

continued

bends to the South and here I proceeded as I expected the rations to meet me there. I left the trail about ten miles leading South towards the Cimmaron with the intention to take it up again as soon as I received the rations from Fort Dodge.

From Walker's Timber I took the road back to Fort Dodge on the morning of the 17th at 8 o'clock A. M. as no supplies had arrived and I was at this time entirely destitute of rations. I proceeded as far as Bulberry Creek when I met Lieut Winchester, 6th Cavalry, with a wagon with 5 days rations for the command. He was accompanied by a guide and an escort of the 19th Infantry. I returned to Crooked Creek and here found Lieut W. R. Dunton and T. R. Wennie, 19th Inftry and 15 men of Company "I", 3rd Cavalry and ten men, Company "B", 6th Cavalry, awaiting me. The Whole command then marched down Crooked Creek about two miles to where some good grass and wood was found and encamped for the night.

Being convinced that my horses weary and exhausted as they were would not be able to carry the additional weight of five days rations and extra ammunition especially as I had no grain. I took the wagon that brought the rations in order to relieve the Stock of all additional weight. I also took the guide that accompanied Lieut. Winchester as I was totally unacquainted with the Country and had no body that could guide me.

Lieut. Winchester with the escort returned to Fort Dodge on the Morning of the 18th as did also two men of Company "B", 6th Cavalry (of Lieut Dunton's Command) whose horses were too much exhausted to accompany the Command.

87 On the morning of the 18th after crossing Crooked Creek near Camp, I marched S. W. and S. by W. towards the head of Man arroya. Where I expected to find a trail of the Indians. After travelling in this direction twenty miles I struck the head breaks of Man Arroya and at the same time the trail of a party of Indians from 30 to 40 strong. I followed it to where it crossed Arroya and went into Camp, the following day I again took the trail to the Cimmaron River. The