

Hastun Colo
January 20-70

Dear friend Mr Carmody - We received your letter a few days ago & were glad to hear from you

We had learned about Mr Wikaxen's death & were real sorry about his passing. He had not been very strong for a long while.

We were sorry about Everett Sutton's eye condition too and we surely hope they do keep him. He will be handicapped for a while, but this is a good time of year for him to be in.

In reference to the hill where the dated rocks were found. As you know we have contralled this land for a good many years.

The son of the man who found the rocks lives a short distance from the spot where they were found, and he was the one who told me of his father finding the rocks, shortly after they were found, then I sent word to Dr Hagen. It was a very short while after they were found that Dr Hagen came down

and viewed them in the identical place that they were found, and also did very little digging in this place. Any additional digging was done by me at Hapens request.

There was an oak monument at the place where the 1st rack was found. This monument was torn down & the rocks used to build a barn, which is still standing about a mile away.

This information was given me by the son of the man who homesteaded the land in 1887, who has passed on.

I am waiting for the time when this barn will be torn down as it might contain more lettered racks.

I also have additional information about this place, given me by my father & old timers dating back to the early 80's.

When you come down, we will put together all of the information we have, and you are welcome to do as much digging or looking with the Detector as you like, as I am glad to have some one else take an interest in it for its Historical Value. Hoping to see you when the weather is fit.

Sincerely, your friend,
Leonard Sharpe

Jan. 20, 1970

Leonard Sharpe
Haxtun Colorado
80731

1970

HAXTUN, CO 80731
JAN 21
1 AM
1970



Noted 1/27 for

Mr. Arthur Carmody

Trenton,

Nebraska.

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RAY G. SPARKS

5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE • SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66205 • PHONE 362-6571

27 January 1970.

Arthur Carmody.
Trenton, Nebraska.

Dear Art:

Christmas is a pain in the ass and I'm glad that it is over along with New Years and all the futile useless partys. A mess for a month before and a month after. Just now one can again begin to live somewhat normal.

Got that off my chest so should feel better. Thanks for the map of Sheridan and all you have said about it. I have never been on the grounds but have been by numerous times-always with the promise of the next time. Beougher and I were always going to give it a real work out but never quite got to it. His boy Eddie has said that he would go out there with me as he knows the locations haveing been there with his father.

Have worked old Monument Station several times-with and without Beougher. It has been worked to death but doubtless there is much still there. The military troops stationed there were details from the forces stationed at Ft. Wallace, Ft. Hays and Ft. Harker-this was a temperary duty station-assigned stations were as stated.

The old Stockade at the Spillman was built by the regular Army out of Ft. Harker in 67 & 68 and at time garrisoned by regular troops that were rotated from that Fort. Late in 68 it was more or less abondoned as you see the troops had gone south to put the Indians in their place-when they returned in the Spring of 69 the Indian troubles were over-so such places in Kansas were no longer needed. Then lo and behold here came Tall Bull to put an end to that dream. Quickly several (4) companys of Cavalry Militia were organized. Two were stationed near Lincoln, Kansas-one actually at the southwest edge of Lincoln and the other on the Spillman. All of which you know. The one on Spillman was quite a Post-Stockade-blockhouse-corral-officers quarters-barracks-cook-house-mess hall-big spring. Was occupied by the Militia-a tough crowd of locals, many former Forsyth Scouts-Captain was Ad. J. Pliley-for about six months. In the 80's a big Prarie fire burned it out-the chimneys and other useable material was hauled off by the settlers. After that the new commers new nothing about it. The ones with me who thought they knew had it about a half mile north but my map drawn by Jack Peate in 1869 had to be right.

(Jan. 21, 1970)

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As you can see my typewriter is acting up-needs a top overhaul. Ev, has come up with some very tempting exploring-you probably know all about it if not get him to break down and tell you.

I have mentioned that if you fellows want to see the Lincoln county section to just say the word and I would be delighted to show it to you-but if you wanted to do that you should come on to Kansas City and we would look that section over too-perhaps I could be some sort of guide here.

Enclosed is a copy of the map that I spoke of-thought I had given you one.

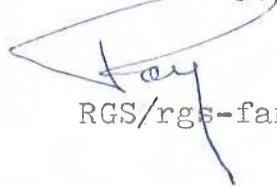
Any work done with metal detectors is slow and exact if there is to be any results-as you have found and I agree the Sheridan thing would probably take several days if done properly. We spent probably ten days all told at Summit Springs and we only scratched the surface of a very small area.

Weather here has been stinko-havent flown for three weeks so probably have forgotten how. Next time I come out if the time is right I just may do it in a chopper as it is easier to see what one is passing over and it can be put down most anywhere.

I am very interested in the Comstock thing and hope that we can look into further this Spring after the ground and weather is right.

Do you know how Everette is doing ?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "RGS", written over a large, hand-drawn oval scribble.

RGS/rgs-fancy aint I ?



Jan. 29, 1970



RAY G. SPARKS
5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS. 66205

Mr. Arthur Carmody.

P. O. Box 217,

Trenton,

Nebraska. 69044.



RAY G. SPARKS

5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE • SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66205 • PHONE 362-6571

18 May 1970

Mr. Arthur Carmody.
Trenton, Nebr.

Dear Art:

Over a lifetime of errors I have learned that it is necessary to make an accounting of my activities at frequent intervals to determine if those activities have any relationship to the better part of wisdom. Obviously I have neglected to take a very clear view of the activities in which I have involved you, probably because of my own selfish interests. Somehow it had escaped me that I was involving you in matters, which to you, were old and worn out. Naturally I am very sorry for my thoughtless actions and shall strive to exercise better judgement in the future. Your support of my activities are and have been greatly appreciated. Without your able support and guidance many things that have open for me would not have done so.

The morning after you left (monday) I rented an airplane and flew over Grusing's and the country adjoining. You will be interested to learn that there was a stream, just as prominent as the South Fork of the Solomon, two miles north of the field in which we found the bones. What stream it is or was I do not know as I do not have any large scale map of that area-but will send for some.

After the flight we drove up to the Kidder site where we spent a couple of hours with the detectors-without results. It has always plagued me that the propoerted place of burial was so far away from the the place of death. Those bodies were putrid and mutilated and under the circumstances it seems odd that they would be moved very far.

In a careful examination it was noted there was a patch of about 15X30 feet of an entirely different type of grass, near the open end of the draw (south) on the ~~west~~ ^{EAST} side. In examining the ground there and on the side of the patch we found eight small pieces of bone that resembled human bone. This location was much nearer the place of death.

We saw Miss. Kuhrts and secured permission but did not go back by the house as our time was running short. We drove on south to Wallace-Museum was closed-so we went on to Sheridan-where we worked till quite late with ~~KnO~~ outstanding success.

Tuesday we drove to Lincoln and Denmark where we worked the old Stockade, with little sucess-understand that it has had a real work-out since we located it last November. Seems eveyone has a detector and came from miles away.

(May 18, 1990)

-2-

Wednesday we worked the old Schemerhorn Ranch with good results-then went over to the Cave where 16 Indians had been killed. Found only one thing-a medical bottle dated 1845.

About 2: P.M. we got to an old favorite military camp site on Spilman Creek. This was most productive as we found over two hundred items in two and a half hours. Cartridges-cases-balls-buckles-military buttons-cap box-rivets-knife blades-broken bottles-broken pots-horseshoe nails-cinch rings- D rings-picket pins and some unknowns-etc & etc.

Left Lincoln shortly after five and was home about eight-thirty.

It was great being with you-t'was a wonderful day. We are greatly in your debt-as we all realize.

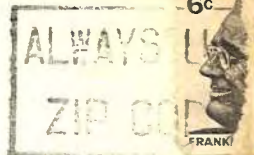
The boys join me in sending our very best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "May", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.



RAY G. SPARKS
5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS. 66205



Mr. Arthur Carmody.
Trenton,
Nebraska. 69044.



RAY G. SPARKS

5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE • SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66205 • PHONE 362-6571

25 June 1970

Mr. Arthur Carmody.
Trenton, Nebraska. 69044.

Dear Art;

I have some new maps now and find that the stream north of Grusings is a branch of the south fork of the Solomon. From the air it has the same appearance of the main stream through his property-while we nor no one else knows, it may have had as much water or more in 1868. Somewhere in all the information that I have or have heard there has been several mentions of the place as BIG SPRINGS-did you ever hear this? We know that springs came and went and at times were away from other water while at other times they were in the streams themselves. What it was a hundred years ago no man knows today. I am reminded of our old place in Mitchell County-when I was a boy there were several along Indian Creek with water deep enough to submerge in on hot days-water ran deep enough to maintain a good supply of minnows constantly-yet thirty years ago there were no signs of these springs, in fact the creek had dried up completely. All of which proves what-not a damned thing. There was water there then, I feel sure, and Indians and whites camped on water-this much we do know. These maps are fine for this work as they are 2000 ft. to the inch-permits of pinpointing.

You are so right concerning where Grover and Comstock may have started from-where the village may have been. These men were no tenderfeet, wise in the ways of the Indian the chances are about 111 to 1 that they did not start from that village in the direction which they intended to go-nor did Grover stay where they shot him-you can gamble big that he got the hell away from that spot and again in a direction that they would expect him to go. Your suggestions are as good as any as to why he may have gone east of south and on the other hand he could have done so deliberately. He had to know that if the Injuns were looking for him they would expect him to go south to the railroad. So he got the hell away from where he was shot and hid for a day-he didnt feel pretty good-gathered up some strength to continue his trip-this was a matter of life or death and he knew it.

Ruben Waller was a damned liar and his story an impossibility. I am inclined to believe that Carmac was one of those old timers, who after everyone else was dead-was in on everything that had happened-basking in the reflected glory and attention it got him. I havent seen a statement of his that convinces me that he had anything to do with Comstocks body-in fact it is just the reverse. Madigan got himself foxxed up in various stories and even believed Waller, at least for a time. It is difficult for me to understand why Grovers statement was so often ignored-hell-he was there and should have known where it was. Perhaps there were those who believed

(June 25, 1990)

-2-

Waller's story and for that reason chose to doubt what Grover reported. That there was bad blood between Grover and Waller is rather obvious. Remember Waller said that some member of Forsyth's Scouts killed Grover right after they got back from the island-which we know is not true-be interesting to know what their difficulty was.

Well-so much for all that-I am about convinced that the bones we found were Comstock-seem to make sense-but I am not about to go to print with this story unless you and Everette agree with me. One more thing-I have no intention of writing this story other than this seems to be the most logical solution. If I write this I am going to offer it as your, Everette and my conclusion-plus the opinions of Beougher, which he gave me long ago, yet never pinpointed the place-as frankly, I believe this may have been something he did not care to share in any detail, therefore my statement concerning him would more or less be that he did not disagree with our assumptions. Please bear in mind that you can disagree with me without incurring my ill will-who the hell am I too think only I can be right-so do not hesitate to express yourself as you believe things to be.

Back to the Kidder site-the place we believe they were buried is right in the draw in which they were killed-down toward the mouth-on the east side. No one knows the size of that draw in 1867-thus the place they died may not have been over 50 feet from where they were buried. Grass is definitely different than the rest, indicating the soil had been disturbed to quite some depth. You may or may not find it easy to see now that the grass is higher, but in May it was very definite. Always some damned fool changing things!

Am taking a friend from Hartford on a conducted tour west from here to Estes Park leaving here on or about August 1st. Do not know if we can work in Massacre Canyon but hope so. This is just a drive through-time we spend at any place depends on them-they may be more interested in detail than I am assuming-if so this would slow us down and I would have to cut out some of the places. Our plans are to make Goodland the second night.

We are planning a ground for Lincoln County in the fall and you fellows are certainly welcome to be along if you desire.

Do not yet know if I will drive to the Wyoming party or fly-if drive will come by .

Sincerely,



Am writing Everette along the same line.



RAY G. SPARKS
5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS. 66205

June 1970



Re, _____

Carstock killing site

Messrs. Arthur Carmody.
Trenton,

Kuddeh Nebraska. 69044.

Wyomang



RAY G. SPARKS

5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE • SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66205 • PHONE 362-6571

17 July 1970.

Mr. Arthur Carmody.
Box 217,
Trenton, Nebraska. 69044.

Dear Art:

Have delayed reply to your letter as the Kansas City Westerners were feeling around about me doing the Comstock Story. The other night they were definite and I accepted. You may be aware of the method of their operation but if not here it is. If the presentation is good and they think it has national appeal they print it. The Author gets fifty copies for his work-the rest are sold to their members and the members of other Corrals and Posses.

To me it was important that the Westerners would request it and would print it-if it is good-which I will have to risk. As these members are to a degree historians or better said there are historians who are members-this sort of gives it the seal of authenticity. I will retain the Copyright and as the type will be set can run as many other copies as is desired. The Westerners cover format is set and not too attractive for a sales effort but this can be changed as can the addition of pictures or any other thing desired. Additions will of course run up the cost some but not a great deal if many copies are run. The principal cost is the type setting which will already been done.

I am thinking of this as Mr. Linville has said he will make the effort to get the location marked and has asked me to give the dedication address-to which I agreed but pointed out that there were doubtless others far more qualified. If he wants to do something of size it may be that he will want booklets to sell to aid in covering expenses. Unfugs organization sold something like two thousand booklets of "RECKONING" at \$2.00-cost him about .60-.70¢ each. I am not looking to make anything off these people-but even so they may not want to get mixed up with it-which is quite alright-only want to help if possible.

He mentioned that he would like to do this in September- I have written him that I can not do it that fast. As you know, once the generalities have been settled the real work then begins. Everything ever written about Comstock that I can find must be read- all the microfilm records of that time on Forts Harker-Hays and Wallace must be searched. All dates checked and a thousand and one other things must be done if this is to be a good record. I suggested that it be set up for the anniversary of his death in August next year. If he is going to do this he is going to need help from everyone who has ever been involved in such an undertaking. There are always so very many who say it can not be done-then want credit for doing it once it is done. Beware of politicians-who are politicians only.

(July 17, 1948)

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As I have retained the copyright I am seriously considering doing a trilogy of COMSTOCK-FORSYTH-RECKONING-but if so this will be some time away as it would also take additional time-again I may never do it-mood must be right-time available-and the Big Man allow me the additional time. This would make a small book.

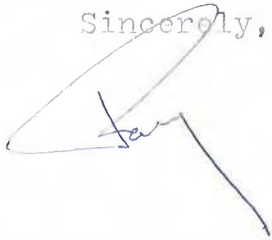
Secured an aerial photograph of the spot where the bones were and note that in the vicinity there are indications of what very well could have been springs. You bring out a very good point in the mentioning of ponds-springs and water holes in the Custer march. Also shows the changes in river course.

Am making a historical tour through the country with a senior Vice President of Connecticut General Life-heads the Group Dept.- We leave here Sunday morning August 2nd. first night Hays-second Goodland-third Sterling then to Estes Park where I drop him. Am coming right back to Sterling where the next morning I am planning on renting an airplane and running down that trail north out of Summit Springs-has bugged me long enough-then down to Benkelman where I pick up some things -then to Colby where I hope to rent an airplane and make about a three hour trip covering all the things out in that section that I have been wanting to for several years. Then on home.

We plan on going to the Kidder site from Goodland on the morning of Tuesday August 4th. from there we will go to Benkelman where we can stop for a short time. Then on to Wray-Beecher Island-Summit Springs. Can not spend much time at Benkelman on the way out but if you are in the mood would be glad to see you there. In fact if any of you want to ride out to Estes and back, just hop aboard. You would be away one night at Sterling going and one night coming back. I will have more time coming back and I hope we can hold a council-of-war concerning many things .

Am writing about this same letter to Everette-so you will both know what is going on in the Eastern Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L. J. ...', with a large, sweeping flourish that extends downwards and to the right.

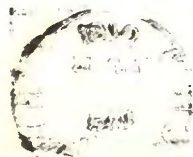
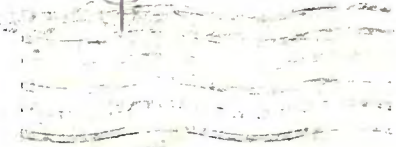


RAY G. SPARKS
5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS. 66205

July 1970



Mr. Arthur Carmoday.
Box 217,
Trenton,
Nebraska. 69044.





RAY G. SPARKS

5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE • SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66205 • PHONE 362-6571

25 July 1970.

Mr. Arthur Carmody.
Trenton, Nebraska. 69044.

Dear Art:

Yours of the 22nd. delivered this morning. Received my Montana Magazine a few days ago and had read the Comstock story. The same story was published by the Chicago Westerners in 1962-I have a copy of it.

The first point I would like to make regarding this story and about the same for all other stories concerning this matter. There has not yet been one person who has exercised the care and attention that any research historian should have and constantly exercise-in the research on this matter.

Let me point out as an example-Bankheads report said "rumor states 30 miles north of Monuments"-note the plural. He did not say north of the railroad-he said MONUMENTS and that is just what he ment.The railroad station known as Monument was new-he was not used to it-he knew Monuments-very well-had caused him plenty of trouble. It is interesting to note that where we think he was killed is approximately 35 miles from Monuments.

Grays information from Beougher was some 8 to 10 years ago-Beougher changed his mind about the location-in fact agreed with me that it was somewhere south of Colby. Madigan had any number of ideas over the years-his original was influenced by Ruben Waller, a known damned liar. It would be very interesting to know what the runin was he is sure to have had with Grover.

The grave-which Beougher says he found by Hell Creek-is very convenient to the cemetery at Monuments Station-about two miles east-something else to think about isnt it.

Have just reread what Dr. Gray gives as Bankheads report-he has conveniently left the "S" off of Monuments and has added an "S" to rumor. With you I am inclined to believe Dr. Gray knew but little of our west and not a great deal of the military. Note he signs Bankhead as Capt. 5th. Inf. Ba., Col. U.S.A.--While Bankhead signed- Capt. 5th. Infantry-Bvt. Col. U.S.A.-minor but poor research.

Lets move over to the captions regarding Davis' sketch of four scouts where he identifies a scout with a full beard as Ed Guerrier.

(July 25, 1910)

-2-

I am probably being too critical of the good Doctor but it seems to me he has been careless in a very important area. In any event we owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the research that he did regarding Comstocks family and I will be the first to admit we would most likely never have known this if he hadnt dug it out. How careless he may have been in reporting what he found remains to be seen but whatever it may have been it probably was of little importance. Lets all agree that he did a wonderful job and disagree where we feel we should with what we know and believe. It is very difficult to write anything that all will agree with-or be completely free of error.

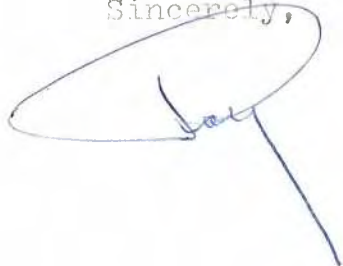
There is only one chap going with me on this trip and as the plans are jelling we plan to leave Goodland the morning of Tuesday Aug. 4th. go to the Kidder site and from there to Benkelman where I would enjoy having as many of you as possible for lunch.

On my trip back I plan to be back to Benkelman the afternoon of Thursday August 6th. and if Everette will have me I will spend the night. This would be a good time to have a council-of-War. Friday morning my plans are to go directly to Colby where I shall rent an Airplane and take about a three hour trip over much of the country I have wanted to explore by air. They do not like to rent their airplanes out for such purposes on Saturday or Sunday as those are their big days for students. My plans are to stay overnight and see some people there.

If you still want to go to Monuments I would suggest we do it by leaving Colby early Saturday morning. This will require two cars at least to Oakley, so I will not have to come back to Colby, as I am due back at Lincoln that night. I have no objection to going and such a trip with you would be most enjoyable-then too I just might learn something, as I usually do when with you. I can not take you with me in the airplane as I do not yet have my written completed and thus can not get a license-however the operator in Colby has evidenced some interest in the history of that section and for that reason I have invited him to go along-if he accepts-he is licensed and we could take the four place job instead of the two place and you could go, as could one more should Everette like to go.

Let me know what your pleasure is so I may make my plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "L. C. ...", written over a large, loopy scribble.



RAY G. SPARKS
5830 CHEROKEE DRIVE
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS. 66205

July 27, 1970



Mr. Arthur Carmody.

Trenton,

Nebraska. 69044.

RAY G. SPARKS

815 West Fifty-fifth Street • Kansas City, Missouri 64113 • Phone 361-9022

4 November 1971.

Mr. Arthur Carmody.
Trenton, Nebraska 69044.

Dear Art:

Week ago Sunday, the Philip's, who were down for the American Royal, spent the day with us. We enjoyed having them—they are fine company. They mentioned the trip with you to Summit Springs and how much they enjoyed being with you there. Doug had a note which he handed me which reads

1869 July 12th, 8.00

"BURIAL SERVICE READ OVER THE MURDERED WHITE WOMAN,
WHOSE GRAVE WAS MADE IN THE MIDST OF THE INDIAN VILLAGE"
COL. EMORY (?) 5TH CAVALRY

It was my understanding you had sent this down to me.

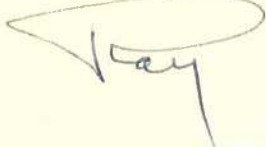
I appreciate this very much but am very curious about where it came from—was this a report from Col Emory? As you know, William Helmsley Emory, was Colonel of the 5th Cavalry from 27 October 1863 to 1 July 1876—but as he did not serve in the field with his Regiment and was not at the Battle of Summit Springs what does he give as his authority?

I don't know where she was buried and probably never will but it is most difficult for me to accept that they would have buried her "in the midst of the Indian Village" where at the same time 160 fires were burning—in the mess and gore of all the killing the previous day—not to mention the probable condition of the vicinity of an Indian Village—they would, at least, have more respect for her than that. Both Hercules Price and Luther North said she was buried on the side of the Hill. If she was killed where North said she was—and he does give the best account of it—why would they then move her to the "midst of the Village" for burial? I am not shooting at you—none of us know—there may have been odd circumstances—these questions are aimed at my thinking as well as yours. What is probable and logical? Personally I have never been satisfied that we went deep enough when we tried that time on the hill—may give it another try one day.

Have a friend pushing me for a quick trip west and if weather stays right we might do it sometime in the next two weeks.

Helen has her Red Hot Poker seed in with great hopes for a crop.

Sincerely,

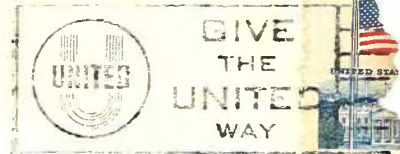


RAY G. SPARKS

815 West Fifty-fifth Street

• Kansas City, Missouri 64113

Nov. 1971



Mr. Arthur Carmody.

Trenton,

Nebraska 69044.

CG

Jan.14,1972,

Dear Art:

No chance have we to go to Mexico or even McCook Nebr.

We have had the Flu until it was pitiful for the whole neighborhood who have done our chores, fed the cattle and even hauled us away to the doctor.

Yesterday and today are the first days I have been out doors since Jan.2, except two weeks ago to N.Platte to get shot with Penicillian.

Going to a doctor is about like you describe your chances in Court to gain anything.

I have read about the train ride from Chihuahua to the Coast as being the best left in the Continent.No doubt it is all they claim for it.

It seems like everything the U.S. ever had that was any good has been done away with. In 1935 I took a good train ride over the S.P. to San Francisco, also in 1926. Walking beats the S.P. now. Averill Harriman and the Mormons own it and don't know what to do with it.

Margaret and myself are just beginning to take a little interest in living again, she really held on for both of us and kept things together, with a little help from the neighbors.

We have a good country, in spite of the government.

There is a woman working in the National Archives who taught school in Stockville during the thirty's and my Neices and Nephew went to her for classes.

We did not know it when we were there. She has been there thirty years.

This Geo. Grant enlisted in the 18th U.S. Inf. in 1865, occupation "soldier" discharged at Ft. Fetterman Nov. 5, 1867, reinlisted in the 5th cavalry in 1869 discharged Feb. 29, 1872 at Ft. McPherson, Nebr. Both discharges "Disability"

~~#####~~ He may have been a soldier in the Rebel Army, since his home was Raliegh, Tenn.

The Police Chief in McCook, Bill Green, was the FBI man who investigated Grant a few years ago at the Stockville Cemetery when he was stationed at N. Platte. If you know Green, you may get more information from him about it.

Bill

ENTIREMENT, ETC.
GEORGE GRANT
DATE - FEBRUARY
OAVATRA

Edwin C. Alberts
INTERPRETIVE CONSULTING SERVICE
2005 Country Club Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68104
Phone: 402-558-9259

May 17, 1974

Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce,
Oakley, Kansas, 67748

Dear friend:

As a retired Park Naturalist of the National Park Service, I do a little free-lance contract work for that bureau on tourist interpretation work, from time to time. I presently have the task of visiting and reporting on the feasibility of giving Natural Landmark Status to an area in the west border of Logan County, called "McAllaster Buttes", which was proposed by somebody or other as a site of fossiliferous value and of great paleontological significance. I hope to visit Oakley for a couple days -- probably Wednesday and Thursday, June 5th and 6th. I'll have to find out land ownership status, likely boundaries, public attitude and local interest in the possible designation, of this site, under the National Park Service's "registered landmark" program.

I hasten to point out that this has nothing to do with making a national park, or nature reserve out of it. Essentially all "landmark status" involves is some sort of agreement by the owner that he won't open up the land for quarrying, or apartment-house construction, and a bronze plaque is supplied, gratis, by the Federal government, calling attention to the site's value to our national heritage. If the owner doesn't want it, he doesn't have to take it. I'm enclosing a brochure on the program, put out by the National Park Service, which explains the business in better style, and greater detail.

Whatever, I thought you folks might be familiar with this idea -- usually some local group is very interested and someone of them is quite knowledgeable about the site -- and you could pass the word on to them. I'd certainly like to visit with anyone down there who might have such interest and knowledge. So far as I can determine, however, the idea is mainly some geological society either in Denver or Lawrence. But you folks would know this better than I.

In any case, I'll plan to check-in with your office as soon as I get to Oakley, and will certainly appreciate any help you might give me with respect to people to contact, etc.

Very cordially,



Edwin C. Alberts

Kansas City, Mo.

9 Jan. 1975.

Dear Art:

I thank you so very much for sending me the story on the Kuhrt's Ranch. Feel now that I know a great deal more about them than I did before - a very interesting story about some very interesting people. Now in my files.

Warren Hardin was in some couple of months ago and brought with him two small boxes of items he had found at Parks Fort. 56-56 & 56-50 Spencer carbine empties (sorry - believe the 56-56 was rifle - used by Infantry) - some iron bar stock ends - Wine - Champagne - Whiskey and other bottle bottoms.

Warren is attempting to keep this very quiet for if the news gets out you know people will be in there from far and wide - clean it out and spoil it in a few days.

Enclosed you will find an article on the James family and their difficulties which you might find interesting. I know Fred Bee quite well (a K. C. Westerner) he researches carefully and constantly.

Jessie is buried in the Kearney or Kearney Cemetery it is said - seven feet down. The Tombstone has been broken and chipped away until only a nub is left.

Not much new or exciting ~~news~~ here - cold, but but not much snow so far but plenty of time left for that.

I spend my winters waiting for Spring when I can hitch up and run the Prairie again - while I still can.

I thank too, for the folder on the Detector - and for your generous offer on getting me one. If I am feeling good this Spring I may take you up on your offer - looks and sounds like a good outfit.

Helen joins in sending our best to both of you.

Sincerely

Jay

The Kansas City Times

(The Morning Kansas City Star)

The Kansas City Star Company, Owner and Publisher

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vol. 107

Friday, January 31, 1975

No. 125

James Home 'Bombing' Stirred Pul

By Fred L. Lee

One hundred years ago this week someone tossed a bomb through a back window of the James farm home near Kearney, Mo. When it exploded it killed Frank's and Jesse's half-brother, Archie Samuel, and shattered the right arm of their mother, Mrs. Zerelda James Samuel.

The story of the bombing appeared in numerous papers across the land in 1875. The James boys were "hot copy" back in those days.

One of the first to carry the news of what happened early on the morning of Jan. 26, 1875, was the Liberty Tribune. One of the few extant copies of the Jan. 29 issue is owned by the Clay County Museum Association in Liberty. An article in it is titled "Daring Attempt to Capture the James Boys."

Times Version

"Much has been said about the attempted capture of the James boys on Monday night," it begins, "and many of stories told, but from all we can learn, the following from The Kansas City Times is substantially, and likely entirely, correct":

"As regards the throwing of the bomb into the house to destroy the innocent, we enter our solemn protest. The act we regard as not only indefensible but cowardly and barbarous. If the James boys have violated the laws capture and punish them to the full extent of the law, but do not punish the innocent for their acts.

"Much of this information was obtained from Capt. John S. Groom, the obliging sheriff of Clay County, who was on the premises soon after the occurrence.

"Tuesday morning about half-past 1 o'clock Mr. Samuel,



Explosion Scene

This sketch of the James-Samuel farm home near Kearney, Mo., shows the back yard area where Pinkerton men gathered the morning of Jan. 26, 1875, and pried open a window where a bomb or lighting device was thrown inside. The device rolled, or was pushed, in front of the fireplace and exploded killing a young half-brother of the James boys and shattering their mother's right arm.

the flames, and he tried to kick the supposed ball into the fire, but failed. He then took a shovel and threw it into the fireplace. As he did this it exploded. It was a bomb, or more correctly speaking, what is known as a hand-grenade, a ball about 1 inch in thickness and lined with wrought iron.

"As it exploded a portion of it struck Mr. Samuel on the right side of the head but failed to knock him senseless; another portion struck Mrs. Samuel a few inches above the right wrist, shattering all that por-

for several days investigating the incident.

"We are not advised as to whether any additional discoveries have been made," concludes the Tribune article. "The details of Monday night's work are shrouded in mystery."

Neighbors Awakened

A witness that morning, E. Price Hall, was interviewed by Homer Croy, Maryville, Mo., writer, when Croy was researching his book "Jesse James Was My Neighbor." Hall was 87 years old at the

James house to find out what it was all about."

When he got there "the stench was still in the house." Mrs. Samuel's hand was still clinging to her arm by a shred of skin. Samuel was preparing to cut the pieces of skin. Little Archie was lying in a cot nearby groaning.

"Shortly after dawn I went out to explore the yard," Hall told Croy. "There had been a light snow and there were the tracks of the men. I followed the tracks a short way and found where the men had sat down on a log. I found the

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"They found the James a citadel," Dudley "with the windows and barred. They those inside to open questioned, but those fused to do this. One then pried open a window interior was dark and a fireplace which gave a faint illumination to identify those concealed therein.

"Our men had a device for illuminating the place. It was akin in nature to the which later came to the highways...

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"Much of this information was obtained from Capt. John S. Groom, the obliging sheriff of Clay County, who was on the premises soon after the occurrence.

"Tuesday morning about half-past 1 o'clock Mr. Samuel, the stepfather of the James boys, awoke, and found Mrs. Samuel in the same condition. He said he heard a noise in the kitchen and thought he smelt fire.

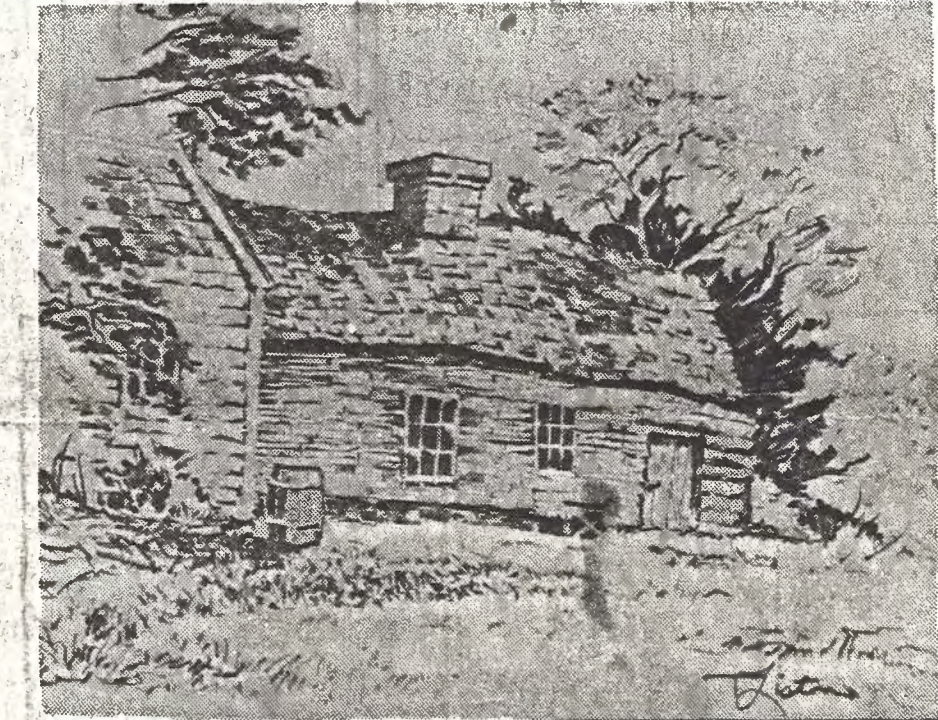
"At this time he got out of bed and went out of the door of his room to get into the kitchen. When he got outside he discovered the west end of the kitchen to be on fire. The house is log, weather-boarded. Mr. S. at once went round to the fire and commenced to tear off the boards.

"Mrs. Samuel in the meantime had come from her room with her stepchildren—Johnnie, 14; Fanny, 12, and Archie, 9. When she entered the kitchen she found Charlotte, her 'Negro woman,' there with her three children. They, too, had been awakened by the commotion and the fire.

"Mrs. Samuel saw a quilt on the bed afire. This she tore off and threw out of doors.

"She then discovered something on the floor which she took to be a turpentine ball. It was on fire. She attempted to pick it up, but found it too heavy. She then tried to push it into the fire with her foot but failed.

"At this moment Mr. Samuel came in, having extinguished



Explosion Scene

This sketch of the James-Samuel farm home near Kearney, Mo., shows the back yard area where Pinkerton men gathered the morning of Jan. 26, 1875, and pried open a window where a bomb or lighting device was thrown inside. The device rolled, or was pushed, in front of the fireplace and exploded killing a young half-brother of the James boys and shattering their mother's right arm.

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They carried Archie out on the porch of the home and into the yard. He died two hours later. On Jan. 28, he was laid to rest.

Horse Tracks

Just who threw the bomb into the James-Samuel home?

A Times reporter interviewing Sheriff Groom was told the following morning that horse tracks were discovered leading from the barn to a spot in the horse lot near the home. In the rear of the ice house were found tracks of four or five men.

In the vicinity were indications showing that horses had suddenly turned and gone off in a northwesterly direction from the barn and thence into an adjoining wheat field.

Three men were tracked in a northwesterly direction for some distance and then west to a spot on the Haynesville road where it was found that seven horses had been tied. It was here that their trail ended.

Captain Groom and his men remained in the neighborhood

for several days investigating the incident.

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A witness that morning, E. Price Hall, was interviewed by Homer Croy, Maryville, Mo., writer, when Croy was researching his book "Jesse James Was My Neighbor."

Hall was 87 years old at the time of the interview. For six years he had been a deputy sheriff. He was living in Liberty when Croy talked to him.

"At the time of the explosion (Hall) was a boy," Croy writes. "His father's farm and the James farm adjoined. The Halls were awakened by the commotion and screaming. Young Price hurried to the



MRS. ZERELDA JAMES SAMUEL ... after she had lost her right arm

James house to find out what it was all about."

When he got there "the stench was still in the house." Mrs. Samuel's hand was still clinging to her arm by a shred of skin. Samuel was preparing to cut the pieces of skin. Little Archie was lying in a cot nearby groaning.

"Shortly after dawn I went out to explore the yard," Hall told Croy. "There had been a light snow and there were the tracks of the men. I followed the tracks a short way and found where the men had sat down on a log. I found the pistol one of them had lost. On the handle were stamped the letters 'P.G.G.' This stood for Pinkerton's Government Guard. Allan Pinkerton had organized the United States Secret Service and he had official government backing.

"We followed the tracks to the railroad and saw where the men had stood waiting for the train. They had enough authority to stop the train. Then they got on."

Word of Arrival

Was it Pinkerton men who had thrown the bomb in the window that morning? Croy says that when he was writing his book on the James boys, Ralph Dudley who was general manager of the agency at New York told him they did. And he told them why they did it.

Jack Ladd, a Pinkerton man working under cover as a farmhand on the Askew farm across from the James-Samuel place, it seems, had learned that Frank and Jesse were coming home that January evening. He somehow got word of it to the home office in Kansas City. They sent up nine men to take part in the capture of the outlaws.

Arriving at the stable on the farm home property they found two horses inside showing signs of just having been ridden.

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Forty Years Ago

James Home 'Bombing' Stirred Public

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 They sent up nine men to take
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Arriving at the stable on the
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 two horses inside showing signs

This, of course, only reaffirmed
 what Ladd had told them. The
 James boys were there just as
 he had said they would be.

But Frank and Jesse weren't
 there. Ladd had guessed
 wrong. Or had he? One James
 writer states definitely they
 were: "Not only were the
 James boys in the upper room
 of the Samuel home but (con-
 temporary records show) also
 that Clell Miller and Dora and
 Bill Fox followed the Jameses
 out through the window when
 the bomb was thrown inside.

Other writers say the panting
 horses were doing so because
 Fanny and Johnnie Samuel had
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"They found the James home
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"Dr. Samuel took a firestick
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"The entire occurrence must
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 Jesse and Frank James, their
 established murderers' reac-
 tion to attempts to restrain
 them. The methods employed
 by this posse were necessary
 under the circumstances..."

Public Aroused

The explosion had conse-
 quence beyond injuries sus-
 tained by Mrs. Samuel and
 her stepson. Frank and Jesse
 became even more embittered
 toward the law for the wrong-
 doing committed against their
 loved ones that evening. The
 bombing only worsened mat-
 ters.

Public sentiment, in fact,
 rose to a high pitch in favor of
 the boys. It was even proposed
 in the Missouri Legislature a
 few months later that the boys
 be given amnesty for their
 crimes, if they'd voluntarily
 turn themselves in and stand
 trial for crimes allegedly com-
 mitted by them after the Civil
 War.

The bill was defeated and
 Frank and Jesse went on just
 as they had in the past.

Fred L. Lee is a Kansas City
 free-lance writer active in his-
 torical groups.

Forty
 Years



RAY G. SPARKS

212 West 99th Terrace

• Kansas City, Missouri 64114



Feb. 12, 1975

Mr. Arthur Carmody.

Trenton,

Nebraska 69044

L. James Curtis

Bruce R. Liddic
116 Bungalow Terr
Syracuse, N.Y.
13207

19 Oct. 1981

Dear Art,

I have been working on some material recently about Major Cooper who shot himself in June 1867 while on patrol with Custer not far from your area.

I know he was brought in for burial at McPherson but do you know if his body is still there? Have you ever seen a photograph of him? I know Davis did a sketch of Cooper in his Harper's weekly articles but have never seen a photo of him. Also have you ever heard of any other rumors that it was something other than the DT's that made him commit suicide?

See how many questions I can ask. After I thought of them with the events in your back yard, I thought of you to answer them and help straighten me out as was your help on Beechers' Island.

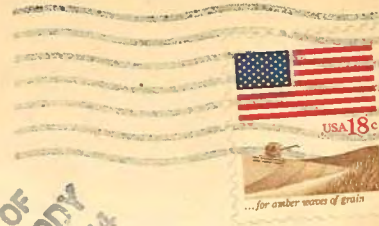
FROM THE LIBRARY OF
NON. ARTHUR CARMODY
TRENTON, NEBRASKA 69044

Sincerely,



Bruce

Mr. & Mrs.
Bruce R. Liddic
116 Bungalow Terrace
Syracuse, NY 13207



Mr. Arthur Carmody
Trenton, Neb.
69044

FROM THE LIBRARY OF
MR. ARTHUR CARMODY
TRENTON, NEBRASKA 69044

12/19/83

Act:

Linda and I would like to thank you for the short visit that we had the 25th of November, concerning Cowboy Davis.

I've enclosed a couple of photographs, one of the grave sight, & one of the Bronze that Linda did of Cowboy Davis that she called Blind Obedience.

If anyone sees this Bronze picture and would like to buy one, we can be reached at the frozen north, Thedford, Neb. Boy! you talk about cold & snow this is really something, how are you folks getting along in this terribly cold weather.

P.S. Linda said to tell you that we stopped in & met Ted long & you were right her a fine person!

Sincerely
Norman R + Linda L
Egle.

Norman R. Egl
Box D
Shepherd, N.H.
69166



Mr. + Mrs. Art Carmody

Trenton, N.H.
69044

SAVE



1930-

#170245

Cowboy's grave
"Cowboy Davis"

Cowboy Davis, Horse + steer
west of the cliff, in the picture,
which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the grave
site.

Thomas R. Egan is the person
who found the horse



"Blind Obedience"

#357

A Bronze sculpture of Cowboy
Dover, made in 1983 by Linda S. Egle.
One Hundred years after Teddy (Blue)
Abbott witnessed the accident of Dover
in Hager Co. Neb. while on a Texas
Trail Cattle Drive.

Oct-14-1987

In sorry these boats became sailed
A pack boat had gotten into the top door of
the metal cabinet Art had these in +
he didn't help the boats - we're sent
the least sailed - some had to be destroyed

Grace