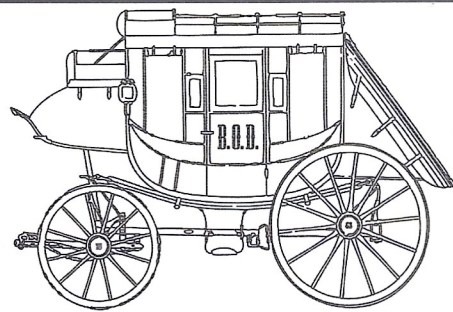


OVERLAND DESPATCH



Volume IX No. 3

Remember the Smoky Hill Trail

Spring 2017

NOTES FROM LAST BOARD MEETING

The Smoky Hill Association Board met via Skype on February 18, 2017. This was our first venture into using social media to conduct our meeting. It greatly facilitated the ability of the entire board being available at the meeting without having the expense and inconvenience of travel.

Here are some highlights of that meeting:

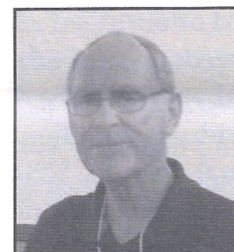
- *Treasurer Danny Lattin reported that as of January 2017, our treasury balance is \$11,823.99.
- *The Association has approximately 153 members.
- *It was recommended that we work toward establishing Chapters at various locations along the Trail.
- *Our 2017 annual conference will be held on the third weekend in October, 20-22, in Burlington, Colorado.
- *Approximately 25 BOD markers need to be replaced.
- *The Board is planning on having the first ten volumes of our newsletter bound for sale to members and/or libraries. There will be limited quantities. Announcements will be made when bound copies are available.
- *A new Association brochure will be produced.
- *The Board will look into getting liability insurance for future conferences, particularly as they relate to tours.
- *Wording in our By-Laws will need to be changed reflecting agreement with our Articles of Incorporation as it related to our 501(c)3 designation.
- *The next board meeting will be held, via Skype, on May 13, 2017.

Notes from Minutes supplied by Secretary Mike Baughn



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In the 1960s, Howard Raynesford of Ellis, Kansas, marked the Smoky Hill Trail from Ellsworth County west to the Colorado line. He used limestone posts conveniently available from historical use as fence posts. He carved the caption "BOD 1865" on these and placed one at each point where he determined that the old trail intersected a present day road. We do not have his notes indicating how he determined those locations. Being a member of the SmHTA you are probably aware of this history. That history is being threatened due to the disappearance of some of those posts. Some posts have vanished, either being broken off by some vehicle, a farm implement, or road maintenance equipment and discarded, or by someone relocating the post to another site. Some have appeared in farm yards. Some are on streets in towns. These posts were placed at the respective locations by an act of the Kansas legislature. Hence, the location should be maintained where Raynesford placed the posts. About three years ago, the Board set out on a program of restoring Raynesford's original marking of the Smoky Hill Trail.



The Board decided to offer the public an opportunity to participate in this restoration. A plan was adopted to allow individuals or groups to purchase a post in honor or memory of some person or organization. A suitable plaque will be placed on each new post, identifying the person or group honored and the person donating the post. We have

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

The Smoky Hill Trail Association welcomes the following new member:

Lionel Reilly

Welcome Lionel!

OVERLAND DESPATCH is the official publication of the Smoky Hill Trail Association, Inc., a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), corporation chartered in the State of Kansas. Primary missions of the Association are to preserve, protect, promote, and interpret the Smoky Hill Trail for the benefit of present and future generations, and to promote awareness of the historical legacy associated with the remnants and locations that represent the historic trail and Butterfield's Overland Despatch (BOD) and its successors as well as the railroad that replaced the overland trail. Letters and articles are welcome and can be sent via email to the newsletter editor at <rjwilh@gmail.com> or via USPS at **Smoky Hill Trail Association, PO Box 978, Hays KS 67601**. They become the property of SmHTA and may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. All rights reserved.

Membership in the Association is open to all individuals, families, institutions, and businesses. Annual dues are \$25.00 for individuals, \$30.00 for families, \$40.00 for nonprofit organizations, \$50.00 for businesses, and \$100.00 for patrons. Life membership, individual or family, is \$500.00 (may be paid in quarterly installments during one or two years). Membership fees should be sent to **Smoky Hill Trail Association**, at the address above. Other donations are always welcome.

President:

Elton Beougher, Hays, Kansas

Vice-President:

Kay Homewood, Russell, Kansas

Secretary:

Mike Baughn, Brewster, Kansas

Treasurer:

Danny Lattin, Lawrence, Kansas

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Wilhelm, Hays, Kansas

Directors:

Ken Cole, Russell, Kansas

Jim Mayhew, Abilene, Kansas

Steve Parke, Pueblo, Colorado

Craig Lilak, Wilson, Kansas

a supply of about 21 posts that were donated by an individual for this purpose. The cost of materials used in anchoring the post, the engraving on the post, the plaque recognizing the donor and designee will be covered by a donation of \$125. Application forms for donors are available from the SmHTA at the mailing address, P.O. Box 978, Hays, Kansas 67601.

In 2008, member Mark Eberle took on the task of surveying the trail along the entire length that Raynesford marked to determine the positions of intact posts and missing or broken posts. This was partially updated in 2012. He identified 18 posts missing or broken. Recently, member Ken Griffin and I started an update of Mark's work of the missing or broken posts. We have completed Ellis and Russell counties and have identified 7 missing in those two counties. There are probably more missing or broken than Mark found in his two surveys. There are also several posts that are leaning or have fallen over. These will need to be restored to an upright position.

We will continue the survey of the other 5 counties soon. If any member is interested in assisting with the survey they may contact me by telephone (785-623-1012), email (ebeougher@gmail.com) or at the SmHTA mail box (#978, Hays, KS 67601). It has taken us about 7 hours to do each county, so plan a day out if you want to participate. After locating a post, missing or not, we record the GPS coordinates to preserve the record. My plan is to do Trego County soon, weather permitting. The first replacement of posts will occur in Russell County, honoring a request by the person who donated the posts.

Volunteer labor will install the posts. It will take a crew of about 4 to do the job. If you wish to participate in this task of placing or straightening posts, again, contact me. I will schedule the crew as needed. Let me know what your schedule will permit.

Hoping to see you along the Trail.

Elton Beougher, President

REMEMBER THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL!!!



ENCOUNTERS AND RAIDS ON THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL, 1859-1879

(Part 1)

By Mike Baughn

(Author's Note: The following was given at the First Annual Smoky Hill Trail Association Conference, Hays, Kansas, October 27, 2007. It was taken from many sources, and since it was an oral presentation, there was no attempt by the presenter to reference by footnote information that was directly taken from the various sources. Some of the material has been taken verbatim from the sources without any indication that such has occurred. The various sources were utilized to create a chronology of events. Sources utilized in the preparation for the presentation are given at the end.)

My remarks today will be but a thumbnail sketch of encounters, raids and battles that occurred along the Smoky Hill River. Moreover, they will, for the most part, be concerning the Southern Cheyenne and that period from 1858 to 1879, west of Fort Riley: an exciting, turbulent and tragic time, that was in my estimation, unequalled in the annals of the American West.

Some 4,071 books have been written that reference the Smoky Hill River – the nearly 600 mile watershed containing some 58,000 square miles, from its source in Colorado to the Missouri River.

As a theater in the Indian Wars of the West, events along the Smoky Hill River cannot be judged by today's standards, but must be viewed in light of two cultures in conflict over one hundred years ago.

As E. A. Brininstool so aptly states in the preface to his book, *Fighting Indian Warriors*, "it was WAR – war of the most brutal and inhumane type, on the part of both Indians and whites. The Indian was fighting for his home, his commissary, his lands – lands ceded to him through solemn treaty with the United States government ['for as long as waters run and the grass shall grow'] –

and what man, of any nation, (if he is any sort of a man) will not fight 'for home and native land?'"

"The white man fought to advance the cause of Civilization [as he defined it], irrespective (in most instances) of the rights of the Indian, and without regard to his future. 'Civilization' won – and to Civilization's shame, it was at the cost of unnumbered thousands of lives, and the shedding of much human blood of both whites and Indians." As in most wars, too often, the wrong people suffered.

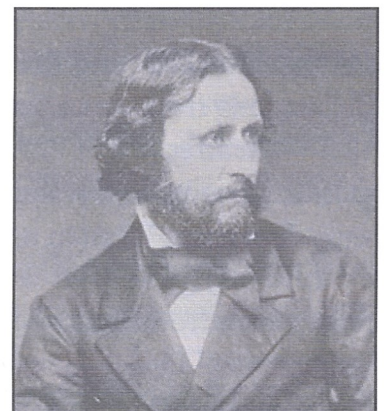
Several groups of Native American people claimed the Smoky Hill River as their own due to the abundance of game and grass, and many fierce battles were fought along the river by various tribes long before the white men appeared on the scene.

Villazur, Bourgmont, Pike and Fremont are names associated with early white exploration in the Smoky Hill River region, and their accounts vary as to their relationship with the indigenous peoples encountered.

In August, 1793, Pedro Vial, as he recorded in his journal, arrived at the junction of the Solomon and Smoky Hill Rivers near present Abilene. After having encountered difficulties with the Osage prior, he entered a camp of friendly Indians allied with the Pawnee to the north, and who were engaged in hostilities with the Osage and Comanche. He departed the camp October 3rd, 1793, enroute to Santa Fe.

Captain John C. Fremont, returning from his second expedition and traversing the Smoky Hill River, entered a Pawnee village located in present Ellis County. Fremont recorded that his party was received

with unfriendly rudeness, and only later learned of his near death, and that of his twenty-six men. The resident Pawnee were inclined to rob and murder the men, but opposition by another band of Pawnee spared their lives.



John C. Fremont

Mrs. Frank C. Montgomery, in her work, *Fort Wallace and Its Relation to the Frontier*, says that the U.S. government recognized the importance of the Smoky Hill as part of a national highway from the Missouri River to the Pacific. The decision was made to have topographic surveys made along its course, the surveys beginning with General Fremont's 1844 expedition.

In 1854, the Ridge Men band of the Southern Cheyenne lived on the headwaters of the Republican, Beaver and Smoky Hill Rivers. The Dog Soldier band considered that land, teeming with herds of buffalo, as theirs.

Moving forward, into the late 1850's, Able B. Whiting, President of the Kansas State Historical Society, in an address to the Society December 6, 1910, says that the area around Fort Riley was sparsely settled in 1855. By 1856, there were some twenty settlers, mostly single men, residing within twenty miles of the Fort. By the Spring of 1857, there were approximately fifty settlers, consisting of men, women and children.

The Indians, including Kaw and Pawnee stole horses from the settlers and generally made life uneasy. As the settlements spread, Indian attacks increased. Houses were plundered and burned, stock killed or driven away, and men, women and children were killed. Emigrant trains were also attacked, and President Whiting tells of eight wagons from Arkansas, headed to Oregon, which were attacked at Pawnee Bend, in present Republic County, in the Republican Valley. The twenty-five men, women and children with the train apparently escaped with their lives, but they lost four-hundred head of cattle, their oxen and horses.

These whites, with their covered wagons, were a different breed of men than the mountain men, plainsmen and traders. Some appeared frightened whenever the Indians appeared; others seemed openly hostile, and few stayed long enough to become close to the Indians. At first the Indians were amazed at this flow of wagon trains across their land. Soon, however, the amazement

became uneasiness, then alarm. Soldier forts began springing up near the trails used by the whites as they headed further West. Before long, the first trickle of covered wagons had become a river, flowing across the heart of the Southern Cheyenne's hunting grounds.

At first, the Council chiefs and headsmen of the soldier societies held their young men in check, forbidding them to strike the emigrant trains.

Some of the Old Ones of the Southern Cheyenne declared that, change for the worse began in 1847, when Tobacco was shot, the first Council Chief to be killed by white soldiers. This had occurred on the Arkansas (Flint Arrow River). The soldiers had a small fight with the Comanches near where Fort Larned would be built in 1859, at the mouth of Pawnee Fork. Point of Rocks was not far from the soldier's camp, and Tobacco went to the soldier camp from there. A sentry challenged Tobacco, who knew no English, and as he neared the troopers, he was mortally wounded. On his death bed Tobacco begged the other Council Chiefs to maintain peace, and the Chiefs respected his dying wish, permitting no attacks on soldiers or wagon train, at least for a time.

Greater trouble lay ahead. In 1849 gold was discovered in California, and the Arkansas River was used as a route to get there. 1849 was also the "Winter when the Big Cramps" struck the Plains – cholera! Half of the Southern Cheyenne people died.

The summer of 1855 was a hard one for the Southern Cheyenne, as buffalo were becoming more scarce, and the flow of emigrants was worse than ever along the Arkansas and the Platte.

In late August, 1855, the Southern Cheyenne left Bent's Fort along with Sitting Bear, Light Hair and Eagle Tail's Kiowa. They headed north to the Smoky Hill country, planning to carry on some summer raiding. They had heard that the Pawnee were camped somewhere on the Smoky Hill, and upon reaching Black Butte Creek, where it flows into the Smoky Hill, they made camp. The second night there, the Pawnee found them and drove off their ponies. The Cheyenne chased the Pawnee to Beaver Creek and killed them, after which they returned to

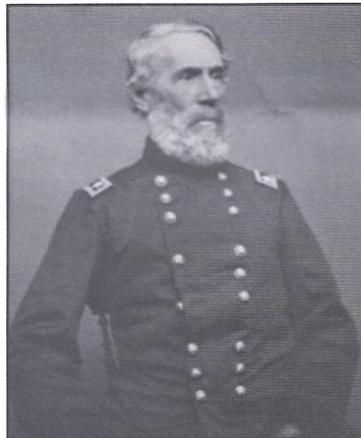
camp, held a Sacred Arrow ceremony, and headed to the Black Hills and Powder River Country.

During the Spring and Winter of 1856, they roamed and hunted across the lands lying between the Platte and the Arkansas.

The entire winter of 1856-57, some three-hundred Southern Cheyenne warriors and their families made their village on the Solomon. They were under the leadership of Stone Forehead and Half Bear, the Medicine Hat Keeper. Most of the Southern Cheyenne and warrior society headmen were also there. All Winter long they held council, angry and not feeling safe as there were more and more whites coming into their hunting grounds – their young men were being killed and buffalo slaughtered. As they separated for their summer hunting they received news that soldiers were in the country so they started looking for them.

Ice and Dark's medicine had promised the young men they would defeat any whites they came across; that their bullets would not harm them. By the end of July, they were still camping and hunting on the Solomon. This was the first time most of the warriors had faced soldiers and they were impatient to make contact with their enemy. Soon, scouts arrived with the news that soldiers had been seen and three-hundred warriors moved a few miles above the village and formed a long battle line. Colonel E. V. Sumner's 450 soldiers suddenly met them.

The Cheyenne battle line was drawn up at a spot, which they say was on the Smoky Hill, close to a sparkling blue lake of water. As the soldiers came in to sight, the warriors advanced, singing their war songs. As the Cheyennes and soldiers closed in on each other, a Savana scout for the



Col. Edwin Vose Sumner

troopers quirted his pony, raced his horse midway between the two lines, and fired a quick shot at the Cheyenne; several returning fire.

Sumner ordered his troopers to form a line, and without halting their forward movement, he sent his two flank companies of cavalry to ride against the Cheyenne flanks. As they galloped off, the main line of cavalrymen continued their steady advance, the Cheyenne calmly watching them, confident that they would kill these soldiers in the hand-to-hand fighting that would come as soon as the troopers discovered that their guns could not harm them. Then Sumner ordered, "Sling carbines," "Draw Sabers!" A war-bonnet man charged out encouraging the warriors to attack. Sumner's next orders were, "Tirce Point!" "Gallop," then "Charge!" The astonished warriors turned and rode off, scattering in all directions. The troopers chased them for miles with four Cheyenne being killed: Coyote Ear, Yellow Shirt, Black Bear, and Packs the Otter. Packs the Otter was an Arikara who left two young sons to mourn him. Another warrior was captured. Two soldiers, Lynch and Cady, were killed and about a dozen wounded, including J. E. B. Stuart. The warriors returned to their village then fled toward the Arkansas where they remained until the Fall when they returned to their north country. The village, of some 800 lodges, were destroyed by the soldiers. As a result of his failed "medicine," Dark "threw away" his name and after that was called Gray Beard.

Colonel Sumner's saber charge was, as near as I can find, the only full-fledged saber charge ever made on the Plains.

The discovery of gold on Cherry Creek brought the first wave of white men up the Smoky Hill, the shortest route to the mountains of Colorado. Before the gold rush of 1859, an Indian trail ascended the Smoky Hill River, and somewhere east of present Kit Carson, Colorado, bent southwest, crossed the Big Sandy and went to Bent's New Fort on the Arkansas, near today's Lamar.

A Cherokee Indian party returning from California in 1850 had found gold on Ralston's Creek, near present Arvada, Colorado, and a military expedition in 1857 had picked up some "float" gold

along Cherry Creek. William Green Russell and a party of Cherokee Indians worked diggings along the South Platte near the mouth of Cherry Creek for ten days at the end of June, 1858.

Apparently, there was no attempt to lay out a trail until gold was discovered in the Pike's Peak and Clear Creek regions in 1858.

For the Southern Cheyenne, 1858 would mark the beginning of the period of their greatest sorrow. In the rich grasslands below the Platte the white men's oxen and cattle herds were moving across the lands, close-cropping the grass.

The Winter of 1858 was the last time Ice saw Cherry Creek as he had always known it. By the end of the next summer, white men's tents rose at its mouth, and four new white-men towns had been established along its banks.

By the time Summer arrived, the Southern Cheyenne bands, with the exception of the Dog Soldiers and Black Shin's Sutai, were camped along the Pawnee Fort of the Arkansas River [Red Arm Creek]. Also gathered there were the Southern Arapahoe, Kiowa, Comanche and Prairie Apaches. The Chiefs wanted peace, but the warrior societies wanted to fight. From this time on, the conflict in authority between the Southern Council Chiefs and the Chiefs and men of the warrior societies grew greater and greater.

The Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express Company (LL&P) in 1859 made the first effort toward commercial travel over the short cut between the Missouri River and Denver. A new daily stage west to the mountains had started. The first stage left April 18, 1859 and arrived in Denver May 7th. The stage line was organized under the management of Russell, Majors and Wadell, but was short lived. Due to lack of funds and Indian raids, the line was abandoned and the equipment moved to the Platte River route, which began operation July 2, 1859.

The Summer of 1859 saw the Smoky Hill and Republican still covered with buffalo herds, and was home to the Dog Soldiers, Sutai and Southern Cheyenne Ridge Men. The Panic of 1857

had set an army of unemployed loose – a greedy population thirsting for gold – and many were headed West along the Smoky Hill.

Use of the Smoky Hill was probably based on sound legal grounds since the Fort Laramie Treaty had reserved the right of transit over Indians lands for travelers. But mining, cities, farms, and roads were causing major problems for the Indians who saw their homes and hunting grounds overrun.

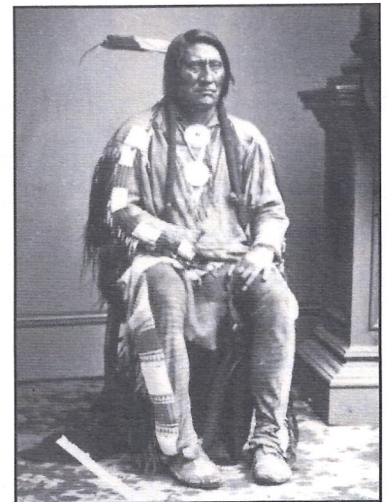
Men were to die unpleasantly, and often in extreme agony. Women and children suffered along with warrior and soldiers, and the army made it a part of their strategy to destroy the enemy's food and possessions to leave him cold, hungry and without the will to resist.

By the Summer of 1859, starvation was becoming familiar to the bands that lived closest to the white men roads and settlements. However, those who roamed the rich grasslands around the headwaters of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers felt none of the hunger, for the prairies were still covered with seemingly endless herds of buffalo.

There the Dog Soldiers and Black Shin and Bull Chip's Sutai made their home, living and camping apart from the rest of the Southern Cheyenne. The Ridge Men, under Old Little Wolf, Starving Bear and Lone Bear, favored this country too, roaming the lands around the headwaters of the

Republican, Beaver and Smoky Hill Rivers, chasing wild horses and hunting antelope. Yellow Wolf and his Ridge Men joined Old Wolf's Ridge Men there.

August, 1858 saw the first fighting along the Smoky Hill. Soldiers attacked a camp of Kiowa and killed Hat, a Kiowa Chief. The soldiers then fought



Lean Bear aka Starving Bear

with the Arapahoe, killing three young Cheyenne who were with them, one of whom was White Fool. This was followed by a big fight on the Solomon between Captain Samuel D. Sturgis and the Kiowa, Comanche and Cheyenne warriors. Two Wichita, two Caddo scouts and four troopers were killed. After the fight, the soldiers rode out of the country for the rest of the Summer.

By the Spring of 1861, most regular troops had withdrawn from the Arkansas and South Platte country. The Indians made no pretense that they wanted to live at peace with the white men who were invading the Smoky Hill region. This was their best hunting grounds and they knew they had to make a stand there or forever give up their land.

1863 saw new troubles brewing. The Southern Cheyenne chiefs had no intention of recognizing the Fort Laramie or Fort Wise treaties. Dog Soldiers and Black Shin's Sutai were determined to keep the Republican and Smoky Hill region, where buffalo were plentiful. The Dog Soldiers were still camped along the Beaver with 150 lodges, close to the head of the Smoky Hill River.

Governor Evans sent Elbridge Gerry [White Eyes] as his messenger to make contact with them and invite them to meet with him. Gerry told them that the whites were planning to build a railroad through their county, and the Cheyenne could not stop them. They told him that they did not care as long as the whites did not settle along the Republican [Red Shield] and Smoky Hill [Grove of Trees] Rivers. That they would not allowed. Gerry reported to Governor Evans that the Cheyenne did not wish to meet with him and were evidently hostile. He told the governor that the Cheyenne no longer cared about peace.

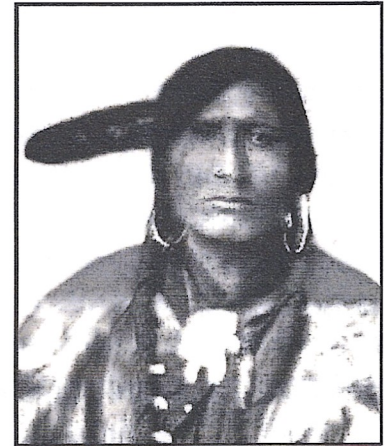
To add to the turmoil, Robert North went to Governor Evans with a lie that the Cheyenne, Sioux, Kiowa, Comanche, Prairie Apache and Northern Arapahoe were going to war in the Spring.

In April, 1864, trouble began along the South Platte when a rancher on Bijou Creek, a tributary of the Republican River reported to soldiers that

Indians had run off his stock. The soldiers then attacked the Indians, who fled to the Dog Soldier's camp.

White

Antelope's band of Ridge Men had spent the Winter on the Smoky Hill River and the Dog Soldiers were camped on the Beaver. Starving Bear's Ridge Men had wintered on Pawnee Ford, near Fort Larned.



White Antelope

Also, in April, Lieutenant George S. Eayre had left Camp

Weld in response to herder's reports that Indians had ran off an entire herd of oxen. Eayre and 54 soldiers came across Crow Chief's band of 70 lodges at the head of the Republican River. The Indians fled and Eayre burned their camp, but found no oxen. He followed them to Raccoon's camp on Beaver Creek where he attacked and burned that camp. He then headed back toward Denver.

There was great excitement in the camps along the Smoky Hill River. Dog Soldiers, Old Little Wolf's and White Antelope's bands of Ridge Men, Crow Chief's band and Raccoon's people met at a large camp on the Smoky Hill River. A group of Burnt Thigh [Brule] Lakota were camped on the Solomon. On May 15th, the Cheyenne camped near Fort Larned broke camp and headed north to join the bands on the Smoky Hill. Eayre and his soldiers had turned southeast, toward the Arkansas, and were moving toward the Cheyennes who were headed north. Indian hunters saw the soldiers and warned the camp. Starving Bear rode out to meet the soldiers and when he got within 20-30 feet he was fired upon and killed. Fighting ensued and the troopers opened up with howitzers, using grapeshot. After the fight they retreated to Fort Larned, having lost four or five soldiers. Starving Bear, Star and another warrior were killed, with many wounded.

(To be continued in our next issue)



GALVANIZED YANKEES (Part 1)

By Elton E. Beougher

During the later years of the Civil War, 1864 and 1865, the toll of war had affected both sides of the conflict, leading to scarcity of materiel and manpower. To remedy the scarcity of manpower both the USA and the CSA turned to prisoners of war to replenish their depleted ranks and recruited these captured men to serve in the uniform of their former enemies.

PRISONERS AT POINT LOOKOUT, MARYLAND

This paper will focus on one group of those prisoners, Confederate soldiers who were jailed at Point Lookout, Maryland. This prison was established in July, 1863, after the Battle of Gettysburg to house prisoners captured in that battle. More than 52,000 prisoners passed through its gates

The Confederate soldiers who changed their allegiance from the gray of the South to the blue of the North were called by various titles: "rebel prisoners," "deserters." and other such appellations that had a negative connotation. They became widely known as the "Galvanized Yankees," reflecting their change of color of uniform from Confederate gray to Yankee blue. Officially, they were known as the "United States Volunteers." They were required to take an oath of allegiance to the United States of America and to enlist in the United States Army. (This was called "swallowing the dog," in the vernacular of the time.) In return for their oath they were promised that their duty would be to fight Indians in the West and not to face their former comrades in battle.

There were some 6000 such recruits. They were organized into six regiments. Thus, there were the First, Second, ... , and Sixth, United States Volunteer Infantry Regiments. Each regiment of the Volunteers was organized into 12 companies, identified alphabetically as A, B, C,.... and M.

(Note: There was no company J, as it was decided that I and J might be confusing when seen printed.) I will concentrate only on the First Regiment. This was about 1000 soldiers.

THE FIRST UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS ALONG THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL

The discussion will be focused even closer on a subset of the First Regiment. The soldiers of interest here are those in companies A, F, G, and I. These were the soldiers who were sent out from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in November, 1865, along the Smoky Hill Trail to establish and man a series of posts and forts to protect travelers on that route. These latter are the subject of this discourse.

The full story of the six regiments of the Galvanized Yankees is told comprehensively in a book written by Dee Brown, titled *The Galvanized Yankees*. This paper will not repeat that narrative, focusing my remarks on those troopers who defended the Smoky Hill Route.

There were several questions that guided the research reported here.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Who were these men?
2. Where was their home? Deep South or western or middle states?
3. Were they enthusiastic or unwilling volunteers?
4. Were they good soldiers?
5. What happened to them after their service? Did they go back home?
6. Did they ever organize as veterans, e.g., the GAR?
7. Did they get a pension for their service?

Several other questions arose in the course of this research. Frankly, we end up with more questions than answers. There is neither time nor space to consider all.

MUSTERING IN AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

After the initial enlistments at Point Lookout Prison in May, 1864, the members of the 1st Volunteers were sent to Norfolk, Virginia, about 80 miles from the prison, where they were mustered in and assigned to companies.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT- AUGUST, 1864

The initial duty of the 1st Regiment of the U.S.V. Infantry in August, 1864, was an assignment to the Minnesota district, which included the Dakota Territory. They were transported there by steamboat and railroad. For a year, company A served at Fort Abercrombie, company F at Fort Wadsworth, company G at Fort Ridgely and company I at Fort Ripley, all commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Tamblyn. They saw no military action and performed routine chores at the forts. There were about 250 men total in the four companies. They served in the Minnesota district for about one year.

ORDERED TO MOVE - JULY, 1865

In July, 1865, Lt. Colonel Tamblyn was ordered to assemble the 250 men in his command at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for mustering out. Almost immediately, it was decided that the muster out would be suspended and the four companies would be sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They were again transported by steamboat and railroad to that post.

THE MISSION: PROTECT THE BOD

Their mission would be to protect the stations of the newly formed Butterfield Overland Despatch on the Smoky Hill Trail. They left Fort Leavenworth on their mission October 31, 1865, marching overland, and the story of this discourse really begins there. The four companies would be dispersed along the trail, to establish forts and posts at Fletcher (F and G Companies), Monument (Company A), and Pond's Creek (Company I).

DESERTIONS

Almost immediately dissension arose among the troopers. A number of them deserted at Salt Creek, a short distance from Fort Leavenworth, close to the town of Easton, Kansas, a town that still exists today. It is not clear why they deserted, perhaps they were reacting to first being mustered into the Regiment, then told they would be mustered out, only to find they would not be mustered out and would be sent to the unpopulated wilderness that was western Kansas. That is pure conjecture. How they deserted is not described -- did they slip away in the night, or run and hide or ---? Some of these deserters appear in later company muster rolls, some do not. It is not clear what action was taken against all of them.

THE TRIP TO THE SMOKY HILL

The battalion of four companies stopped for a night on the Potawatomi reservation and later took a day of rest at Fort Riley. They passed through Salina and Ellsworth and reached Big Creek on November 20, 1865, the site chosen for the establishment of Fort Fletcher. They immediately started work constructing log quarters for the troops. To give the reader an intimate look at these soldiers, we will concentrate on the records of some of them.

EDWARD ADAMS OF VIRGINIA

Born in Patrick County, Virginia, about 1845
Enlisted in the 8th Va Infantry on May 13, 1861
Mustered out July 18, 1863
Mustered into the 1st USVI June 28, 1864

Edward Adams was a soldier in Company G, so he was destined to be one of those posted at Fort Fletcher. He was born in Patrick County, Virginia, about 1845. He enlisted in the 8th Virginia Infantry on May 13, 1861, at the age of 15. This was very soon after the Civil War began. His record shows that he mustered out from that regiment on July 18, 1863. He was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg in that month. Many of the Confederate prisoners' records viewed in this research reported a muster-out date that indicated a short time of service and was before the War ended. It could be surmised that the mustering out date actually indicated when they were

taken prisoner in battle. This is supported by the data for most of the former Confederate soldiers. Private Adams was mustered into the First U.S.V. Infantry on June 28, 1864, so he spent about a year in the Point Lookout Prison.

Edward's USVI Regiment experience was rather eventful. It appears he was not an ideal, obedient soldier. The company muster report of December, 1865, stated that on November 1, 1865, he deserted at Salt Creek Kansas, while on the march from Ft. Leavenworth to Fort Fletcher. He was thus one of the deserters mentioned earlier. He apparently escaped with some of his equipment, because the company muster roll of December, 1865, indicated that an amount of money would be withheld from his pay - the cost of 1 canteen, 1 knapsack, 1 haversack, 1 shelter tent complete, total \$14.50.

The records show such an inventory for each soldier, even those who did not desert. Apparently, the soldiers were held responsible for the loss of any equipment in their possession. Corporal Adams was either apprehended or gave himself up, because we find him incarcerated at Fort Fletcher in April, 1866. Three documents attest to this fact. These are transcribed here from official records, to bring more color to his story.

April 15, 1866

Head Quarters 1st US Vol. Infantry
Fort Fletcher, Kansas

Cpl. Adams Co "G" U. S. Vol. Infantry is hereby reduced to ranks to date from this day.

By Command of
Lieut. Col. Wm. Tamblyn

Tamblyn commanded the Battalion of the four companies, A, F, G, and I. Adams had first enlisted as a Private, as did most of the 1st USVI soldiers. Here it is indicated he was now a Corporal and was being reduced in rank back to

Private by this order, possibly as punishment for his desertion.

The second document concerning Private Adams follows.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PRIVATE ADAMS

Fort Fletcher, Kansas
April 16, 1866

To: Lt. Col. Wm. Tamblyn
Col.

I most respectfully request the release of Private Adams of my company. This man's record is second to none in the Regiment as a good soldier and thorough duty man, and this being his first offence [sic], I sincerely hope you will give his case due consideration. I should consider it as a personal favor could you restore him to his former grade.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant
Wm. H. Bleadenhiser
Capt. Co. G 1st USVI

Captain Bleadenhiser was the commander of Company G.

The third document in the saga of Edward Adams responds to the request from Captain Bleadenhiser. It is interesting to speculate as to why the Captain gave such a glowing recommendation for the Private.

APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF PRIVATE ADAMS

Hd Quarters Fort Fletcher
April 16th/66

Respectfully returned. Approved. Private Adams will be released from imprisonment and returned to duty on your recommendation. At the same time you must bear in mind that he was confined for a very aggravated offense, such as --- (undecipherable) language to his commanding officers. If such is allowed will greatly impair the disposition of any organization. Private Adams will be sent to his quarters before release.

Wm Tamblyn
Lt. Col.

So, he was released from the Guard House, but remained a private.

Apparently, a list of deserters with descriptions of the same was periodically released. This may be similar to a "wanted" poster for civilian criminals. Here are the data for Private Adams.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF DESERTERS

Private Edward Adams
Dated Fort Fletcher Ks. Nov. 30, 1865
Age 15 yrs. (there is a discrepancy here with the CSA records, those giving his age in 1861 as 15 years! He was more likely about 19 years at this time.)
Height 5 ft. 2"
Complexion: Light; eyes Blue; hair light
Where born Patrick Co. Va
Occupation farmer
When enlisted Feb. 22, 1864
Where mustered in Norfolk Va
For what period mustered in 3 years
When deserted Nov. 1, 1865
Where deserted Easton, Kansas
When apprehended _____
Where apprehended _____
Remarks: Camp --- Equip.to be stopped against pay, 1 shelter tent, 1 Knapsack, 1 Canteen, 1 Haversack \$14.50

No record was found that indicated where Private Adams went after he mustered out at Fort Leavenworth in May, 1866, and whether or not he had applied for a pension. Nor where he went after his mustering out.

NAPOLEON LAND OF VIRGINIA

Born in Princess Anne County, Virginia about 1844
Enlisted in the 6th Virginia Infantry June 30, 1861
Mustered out January 30, 1864
Mustered into the 1st USVI Co. G, May1, 1864

Napoleon Land had a quite interesting time of service in the 6th Virginia Infantry, He was taken prisoner at Crampton's Pass, Maryland, September 14, 1862, and was exchanged November 10, 1862, implying that he went back to his regiment. He was in battle again at Hagerstown, Maryland, July 6, 1863, right after Gettysburg, and apparently was captured, but was listed as a deserter in the Confederate army records on July 15. There was also a report that he was taken prisoner at Falling Waters, Virginia, July 14, 1863 and Napoleon was, once again, paroled, to Baltimore, Maryland, and returned to his regiment. Research about the battles of Hagerstown and Falling Waters revealed that these were different stages of the same battle and occurred during the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg.

Napoleon was captured a final time and was sent to Point Lookout Prison in January, 1864. He was held there until May 1, 1864, when he enlisted in the 1st USVI. These dates are a confusing record and came from CSA files. All we can say is that war is a confusing situation and reports of action may be contradictory. We might conjecture that Napoleon did not enjoy his service and was taking advantages of opportunities to discontinue with the Confederate army.

The Private was listed in Company G, 1st USV muster records as "Present" in November and December, 1864, and was "In arrest." That would have been in Minnesota. There was no indication as to what the charges were, but his record in the Virginia Infantry and a later incident may suggest he could be a somewhat uncooperative soldier. In the subsequent muster rolls through September and October, 1865, he apparently kept out of trouble. This soon ended and in the November and December, 1865, report he was listed as "absent" and was "In



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confinement!" Furthermore, on December 27, 1865. He was confined in the Post Guard House at Fort Fletcher awaiting trial. In January and February, 1866, he was still listed as "absent" and "In confinement and awaiting trial." A document found in Napoleon's file answers the question of why he was arrested.

The document reads
Charges and specifications preferred against Private Napoleon B. Land, Co. "G" 1st U.S.V. Infantry.

Charge: Violation of the 7th Article of War Private Napoleon B. Land, Co. "G" U.S.V. Infantry a duly enlisted soldier in the service and pay of the United States having been ordered by his Commanding Officer Capt. William H. Bleadenhiser, being in the executions of his office, to fall into the ranks of his company, did by conduct and words show mutinous actions tending to incite others: to wit, Throwing his musket into the snow and kicking it saying I'll be damned if I carry the damned thing any more, or words to that effect.

This at or near "Big Creek Station" Smoky Hill Route, Kansas, on or about the night of the 26th of December.

W. H. Bleadenhiser
Capt. Company "G" 1st U.S.V, Infantry

There is no documentation in the private's file as to any action taken against him for his disobedience. Curiously, two months later, the March and April, 1866, report shows Napoleon Land is on detached duty from headquarters Fort Fletcher, Ka. & S.H.R. as an escort to Paymaster Maj. Sanford to Fort Leavenworth." He was arrested for mutiny and then later on was trusted to guard the paymaster!

Napoleon Land, age 21, was mustered out of Co. "G" 1st U.S.V. Infantry at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, May 21, 1866, along with the other members of his company. I found no record that he ever applied for a pension from the U.S. Government and where he settled after his service.

(To be continued in our next issue)

