

the command moved forward. The women and children were placed in the magazine, a building well adapted for defense, which had been stocked with water, crackers and various supplies for an emergency, with an officer pledged not to allow the women to be taken alive, if the general did not return and the Indians should overcome the stockade.

"Passing the place where the greatest slaughter had occurred, the men marched cautiously along the trail. Bodies were strung all along the road to the western end farthest/370 from the fort. Here they found Lieutenant Grummond. There were evidences of a desperate struggle about his body. Behind a little pile of rock making a natural fortification, were the two civilians who had been armed with the modern Henry rifles. By the side of one fifty empty shells were counted and nearly as many by the side of the other brave frontiersman. Behind such cover as they could obtain nearby lay the bodies of the oldest and most experienced soldiers in Fetterman's command. In front of them they found no fewer than sixty great gouts of blood on the ground and grass, showing where the bullets of the defenders had reached their marks, and in every direction was signs of the fiercest kind of hand to hand fighting. Ghastly and mutilated remains, stripped and naked, shot full of arrows - Wheatley with no less than 105 in him - scalped, lay before them.

"Brown rode a little Indian, calico, pony which had been given to General Carrington's sons when they started from Fort Leavenworth in November, 1865, and the body of the horse was found in the low ground at the west end of the ridge, showing that the fight began there before the party could reach high ground. At 10 o'clock at night on the return the white lamp at mast head told the welcome story of the garrison still intact. \* \* Such was the melancholy fate of Fetterman and his men. The post was isolated, the weather frightful. A courier was at once dispatched to Fort Laramie, but such means of communication was necessarily slow and it was not until Christmas morning that the world was apprised of the fatal story.