

Fort Dodge, Kansas
July 28, 1873

Post Adjutant
Ft. Dodge

Sir,

I have the honor to report than in obedience to S. O. 98, Hd. Qrs., Ft. Dodge, July 10th, I proceeded on the 11th inst. with 2nd Lieut. Thomas B. Nichols and the available enlisted strength of my Co. on a scout. Marched to the ponds north of Pierceville, thence in a westerly and North westerly direction to a point about 25 miles north of Lakin (?), thence south and a little East to the Arkansas River, striking it about midway between Shirlock and Pierceville, down the river about 14 miles and thence in a north easterly and northerly direction to the heads of North Branch of Pawnee Fork and Walnut Creeks. From the head of Walnut I travelled with a small detachment about 24 miles west, striking Punished (?) Woman's Fork at its bend or change of direction to the North. Returning to the head of Walnut my command travelled down that stream to the point where it bends to the North and thence returned direct to this post. Whole distance travelled about 310 miles. Arrived at this post on the 24th inst.

Failing to find water in expected places, changing the route laid down in my order, I endeavored to execute the verbal instructions of the Comdg. Officer given dependent upon such failure.

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No signs of Indians were found and none heard of. Appearances indicate that there has been little or no rainfall this season in the strip of country a few miles North of the River and West from the head of Pawnee. Large pond holes completely dried up. Earth cracked open. Grass and weeds parches, almost scorched--absence of buffalo, antelope, etc.

Punished Woman's Fork was found to contain standing water fed by springs in the immediate vicinity. The water is filled with moss, weeds, bull rushes, and water lilies, but clear and good.

My animals returned in good condition.