

February 15, Left Camp about 7:45 A.M. and marched in a direction south of west, to the ranch on crooked Creek; about 7 miles. Here we found that Indians had been at Lovells lower ranch at the mouth of the Creek, but had gone. After getting some hay for the animals, the company proceeded to the lower ranch, which is in the Indian Terry. on Cottonwood Canon, on the south side of the Cimarron River, a little above the mouth of Crooked Creek. Distance from main ranch about 15 miles, in a south easterly direction. Total distance about 22 miles.

Lower ranch in charge of a Mr. King.

Day very threatening until about noon. Country travelled over high rolling prairie and sand-hills and heavy bottom on the Cimarron. An excellent camp near ranch wood, water and grazing good and abundant. Mr. King informed me that about 50 or 60 Cheyenne Indians had been there about 12 days before, but had gone, with the expressed intention of returning to their Agency: that they had also stated that the rest of the Indians were going in. Mr. King also stated that the Indians, though destitute, refrained from depredations, and even found and brought back to him, som of his strayed ponies.

I now made up my mind to go to the Beaver and see if these Indians had actually gone to their agency, or had stopped in the heighborhood of Kiowa Medicine Lodge Creek.

February 16. Left Camp at 8:30 A.M. Mr. King kindly acting as our guide as far as the Beaver. The company marched south to Beaver Creek, to a point about half way between Kiowa and Kiowa Medicine Lodge Creek, distance about 11 miles, crossed the Beaver and marched down the Creek to a point about 5 miles above Kiowa Medicine Lodge Creek. Wood water and grazing abundant and good. Total Distance about 21 miles. Country dravelled over, high prairie, until within about 3 miles of the Beaver, then sandhills and heavy bottom.

Day commenced with a heavy silver frost, weather very dark and threatening until 1 P.M. when snow commenced to fall, and continued for the rest of the day, and during most of the night. No signs of Indians discovered on the Beaver.

February 17 Snow 3 inches deep on the level. Marched to Fort