

There is, it seems to me, plenty of evidence of attempts to blacken Cannon's character, even before it was known in New Mexico that he was dead, for Carson sent the News an affidavit to the effect that he did not arrest Squires and was a liar if he said he did. After his death the News publishes wide reports of Cannon's habits--how he drank and gambled, and so on.

I'd like to know more of Cannon and why everyone is so eager to prove that he didn't arrest Squires, and I'd particularly like to know if he committed suicide, died of drink, or was murdered. Probably I'll never find out. When I really get started on the affair I'll either write to New Mexico or go there and see what I can dig out.

This letter is almost a book in itself, and there is no need for you to answer it. But I thought it might interest you to know some of the goings-on after Sand Creek. This is by no means the end of them; that affair had ramifications for years. The year after the battle the editor of the Central City Register, going East, took occasion to blacken the character of Bob Bent and to try to connect his activities with Sand Creek. And the personal hatred between various men in the Army brought out by the investigation are almost incredible--which is the reason it is so hard to believe much of the testimony. As late as 1905 Col. Boone's grandson was trying to ~~sk~~ collect damages from the Government for stock taken by the soldiers on their way to Sand Creek!

I should thank you for wading through all this. The subject is so fascinating to me that I can't stop once I start writing about it.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Gardiner

P.S. What was George Bent like? I took copious notes on some of his letters in Denver last summer.

As you may have guessed, I'm having typewriter-trouble! This copy is made on a loaned machine.