

year for some reason I do not now recall the people at Cherokee failed to do this and the troops were temporarily removed. This condition was known to the scout stationed at Patterson, but he did not know that they had been replaced in operation in his baliwick, and in his rounds he discovered tracks made in the tall grass by our horses and concluded they were made by the Indians, and immediately advised the homesteaders in the nearby Little Sioux valley. He also mistakenly informed them that there were no troops at Cherokee, and advised them for safety to cross the uninhabited prairie in the direction of Sac City, where they finally arrived and where they remained until they were advised that it was a false alarm, and finally returned. The news of their departure did not reach our camp at Cherokee until after sun-down of that day. A detail of the company was made and the settlement patrolled, but on account of darkness nothing further could be done until the next morning. We found their cattle picketed out, hogs in the pen, and proceeded at once to take care of them, to water, feed and milk the cows, and to take care of the poultry. Lest the vegetables and eggs should spoil we took them to the camp with us. Finally the settlers returned and conditions were normal.

About four weeks later another surprise was given the soldiers' camp. They had arranged an improvised corral and protection for their horses by procuring posts and poles from the nearby timber. There was also a covering made to shelter the animals by placing brush and straw on the roof. A sentry was maintained, but instead of walking a beat, to avoid danger and for his comfort, was stationed on the straw on the roof of