

AUGUST 1872

Ena had been at Fort McPherson, and she was anxious to return to the Medicine, particularly since she had received word of their camp having been flooded out. Wilk Snell agreed to take her there at the first opportunity. They soon learned that Mr. Lewis, the sheep rancher, was leaving the following day by wagon, and it was decided Ena could go, if she rode in the wagon. The others were as worried about her health apparently as she would. Wilk and she connived, however, to hide her riding clothes and saddle in the wagon, without Mrs. Snell or Lewis learning of it.

With Wilk riding horseback, the three of them left Fort McPherson at a very early hour on Saturday, August 3rd. Ena noted they traveled at a "rattling" rate, which they must have, for they reached the Medicine at ten that morning. Miles and his parents were living at the small house, "Raven's Cliff", which had been built for her in her absence. "Wolf's Rest" was still under mud, and what possessions had been salvaged were scattered around drying in the sun. They took her by wagon to see the remains, and she found that her old shelter, "Tepe Chees Cheela" had been totally ruined. Apparently, Ena's books and manuscripts had been moved to her new house before the flood, for she did not comment as to any of her possessions having been damaged.

Sunday, the following day, occurred one of the great adventures in Ena's western life. When she came out of her house in the morning, after having fought off mosquitos during the night, she saw buffalo on

the hills. A hunting party was immediately formed, consisting of Ena, in spite of her poor health, Miles, Mr. Palmer, Wilk Snell and George Dillard. In spite of the rush, Ena took the time to dress in her black riding habit and a white hat! An attempt by Miles and Wilk to sneak up and rope a calf failed, and then the grand hunt began. But things started off badly for Ena, for her horse refused to join the affray, bolting about, which was not uncommon, when a horse first came in contact with buffalo.

After quieting her horse down, <sup>George</sup> ~~Wilk~~ and Mr. Palmer rode with her back to the hunt. When they got within seventy-five yards of the herd, however, the horse became uncontrollable again, at which point she jumped down from him and took the needle-gun, which George was carrying for her. She fired and wounded a buffalo, only to have her horse run away in one direction, while the buffalo took off in another. George rode off to catch the horse and Ena was left afoot, not a good place to be when ~~near~~ near a buffalo herd, particularly one excited and running. Soon she saw Miles herding up a wounded bull in her direction, as well as Wilk, who came to her rescue, letting her have his horse. Ena was furious when she learned Miles had driven the buffalo up, so she could finish him off. After much ado, she finally agreed to do so, when they pointed out that someone had to kill it so it might as well be she. She did, and the hunt continued. She tried shooting a buffalo with her pistol from horseback, learning like so many others that a ball from a pistol had little if any effect on a giant buffalo.

After killing several animals, the party began to make its way back to camp, Miles, George and Mr. Palmer, staying behind to butcher the ones they had killed. Wilk and she were heading back to the Medicine,

when they saw three buffalo, separated from the main herd, trying to catch up with it. Though Wilk protested, Ena insisted upon going after them, so she could say she had actually killed a buffalo of her own, as well as the one wounded by Miles. The buffalo were on one side of a canyon and they on the other, heading toward each other in a V-line. Wilk and Ena beat the buffalo to the head of the canyon and she quickly dismounted and fired at the one in the lead. Her buffalo ran on out of sight, and Wilk was able to ~~kill~~ kill one of the remaining two. Ena went after her buffalo and found him dead, only a short distance away. She was estatic. The following day Mr. Palmer and Wilk took her back to Fort McPherson. With some exaggeration, the word of her buffalo ~~kill~~ kill quickly spread. Instead of the ~~ten~~ ten yards ~~of~~ of her estimate, Wilk told it about that she had shot it from 120 yards.

This is the only buffalo hunt that Ena is known to have taken, at least from her own account, though one might have occurred during a period when she was not keeping a diary. Miles, at least, later wrote of a hunt in which she took part, which does not fit the description of the preceeding hunt. The one he wrote of took place further up the Medicine. According to him, Ena said:

"I will try the difficult feat of shooting elk and buffalo from horseback while at full speed."

There but few men able to ride a horse on the run over rough country, and shoot with any accuracy. It took a speedy horse to catch a buffalo. I had one that was trained in the chase upon which Mrs. Ballentine /Ena/ was mounted. We sent out a scout to locate the buffalo. After a long ride in the direction he had taken, we saw him about a mile

away, riding in a circle, the Indian sign that he had found them.

We approached him cautiously and a large herd was seen coming up from the creek, where they had been to water....Soon half a dozen of us were strung out, the fleetest horses in the lead. As we neared the lumbering awkward-looking monsters, they began to gain in speed until it was like a whirlwind, increasing all the while.

Mrs. Ballentine's horse took her along side the herd, on a level run, when she began to shoot, not ten feet away from them. Three of the party were left far behind. The buffalos finally went over a bluff, rolling like balls, with the exception of seven dead and wounded along the trail, Mrs. Ballentine having killed two and wounded several others. This is the first and only case where a woman was ever known to have killed buffalos from horseback while on the run. /Bratt and Miles, 27./

As Miles was known as a story teller, it is likely this is the story of the August 1872, as "dressed-up" by him. It must have been a family trait, for, when she wrote of the hunt about 1874, in her article, "Frontier Life", it too is somewhat more exciting than the account in her diary, though it is obviously the same hunt. If she had had so exciting a hunt as Miles described, it seems only likely that she would have written of this other hunt rather than her first one. Ena explains she could not hunt from horseback because her slight size could not support a gun other than in a kneeling position.

Word of the hunt spread not only through Fort McPherson but to North Platte as well, for on Thursday, August 8th, according to Ena's diary, the North Platte Democrat carried an account of her hunt, describing her as the "Lady Shootest". Unfortunately, the copies for this period do longer exist. But hers was not the only buffalo hunt being discussed. Buffalo Bill's challenge for a championship hunt had been accepted, and it was reported in the state press:

FT. D. A. RUSSELL, /Monday,/ July 29.

To the Editor of the HERALD:

Noticing a challenge in your paper from "Buffalo Bill" for one thousand dollars, that he can kill more buffalo in the same time than any other man in the world, I hereby accept the challenge and raise him another thousand--the hunt to come off in December or January.

Yours, &c. GEO. KNOX

/Omaha Weekly Herald, Wednesday, 7 August 1872./

Little is known of Knox, beyond him being a well known frontiersman, though little has been written of him. He was enumerated at Fort Laramie in the census of 1860, then being twenty-five years of age and a native of Missouri. He was a trader with personal property valued at one thousand dollars. /1860 Census: Nebraska Territory. Fort Laramie, 6./  
A George Knox was at North Platte in 1867, where he paid Penniston and Miller fifty-five dollars on the bill of a C. Emery. /Penniston and Miller Day Book, 118./ A little more than a month later, a George Knox was married to Agnes E. Jarvis, age nineteen, by Wash Hinman. At the time of the marriage, August 6, 1867, Knox was thirty-two years old,

which corresponds with the age of the George Knox of Fort Laramie.

/"Mrs. Y. A. Hinman, "First Marriages on Record in North Platte, Nebraska...", Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record, Vol. 4, No. 4 (October 1926), 310./ In the middle 1870s, Knox worked at the various Red Cloud agencies. Knox was described in late 1878 as the "genial, whole-souled George Knox, who has made and lost a half-dozen fortunes beyond the Mississippi, and who, despite all, thinks it the best plan to laugh and keep on growing fat...." /"A Sioux Wedding", reprinted from the Chicago Times, Omaha Weekly Bee, Wednesday, 1 January 1879./ The man who had accepted Cody's challenge was obviously no green horn.

August was hot, not unusual for Nebraska. J. H. King, the post surgeon at the fort, recorded it as being 92° on the 5th, and 101° the following day, with a hot wind blowing from the south. It was a busy month at the post. There was a sale of condemned cavalry horses and Indian ponies on the 4th, most of them bought up by the incoming settlers, as well as several expeditions. On Monday, August 5th, the day before Ena returned to the fort from her hunt, Lieutenant Thomas Jackson Gregg, 2nd Cavalry, left for Camp Red Willow, to spend the rest of the summer protecting the various survey parties at work in Southwest Nebraska. On the same day, in spite of the heat, Captain Moore also headed for the Red Willow, escorting several officers and ladies out on a buffalo hunt. It is doubtful if any of the officers' wives attempted to match Ena's skill. They stayed gone ten days, returning on the 16th, after killing a mere six buffalo! The denizens of the Medicine would not have been impressed. On the 7th, Second Lieutenant Andrew Howland Russell, with Company K, Third Cavalry, left for Camp

Red Willow to do summer duty. Of as much, if not more interest to the military, were the surveying parties in the Republican country, mentioned by James Willett in his letter of July 27th. Lieutenant Russell's orders contained a second paragraph for the commander of Camp Red Willow:

In order to cover the operations of the surveying parties now in the field in South West Nebraska between the 99th and 102nd degrees of longitude and the Republican and Platte Rivers, the commanding officer of the camp on Red Willow will keep sufficient scouting parties continually in the field from the Camp to maintain frequent communication between the surveying parties and also with Camp Red Willow. /Special Orders 10, Department of the Republican, copied in "Surgeon's Monthly Report", Fort McPherson, 7 Aug. 1872/

Shortly after this an item appeared in a North Platte newspaper, regarding the surveyors:

We received a visit on Monday from Pawnee Killer one of the Sioux chiefs. His band is located in the Republican Valley. He has seen several surveying parties, and in answer to our questions said he would not allow his men to molest them in any manner. /North Platte, Lincoln County Advertiser, 14 Aug. 1872/

It was three years, almost to the week, that Whistler and Pawnee Killer's bands had attacked the survey parties of Nelson Buck (no relation of Royal) on the Divide south of the Red Willow. There had been no survivors of the survey party. A short time later, the survey party of William E. Daugherty had been surrounded by Indians in the sandhills of present Perkins County, about halfway between the

Falls of the Frenchman and Alkali Station on the Platte. The military had refused military escorts to the surveyors at that time and had received much adverse publicity after the fights were learned of. Though Whistler was living peacefully on the Medicine, and though Pawnee Killer's band had caused no known trouble of late, it was wise to be careful. As Willetts had pointed out, once the land was surveyed, settlers would follow. The Indians were also aware of the importance of the men walking the divides and canyons with their chains and flags.

Even with Camp Red Willow not far to the East, the surveyors in the Republican country were not feeling secure. They wanted soldiers with them daily, while General Reynolds had ordered troops only to visit them occasionally, while making continual scouting parties through the region. George W. Fairfield and Wells, wrote to E. E. Cunningham, Surveyor General for Nebraska, on Wednesday, August 14th, from "In Camp on the Republican Township 1N Range 36W, Sec 6", which would be in present southeastern Dundy County:

From present indication We are afraid we will be unable to complete our work without an Escort. the Sioux are encamped about 4 miles from us and say that they are going to stay here and hunt until they hear from Washington and get some pay for this land.

Yesterday Lieut. /Jennifer Hanson/ Smallwood came up from Red Willow with a small Escort, but is going back in the morning. We made application while at Red Willow for an Escort but have heard nothing from it as yet. The Sioux say the Cheyennes are coming up



here in about 2 Weeks and if so we will surely need the Escort. We have been troubled and hindered from work 2 days now by the Indians coming into camp although they are not hostile at present.

We are getting along very slowly but hope to be back in time to Vote for U. S. G.

Do the best you can to have an Escort sent to us as soon as possible. One that will remain with us until the work is done.

We received your notices of the approval of our contracts.

Charley Emmet--or Dashing Charlie--as he is called--Says that he thinks they are trying to concentrate at this point and says if the Cheyennes come here he think there will be trouble (this Emmet is the Interpreter for this band of Sioux, but we don't know whether he is authorized by the Govt. or not.

Let us hear from you as soon as possible Lieut Smallwood says that Gen'l Ord will be at Red Willow in about 8, or 10, days and he can perhaps have an escort set out at once from that point.

Give our regards to the Boys, and tell them to fix their Masticators for some Dried Meat.

/"Letters of Deputy Surveyors", Vol.II, 763, U. S. Office of Surveyor General, RG 510, Nebraska State Historical Society Archives/

Jenifer Hanson Smallwood, 2d. Lieutenant of the Second Cavalry, on duty at Camp Red Willow, wrote his report of his scout through the upper Republican country, on Sunday, August 18th, the day he returned to the temporary camp:

I have the honor to submit the following report of a Scout made by me, with a detachment of Co. "C" 2d Cavy, in compliance with special orders No 26 Hd Qurs Camp Red Willow Nebr dated August 9" 1872.

August 10th In Compliance with the above mentioned order I moved from this Camp with twenty-five (25) men of Co. 'C' 2d. Cavy, and marched to Blackwood Creek on the north side of the Republican. Distance marched twenty (20) miles. Keyes and Jamesons party of Surveyors came to my Camp at about 5:00 pm. They were camped on Blackwood creek two (2) miles north of me. Their party consisted of seven (7) men. They are working westward, twenty-four (24) miles west of Blackwood, is their limit, and thirty (30) miles north of Kansas line. He complains that on August 4th while camped on Stinking Water Creek, emptying into Frenchman Fork, from the north east, six or seven Indians (of Whistlers band) came into his camp, and told him he must leave by Sundown &c; but says that they did not molest him, although he did not comply with their demands. Mr Keyes also complains of Charles Emmett, a white man, with Whistler's band; he says that Emmett wrote him a letter, sending it to camp by an Indian, demanding that

provisions be sent him; and says the letter was signed "Charles Emmett, Sub Agent."

August 11th. Marched across the divide between the Creeks, from Blackwood to Frenchman Fork and camped on the west side of the latter creek, about Six (6) Miles south of the mouth of Stinking-water Creek. Two of my men out hunting report signs of surveyors south-east. No signs of Indians. Distance march Sixteen (16) Miles.

August 12th. I sent a Sergeant and sixteen men to change Camp. The camp was moved five (5) miles north of that of day before. I took nine (9) men and went south-east to look for the surveying party reported. I did not find any signs, and think they must be those I have already seen. I scouted the country carefully, between the two Streams, and found no signs of Indians. Distance scouted about (20) miles. About Six (6) pm. Lieut. Wessels, 5 Cavy, and /Edward/ Moran, government interpreter, came into my camp. Lieut. Wessels is with Slo-cums surveying party; sent out by Genl Reynolds, Moran is looking for Whistler. Lieut. Wessells says Whistler has left his Camp on Stinking Water and gone away; does not know in which direction. They stay in my Camp until morning.

August 13th. Thinking that Whistler had gone to the Republican from Stinking Water, I march from my camp of the day before to Big Timbers on the Republican river; I marched across the divide, and sent a Sergeant and eight (8) men, to scout west & south of me. Found

a letter on a tree, from Fairfield and Wells's surveying party; they were going west. Distance marched Twenty (20) miles. No sign of Indians.

August 14th. I march from Big Timbers to 4 Miles east of the forks of the Republican. I send a Sergeant and eight (8) men to scout north of the Republican in the Bluffs; I take four (4) men and scout on the South side, back three or four miles, distance marched fifteen (15) miles. I found Fairfield and Wells' surveying party across the river from where I am camped. They tell me Whistler's camp is north of the river a few miles. He says Whistler tells him that the "interpreter" from Washington says that the surveyors are not here by authority, but on their own account, and, Says that when he tells them they must go, that they will have to leave. Says that he will give them plenty of warning, after he finds out whether they are here by authority or not. This party make no special complaints of Emmett, but thinks his presence has a bad effect on the Indians. The Sergeant scouting on the north of the river reports pony tracks. No Indian signs south of the river. The Surveyors here seem to be alarmed; as they say Pawnee-Killers Band of Brule Sioux is here, besides Whistler, and that the Indians tell them that 100 Lodges of Ogallala's Sioux will be at this place within three or four days; and that there are 160 Lodges of Cheyennes coming from the South; These Surveyors have Thirteen (13) men with them.

August 15th. Moved Camp from the north to the south side of the river. I left the wagon in the Surveyors camp, in charge of a Non-Commissioned officer and three men. I moved with the remainder of my command north, and found Whistlers Camp, Six (6) Miles north of the river. I left my men on the side of the hill (so that I should give the Indians no cause for alarm or offense) and went myself into the Indian camp. I had a talk with Whistler. He says he has been told that surveyors have no business here; that they are here without authority; I assured him to the contrary; but so far as I could judge by his manner and that of the Indians around him, they did not believe me. He says Genl. Reynolds told him when the Surveyors came, not to stay away from them, but to go to their camps, and show them that they are peaceable. I told him that the General, must have meant for the chiefs to go, and not that the young men should go there at any and all times, and trouble the parties. He promised to keep his young men away. I think Whistler and his disposed to be friendly and behave themselves; the young men appear dissatisfied. Whistler also says that in a few days one hundred (100) lodges of Ogallala Sioux will be here on the Republican at this point. He also says that he capture five (5) Cheyenne Indians with sixteen (16) head of stolen stock. The Indians got away; the stock he says he sent to North

platte. These Cheyennes report one hundred Sixty (160) Lodges of Cheyennes coming from the south, to the Republican, at or near this point. The Indians <sup>the</sup> having stolen stock went southeast from this place. He says he will stay in this camp six or eight days, and then move westward on Chief Creek (the north fork of the Republican.) Says he has been here about (10) days. Whistler himself is going into Fort McPherson in about a week. I also saw Pawnee-Killer of the Brule-Sioux who is here with his band, he would not say much; only showed me his papers. I returned to my camp and remained on the South Side of the river, until the next day.

August 16th. Marched from camp of yesterday to a mile east of Big Timbers. Distance marched Seventeen (17) Miles. Marched down down /sic/ the Republican bottom on the south side of the river. I sent a Sergeant and eight (8) men to scout along the Bluffs on the south side of the river, and to find the surveying party of Mr Crosley. The Sergeant returned at 3.00 pm; found Crosley's party. They are all right, and have seen no Indians nor signs. They are coming on the Republican. They do not go farther west, than three (3) miles west of Big Timbers. He was camped due south of Big Timbers.

August 17th. Marched from Camp of yesterday to three miles east of Blackwood distance marched Seventeen (17) miles. Met surveying parties of Keyes &

Jameson and Milner & Rasner. The former going west, the latter north and east. No Indian signs.

August 18th. Marched from Camp of Yesterday to Camp Red Willow distance marched Sixteen (16) Miles. No signs of Indians. /Letterbook, Co. C, Second Cavalry, 1870-1874", <sup>258-40,</sup> Kansas State Historical Society, microfilm, Nebraska State Historical Society. Also, copy of same report, National Archives, High Plains Historical Society, McCook, Nebraska/

Smallwood's report was forwarded to Colonel Reynolds, Headquarters, District of the Republican, at Fort McPherson. Reynolds forwarded the report to the Department of the Platte, Omaha, on August 21st, with his own cover letter:

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to forward for information copy of report of scout from Camp Red Willow.

This report is in full accord with the information brought in by our Interpreter Mr. Morin.

The rumor referring to the coming north of the Southern Cheyenne is the same that was reported to Dep't Hd.q'rs in letter dated May 7th 1872.

The warning to the Surveyors to leave the country has since been explained by "Pawnee Killer" as being a mistake it was probably unauthorized by "Whistler" and meant to extort provisions.

Whistler seems disposed to follow my instructions given last March in anticipation of his meeting surveying parties, viz: to keep his people away from the Surveyors simply communicating in a friendly way

thro' one or two of his principal men.

The presence of the white man Emmett with Whistler's band has been known to me but no objection was made to his presence, in fact the Indians seemed rather desirous to have him as Interpreter. Whistler's nephew, a half breed, is now with the Indians, and I will write to Agent Daniels to day in relation to Emmett whose longer continuance with the Indians I deem unadvisable.

On the whole my information is to the effect that the surveying parties are reassured and are prosecuting their work without molestation.

Scouts will be kept out so as to secure frequent communication with the surveying parties. At the present time, I see no cause to apprehend any disturbance. /National Archives, xerox copy in files of the High Plains Historical Society, McCook, Neb./

The presence of white men living with the various Indian bands, such as Dashing Charlie Emmett, was a continual problem, as we have seen and will continue to see, to the military and agency officials. Some, perhaps most, were dishonorable in their dealings with the Indians. Many undoubtedly traded in illegal whiskey and ammunition, when at all possible. And, even the most honest, were self-serving in their dealings, which is only to be expected. Yet, the military, especially, were often forced to call upon these very men in times of trouble. The deep, meandering canyons of the Platte-Republican divide were better known to free traders, such as Pallardie, Morin and Emmett, than to official scouts, including Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack.



While various bands of Sioux appeared to be congregating less than a day's ride west of Camp Red Willow, with its small garrison, the whereabouts of Texas Jack and his Pawnee, deadly enemies of the Sioux, should have been of great importance to the military. Certainly Agent Troth was wondering where they were. On Saturday, August 10th, he had written a letter, which he sent by runners, to the hunters:

To J. B. Omohundro & Baptist Byhulle Itpt  
In charge of Pawnees On the Hunt

My Friends

I am informed some of the Pawnees contemplate visiting some of the southern Indians before returning from the hunt. I have information from them there is a disease among them and they are dying off very fast, and my orders to you are positive, not to permit any of the Pawnees to go but bring all your Indians in with you when you come.

If any have gone they will not /be/ permitted to return as they may bring the disease with them and give it to the Pawnees.

You can say to the Pawnees that their crops are very large, but the grass hoppers are here and are destroying them but now whilst I wright they are leaving in great clouds and going South and I hope they will not hurt your crops much as I do not think they have done much damage yet. The Pawnees will have thousands of bushells of potatoes.

I have made arrangements with the bearors of this to bring me letters from you I have not heard from

you since you left the vicinity of Fort Keareny

An attempt was made to kill Terre-re-cus, by two white men who were trying to steal his ponies. They did not get his ponies and he will get well.

P.S. Let me know in your letter how soon you will be here.

While Colonel Reynolds undoubtedly was aware of it, he had not mentioned, in his letter to the Department of the Platte, that the Pawnee were in the immediate vicinity of Camp Red Willow. Indeed, they had visit the area while Lieutenant Smallwood was making his scout to the camps of the surveyors and the Sioux. Nor had the Pawnee begun their trek back northeast to their reservation, but had returned to the buffalo range, probably south of the Republican toward or on the Beaver. If the military at Camp Red Willow and Fort McPherson were worried about the nearness of these traditional enemies, the documents have not yet been found.

Royal Buck, among his other frontier reportage, wrote of the Pawnee visit to the Red Willow settlement on Saturday, August 17th:

Since I last wrote you, little of importance has transpired here worthy of note. Our saw-mill is slashing out lumber, and several white roofs tell that some of our people are patronizing. The proprietor Mr. W. F. Hinman from North Platte is now sawing out lumber for his own house--a very good one--which will be erected in a few weeks when Mr. H. will move his family here for permanent residence. There are several families expected from North Platte. We have had a visit

from the Pawnee Indians. About 2500 of them have been here and are still holding their annual hunt and have had their camp some 15 or 20 miles up the Republican from this place. They are under the direction of the military and agents, and consequently their hunting is very orderly and safe to settlers but it makes buffalo scarce. A large party from Fort McPherson--mostly officers accompanied by their wives, have also been on a hunt in which they joined the Indians. They returned a day or two since.

Capt. Spaulding of the Cavalry Company stationed here goes to North Platte next week to bring his wife and several other ladies, and it is also expected that Senator Hitchcock will be among the party and will spend several days here on a hunt.

Other distinguished personages are also expected. In consequence of so many Indians hunting in the valley and so many surveying parties out also, an extra Cavalry Company have been ordered here and are on the ground so we now have two Cavalry and Infantry companies here.

We are having very timely and abundant rains this summer. Since about the 18th of June, we have had at least two good substantial showers per week, and what is rather peculiar they are almost invariably at night. Red Willow creek comes up about once a week full banks--took our bridge out once, and a new one now occupies its place on a grade above high water.

We are now beginning to reap the fruits of our planting. Plenty of beans, peas, corn, potatoes, cucumbers, squashes, mellons, &c. The early planted fields of corn are very fine--comparing very favorably with your Otoe /county/ fields although all on sod. /Buck letter, Nebraska City News, 24 Aug. 1872, in Riley, "Buck Letters", op. cit., 378, 379/

If, as Buck wrote, the Pawnee had been hunting fifteen or twenty miles up the Republican, in the vicinity of present eastern Hitchcock County, they had been within approximately thirty-five miles of the village of Whistler and his Cut-off Oglala. With Whistler's warriors out hunting and scouting the country, it is surprising that they did not come across the hunting party. More likely, Buck was mistaken as to where the Pawnee had been hunting. This would have put them into the region of the surveyors, whom Lieutenant Smallwood interviewed and whom would have probably seen them. The other possibility is that the Pawnee were hunting south of the Republican on the Driftwood, a stream that meanders from the southwest into the Republican less than ten miles west of Red Willow. It is evident, however, that all parties were lucky, that summer of 1872, that the Sioux and Pawnee kept out of each other's way. Considering what was to happen in 1873, it is interesting to wonder what Texas Jack would have done or been able to do had such a confrontation occurred. Though Texas Jack was traveling as the Pawnee's sub-agent, they were strangers to him, while he had been familiar with Whistler's Cut-offs since his arrival at Fort McPherson. It would appear that the Pawnee men would have greatly outnumbered the combined Sioux warriors--at least before the expected arrival of the one hundred lodges of Oglala Sioux.

Ena's month had been full of interest, even after she returned to Fort McPherson, after her successful buffalo hunt. It began on the 8th, when Mrs. Snell went to North Platte for a few days, leaving Ena and Mary Snell in charge of the officer's dining room, though their job was to supervise, rather than to cook and serve. Being tired from such an arduous task, they took a morning nap and Ena was mortified when Mrs. William Ried came to call and found them thus. Even worse, two young gentlemen came to call on Mary, and Ena was even more mortified to have to receive them in less than fashionable attire.. She noted that the officers cheered upon Mrs. Snell's return home.

On the 20th, Paddy came in from the Medicine, bringing with him Arthur Ruff, one of the founders of the Medicine colony, who had returned from Colorado, where he had been prospecting for silver. Paddy challenged her to a shooting match, which she accepted and won--undoubtedly to his mortification.

Ena had one bout of ill health and was visited by Dick Seymour. Miss Elizabeth Burke, of the pioneer Burke family and soon to become Mrs. John Bratt, and a Miss Rickly came to dine, <sup>on the 27th,</sup> after which they went to call upon Mrs. Cody, who had given birth to her third child and second daughter on the 13th.

A shooting match between Ena and Wilk Snell resulted in Ena winning. When recording the event in her diary on the 29th, she added that when she had been ill earlier in the week, she had shot the head off a snake from her bed. She could see the snake coming up through a hole in the floor of an adjoining room. Though she had beaten Wilk at target practice, she went on to beat him badly at polker. But, in spite of the drama, she ended the month by ironing her dresses.

As August ended, one act out of the recent past was revealed--one that would follow the residents of the Medicine for years to come. On Friday, August 30th, Coe and Carter addressed a letter to F. A. Walker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

On the 10th May 1872 I presented to you Receipt or Voucher from T. Randall Sub-Agent for Spotted Tails Band of Indians, for Beef cattle delivered to said Indians last Winter--Said delivery is shown by the certificates of said Randall--Spotted Tail and all of the principal chiefs with him as per papers filed in your office said 10th day of May.

Enclosed you will find Affidavit from three residents of Frontier County whose veracity will not be questioned in reference to price weight &c which we trust will be satisfactory

John Bratt of Frontier County has just had contract awarded to him to supply Beef to the camp of U. S. Forces now on Red Willow at Twelve cents per pound after three weeks public advertisement by hand bills etc--and twelve cents per pound was lowest bid--and contract at that price has been approved by Gen. Ranigan Chief commissary Dep. of Platte all of which the records of Dep. will show--We are thus particular--to indicate that we think there is sufficient basis for paying the price agreed upon by the Sub-Agent--We have refrained from employing Counsel or Claim Agent--relying upon the justice of our claim and the

reputation of your Department for promptness in settlement of just claims--We have been employed by Government for the last Ten Years with perfect Satisfaction and approval in every instance so far as we Know--and we refer with pleasure to each and all of our delegation in Congress--Also to every Government and State officer now on duty in our State--Also to Gen W. Myers now on duty as Q. M. in Washington City as to our responsibility and integrity.

It may be superflous to say that this Band of Indians were entitled to Beef rations and appropriations made for payment of some provisions They had remained on White /Man's/ river and if they were in distress (as they actually were) and we furnished them food to keep them from suffering-- We feel that we ought to be paid for it and the same money that would have been paid for rations for them on White Siou--We think we are justly and equitably entitled to for furnishing them rations on the republican under the circumstances if the Sub Agent applied for and receipted for the same, with abundance of proof of its delivery--But you will readily appreciate our situation without further argument and we hope you will remit us Voucher by Mail, to Omaha Neh for whatever you consider just an /sic/ equitable