

Camp on the Field

April 11th 1865

Dear Parents

Having a few
moments to spare so I will
drop a few lines to you to
inform you that I have
sent another Over Coat home
I directed ~~to~~ for Gehman
& Shoerly Quakerstown.
I didnt recieve no letter
from you since I have
sent the first Over Coat
which I have sent to
George Kecks, Allentown.
News are not much here
we had tremendous hard
march again, we started
yesterday morning and
marched all day and

the whole night through
pain and mud and
now we are in camp
between Camp Fairview
and Summit point we
went back again for it is
no use to go further up
the valley. for General Lee
surrendered his army and
I think we will all come
home before long. for they
cant hold out any longer

Mendes Eisenhard who
used to live in our ~~old~~
Ruben Shultz old house
in our company too.

Further I inform you
yet that Misses Keck
fetched my Over Coat
and paid 75 cents for
the Express.

dont forget to give 75 cts
to Misses Keck,

I will bring my
letter to a Clebe not
I am well yet hoping
these few lines may
find you the same

Yours Truly Son

A. S. Schurz

Write soon
My best Respect to
you all.

Dickmuller

Widgange

Medicine Valley, Nebraska

June 15th 1877

Dear Father,

I will drop a short note to you this evening to ask you if you would be so kind as to send my Chest of tools to me. I am going to build a House on towards fall, and the settlers begin to make their appearance here lately, and they tell me that quite a number of families started from the State of Iowa, bound for the Republican and Medicine Rivers. The Government is also going to build a Fort here. They located their Reservation

About four miles west from my claim, that will make it a likely here, the Rail Road crossing the Republican Valley and the Government establishing a fort here will clean the Indians out in a very short time which will induce people to settle here, if I have my tools here I can pick up a good many Jobs and I have to have tools to do my own work any how. I imagine what it would cost me to have them send here and the Freight Agent told me not over eight Dollars by Freight. I dont care if it will cost eighteen it will still be a good deal cheaper then to buy new tools in this country. I Wish You would send the

Chest as soon as you possible
can, as it may take a good
while before she gets here. I expect
to come home by next spring if I
will ~~can~~ but I am going to
build me a good House and make
all the necessary improvements
on my claim before I leave it.
I think the old chest will stand
it if the tools are well packed.
I dont know whether there is
any pieces on the Bottom of my
chest for her to set on or not, if
not perhaps you had better fix
two on the Bottom and sink the
key into one of the pieces and
screw it well onto the Bottom
of the chest, that way you can
also send the Key! I will
give you the Address, and the
chest well secured and
well addressed,

Address.
A. Shalley, ~~in~~
North Platte City, U.T.P.R.R.
Nebraska.
In care of John Bratt

These men live at North
Platte and Mr Bratt comes
here often he has over sixteen
Thousand head of cattle in
the country and he offered to
take the chest to out for me
as soon as it gets there, I am
about 70 miles away from the
rail Road and I might not
find it out in a hurry when
the chest arrives there, but
any of these men will take it
out of the freight House for me
and then they cant charge
no storage at the station,
have it well directed and she will find
me,

We have a very heavy
Thunder storm this evening,
it is raining powerfull this
very moment. My corn and
Potatoes and Melons looks
splendid. My garden is getting
along fine too, I have over three
Heinched hills of Mellons planted
I can feed the whole state of
Nebraska on Mellons if nothing
happens them, Write me a
letter with all the news in
when you send the chest and
~~and~~ put it in the chest
then I will get the letter as
soon as the chest, but I
have to close it is getting late
My best respects to mother
and sister and accept the same
yourself. A. D. Shultz

I will give you the direction
for chest separate

A. Shalley
North Platte City
U. P. R. R. Nebraska

In care of John Bratt.

Medicine Valley, Nebraska
June 15th 1872

Dear Father,

I will drop a short note to you this evening to ask you if you would be so kind as to send my chest of tools to me. I am going to built a House on towards fall, and the settlers [sic] begin to make their appearence here lately, and they toll me that quite a number of familys started from the State of Iowa, bound for the Republican and Medicine Rivers. The Government is also going to built a Fort here. They located their Reserva-tion About four miles west from my claim. That will make times lively here. The Rail Road [is] coming [up] the Republican Valley and the Government establishing a fort here will clean the Indians out in a very short time which will induce people to settle here, if I have my tools here I can pick up a good many Jobs and I have to have tools to do My own work anyhow. I inquire what it would cost me to have them send here and the Freight Agent told me not over eight Dollars by Freight. I dont care if it will cost eighteen it will still be a good deal cheaper then to buy new tools in this country.

I wish you would send the Chest as soon as you possible can, as it may take a good while before she gets here. I expect to come home by next spring if I possible can but I am going to built me a good House and make all the neessesary improvements on my claim before I leave it. I think the old chest will stand it if the tools are well packed. I dont know weather there is any pieces on the Bottom of my chest for her to set on or not. if not perhaps you had better fix me on the Bottom and sink the key into one of the pieces and screw it well onto the Bottom of the chest. that way you can also send the Key. I will give you the Address, and the Chest well secured and well addressed.

Address.

A. Shalley, in-e-
North Platte City, U.P.R.R.
Nebraska
In care of John Bratt

These men live at North Platte and Mr Bratt comes here often he has over sixteen Thousand head of cattle in the country and he offered to take the chest to out for me as soon as it gets their. I am about 70 miles away from the rail Road and I might not find it out in a hurry when the chest arrives there, but any of these men will take it out of the Freight House for me and then they cant charge no storage at the station. have it well directed and she will find me.

We have a very heavy Thunder storm this evening. it is raining powerfull this very Moment. My corn and Potatoes and Melons look splendid. My garden is getting along fine too. I have over three Hundred hills of Mellons planted I can feed the whole state of Nebraska on Melons if nothing happens [to] them. Write me a letter with all the news in when you send the chest and ~~and~~ put it in the chest then I will get the letter as soon as the chest, but I haveto close it is getting late My best respects to mother and sister and accept the same yourself.

A.S. Shultz

I will give you the direction for chest seperate

A. Shalley
North Platte City
U.P.R.R. Nebraska
In care of John Bratt

NEBRASKA.

\$ 12⁰⁰

Curtis, Neb., July 1 1880

Three years days after date, I, we, or either of us promise to pay to the order of

Mellie A Johnson
T. Melv

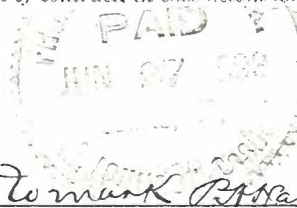
DOLLARS.

For value received, and payable without defalcation or discount at the FRONTIER COUNTY BANK, Curtis, Neb., with interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum from maturity until paid, together with a further sum of ten per cent of the amount then due, as assessed, agreed and liquidated damages for non-fulfillment of contract, in case action is brought hereon or the mortgage given to secure the same.

Due

P. O. Maywood

No. 1925



Betty S. Doyle
Theodor X Doyle
mark

Witness to mark B. Harris

RECORD PRINT, CURTIS, NEB.

Turnias County Bank

Arapahoe, Neb. June 23 1882

\$200 Recd from A. S. Shelley
On Trans Frontier C. Neb. (2⁰⁰/₁₀₀) Two
Dollars in payment of warrant
No

M. Tomlin
Cashier

Indianola Feb.

Sept 3 1882

Received of A. S. Shelley
Twenty-five dollars (\$25⁰⁰/₁₀₀)
in full payment of coffin
and Box furnished by
me for the body of one
Charles Hagen, died
at Indianola Sep. 2^d 1882

J. S. Phillips
Undertaker.

letter from Mrs. John (Ellen) Lynch, to her daughter, Mrs. Ambrose S.
(Nellie Lynch) Shelley.

Cheyenne 1898

Wed the 9

Nellie dear mother I write you
hoping to find all well myself
of much the same well
I hope ~~you~~ you got the
Box with the tam o shant
okes let us know how do it
fit I am very sorry magies
cota did not fit her when
I got it would be so warm
I must close for
this time as I am cofen
all the time write soon
your Mother E Lynch

letter from George Gregory to Mrs. Ambrose S. (Nellie Lynch) Shelley,
regarding the death of Mrs. John
(Ellen) Lynch, former home-
steader of Frontier Co.

Salt Lake 2/17, 1902.

Dear Aunt:

It is with a bleeding heart I drop you these few lines to let you know a few things regarding poor dear old Grand Mother who has passed to a happier world.

For the last two or three years she has failed very rapidly. Last September I got her a pass to Denver. She went down on one train and came back on the ~~the~~ next having taken a chill. She has gradually grown worse and finally gave up the good fight on Friday morning Feb. 14, 1902 at 10:45 a.m. and was buried Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in a lot she had selected herself near Mrs. Browns little girl Clara. Every thing was done to help her but she had lived the full limit it seems.

We had a high Mass for her. a fine carpet and a very nice funeral. Jack will give you all the details.

I wrote to Mag to-day and sent her a copy of the paper. Also gave her the particulars as well as I could.

Stockville N.H. Aug 21st / 1924

Wm. W. Shelley,
Dear Son

Yours bearing date Aug. 13th duly received yesterday. In reply will say that we were glad to learn that you arrived at your destination safe and right side up. I presume by this ^{time} you found Maggie and got settled down in the land of the Setting Sun. Nothing new of any consequence has taken place here since you left. The regular yearly Herb Brib. at Maywood is in full swing this week. Got many from these parts are taking an outing at the show. Mrs. John Gamble died and was buried at Stockville one week ago yesterday. She died at Grand Junction Col. N.H. Crawford bought Lyle Riddles place in Stockville and I presume will live there in the future. Riddle and Glen Williams were badly beaten at the Primaries. So was Vernon. We are having hot sultry weather. Head some pain and things are looking thin they did a while back. We have not seen Grace or Bill since you left but presume they are all right. Percy has been busy for several days filling that bad spot at the School House.

The Thompson Boy is helping him. You should
visit Charley Dye if you can find where he
hangs out. I was contemplating a trip to Niobrara
and the Agency but I hate to start in this
hot weather. Your Uncle Jack is in Umaha
to have his eyes treated but they told him an
operation was necessary. He probably does not
know what to do about it. Willford Knight
is in Los Angeles somewhere Ma is just
now trying to get his address from Mrs.
Shinley. Mrs. Charley Dye's address is
5193 Bailey Street, Whittier Calif. Sam
Cammill stop in to see me to day.
Lena is selling Bushels of Tomatoes every
day. Having nothing more of importance
will close. Ma says for you to write
often. With regards to both yourself and
Lena we remain as ever,
Yours &c
Pa & Ma Shelley

copy

Bartley, Nebraska
May 3, 1952

Senator Arthur Carmody
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Senator:

I am getting a little more history than I can digest as the letters from Mr. Valandra enclosed will bear out.

When my father came to the Medicine in 1871 on Xmas he slept that night at Hank Cliffords lodge and Nesbit, McManus and I think Sam Watts came down from F. McPherson with him.

Morty Clifford was there too but he must have been about twenty years old then or 102 now.

A week ago to-day my brother and I drove up to Ballantines and Coulter showed us the patent signed by President Grant in 1875 to his first quarter of land so he must have filed on it in 1872. The abstract shows it was turned over later to Charles McDonald.

Then in 1882 he took the quarter on Spring Creek and sold it in 1887. If you do not know Coulter Ballantine I certainly want you to meet him for although he takes no interest in early history, whatever he tells you is the truth.

He helped us located Doc Carver's place and we maked it well.

But he said "He was the craziest son-of-a-b-you ever saw."

He showed us where he got the idea of his diving horses by jumping his own horse off a bank into the creek.

It could be possible there will be about a dozen Sioux down here to the Fair also. But where will I keep them?

Perhaps you folks interested in history knew Morty was still alive but it was a complete surprise to me. I wrote to Mr. Valandra to-day.

Give my regards to Mr. Olson.

Sincerely yours

W. M. Shelley

Frontier County
Ambrose S. Shelley

...I cannot fill in the answers to a few questions that arise about this changing his [Ambrose S. Shelley] name because I can only guess. From what I can learn in talking to my cousins in Allentown [Penn.,] and others I imagine his fathers family and his mother's family ~~xxxxxxx~~ (Shelley) did not agree on the Civil War but I would also guess that Dad did not want to openly break with his father over it other than to go his own way.

All that concerns me is that to me and to Nebraska he was Ambrose S. Shelley from the time he came here.

He was a good mill wright and up until the war worked in his fathers employ and he had the finest tool chest and set of tools I have ever saw but when we kids got big enough we scattered them all over the place and they are all gone now. He used to plead with us to take care of them but you know what kids are.

When I was born Dad was the age I am now and so to me an old man then. He did not care for publicity and I am sure would not want any, except that anything in what I send you that you can use for history or value as information he would want you to have so the letter is yours to use and looks best to you.

William Shelley, Bartley, Nebr., April 9, 1953,
letter to James C. Olson
N.S.H.S. Archives, MS368, Ambrose S. Shelley

Barley, Neb.

4/9/1963

James C. Aldon, Supt. Historical Society

Lincoln, Neb.

Dear Mr. Aldon:

I am enclosing the letter to you as promised and I really believe that is the place for it now.

I cannot fill in the answers to a few questions that arise about this changing his name because I can only guess.

From what I can learn in talking to my cousins in Allentown and other ways I imagine his father's family and his mother's family (Shelley) did not agree on the Civil War but I would also guess that Dad did not want to openly break with his father over it other than to go his own way.

All that concerns me is that to me and to Nebraska he was Ambrose S. Shelley from the time he came here.

He was a good millwright and until he was worked in his father's employ and he had the finest tool chest and set of tools I have ever saw but when we kids got big enough we scattered them all over the place and they are all gone now. He used to plead with us to take care of them but you know what kids are!

When I was born Dad was the aged one now and so to me an old man then.

He did not care for publicity and I am sure would not want any, except that any-thing in what I send you that you consider for history or value or information he would want you to have so the letter is yours to use as looks best to you.

I am also enclosing some other articles which will be of interest to you to read because the letter he wrote to me in 1926 when I was in J. A. is very typical of him and I have always kept it.

You can keep anything you want and mail anything else back to me. Maybe you can establish something of his character in your mind from them.

Senator Carmody and you just handle it exactly as you wish and it will be alright with me.

Tell Senator Carmody that I have an old diary that Dad kept & will show him sometime, on page 11 and I think in Oct. 1986 is this item.

"Report that Jack French, party chieftain, went among the ranchmen on the Free and since they were satisfied that Free Range was lost anyhow they would support the herd law situation for the benefit of the other county officers."

We had asked me when Chifford left here, I believe 7 banks left first. Morty must have been here as late as 1986. He refers to Morty several times between 1891 and 1986 in this diary. But we used the diary about as rough as the Tool Chest so many pages are gone.

I have a little boy & grand and I can sympathize with Dad very much.

Sincerely
Bill Shelley

copy

Martin, So. Dak.
April 24, 1953

Mr. W. M. Shelley
Stockville, Nebr.

Dear Sir:

The postmaster at Martin, So. Dak. handed me your letter of April 17th and asked me if I couldn't help you out to locate some of the Cliffords.

So I am taking the means to let you know that Olando Clifford is my father-in-law. Hank Clifford has been dead quite a few years. Marty Elifford is still a live and lives at Kyle, So. Dak.

Olando Clifford is out in the State of Washington at present, he goes out there every fall for the Winter and comes back to my place around June 1st for the summer. There are two other Brothers livening. John and James Clifford they get their mail at Kyle, So. Dak.

I am sending your litter on to Olando as I rember him telling about the Shelleys at Stockville and I no he no you. So if there is any more information you would like to no dont be afraid to write me as will answer your inquire (over)

I am sending you Orlando Clifford address out at Washington in case you wanted to write him.

There isen't very many of the old timers left up this way any more. I may be able to pay you a visit some time this summer then Mr. Clifford gets back as he said last summer he would like to go down to Stockville sometime and see how many of the old timers are left.

Hoping to hear from you again.

Very truly yours,

Paul Valandry, Sr.

address.

Mr. O. H. Clifford
Sunny Side.
Wash.

c/o John Gresh. Route 1

I am getting a little more history than I can digest as the letter from Mr. Valandra enclosed will bear out.

When my father [Ambrose Shelley,] came to the Medicine in 1871 on Xmas he slept that night at Hank Cliffords lodge and Nesbit, McManus and I think Sam Watts came down from F. McPherson with him.

Morty Clifford was there too but he must have been about twenty years old then or 102 now.

A week ago to-day my brother and I drove up to Ballantines and Coulter showed us the patent signed by President Grant in 1875 to his first quarter of land so he must have filed on it in 1872. The abstract shows it was turned over later to Charas McDonald.

Then in 1882 he took the quarter on Spring Creek and sold it in 1887. If you do not know Coulter Ballantine I certainly want you to meet him for although he takes no interest in early history, whatever he tells you is the truth.

He helped us located Doc Carver's place and we marked it well. But he said "He was the craziest son-of-a-b-you ever saw." He showed us where he got the idea of his diving horses by jumping his own horse off a bank into the [Medicine] creek....

William Shelley, Bartley, Nebr., May 3,
1952, letter to Arthur Carmody, Trenton.

...Orlando Clifford is my father-in-law. Hank Clifford has been dead quite a few years. Morty Clifford is still a live and lives at Kyle, So. Dak.

Orlando Clifford is out in the State of Washington at present....There are two other Brothers living, John and James Clifford ghey get their mail at Kyle, So. Dak....

Paul Valandry, Sr., Martin, So. Dak.,
Apr 24, 1953, letter to William Shelley

May 14th 1953
Rout. 1
Outlook
Wash.

Mr. Wm. Shelley

Dear Sir

Your letter of enquire of M. H. Clifford & his brother Hank. I am the oldest of Morty's Boys father Died 1904 and Uncle Hank Died in 1907 he has one son living at Rocky Ford So Dak. the only one living of that Family. I have three brothers and three sisters living in South Dak I winter here But my home is in So Dak I am going to go back there for Decoration this year. I am wondering if there are any more of the old timers still living at Sockvill I new all of the old timers could name at least 30 or forty of them I am sure Glad you wrote. Hoping to hear from you again.

My address is O. H. C. Clifford
Martin, S. Dak
Box 523

over

When I am up here I stay with my Daghter.
Mrs. John Gresh and family. Hopéing to hear from you soon.

Orlando Hine Clifford

Bartley, Nebr.
May 19, 1953

Senator Arthur Carmody,
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Senator:

Just a line to correct misinformation I have given you.

I imagine Mr. Valandry must have been thinking of Morty, Jr. although the records he used as to Hank being dead and Morty alive fooled me a little.

Anyhow the least I can do now is enclosed Mr. Cliffords letter.

I believe Morty Clifford was younger than my father but I had the feeling he died years ago.

We have heard our parents discuss all those things but one does not recall things all at once.

I will write to Mr. Clifford and will try to get up there in July to see him.

I'm sure you will see that Mr. Olson is given the facts.

Very truly your

W. M. Shelley

N.S.H.S. Archives
MS638, Ambrose S. Shelley

...I imagine Mr. Valandry must have been thinking of Morty, Jr. although the records he used as to Hank being dead and Morty alive fooled me a little....

I believe Morty Clifford was younger than my father but I had the feeling he died years ago....

William M. Shelley, Bartley, Nebr., May 19,
1953, letter to Arthur Carmody

Your letter of enquire of M.H. Clifford & his brother Hank. I am the oldest of Morty's Boys father Died 1904 and Uncle Hank Died in 1907 he has one son living at Rocky Ford So Dak. the only one living of that Family. I have three brothers and three sisters living in South Dak....

My address is O.H.C. Clifford
Martin, S. Dak
Box 523

When I am up here I stay with my Daghter. Mrs. John Gresh and family....

Orlando Hine Clifford, Rt. 1, Outlook,
Washington, May 14, 1953, letter to
William Shelley, Stockville, Nebr.

Arthur Carmody
Trenton, Nebraska

Nebraska
Jan. 10, 1962

Dear Friends:

Ever since we got the card from you
I have been intending to write.

We have been busy it seems like.
Margaret's only sister died of a heart attack
on Dec. 14th only on a cold morning.

It was a sad affair because she was on her
way to work and about two blocks from home
in Maywood and it was about 45 minutes
before she was found.

But she died instantly. Her husband was in the
hospital very sick. Bernice and I were on our
way to N. P. to stay with him during the
service for her and a guy hit us from behind
and we were held up there two hours waiting
for a patrolman and a wrecker.
We received a check for the damage but
have not got the car fixed yet.

Another fellow and I found an old cottonwood
tree on the old Barry Ranch that had fallen over
sometime in the past. When the top hit the
ground it took root again and the roots
are alive too so it forms an arch about 6 ft
high and cattle use their backs on it.

It is an odd thing and a big one too.
We were cutting out timber where our new
telephone line runs when we found it.

We may have dial service by June or July.
This wet weather has stopped our work on it.
It keeps me busy just doing the house here on
the place for most of the day.

over

we got a card and letter from the Indians and one
of them wrote an article and said they put the old log
cobble and said it to a rapidity of 4000 ft. I
I suppose you know all about it and I don't
I have always been told that his name was
one of the best of men. He went to the here and had
tried to help him and got hurt himself.

Wank was alright too but he had more of a head
you understand. A land was good too.

Did you know that Fred Kessie of the Johnson
County cattle man in Wyoming was killed
by the name of Sutherland who lived a couple
of miles down the creek from our place?
His mother took care of 7000 head when he
died in Stockville. She was buried here
on their land until a few years back
when her body was taken to Buffalo, Wyo.
by Earl Custer for re-burial.
(A daughter of Fred Kessie still owns the
land here.)

She showed me you know a lot more about
the Wyoming cattle man than I do because
you are a historian and know a lot of books.

However I remember one thing about the time
Fred Kessie died that Belle Sutherland
was here and visited. It was one afternoon
with my mother. But I was in the field
and scarcely saw her. I think she was
here to arrange for removal of her mother's
body at that time.)

(John Morgan, whose name appeared in Ensign Journal
came here in 1876 but went back to Wyoming and
was up there during the Johnson Co. affair used
to say that he knew Tom Horn well and he
was a good man. Morgan came back here
and was a good, well fixed man when he
died. His daughter died in Cambridge last
Fall too.)

(My opinion of Tom Horn was different.
John Morgan and Fred Besse were both
rough fellows in Wyo. at that time so
were on the side of the rangers.)

(But Morgan was straight as a string.
I don't know much about Besse except that
an Irishman by the name of Plunkett gave
him his first start as a hunter.)
It is strange how events in Texas, Nebraska,
and Wyoming lie in with each other. More or less.
I could include Georgia and Florida.
Someone in California told me that a book store in
Berkeley had a copy of Parilla's book but in
too good shape for \$5.00. I'd have grabbed it. P
We went to a wrestling match Monday like because
Kennis was on the Cutler's team and the four guy
was the only one on side to lose.

He got finished in the last 15 seconds.
But he drew a pretty tough opponent.
There is another to-woman like or odd real
to go but I'm going. He may well be here.
Margaret stands it better than I do.

I took a great big drink when I got home
and I don't know how Dennis got along.

Probably he noticed it less than I did.
The other kid was stronger just as fast and first
so well trained and probably had a dad who
helped he do him, which he did ^{him}.

I'd better feel good that he almost held out.
There may come a day after this wild drop when
you'll want to come up.

I have never been back to the old B. house.
I got a cross and letter from a son of Joe
Dawson who lives in Springfield Mo.
I wonder if Coulter's sister would like to
talk to him. He is two years older than I am.
It is not likely they are aware of each other's
existence and never mentioned her to him.
They might have a good visit. He is pretty
reticent and quiet. He married a Missouri
girl.

We might find something new to you up here
it seems to me I have run down.

It is still early in the year and I can wish
you a good New Year.

Sincerely
Bill

William Shelley
Stockville, Nebr.

P.S. I tried to read this over to correct mistakes
but I can't make it all out. Maybe you can.

...Another fellow and I found an old cottonwood tree on the old Barry Ranch that had fallen over sometime in the past. Where the top hit the ground it took root again and the old roots are alive too so it forms an arch about 6 ft high and cattle rub their backs on it. It is an odd thing and a big one too. We were cutting ~~out~~ timber where our new telephone line runs when we found it....

We got a card and letter from the Indians and one of them wrote an article on old Rosy [Clifford Ruff] and the old log cabin....I suppose you know old Orlando [Clifford] died last Fall. I have always been told that his dad, Morty, was one of the best of men. He went broke here and Dad tried to help him and got hurt himself. Hank [Clifford] was alright too but he had more of a head for business. Orland was good too.

Did you know that Fred Hesse of the Johnson County cattle war in Wyoming married a girl by the name of Sutherland who lived a couple of miles down the creek from our place? Her mother took care of George Grant when he died in Stockville. She was buried here on their land until a few years back when her body was taken to Buffalo, Wyo. by Earl Carstensen for re-burial. A daughter of Fred Hess still owns the land here.

The chances are you know a lot more about the Wyoming cattle war than I do because you are a historian and have access to books. However I remember one day about the time Fred Hesse died that Belle Sutherland Hesse was here and visited all one afternoon with my mother, but I was in the field and scarcely saw her. I think she was here to arrange for removal of her mothers body at that~~xx~~ time.

John Morgan, whose name appeared in Ena's journal came here in 1876 but went back to Wyoming and was up there during the Johnson Co. affair used to say that he knew Tom Horn well and he was a good man. Morgan came back here and was a good, well fixed man when he died. His daughter died in Cambridge last Fall too.

My opinion of Tom Horn was different. John Morgan and Fred Hesse were both fanch foreman in Wyo. at that time so were on the side of the ranchers.

But Morgan was straight as a string. I don't know much about Hesse except that an Irishman by the name of Plunkett gave him his first start as a foreman. It is strange how events in Texas, Nebraska, and Wyoming tie in with each other more or less. I could include George and Florida....

William Shelley, Stockville, Nebr.,
Jan.10, 1962, letter to Arthur
Carmody, Trenton, Nebraska.

Whistler Killing, 1872

...I never heard Dad [Ambrose Shelley] say any thing one way or the other about the burial of Chief Whistler. If he was present he never mentioned it to us.

He has told us many times that in the Fall or Winter of 1872-73 the Indians that were in the villiage on the Medicine during the Spring and Summer of 1872, all left for the mouth of the Frenchman to hunt Buffalo there and or into Colorado to the west. However the old Squaws and kids and old men stayed at the villiage on the Frenchman or in that area in Nebr.

Whistler and two Indians started across the country to Ft. McPherson to tell them there where the villiage was camped and to have them send a wagon load of provisions to them.

They must have been killed some little distance from the Indian camp because I'm sure it was a few days before it was known that they were killed.

The Cliffords and John Nelson were still on the Medicine I think. John Nelson and Hanck C. may have gone into Colorado but their lodges were still on the Medicine. I believe Randall may have been with the young Indians hunting.

Dad and Furguson were trapping on the Blackwood, Frenchman, or Stinking Water. They gave the beaver carcasses to the squaws to eat. I think probably Dad may have told us they were killed on the Blackwood but some one has given me the idea it was on the Medicine above Curtis. I knew E.E. Allen for a long time and he visited with Dad often but it is hard for me to connect him with finding or burying those Indians. It seems like there were Indians [to] be trusted further than Whistler but at least he figured they were on a peaceful mission when they got killed.

I would figure who ever found the bodies notified Hank Clifford wherever he was at the time. Probably the whole truth never was really known or else kept quiet.

If Dad's story is correct then it seems like they may have been killed somewhere between Dundy County and Ft. McPherson.

William M. Shelley, Stockville, Nebr.
letter, Sun., May 22, 1966, to P.D. Riley

[Letter above written in reply to letter from P.D. Riley, containing information found in letter of E.E. Allen to A.E. Sheldon, in which Allen says that Shelley was one of the men to bury Chief Whistler, Fat Badger and Handsmeller. Letter found in MSS, Kress, Mortimer N. (Wild Bill), Nebraska State Historical Society library.]

rec. Tues. May 24, 1966

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Stockville, Neb. 69042
May, 22, 1966

Dear Friends Paul and Ron,
in reply to your letter of
the 19th will say first that I never heard or saw any
thing one way or the other about the burial of Chief
Whistler. If he was present he never mentioned it
to us.

We have talked us many times that in the Fall winter
of 1872⁷³ the Indians that were in the village on
the Medicine during the spring and summer of 1877,
all left for the mouth of the Frenchman to hunt
Buffalo there and on into Colorado to the west.

However the old squaws and kids and old men
stayed at the village on the Frenchman as in
that area in Neb.

Whistler and two Indians started across the
country to St. Ne P Hudson to tell them where
where the village was camped and to have them
send a wagon load of provisions to them.

They must have been killed some little distance
from the Indian camp because I know it was
a few days before it was known that they
were killed.

The Cliffords and John Nelson were still
on the medicine I think. John Nelson and
Robert C. may have gone into Colorado but
their lodges were still on the medicine.
I believe Randall may have been with the
young Indian's hunting.

Rod and Sugar were trapping on the
Blackwood, Frenchman, and Stinking water.

They gave the beaver carcasses to the squaws to eat. I think probably Dad may have told us they were killed on the Blackwood but some one has given me the idea that it was on the Medicine above Curtis. I knew G. E. Allen for a long time and he visited with Dad often but it is hard for me to connect him with finding or buying these Indians. It seems like these were Indians he trusted further than Whistler but at least he figured they were on a peaceful mission when they got killed.

I would figure who ever found the bodies notified Frank Clifford whenever he was at the time. Probably the whole truth never was really known or else kept quiet.

If Dad's story is correct then it seems like they may have been killed somewhere between Seward County and St. Neophemine.

We will be in Waywood Memorial Day instead of Stockville. If you just happened to be able to be there also Wauger at could introduce you to Mrs. Blanche Gilliland, daughter of Theo. Dagle.

The bodies up there seem a good dinner at noon for a buck or so, just as most towns here, and welcome all comers.

When is Sean coming out?

The relative of Mac Camp he wanted to talk to was here helping me with some work yesterday and I told him Sean wanted to visit with him. He said he'd be glad to dig out his old pictures for him.

I imagine Dad was loading his traps when Whistler was buried but there is a lot I don't know about the Evil. Dennis and Wauger both O.K. Bill

Stockville, Neb.
Aug. 28, 1966

Mr. Donald Decker,
Lincoln, Neb.

Here is how: we recently traversed a field upon the divide about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of where you were camped about July 4th. If you were to leave your car and walk away from your car and straight up over the rock ledge and followed that direction for over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile you would have come to the place.

Two fellows from Gathenburg uncovered a lot of old Indian bone there that runs from 2 feet to 5 feet below the surface and charcoal, ashes, pipes, beads, scrapers, awls, pottery, shaft straighteners, arrow-heads, fish hooks.

It is found in different places and is confined to small areas like 3 or 4 feet in diameter.

and sometimes 6 or 8 feet apart.

This ground has been dug over for 30 or 40 years but the best strike has been the last week.

I'd like to see a chunk of that charcoal, tested for age. If it is of any interest to you I could wait you some or some of you may want to come out. It is quite a find according to the diggers.

Ashes and charcoal are there plenty.

We are pressed for time to-day as we are to go to Cambridge for dinner. I will wait there. Our best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely

Bill

P.S. they will be digging to-day, Sunday.

August 29, 1966

Mr. William M. Shelley
Stockville, Nebraska

Dear Bill:

Your letter has arrived and I showed it to Mr. Kivett. As you know, he has done a lot of archeological research in the Medicine Creek area.

He states that if you will send some samples of the pottery, especially of the rims, that he can date it fairly accurately and much more cheaply than a charcoal test.

You didn't get down to the races. If your luck is like mine it is just as well.

Sincerely yours,

Donald F. Danker
Historian

DFD:dj

rec. Sat. Dec. 24, 1966

Donald F. Danker

Stockville, Neb.
12/22, 1966

Dear Donald:
Oh yes we made it to El Paso and Juarez
in grand style. Six of us in the party and gone 8 days.
we were in El Paso for 2 nights and Juarez 2 days.
we eat at the Florida Hotel and Cafe. It was one
or two streets east of the one you mentioned.
In fact we had a good trip and still plan on
invading Lincoln at a future date. All of us.

I notice a few mistakes in dates Dad made
in his writings to me. First in 1926.

On mentioning the County organization he gives
the date as Feb. rather than Jan. 1872. And yet he
knew, because he was there.

Also he indicated that he came to Neb. first in
1871 with Nesbit from Iowa.

Actually he came from Iowa coming to St. W. P. Pherson
in 1869 and put up hay there for two years.

When he must have went to St. Francis and both
he and Nesbit came back in 1871.

He came to the Indian Camp on the Medicine
on your time 1871. The was unreliable on dates
but usually asked my mother.

When they put up the headstone for old Eva
the Indian woman sometime in the "20's" he gave
the date of her death as 1884 when actually she died
in 1886. A "quang" who had come about 1884 noticed
the mistake and never got tired of mentioning
that it was too bad they buried her 2 years before she
died. He had a big mouth any how.

I think sometimes he got awfully tired of answering questions and maybe a little careless.

When there were nights here at home when he would talk about those old events for hours.

Maybe the next time he'd shut up like a clam. It was not hard for us to tell when it was safe. He came to Neb. from Penn. in 1867 and stayed awhile with an uncle in Omaha.

The uncle was B. Z. Shelley who went on to Nebraska City and I believe was one of the founders of that City.

I notice too there is not a complete meeting of the minds on translating those Indian words into English spelling. I was in California from 1925 to 1927 so never heard of Mr. Link or Mr. Gilmore but I know Rosa Clifford, so since she seems certain his name was Ple Waban I guess I must be

Ple Waban, Junior

wishing you ^{all} a merry & most cord Wappy
New Year! And thanks for the enclosure.
Bill and Margaret

Shelley

Lynch and Gammill Families
Frontier County

Marvin E. Waldraven was the name of the old Rebel that married my aunt Maggie Elizabeth Lynch, or Uncle Con and Aunt Mag to us here in Nebr. I guess Con was short for Colonel. He was much older than she was and they met out at Denver or Cheyenne.

He never was in Nebr. The Civil War never ended with him and a state with a capital named Lincoln or a river called Republican would be enough to throw him into apoplexy or worse.

I never saw him but my brother Geo. went to Okla. in 1911 and helped with the farm work so I have talked with him since getting your letter. Dad [Ambrose S. Shelley] knew him from the old days farther west. We asked him once about the 21 wounds inflicted at Shiloh and he said "oh I don't know ~~where~~ just where those shots did hit him" indicating they may have come from the rear. So we lost another hero from the family....

Maybe Dad was a little prejudiced but Aunt Mag and my mother used to get started talking and laughing about him and his war record and it seemed to me they took the 21 battle scars as not too serious a thing. Anyhow he had a reputation in the South that didn't do any particular good in Nebraska. Mother and Aunt Mag were Irish and could some way get a laugh out of Uncle Con and his 21 wounds so long as they didn't kill him.

I'm glad they could, but their life had been anything but easy and Aunt M. sold the farm and gave a priest \$500.00 to say mass or do something to get Uncle C. out of wherever he was into where ever she wanted him to be after she died....

After Con died she lived with us here for a year or so and later went to Pueblo Colo. to visit some old friends. She took sick and died there. Mother was with her and brought her home to Stockville for burial in our lot....

She used to help me milk the cows twice a day and I think she and my mother had the best time of their lives during the ~~x~~time she spent here even if some of it was at Uncle Con's expense....

The Irish are a race who look for a silver lining and usually find it. So at times Uncle Con's battle scars seemed to supply laughter for them after he was in the great beyond. After all they did not seem to cripple him. So Aunt Mag was more or less estranged from the rest of her family as long as the old Rebel lived. They had no children.

One nite I was staying with the Dauchy kids at the old Jerome D. Ranch. It was a hot, sulbry, sticky and very dark night and about 10 p.m. Fred Gammill rode up to the door and asked to stay until morning. He told the men it had been so dark he could not see his horse's head until climbing the hill from Cedar Creek $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away the whole head of the horse took on a glow and even as he told us we could still see a dull glow all along his mane and neck. On page 251 of "Man of the Plains" you will read where Lute North run into the same thing.

Fred was everything the writer said he was and my brother was with him when he was injured. They are both dead....

I'll tell you about Fred Gammill. Fred and his two sisters, Ruby and Lottie took up land north of Dickens in the sandhills along with Sam Gammill and his boys.

They would move cattle from his Dad's ranch on the Medicine to the sandhills every spring and back in the Fall for summer pasture. Fred and my brother were doing that when his horse fell on him in North Brushy northwest of Maywood at a bridge. He never got over it. In 1915 when his Dad died I was working for Dauchy and so Frank Dauchy, Sam Gammill and myself drove the cattle to the hills over the same route.

Fred and I rested two nights and a day up there and left for home early in the morning and at noon we were right back at the ranch.

It was rainy and cloudy when we went into the hills and while we were there and when we left. So one of Sam's boys saddled a horse and guided us back to the gate out of the pasture and onto a dirt trail. Then we rode it alone.

I am glad you sent me Fred's obituary. We have Johns but not Fred's. Jim and John Gammill were to each other as Lute and Frank North. Jim lived until 1932. He used to tell about some battle the North lost and "if they had listened to John they'd have won it". But they were good men.

William M. Shelley, Stockville, Nebr.
Letter, Dec. 30, 1966, to P.D. Riley.

William Shelley to P.D. Riley
Stockville, Nebr., Fri., April 18, 1969

Frontier County

I am sure the Thomas Lynch you mention is the Pat Lynch (no relation to us) who came to the Medicine in 1878 from the Sappa after his run in with the Cheyennes and rescue of the two girl captives. He wintered a half mile north of our place with John Lynch Sr. who was killed in or near Arapahoe that same winter.

It will take a little scouting to get the date of Paddy Miles death but feel sure I can. He married Laura Murphy and on her death about 1880 married her sister Nellie later.

Dad [Ambrose S. Shelley] and Paddy had a parrellell married life or nearly so. Paddy met the Murphy family about 1870 in what was later Arapahoe.

In reading the record of my Dad's marriage to Aunt Hannah in 1879 I notice that Royal Buck was the Judge who married them.... My mother [Nellie Lynch] was a hired girl in the Jerome Dauchy home in 1885 and married Dad in 1886....

I had a time placing B. Flusay living with Dad in 1885. The name is Ben Flusky--Civil War soldier, took land joining Lynch land on the West and died here about 1905. Evidently he and Dad were batching in 1885 in the old cabin. He was a well liked fellow who never married and died in the Hotel at Stockville....

...I will answer the question relative to Asa McManus.

I think it is safe to assume that he is the one and only Asa ever to live in this area, especially in the "Seventies" so would guess he was with Seymour and Hank C[lifford].

E.G. Nesbit and McManus were teamed up together by having adjoining claims but more so by the attraction of oppositās. Asa was very uneducated and Nesbit a scholar. One was equal to the other out here though in knowledge.

Grand-ma [Ellen] Lynch never liked it here, especially after she lost her husband, so after her claim was proved up on she went back to her old home in Cheyenne, raising Geo. Gregory and my half brother John until my mother married Dad in 1886, then John came here.

She died in Cheyenne and was buried there about 1901.

If I am not crossed up somewhere Tom Lynch is the same Lynch that moved here from the Sappa, bringing his cattle and all possessions along, spending the winter of '78-79 at John Lynch's farm, later moving down the Medicine a few miles for a few years and then up to the Sandhills where he built quite a fortune in cattle and land....

I think our Mother, listed as a servant in 1885, must be an expression reserved for the Irish. I have thought of her as a hired girl in those years but "servant" gave me something to think about, such as--How old we have to get before we really appreciate the hardships our parents have borne. In contrast I will remember her telling of the good times she had while living there, and the games they played....

William Shelley to P.D. Riley
Stockville, Nebr., Fri., April 25, 1969

"...I put in [enclosed] a picture of three Indian girls that I take to be M. Cliffords daughters, with Rosie in the center. She is at a Rest Home in Pine Ridge....

"John Lynch was killed in a runaway in a trip to get a load of corn for Tom Lynch and himself in the winter of '78-'79.

"I enclosed the letter to my Mother from her Mother to sort of give you an idea of why I do actually get depressed when I dig into History of my own family, way back when. My own mother went to school very, very little but she had enough native ability to more than make up for it and she was fond of reading. It is doubtful if Grand-Ma went to school.

"How would it be if you were to change paragraph 1 on page 2 a little so as to give a sort of varied perspective to the characters Ena met at first. As follows. From an expert??

"Ena was, from the time of her arrival at Fort McPherson, a familiar to Doc Carver, Buffalo Bill, Texas Jack O., the Clifford brothers, and Old John Nelson, Scout and Guide, all of who were well known figures.

"Later she was to meet such adventuresome characters as Bloody Dick Seymour, Trapper and Indian trader, Dashing Charlie, son-in-law of Chief Whistler, besides John Bratt's cowboys. Soon she was familiar with the solid, courageous type who came to the Medicine to make a home in a new land, such as Sam Watts, E.G. Nesbit, Asa McManus, Ambrose Shelley, W.L. McClary and Oliver Kibben and Baker from the Curtis area. That is just an imaginary classification of my own and bears no resemblance to what an able writer would do.

"I did intend to include the Lynch family because Paddy lost no time in locating the girls. They came the same summer. McClary did too but I did not know what class to put him IN."

William Shelley, letter

Wm Hopton, or Bill Hopton as he was known, married a sister of [Washington L.] McClary and together they ran the "Bald Eagle Hotel" in Stockville. Mrs. Hopton's name was Lide (like tide) and Ada was her sister. They were a large family. McClary married the second time in Oct. 1885 and she divorced him in 1892 at Broken Bow. A transcript is in the courthouse here. Probably the only reason for it being here is to brand the two women named in her charge of adultery. He married again about 1896 and kept that wife to the end.

I have never been able to find a record of any marriage of the three.

Bill Hopton's second wife was a niece of Alex Baldwin, born in Hitchcock Co. about 1873 I believe....

Pallardie, like most of those French traders, married squaws partly for better relations with the tribes....

I wonder if you ever read the pages from McClary's diary that we have. Art [Carmody] has a copy. I am quite certain Paddy Miles died in 1911. It was not unusual for him to be in court with his neighbors. He was an onery old devil and quarreled with his relatives and every neighbor. Coulter Ballantine was a lot like him and they had some court battles over nothing.

He shot a horse of Doc Carver's one time when Dock was there and then told him to go catch a good horse out of his bunch to replace the one he killed....

At the time ~~that~~ the 1885 census was taken McClary was a widower between Ena's death in July 1884 and his marriage again in Oct. 1885 and his sister, Ada must have been here on a visit with both staying at the Hotel of which he was owner or partly so. Bill and Lida would be the managers and Mac's second wife worked at the hotel. As a girl before she married Mac. It is quite likely that she did not work there after he married her.

He may have made a trip [to Missouri in January 1900] to see his sick brother because that would be in line with his nature, but he would take a gambling trip to whenever he took the notion which led to the divorce in 1892 coupled with his ability to attract women and also the urge.

I can't picture him to you but I remember him well. It did not seem to worry him to kill Ena in the runaway and abortion but it just about floored him when the woman divorced him. Most everyone liked him with all his sins.

William Shelley, Stockville, June 2, 1969,
letter to pdriley

William Shelley, letter, to P.D. Riley
Stockville, Nebr. 69042, Fri., Aug. 8, 1969

Lynch

...I want to start with our Aunt Hannah [Lynch], because it is a little confusing due to her two marriages and tragedy haunted both. She was born in England in 1847, the eldest of eight children and came to the U.S. with her parents, a sister Mary and a brother George who died on the ship. He is buried in N.Y. The other five were all born in Henry, Illinois. The family came to Omaha in 1864 and to Cheyenne in 1867.

Aunt Hannah married Gregory in 1869 or 1870 and his record was not good so ended shortly. One son, George was born at Cheyenne and came down to Frontier Co. in 1872 with the Lynch family. Aunt Hannah married Dad [Ambrose S. Shelley] in 1879 at Indianola and Royal Buck was the Probate Judge who married them. A son John was born on April 21 1880 and his mother died May 5, 1880. Geo. Gregory grew up in Cheyenne, mainly with his Grand-mother [Ellen Lynch], and John, my half brother, was at home in Cheyenne or Nebr.

Now I will give you a record of the family of my mother...

Hannah Lynch	-	born in England	in	1847	
Mary Lynch	"	"	"	1848	
George	"	"	"	1854	
John A. (Jack)	born	Henry, Ill.		1854	
Robert Lynch	"	"	"	1857	
Maggie Lynch	"	"	"	1859	Later Mrs. M.E. Wald- raven of Okla.
Nellie Lynch	"	"	"	1861	My Mother
William Lynch	"	"	"	1863	

Mary and Robert were here only a short time. Bill died at Deer Lodge, Mon.....

Just by the way of information, there is none of the second generation of the Lynch family of the name alive. Some third generation are in St Paul, Nebr. Wichita, Kan. and also in Wyoming and Gering, Nebr....They are descendants of Jack or Uncle Jack actually....

I'm afraid that I did make a mistake in the record I sent you of Morty Clifford's family, because on the copy you sent me, Orlando's birth appears as 1877 instead of 1873. He was born in the Indian village on the spot where the county was organized. I think Ena mentions a baby of Julia's but it may have been Delilah.

There is one more word about George Gregory who I can't remember seeing. He was a man among men in Wyoming, altogether an upright citizen after being raised by his Grand-mother in Cheyenne. Evidently it is well his father vanished.

Aug. 9 - I learn from Carl Siebecker that Pat O'Connor was a guide or scout or rode shotgun with wagon trains. A daughter, Mamie Hunion still lives in Cambridge. He did take over the Pickle postoffice; am not sure about the Mill. He must have come from Ireland....Carl saw him once and remembers ~~him~~ he was a "flannel mouth Irishman" that had worked with wagon trains.