

were very numerous & I remember that another small boy & my self killed 31 one morning & strung them thro holes in a root house ventilator. There was a sort of cave or hole at foot of a bluff which contained water & appeared to be the refuge of thousands of snakes. While at Sisseton some horse thieves were brot in by the Indian Scouts. I remember that they used to be working about the Post with a chain & anklets & an iron ball dragging behind which I remember being as big as my head, tho it probably was not. Finally a US Marshall came to remove these men. They begged not to be sent away with him. Said that there was bad blood between them & that they would never reach the RR alive. They departed protesting in a wagon & sure enough were dead when arriving at the RR. Marshall said that they had attempted to escape & he had shot them. A very severe blizzard occurred in early 30s when many persons lost lives. A Hosp. Steward left one bright afternoon with the mail stage for Breckenridge ?. He was told that a storm was brewing & advised to postpone his journey. After a few hours the blizzard struck. The mail driver cut loose the ponies turned over the sled box & rolled up in buffalo robes & was drifted under. He survived OK. The Hosp. Steward attempted to follow telegraph poles into town. Soon was unable to see from one pole to another & then began walk about one pole until he fell. When found all limbs were frozen & my father amputated both legs & fore arms. The steward was a well educated German. Gave me his sword & uniform & later killed himself in Washington DC. I remember finding my first arrow head at Sisseton. Also many mounds being opened during road grading operations. Our next station was at Fort Hale on the Missouri .I remember little about that post. It was garrisoned by colored infantry. Many of the buildings were of log construction. The circles of an old Mandan village were near by. At one time we