

Fort Dodge, Kansas
November 10, 1874

Post Adjutant
Fort Dodge Kansas

Sir;

I have the honor to submit the following report of a scout made by me in compliance with Special Orders No. 202. dated Headquarters Fort Dodge Kansas Nov. 3 1874 and telegraphic instructions from Colonel James Oakes 6th Cavalry Commanding Forts Dodge Hays and etc. dated Fort Dodge Kansas November 5th 1874. I left Fort Dodge Kas at 1:30 PM. Nov. 4, 74, with two noncommissioned officers eight privates and the Post guide Theodore German. We were provided with four pack mules for the transportation of rations. I marched to Dodge City Kas where I loaded the animals on a stock car and we took the train East for Great Bend where we arrived at about 10. PM. After arriving in Great Bend and seeing the men in Camp I went up in the town to find parties who could put me on the trail of three horse thieves who had been seen crossing the river at Ellenwood below Great Bend-with 18 head of horses and whom I had verbal instructions from Col. Oakes to pursue and capture- I found that the thieves had been camped two nights before a mile and a half above the town. Nov. 5. Leaving town this morning I passed a house where they had been seen. I struck their trail just above the house and followed it about 15 miles where it approached and I found that they had crossed the river. I crossed the river but owing to the numerous cattle trails which had obliterated the trail of the horses. I was unable to determine whether they had gone South or recrossed the river but seeing some cattle herders near I questioned them and found that on the previous day the men we were after had camped on the south side of the river and that they had been seen afterwards on the North bank driving their horses through a herd of cattle on the North side I came to the conclusion from this information that they were endeavoring to mislead us and that they had continued up the North side of the river and on recrossing the river I found that my surmise was correct as I again found the trail leading to the river, but after following it about 5 miles, I again found they had passed through a herd of cattle. Just at the mouth of Ash Creek below Larned and was unable to discover any signs of them in that vicinity-