

flour, sugar, coffee, tobacco, tea, clothing, blankets and various other things, and sent them North to the Big Horn country to try, and locate the prisoners. Mrs. Morton and the boy Marble; and also a Mrs. Kelley, who had been taken prisoner at another place.

The Indians came back, and reported where the prisoners Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Kelley were, but reported that the boy had been traded off down at Fort Union. I then sent John Bousseau out with about four head of horses, and the same character of an outfit as before, which was intended as a ransom for the women, to effect their release. He came back and reported that he had made a treaty, and left them all the goods, and horses, but that upon leaving they refused to give up Mrs. Morton thinking she was a big man's wife, and the ransom was not sufficient. He said if anything would get her it would be a certain gray mare that I had, which they praised very highly.

About the latter part of December, 1864 I sent out Jules E. Coffey, a Frenchman who had an Indian family living close to Fort Laramie, and sent with him six horses loaded as previously, with the same character of goods, and also sent with him this gray mare, and a brown horse, both of which were my own personal property. He proceeded to the Indian camp, which was three or four hundred miles north and there made a trade with the Indians, giving them all the horses, and the goods which he had taken, and effected the release of Mrs. Morton and brought her to Fort Laramie.

I further state that Mrs. Morton furnished me with information through Little Horse, and Spotted Horse that the Indians were making preparations to make a raid upon the different forts along the line above and east of Fort Laramie, and upon the stock. I notified the different posts Platte Bridge, Deer Creek, Horse Shoe and Fort