

continued

134

I found another herder who told me that he had seen them travelling across the ridge just below Pawnee Rock in the direction of Ash Creek aiming I suppose to strike that stream 5 or 6 miles from the river so as to avoid the settlements and Fort Larned just above. I then proceeded on up the river and camped at Larned station about 5 P.M. While at Larned Station I sent out to some cattle herders that had come from the South side of the river and found that they had been six or seven miles south of the river and scattered along the river below Larned for seven miles and that they had not seen the thieves. From information received from a Gentlemen in Larned I also learned that the common route for thieves coming from the territory with Indian stock was to leave the river below Pawnee Rock travel across the divide to Ash Creek thence up this creek to its head; go to what the citizens call the dry walnut creek and camp there. Thence up this creek to its head; go to what the citizens call the dry walnut creek and camp there. Thence up the divide between Pawnee and walnut creeks till they got beyond the settlements and strike the north fork of the Pawnee creek. Taking all the information into consideration I came to the conclusion that this was the route of the party I was after and concluded to travel up Pawnee Creek. Distance travelled about forty miles caused by making circuits looking for trail.

135

Nov.6,74 Left Larned about 10 A.M. being delayed by waiting for information from the south side of the river Travelled up Pawnee past Fort Larned and halted six miles above Fort Larned for two hours to graze the horses. Left Camp again traveled about ~~twelve miles~~ and went into camp for the night. Distance 25 m.

Nov.7 Left Camp at 6 A.M. traveled on up the creek to Duncans Rancho owing to following creek and looking for trail traveled much farther distance than I should by going straight across camped at Duncans to graze horses after traveling about 15 miles I kept two men on south bank of the creek nearly all the way up from Larned to look for trails. About 4 miles from Duncans Rancho I sent the guide Theo German on a head so as to get to it before we got in sight and told him to pretend to belong to the gang with the horses and find out where they had gone if possible. He succeeded so well that before we got in sight he had found out that they had been there the night of the 4th and had