

continued

indian trail that, had crossed the Arkansas sometime previous, and remained there until 6 o'clock p.m., when we decamped, marched 3 miles, and went into camp for the night.

On the morning of the 9th ultimo, we were delayed on account of our supply train not arriving during the night, but about 8 o'clock a.m., Lt. Major Bell, R. Q.M., 7th Cavalry, reported the train present, and Major Elliott, with four troops of the 7th Cavalry ^{was} were ordered to draw supplies and march towards the Cimarron River. I am in doubt as to which way the trail ran as the recent rains had obliterated it. The remainder of the troops under my immediate command marched South-west about five miles and went into camp on Goose Creek, where we remained awaiting the arrival of a courier from Major Elliott.

About 4 o'clock a.m. on the 10th instant, after receiving a dispatch from Major Elliott, we took up our line of march south by west and reached the Cimarron at 8:12 a.m., distance 13 miles; here, Major Elliott rejoined the command, and we took up our line of march down the Cimarron, after marching 14 miles. Here we discovered a party of indians, in our front, who attacked my scouts and drove them back, when I ordered a small detachment of Cavalry to ride forward and relieve the party who were surrounded; as soon as the detachment was within a short distance, the savages began firing upon them, but without effect, as our men drove them in every direction, killing two indians and one pony. We then continued our line of march further down the river, and camped within one mile of the enfluence of the Cimarron and Crooked Creek.

On the morning of the 11th, we broke camp at 6 o'clock a.m., and just as the rear guard had left camp, some indians charged upon two stragglers, killing one, and wounding another, capturing two horses; troops were sent to the rear and drove the indians back; after we had proceeded five miles, a general skirmish began along the entire line and continued several hours, with a loss to the indians of certainly eight killed and wounded, and no doubt a great many more. We had to fight in the hills by detachments. Officers and men report having seen several more than I report, as having dropped from their horses.