

liquors contained in the train I will <sup>surmise</sup> ~~promise~~ by stating that the duty of escorting the stage and guarding the stations of the Southern Overland Mail Stage Company <sup>between</sup> ~~by the~~ Fort Zarah Kansas, and Fort Lyon Col. devolved on <sup>me</sup> ~~by~~ S. F. O. A Did head issue <sup>your</sup> ~~you~~ district of the Upper Ark. in the field near Fort Dodge, Kansas--April 27, 1867

And I was held responsible for the proper and efficient discharge of that duty.

I now respectfully submit my statement concerning the cause whereby I was induced to direct the destruction of intoxicating liquors pertaining to this train.

While this train was located at "Nine Mile Ridge" and at "Bluff Ranch, Kansas," continual complaints were made to me by passengers on stage and by ranch proprietors at Cimarron Crossing that the stage escorts and station guards were almost continually drunk, disorderly, etc.; in fact, one affray was of a very serious character: it commenced at Bluff Ranch and <sup>ended at</sup> ~~went to~~ the ranch at Cimarron Crossing, costing the lives of two citizens and one soldier, and <sup>clearly</sup> ~~jeopardizing~~ the lives of stage passengers one of whom was a lady. This affray is attributed to liquor procured from this train. I endeavored to ascertain the source from whence the liquor was derived before I suspected the train, and an officer was sent along the road to inspect, & The train ~~in~~ not being suspected was not searched and liquor was not found at <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ ranch, still the ~~manager~~ men seemed to have an unlimited supply of liquor and <sup>Indians</sup> ~~indication~~ soon pointed out the train as the source of that supply. And I perceived immediately to ascertain, as <sup>was</sup> ~~follows~~, as practicable, the correctness of my suspicions--at this juncture I was ordered to appear as <sup>witness</sup> ~~a citizen~~ before the Indian Commission, and no <sup>steps</sup> ~~steps~~ were taken in the <sup>matter</sup> ~~as~~ until my return from "Medicine Lodge Creek" when the affidavit of Mr. <sup>Robert</sup> ~~Rehner~~ Wright, proprietor of ranch at Cimarron Crossing ~~the~~ (hereunto appended) was handed to me accompanied by a letter of Lieut. Philip Reade 3rd Infantry