

General Orders No. 11, 1870, continued

Leaving his detachment to guard a deserter and two horse thieves already captured, he promptly followed the trail of the mules, accompanied by one man--Mr. John M. Stevens--a worthy citizen. Hot pursuit was made until late in the night. At daybreak the trail was resumed, and in a short time the mules were discovered and ascertained to be in the possession of five thieves, who were driving them forward. Procuring the services of an additional man at a farm house near at hand, Lieut. Harmon again took the trail and pressed the robbers so closely that they were soon obliged to abandon one hundred of the mules near Clear Creek, Cooke County, Texas. They now endeavored to escape with about twenty of the mules, but the chase was so hot that they were brought to a stand in a wooded ravine after a hard run of eighteen miles. A fight ensued, in which one of the scoundrels was killed. The remaining four surrendered.

Learning from his prisoners that they expected to be joined shortly by three others of their gang, Lieut. Harmon employed two additional citizens to guard the herd and prisoners and started to capture them also, accompanied by the two men who had so gallantly aided him in the pursuit. The arrest of the three robbers was effected about ten o'clock that night. They had with them two wagons, three horses and four mules. Lieut. Harmon then, assisted by the citizens referred to, returned to his detachment and conducted it to Fort Arbuckle on the 21st having captured eleven prisoners (one deserter and ten robbers), and recovered one hundred and twenty-seven government mules, three horses and two wagons.

By command of Brevet Major General Pope:

W. G. Mitchell,
Brevet Colonel U. S. A.
Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Official:

1st Lieut. 7th U. S. Cavalry
Acting Assistant Adjutant General