

I left this Post (Camp Supply I.T.) pursuant to Special Orders No. 115 C.S. Head qrs. of Post, on the 12th September 1878, with 46 enlisted men of my company. Marching in the direction of Fort Dodge Kansas, camped at Snake Creek about two hours, (4 to 6 P.M.) then went on to Bear Creek., Rancho, reaching there at 12 midnight, distance marched, about 54 miles. I fed my horses and got breakfast, after which, I broke camp at 6 A.M. the 13th, and moved up the Creek, about 4 or 5 miles, and there put out pickets on the hills, overlooking the country, to lookout for the Indians, or Captain Rendlebroke, 4th Cavalry, whom I thought was on the trail. I remained at this point all day and patrolled the road from the Cimmaron to Bear Creek and also from Bear Creek to Bluff Creek to find if the Indians had crossed the Dodge road. At night not having seen or heard anything of the Indians or Captain Rendlebroke, I left Bear Creek, and went into Fort Dodge arriving there about 12 noon the 14th.

I reported to Lt. Col. Lewis (Commanding Officer) he said he would keep me there. I then told him my object in coming in, was to get more rations, and go back on the road, as far as Bluff Creek, from there scout the country east of the road, and see if I could find the Indians, or Capt. Rendlebroke, he (Col. Lewis) after thinking over my proposition, said it would perhaps, be the better plan. I got what rations I wanted, and left Fort Dodge at 4:30 A.M. the 15th., and went back to Bluff Creek where I encamped for the night. About 2 A.M. the 16th a courier arrived from the mouth of Bluff Creek and reported that "Collars Rancho" had been raided, the evening previous: As soon as it was daylight I started down to the rancho, where I arrived about 3 P.M., and while my men were getting dinner, I sent out men to make a circle of the place to find the trail. Shortly after the men who were hunting for the trail left camp, one of them (Pvt. Wilson of my company) returned, and reported he had seen six Indians about three miles below. I immediately saddled up and went to the point where he had seen the Indians, but could not find them, as they had got into the Sand hills. I went back and remained at this Rancho all night, the 16th.