

Baldwin's Original Report of Redwater Fight

Manuscript is 7 pages

Following is a copy of General Baldwin's original report of the Redwater fight with the Indians and according to Brig. General W. C. Brown of Denver, it has never before been published.

To commemorate this battle a monument and marker will be unveiled there next Saturday, June 11, when people from all parts of Prairie county and elsewhere will celebrate at the point near Olanda.

Headquarters, Batt. 5th Infy.

Camp on Cedar Creek, M. T.

Dec. 19th, 1876.

General N. A. Miles,

Com'dg Troops on the Yellowstone.

Sir: I have the honor to report that after leaving Wolf-Point, I marched in a S. E. course striking Red Water about twenty miles from its mouth, following up said river to its head. Yesterday at one o'clock, P. M. when within six (6) miles of the head of Red Water, I discovered a camp of hostile Indians which was attacked and routed. There was about one hundred and fifty (150) warriors, with many families, and three hundred (300) to four hundred (400) ponies, in their flight everything belonging to an Indian camp outfit was abandoned and sixty ponies; the camp outfit was destroyed and ponies either shot or driven along. The Indians were all mounted, not getting away with but few, if any lodges, and travois, they scattered to the north and northwest, sugar, coffee, tobacco, tea, etc. etc. was found showing that they had either drawn them from the agent, or the Yanktonais have been trading with them.

I expected to strike the head of Deer Creek, and go into Glendive, but instead I found myself on this creek, and as my transportation is so much worn out, I do not think it will pay to attempt to go to Buford. I could not move more than three good wagon loads, unless we get grain, will have to leave several miles on the road. By starting very early to-morrow morning I hope to reach Custer Creek, by night, and should have two tons and pounds of corn to help me thru.

Have had very good weather since leaving Wolf Point. I have three days rations but can make them last four (4) days.

Yesterday's success was as complete as could be, considering that we had no mounted force, one Indian killed.

I am General

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servt.

FRANK D. BALDWIN,

1st. Lieut. 5th Inf.

Commanding

P. S. 12-6 Wolf Point Dec. 15th.

Distance about 100 miles, the report that one Indian was killed has been confirmed by reports from hostiles who were in the camp.

P.D.B.