

HISTORY OF THE POWDER RIVER INDIAN EXPEDITION OF 1865.

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In August, 1864, I was ordered to report to Gen. Curtis, who commanded the department of Kansas, at Fort Leavenworth, and was by him instructed to take command of a detachment of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteer corps, sixty men, every one of them lately confederate soldiers with John Morgan on his raid into Ohio, captured there and confined at Columbus; they had enlisted in the federal service under the pledge that they were to fight Indians and not rebels. I was to conduct those men to Fort Kearney, and there turn them over to Capt. Humphreyville of the Eleventh Ohio.

On my way out, near Big Sandy, now Alexandria, Thayer county, Neb., I met a party of freighters and stage coach passengers on horseback, and some few ranchmen, fleeing from the Little Blue valley. They told me a terrible story; that the Indians were just in their rear; and how they had massacred the people west of them, none knew how many. All knew that the Cheyennes had made a raid into the Little Blue valley, striking down all before them. After camping for dinner at this place, and seeing the last citizen disappear toward the states, I pushed on toward the Little Blue -- camping in the valley -- saw two Indians about five miles away on a hill as I went into camp. Next day I passed Eubank's ranch; found there little children, from three to seven years old, who had been taken by the heels and swung around against the log cabin, beating their heads to a perfect jelly. Found the hired girl some fifteen rods from the ranch, staked out on the prairie, tied by her hands and feet, naked, body full of arrows and horribly mangled. Not far from this was the body of Eubank, whiskers cut off, body most fearfully mutilated. The buildings had been fired -- ruins still smoking. Nearly the same scene and desolation and murder was witnessed at Spring ranch. Camped that night at Liberty farm. Next day passed trains,