

continued

Indians. I found this man in bed, very sick, very excited and not very clear in his statements. I did not place sufficient credence in his statement to induce me to disembark my command and proceeded on to Pierceville at that point I found Col. C. H. Smith 19 Infantry in command who informed me that he had not any information regarding the Indians to give me.

Having become convinced that the Indians had not at that time crossed the Arkansas River I then proceeded to further carry out the instructions of Lt. Col. W. H. Lewis, 19th Inf. viz. "that if I could not find traces of Indians on the line of Railroad to proceed towards Sand or Crooked Creeks in search of them." I accordingly directed the train to return towards Cimmaron to a point about seven miles west of that place for the purpose of disembarking my command. We arrived at the point referred to about 3 o'clock A.M. the 20 instant where a crib was built of Railroad ties, the Infantry disembarked and the wagons and Mules taken off the train, about this time the train was ordered to proceed to Cimmaron there to await the arrival of a train that had to pass it on its return about 5 o'clock A.M., the Cavalry was disembarked together with the citizens. A passage of the Arkansas River was effected about 5 miles west of Cimmaron at 9 o'clock A.M. the 20 instant with the Cavalry in advance.

On crossing the Arkansas the guides were sent ahead and flankers of soldiers and citizens were sent out on each side of the column, the column continued its course South West until about noon when the direction was changed to South East. The Command arrived at Crooked Creek about 6:15 o'clock P.M. where it encamped that night.

On the 21 inst. at about 6:45 o'clock A.M. information having reached me that the Indians were in force on Sand Creek the command started in easterly direction for that place. On this mornings march repeated applications were made to me by the leaders of the citizens for me to separate the Cavalry from the Inf. and allow it to proceed with the citizens to engage the Indians. As I had been