

Fort Dodge, Kansas
July 14, 1873

To the
Post Adjutant
Fort Dodge, Kansas

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following report of a Scout:

On the 25th of June, in compliance with S. O. No. 89, Hd. Qrs., Ft. Dodge, Ks., June 24, 1873, with 30 enlisted men of Troop "F", 6th Cavalry, and the guide, "Romeo", I crossed to the south or right bank of the Arkansas, I marched along this river until I reached the Sante Fé Trail at what is known as the Laiver (?) or Cimarron crossing, following it to the western boundary of Kansas. About seven miles from this line I saw traces of a camp of a small body of Indians, the guide "Romeo" was of the opinion that they were Arrapahoes and had gone across the Cimarron two or three days previous. I was informed a few days after, by some of the Arrapahoes that the party just mentioned was composed of Eight warriors of their tribe, who had gone on an excursion to the Retan Mountains against the Utes, and had just returned;

On the 3rd of July I left the Cimarron, with the intention of proceeding along the Southern boundary of Kansas until I again reached that river, but after marching Twenty-Eight miles in that direction, and seeing nothing but a bare prairie as far as the eye could reach, I was forced to the conviction that no water could be found along this route, and abandoning it as impracticable, I turned North to the Cimarron which I reached about nine p.m. Continuing along this river one day's march, I again left it and marching in a South Easterly direction reached it about Forty-five miles from the mouth of Crooked Creek. At this point I sent to the Post of Fort Dodge, Pvt. Boyce of the Detachment, who had been sick for several days, in an ambulance, with an Escort of two men; I then continued my march down the Cimarron to the mouth of Crooked Creek, during this portion of the march, I saw seven or Eight parties of Buffalo hunters numbering from four to ten men in a party; these hunters had seen no Indians nor Indian signs, and appeared only to be intent on killing as many Buffalo as they could skin.