the river while I moved on the opposite side. I had marched about 10 miles when I heard firing about a mile off. I moved up at a gallop and arrived in time to intercept 2 Indians who, on seeing us, fired. They were immediately shot down. Mr. Cody had guided Sergeant Foley's party with such skill that he approached the Indian camp within 50 yards before he was noticed. The Indians fired immediately upon Cody and Foley. Mr. Cody killed 1 indian, two others ran toward the main command and were

killed as stated above. While this was going on, Mr. Cody discovered a party of 6 mounted Indians and 2 lead horses running at full speed at a distance of about 2 miles down the river. I at once sent Lieut. Lawson with Mr. Cody and 15 men in pursuit. We, in the beginning of the chase, gained a little upon them so that they were compelled to abandon the 2 lead horses which were captured, but after running more than 12 miles at full speed our jaded horses gave out and the Indians made good their escape. Afterwards I ascertained that this party were out hunting, had killed an elk and were cutting it up when they heard the firing; and comprehending the situation at once, fled. Had it not been for this unfortunate accident I would have gotten the whole party and all the stolen stock plus their own. To overtake these 6 Indians mounted on fresh horses would have required a steady pursuit of 8 to 10 days duration for which I was not prepared. I therefore returned today to the post. The men of my command have all done their duty, but I beg leave to mention especially Sergeant John W. Foley who in command of the detached party charged into the Indian camp without knowing how many enemies he might encounter, 1st Sergeant Leroy W. Volks who bravely closed in upon an Indian while he was fired at several times and wounded him. Mr. Cody's reputation for bravery and skill as a guide is so well established that I need not say anything else than but he acted in his usual manner. Mr. Omohendev is a very good trailer and a brave man, who knows the country well, and I respectfully recommend his employment as a guide should the service of one in addition to Mr. Cody be needed. The 2 captured horses were identified by Mr. McCullogh and the other by Wilson and I restored them to their owners. From the shape of the moccasins, bows, and arrows found in the Indian camp Mr. Cody is of the opinion that the party were Miami (Minn-conjous?) concho Sioux, a band which yields no obedience to Spotted Tail. I am not acquainted with the peculiarities of the different branches and tribes of Indians in the Dept. I can therefore have no opinion. The country I have marched over is so well known that I omit to furnish a map at all; events I am not able to trace the trail correctly, it took so many turns and windings amongst the sand hills that it completely bewildered me." Total distance marched during the 3 days scout 140 miles."

Signed Capt. Charles Meinhold  
Endorsed by J. J. Reynolds

(Letter Record Office, Indian Affairs, Roll 127 Cheyenne River Agency, 1871-72 National Archives Microfilm Pub. Doc. 1 1428)

11. Letter - to A. A. G. Dept. of Platte Omaha, Nebraska  
from Meinhold Camp Sheridan Nebraska  
September 18, 1874.

"Respectfully ask permission for leave of absence of 1 month be granted me on account of ill health. Enclosed is certification of Doctor S. A. Bremer the attending physician of the command. I have been in bad health for some time past but since my return from escort duty with Indian Commissioners I am suffering so much from rheumatic pains that I am unable to do duty. I am convinced that a change of climate and living quietly in warmer and more comfortable quarters than my tent now affords will soon restore me to health. 2nd Lieut. James F. Simpson is on duty with my company."

(Enclosed from S. A. Bremer A. A. Surgeon - Sept. 19, 1874)

"Capt. Charles Meinhold 3rd Regiment Cavalry having applied for a certificate on which to govern a leave of absence, I do hereby certify that I have carefully examined this officer and find that he is suffering from articular rheumatism brought on by exposure in the line of his duty and that in consequence thereof he is in my opinion unfit for duty and that he will not be able to resume his duties for a less period than 2 months. I recommend a change of climate and quarters where he can be better protected and \_\_\_\_\_ for in my opinion a cure can not be expected in his present quarters."

(Meinhold obtained a special order granting him leave for 1 month October 2, 1874)

12. Letter to A. A. General Dept. Platte Omaha Nebraska  
from Meinhold in camp near Custer City  
October 15, 1876.

Meinhold applies for leave of absence on account of ill health based on enclosed certificate from Dr. McGillicuddy A. A. S. the medical officer attending the 3rd Cavalry.

(V. T. McGillicuddy A. A. Surgeon - October 13, 1876)

States that Meinhold is and has been affected for the past four months with hemorrhoids and chronic diarrhea and is also at present affected with muscular rheumatism of a more recent date. The result of exposure and that in consequence thereof he is unfit for duty 2 months or more. (dated at camp near Custer City - Black Hills)

Special Orders - Dept. of Platte October 27, 1876  
Leave of absence 1 month by command of Brig. General Crook



13. Letter to Adjutant General Washington, D.C. through Headquarters Dept. of Platte from Meinhold, North Platte Nebraska December 5, 1876.

"Apply for permission to go beyond the limits of this Dept. leave of absence upon Surgeon's certificate of disability granted me for 1 month Special Orders dated October 27, 1876 of which leave I availed myself November 13, 1876. My health has not improved since I am suffering from rheumatic pains, chronic diarrhea and a very distressing bronchial catarrh contracted during the Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition with which I served from the day of its organization until it was dissolved October 30, 1876. Encloses certificate from A. L. Flint A. A. S. U.S. Army. I look to a milder climate and the use of some medicinal springs, Hot Springs Arkansas for instance for restoration to health."

(Enclosed A. L. Flint Report December 5, 1876)

"...now on sick leave and suffering from the effects of chronic rheumatism and diarrhea as well as from bronchial catarrh is in such a debilitated condition that a change from this Dept. to the Hot Springs of Arkansas or some similar region is recipary? to saving his life or prevent permant disability."

Certificate - Absence on Account of Sicknaess (4 months)  
"...go at once to Hot Springs authority given by Lieut. General Commanding Div. of the Missouri"

14. Letters from Meinhold to Dept. of the Platte  
February 1, 1877 & March 1, 1877

State that he is still in Hot Springs, Arkansas and is unable to leave without endangering his life and asks for 3 more months leave of absence, no medical officer present but Meinhold fills out medical certificate.

June 1, 1877 - July 1, 1877, July 31, 1877

Asks for 2 more months to remain at Clifton Springs

15. Telegram to Secretary U.S. Army Washington, D.C. from Henry Foster Clifton Springs, New York  
December 14, 1877.

"Captain Charles Meinhold of the 3rd Cavalry fort laramie is dead. What shall we do with the corpse? Answer immediately."

13. Clifton Springs Sanitarium, Clifton Springs, New York  
Letter to Brig. General E. D. Townsend from Henry  
Foster M.D., proprietor of sanitarium. December 17, 1877

Reports that Capt. Charles Meinhold 3rd Cavalry died at the sanitarium December 14, 1877 and was buried December 15, cause of death abscess of liver which broke into pleural cavity. Says that Capt. Meinhold wished to make a will leaving his money and some town lots in the west and all that he had to go toward endowing a bed in the institution for ?(sick) officers but the execution of the will was put off from time to time and not made. Foster asks how much is due Capt. Meinhold and whether it can be applied as he desired. "Capt. Meinhold came to the institution early last spring suffering from congestion of liver and chronic diarrhea. After a lapse of a few months he was by all appearances restored to health and returned to his regiment and remained in good health up to the 14th of October when he took cold which received all his former trouble in an aggravated form. He came to see us about the 1st of November suffering from chronic diarrhea, abscess of liver, and pneumonia of the right lung. After an examination of the case our pronosis of course was unfavorable and as we do not admit incurables we thought it best to have him sent to some institution where he could be taken care of. He, however, requested that the rule be waved so that he could remain. We concluded after consultation to admit him and do all we could to make him comfortable and if possible restore him to health. At times we had hope of his recovery. 24 hours before his death there were evidences of poison, coma set in, and death was the result. The post mortem examination verified all the above facts. Several weeks before his death he sent for his attending physician (Dr. Gault) to whom he was very much attached and requested him to see that the following be faithfully carried out. "First, he stated that he had not a single relative in this country and he did not know that he had any relatives in the world. He stated that he had left a sister in Russia but he did not know that she was living as he had not heard from her for 20 years. At any rate he said that was no matter as he had no one who had any claims on him. He said he had a little money and some town lots in the west, where he did not state, he wished to give this money and all he had to this institution. Dr. Gault told him that I would not accept the gift unless it was given for a specific purpose. Dr. Gault stated the facts to me and I told him I could not accept anything from him as a personal gift but if he wished he could give it in this way: that the money should go toward endowing a bed in the institution for sick and \_\_\_\_\_ officers in the U.S. Army. The bed to be called the Meinhold bed". This conversation was stated to Capt.

Meinhold and the idea suited him exactly. He further stated that he wished to make a will covering the above conditions. The execution of this will was put off from time to time as we had hopes of seeing him on his feet again; at least we did not expect his death so soon. Now what we wish to know is how much is coming to him from the government and whether this can be applied as Capt. Meinhold desired. If it cannot of course those directly interested must see to the settling of the effects of this officer. Please advise me as to what course to pursue. I have in my possession various papers belonging to the deceased and also send you statement of money deposited, each item of clothing, also expenses while he was here etc. General Casey whom you know will add a note. Please advise us as to what course to pursue in the matter."

"I am not located? at the Sanitarium kept by Foster and from my knowledge of him have no hesitation in saying that the utmost confidence can be placed in his statements."

? Silas Casey  
Brig. Gen.

14. Headquarters Third Cavalry Fort Laramie, Wyoming Terr.  
January 1, 1878.

General Orders No. 1

With profound regret the Colonel commanding announces to the regiment the death of Capt. Charles Meinhold. Capt. Meinhold enlisted in the regiment May 5th, 1851 and has served continuously with it through the several grades until prostrated by disease the result of long and arduous service and which finally terminated in his death at Clifton Springs on the 14th instant. He participated in the battles of the rebellion and held staff appointments of importance, receiving 2 brevets for gallant and meritorious service in action. As a tribute of respect to his memory the officers of this regiment will wear the usual badge of mourning of the arm and sabre hilt for 30 days after the receipt of this order at the Post where they may be serving.

By Order of Colonel Devin  
J. B. Johnson 1st Lieut.  
3rd Cavalry