

continued

Sargent, Kansas  
October 21st, 1874

Post Adjutant  
Fort Dodge, Kansas

Sir:

In regard to the report of Indians near Lakin, of which I telegraphed you yesterday, I have the honor to say that upon arriving at Lakin yesterday I made a full investigation into the report, and that the herder who lost his horse is quite shure that it was eight Indians who fired upon him and drove him in. The Sergeant, a part of his command, and some citizens were at the place yesterday where the Indians were said to have been seen the day before, and found the tracks of the horses and mules as described by the herder. Both the Sergeant and the leading citizens are quite sure that it was Indians who fired upon the herder. The Indians were about eight in number and had about eight led mules or horses.

While the citizens of Lakin and the Sergeant at that place are quite positive about it being Indians that were seen, I have doubts about it myself. While it is possible that the party who fired upon the herder and took his horse may have been Indians, I am more inclined to the belief that it was a party of horse thieves.

This band of Indians or thieves are supposed to have gone to the north east. Lieut. Spencer will go up the road today and I will go up tomorrow looking for any additional information upon the subject.

I am Sir very respectfully  
Your obedient Servant,

R. Vance  
1st Lieut. 19th Infantry  
Commanding Company "A"  
R. R. Guard

Official  
C. A. McC. Guard  
2nd Lieut. 19th Infantry  
Post Adjutant

Recd October 21, 1874