

Fort Dodge, Kansas
October 10, 1878

2
7

To the Assistant Adjutant General,
Department of the Missouri
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Sir,

In compliance with request of Dept Commander I have the honor to report certain incidents connected with the manner and causes of the wounding and subsequent death of Lieut. Col. Lewis, as far as they came within the scope of my observation.

Having been requested by Co. Lewis to accompany him as Adjutant, I performed this duty until after the fight on the 27th ult. He then requested Captain Mauck to relieve me as such in order that I might attend on his person and accompany him into Wallace, after it was decided to take him there.

When the Indians opened fire on us at about 350 yards, the Colonel, Captain Mauck, Captain Gunther and myself were at the head of the column dismounted, the command waiting for our train to cross a bad place. We were at the time about 50 yards from a steep ridge on our left. The Colonel ordered the men near him to get on the ridge which order was followed by the entire cavalry Command. Firing immediately commenced which drove back the mounted Indians that were coming down on us along the ridge. Most of the Command then fell back under cover and companies were organized and horses sent to the rear in the ravines in charge of horseholders. Colonel Lewis remained mounted on a large bay horse and in full sight of the rifle pits about 400 yards off, urging the men to take position to the front. Captain Mauck also remained mounted during the fight. After the Indians had been driven in the ravine, we got the ponies in next morning, the troops occupied positions on nearly three sides of it, then we were much closer to the Indians, and their shots were coming thickly. I urged the Colonel to dismount, for it seemed to me they were shooting at him, his horse having already been shot in the thigh. He said that he could do no good on foot, for walking was difficult there. It was remarked by many that the Colonel was exposing himself very much and must be a brave man. The Command seemed to gain confidence because of him.

continued