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When I first arrived on Crooked Creek I found plenty of good and fresh water in holes and small ponds in the bed of the Creek as far as the timber extends, but no running stream, from that point to Man Arroya, a distance of 24 miles the creek was entirely dry and had to all appearances been so for a long time. I tried to obtain water by digging in the bed, but after digging more than five feet no water was found. The river bottom, however, showed many indications of being very miry and muddy in wet seasons. If there is water in the Creek from Man Arroya down to the mouth in dry seasons, I cannot positively say, as a very heavy rain flooded the Creek and its valley As I was encamped on that Arroya, but I believe that the amount of water emptying into the Creek from the Arroya connected with the water from Stump Arroya is sufficient to keep water in Crooked Creek even in dry seasons. The water of the Cimmaron is bad and so much impregnated with alkali as to be nearly unfit for use. Sand Creek as well as the fork was found to be entirely dry and camp was made here near a small pond of rain water collected in a small break between the forks of the creek.

The grazing is poor and scant on account of prairie fires. Some good grass can be found in the bottom of Crooked Creek below the last grove of timber and below the mouth of Stump Arroya and on the Cimmaron. The quality of the grass on this river, however, is inferior. In other places only small spots of short and dry grass, which escaped the fire, are found at long intervals, not sufficient for a large command.

On the left bank of Crooked Creek one mile below the mouth of Man Arroya, I found a fresh grave with six headstones, the place is marked by a lone cottonwood tree growing at the foot of a low, steep bluff. The headstones bear the following initials and names as read from left to right-- H.C.J.--A. Shaw--J.S.--J. H. K--D. T. S.--O. E. S--Expecting this to be the party of U. S. Surveyors recently killed, I opened the grave to ascertain