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Oct 17th crossed the creek opposite to last Camp and ascended a ridge to the S.E. on a trail made by Buffalo hunters and crossed over to two Butte Creek where a party of hunters were encamped with two wagons loaded with hides. These men (five in number) had been out a month hunting on Bear Creek -had not seen an Indian or any signs. In consequence of their information that it was 27 miles to the next water I concluded to encamp here as there are some springs of good water to the right of the road, on the left of the road opposite the springs is a **house** and large corral which was formerly owned by a person named Rhodes now in Texas. This is said to be the main two Butte Creek it is said about seventy five yards wide quite-dry and covered with deep sand. Cottonwood is found here of large growth and in great abundance but grass is scarce having been grayed off near the springs. Oct 18 made an early start, the road crossing the creek at the ranch, after marching one mile the surface of the country became quite level. Our route was a little East of South until 10 oclock A.M. When a pond of good water was discovered to the left of the road. A halt of two hours was made here to graze the animals the grass being good. On resuming the march we soon quitted the road or wagon trail made by the hunters and bore more towards the south. Striking Bear Creek at the forks and passing over between two large ponds of clear water. Encamped half a mile above on the west branch where we found a suitable place. This point is a few miles west of Kansas state line. Oct 19 our direction was toward the South for one mile where we struck Aubreys road to New Mexico which runs in a S. W. direction and on which we marched about 18 miles the latter part being deep sand. At this point a halt was made until the guide who had gone in advance in quest of water should return. After an hour had elapsed the guide came and reported that no water could be found at the Upper crossing of Bear Creek, or any where in that section that he knew of. The Command then turned back and leaving the road struck across to Bear Creek where good water was found with wood and grass about eight miles above the last Camp. We reached this point at sunset and the animals drinking little or none before starting in the morning the sight of the water was much agreeable.

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