

continued

if the bodies were fit to be transported to Fort Dodge. The body on the left side of the grave was uncovered: I found it to be much decomposed, too much so to be transported. This body had been scalped and the ears cut off. From the appearance of the Corpse, these men had been killed more than two weeks ago.

Four miles further down on the bank of the Creek on the east side, we came to the place where the party had been killed or where the fight had ended. A dry run comes out of a small canon here and is bordered on the South Side by a low but steep bluff. While on the North the banks of the run are formed by slowly ascending hills. Here we found a Yolk of oxen killed, their throats had been cut, and a hind quarter of each of them had been cut out. The oxen were of light brown color with large slim horns. The left horn of each bore the brand, C.S.B. At a short distance from the oxen a broken wagon was found, it bore the mark of a bullet and was stained with blood. A wagon track coming from the West Side of the Creek led up to this place, other tracks and marks had been obliterated and washed out by the recent heavy rain only a few very indistinct pony tracks could be seen.

85 No fresh tracks or signs of Indians were discovered during the Scout although the strictest attention was paid to the Country Scouted over and every place where they were likely to be found was closely examined. Undoubtedly, the Indians left this part of the country after the murder and returned to their haunts on the Beaver and Wolf Creek in the Indian Territory.

The weather was warm and clear during the first three days. After that a very severe rain Storm was encountered while in camp on Crooked Creek, at the mouth of Man Arroya, during the night of the 7th to the 8th of September. A stream of water more than five feet deep was rolling in the before perfectly dry creek in many places over flooding the valley to a large extent. After that, clear and sunny days alternated with rains and misty and cloudy weather. The nights were cold and chilly.