

The weather is very warm and sultry, we have pottatoes and nearly all kinds of garden vegetables, plums etc., at this time though peas are out of season. Now do not ~~get~~ worry about me, some way will turn up by and by and perhaps sooner than I am aware of for me to get along towards home though I know not how, now, but you must not be surprised, either to see me or to continue getting letters from me. Now just ~~let xxxxxxxx~~ for once allow me to close my letter without quite filling my sheet. My love to all- farewell.

Thomas C. Battey

No. 41

Anadarko

7th Mo. 8th 1874

My Dear and Ever Precious Wife and Children:-

I suppose my last to you has not probably left this office yet and being able to write a little more news and knowing that you will feel very anxious about me and having an opportunity to send to Fort Sill where letters can be mailed I could do no less than to write. We can get no mail from the north by way of the Wichita rout.

One train and several men were burnt on that road, not quite so bad as we at first heard but still bad enough, and there has nothing got through that we know of as yet. A company of soldiers are now here and another going to the Cheyennes Agency tonight, to protect these Agencys.

I am talking of joining three others in hiring a team to take us to Caddo where I can take the cars for home. If we make this thing work we shall start day after tomorrow so that next week I may be at home. I feel a little better for two days past and have gained a little in flesh (weighing 127lbs.) today but am pale and weak. The Agent is gaining. The Medicine Dance of the Kiowas is over. They are coming in to remain by the Agent, except a small party under Lone Wolf who proposes to join the War party of Cheyennes and Comanches. The main body of the Kiowas are loyal to the government also all of the Apaches and except a few young men, the Penheatethkah Comanches. The rest are on the War Path in earnest. They have thrown their new Medicine chief away because his medicine was not what he pretended respecting its power on the white mans guns, they can shoot in spite of his medicine, and kill too, as they have experienced in one instance three-fourths of a mile distant. But having taken the war path they do not propose to leave it as yet, if some of them do get killed.

The friendly Indians will be likely to suffer very much, as the others will destroy all the government trains, freighted with supplies, that they can overcome. There were but four wagons in the train burned and four white persons killed and one Indian. They are threatening those friendly Indians who are but lately settling down, to that degree that they have left their farming and houses, expecting that they will be destroyed. Asa Toggett, a friendly Comanche, says he loves his house and he loves his corn field but he dare not stay there any longer.

It is a mystery to all in this country who have known the Kiowas for many years, that they who were but two years past the most blood-thirsty of all these wild tribes should stand so firmly against war, but yet I have no doubt but that some of the most fool-hardy of their young men will slip away and join the war parties, though not many, and I believe if my health would permit of my remaining in camp, that none outside of Lone Wolf's and Womans Heart's bands would go but I have left them and it is not likely that another man will take my place, at least before winter.

Agent Haworth's wife and Howard's have left the country for one more civilized. When I left the Kiowa Agency the Agent's wife did not expect to go away before fall, but a sudden notice has taken her to leave and I expect it is probably well that she has gone.

I regret to have to come home by way of Caddo as it will cost me more and I shall miss seeing the Sharon girls, also miss being at Lawrence.