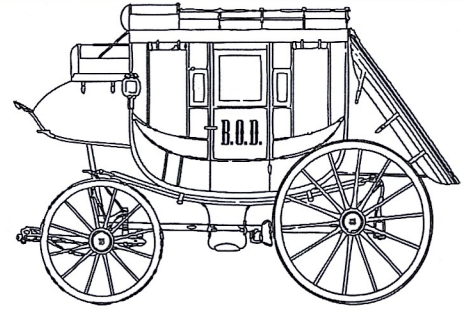


OVERLAND DESPATCH



Volume IX No. 4

Remember the Smoky Hill Trail

Summer 2017

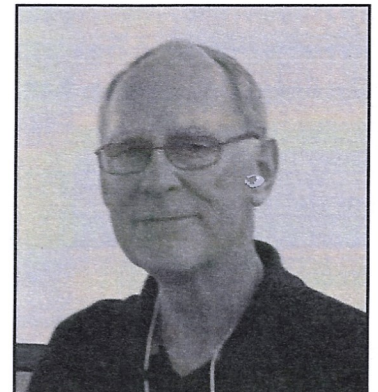
NEW BROCHURE

We are pleased to announce that a new brochure is currently in production. Although it is shown here in black and white, the real thing will be in rich, beautiful full color. It is also shown flat here when it is actually double-sided and tri-fold so that it will fit nicely in brochure racks or a business-sized envelope to be mailed. If you would like copies to place in conspicuous locations around your community (such as libraries, gas stations, travel stops, schools, etc.) or to give to potential members, they will be ready and available at our fall conference. You can also contact our president at P.O. Box 978, Hays KS 67601. The brochure has a nice overview of our Association along with our goals, mission statement, a little about our conferences, a short history of the trail, and a membership form. There is also a wonderful map showing the trail all the way from Atchison to Denver. We are certain you will be pleased with the quality of our new attractive and informative brochure!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Plans are well underway for the fall conference, October 20, 21, and 22, 2017. The focus of the meeting this year is Eastern Colorado, in the area of Cheyenne Wells, Kit Carson, and Burlington. The theme is "Catastrophes and Calamities along the Smoky Hill Trail." The tour, tentatively, will center around the trail near Cheyenne Wells and Kit Carson and the plans are to visit the area of the Smoky Hill River where the South and North branches meet. Historically, this was an important spot because travelers going west had to decide either to follow the South branch or the North branch. Their lives depended on making the correct choice since water in one branch petered out not too far from the intersection. The other branch had water for a greater distance west. There are many stories that relate the tragic consequences of the incorrect choice. The tour possibly will include the location of the intersection of the Smoky Hill Trail and the western cattle trail through the area.

The meetings of the conference will be located in the Tavern at Old Town in Burlington, Colorado. A good selection of speakers has been tentatively arranged to cover the various dangers of travel along the Smoky Hill Trail. Four motels have agreed to hold discounted rooms until



SMOKY HILL TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Other Website Statement
The Smoky Hill Trail Association, Inc. will provide the historical legacy of the Smoky Hill Trail, preserve its importance as National Historic Trail and interpret its significance to the American West and the world. The Association's purpose is to promote the historical and cultural significance of the Smoky Hill Trail and to provide educational and interpretive programs for the public. The Association's website is www.smokyhilltrail.com.

Smoky Hill Trail Conference
The Smoky Hill Trail Conference is held in the fall along the Smoky Hill Trail. The conference features speakers, tours, and entertainment and provides a great opportunity to learn more about the trail and the area. The conference is held in the fall along the Smoky Hill Trail.

Join Us...
Become a member

BUTTERFIELD'S OVERLAND DESPATCH
ESTABLISHED 1865
BY DAVID A. BUTTERFIELD

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
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Membership Categories: New Renewal

- \$13 Individual (1 person)
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- \$40 Institution (Library, museum, historical societies, etc.)
- \$50 Patron
- \$100 Patron (Supporter, but not yet awarded)
- \$ Life

TOTAL DUES \$ _____

Memberships are on the calendar year ending December 31. New members are accepted throughout the year. Members receive THE OVERLAND DESPATCH and Smoky Hill Association Quarterly.

Please return form with remittance to:
Smoky Hill Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 978 • Hays, KS 67601
www.smokyhilltrail.com
The Smoky Hill Trail Association is a 501(c)(3) charity.

THE GREAT PLAINS LEGACY

BOD 1865

Smoky Hill Trail ASSOCIATION

Preserving the historical legacy of the Smoky Hill Trail and the Butterfield Overland Despatch.



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

two weeks before the conference for attendees. All arrangements will be detailed in the conference brochure scheduled to be mailed out by August 1, 2017.

Plan on attending this year's conference. This will be an area of the trail not seen by most of our members. See you there!

Elton Beougher, President

Remember the Smoky Hill Trail!



NOTE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

REMINDER: 2017 Memberships are past due. They are considered the lifelines of the Smoky Hill Trail Association. Each one plays an important part providing greater access to the history of the trail for generations to come. **MEMBERSHIPS ARE BASED ON THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31.** Members receive the OVERLAND DESPATCH Smoky Hill Trail Association Quarterly. Make your tax deductible check payable to Smoky Hill Trail Association and mail to: P.O. Box 978, Hays, KS 67601

Questions? Contact Kay Homewood, Membership Chairperson at khomewood@ruraltel.net



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Smoky Hill Trail Association welcomes the following members who has joined since our last newsletter was published:

Larry & K Hoeme from Scott City, Kansas

John Schaffer from Tucson, Arizona

Dee Sadler from Sharon, Kansas

Welcome All!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of the Overland Despatch is **August 31, 2017**. Please have your articles, announcements, notes, etc. sent to the newsletter editor either by US mail or E-mail by that date (addresses in box at left). Thank you.

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

(Part 2)

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 will be given at the end.)

After Starving Bear's death, Black Kettle could not control Starving Bear's band. They struck the stage road that ran from Fort



Black Kettle

Larned to Fort Riley, killing several white men and plundering most of the stations.

On the Smoky Hill, the

great camp broke up about May 15th and moved south. Tall Bull, White Horse and Bull Bear announced that they were taking the Dog Soldiers north again to make the whites suffer. The war pipe was carried to the Brule Sioux along the Platte.

By the middle of July, Black Kettle and White Antelope's bands went to the Republican River lands and on the Solomon Fork in central Kansas

and established the largest village ever to gather on the Solomon.

During the Summer of 1864, the warriors struck on the Platte – leaving ranches and stage stations along the Platte blackened and smoldering, the bodies of the dead whites sprawled nearby. By August, 1864, the 800 mile overland route from Fort Kearny to South Pass was under attack by Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Burnt Thigh Lakota, Oglala and Yankton Sioux. By August 15th the Dog Soldiers had the road completely blocked, and kept it out of service for six weeks.

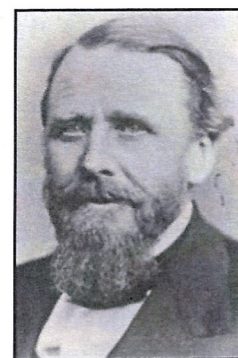
August 10, 1864, Colorado Territorial Governor Evans authorized all citizens to "kill and destroy, as enemies of the country, wherever they may be found, all hostile Indians."

November 29, 1864, Chivington's "100 day volunteers," struck Black Kettle and White Antelope's village at Sand Creek, which is a story in unbridled cruelty from which equally cruel revenge was exacted throughout the Smoky Hill River region.

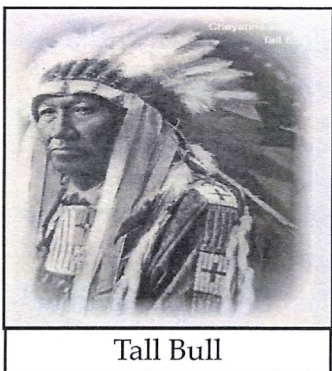
Violence continued as a raiding party drove off about 50 horses belonging to the 7th Iowa Cavalry and five mules belonging to the Kansas State Company at Fort Ellsworth, August 7, 1864. A second attack on the Fort was recorded as having occurred June 17, 1865.

David A. Butterfield, a hard worker and shrewd dealer, had operated a grocery and commission business in Denver and in 1864 moved to Atchison. He saw the large quantities of freight going overland to Denver and the mining districts, and saw how profitable a freight line across the Plains to Denver would be. In 1864, he organized the Butterfield's Overland Despatch.

June 13, 1864, Lt. Julian R. Fitch, U. S. Signal Corps, was detailed to go with a Butterfield's Overland Despatch expedition to survey the Smoky



John Evans,
Colorado
Territorial
Governor
1862-1865



Tall Bull

Hill Road. Firth had been with the surveying crew that laid out the Smoky Hill Trail in 1860.

June 24, 1865, Butterfield's dream was realized, as the first freight train, carrying one-hundred-and-fifty thousand pounds of freight left Atchison for Denver.

His first coach left Atchison on September 11, 1865 with Butterfield as a



The first BOD coach leaves Atchison

passenger.

He arrived in Denver September 23rd.

The die was not cast for a full-fledged war along the Smoky Hill. A combination of tribes from Dakota to Texas tried to stop the white's western advance – Crow, Blackfeet, Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Comanche, Pawnee, Prairie Apache, and others. The warriors had sworn to clear their hunting grounds of invaders. With freight trains and stage coaches beginning travel over the Butterfield's Overland Despatch, encounters with Indians erupted into a fury.

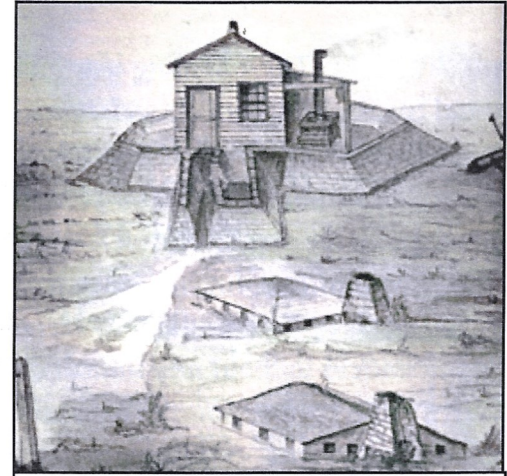
By the Autumn of 1865, the Southern Cheyenne people, having spent many months in the north country, were homesick, so they headed south. When they reached the Smoky Hill, anger filled their hearts again: they found a new stage line running there, cutting across their hunting grounds, threatening the buffalo herds. Its coaches were bringing more whites into the country, more ve-ho-e, to butcher the buffalo or drive them away.

The young men raided the new stage line, running off a good deal of stock, but when they tried to capture the stage stations they found they were unable to do so as they had done on the Platte. Many of these stations were built as dugouts, with sod-covered roofs that rose only a few feet above the ground. Loopholes, cut into the walls just at ground level, enabled the station hands to fire out without showing themselves.

The warriors quickly discovered that these new stations were very hard to burn or capture.

Pond Creek Station was attacked in September, 1865, and October 2nd, 30 Indians attacked a coach near Monument Station, burning the coach, then the

station. The passengers fought desperately, but finally took the horses and made a run back to the east, toward Carlyle Station. The Indians then plundered Monument Station and set it afire. Fort



Monument Station as drawn by J. Stadler

Fletcher was attacked October 11th. After a few tried the Cheyennes gave up and continued South.

The Dog Soldiers, however, did not give up that easily. They knew the whites would ruin the Smoky Hill country, just as they had ruined the Arkansas River lands. Therefore, in early

November, 1865, the Dog Men came sweeping back to the Smoky Hill, striking both traveler and wagon trains.

They attacked Downer's Station, November 19th, resulting in three Butterfield employees killed and the station burned. November 22nd, at Chalk Bluff, an escorted coach was attacked by Fast Bear. November 19th, they attacked Fort Fletcher and Ruthden Station. The next day a coach was attacked. It had been headed to Downer's Station, but returned to Ruthden Station where the mules were stampeded. Fred Merwin was killed, others wounded and two stock tenders captured. Chalk Bluffs Station [Bluffton] was burned.

November 22nd, a government train was attacked, the mules ran off and one soldier killed with an arrow in the neck. He was then scalped. November 25th, Smoky Hill Springs Station was attacked. In December, Big Creek Station was attacked and cattle

driven off. A Lieutenant was chased for eight miles and severely wounded.

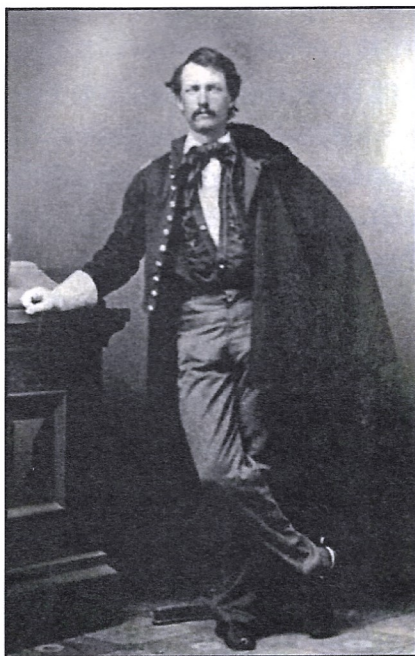
A passenger on a B.O.D. coach, Theodore Davis, an artist for Harper's Weekly, wrote: "Two hundred and fifty miles from Atchison we became aware that Indians were more plentiful than usual along the route. This gave us no uneasiness; but soon after the discovery of the bodies of murdered men – some of whom had been captured alive, and undergone the most awful torture, such as the cutting out of tongues and other parts of their persons, then burning them alive – caused us to be continually on our guard.

"Soon after this we discovered the bodies of two more men, from which we drove the wolves, and buried them. These men had fought and been killed; their bodies were covered with arrow wounds. Brave men they were, we could only cover them with so thin a blanket of prairie sod that would hide them from sight but not from the wolves.

"Still further on we buried three more bodies that the Indians had left most barbarously mutilated. These discoveries, following each other so rapidly, cause us to be ever on the alert for attack."

November and December, 1865, were bloody on the Smoky Hill Trail.

Early in 1866, probably in January, messengers arrived in the Dog Men's country bringing word that Major Wynkoop, a trusted friend of the Indian, was inviting the Chiefs and headmen to council with him on Bluff Creek.



Edward W. Wynkoop

On February 25, 1866, Wynkoop arrived with the new Upper Arkansas Agency agent, I. C. Taylor, escorted by two companies of cavalry.

Stone Forehead and Tangle hair said they knew nothing about a treaty on the Little Arkansas, and Tangle Hair made it clear to Wynkoop that both he and the people objected strongly to the Smoky Hill road. The road ran through their best hunting grounds, he declared.

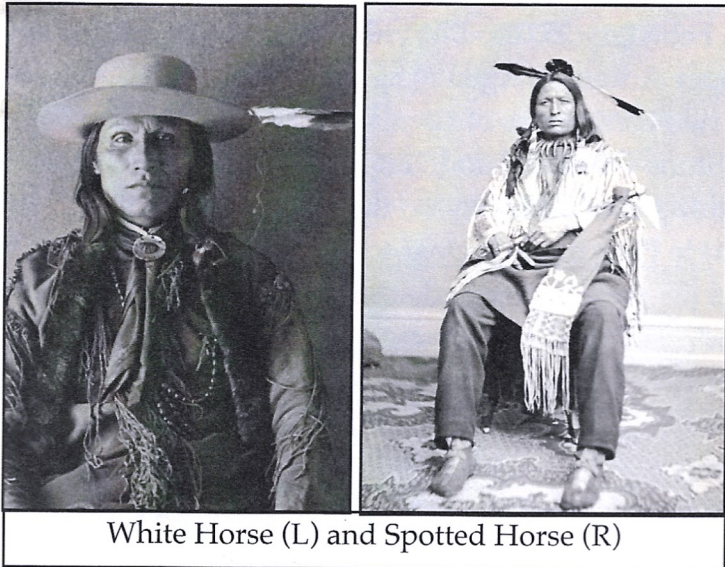
In the meantime, changes were in effect for the Butterfield's Overland Despatch. Due to Indian raids during the last months of 1865, Butterfield's stage and freight lines were losing money. Butterfield sold the line to Ben Holladay in March of 1866. Holladay was having his own financial difficulties, and in October, 1866, he began negotiations with Wells Fargo. November 1, 1866, Wells Fargo took over the route.

Early in March, 1866, the Dog Soldiers and their friends, some four hundred warriors, rode down to the Smoky Hill route. They camped close to the road and made plans to strike the stations, run off horses and other stock. Before they did so, Little Robe and Ed Guerrier rode into their camp and urged them to meet with Wynkoop. On April 4, 1866, Tall Bull, White Horse and Bull Bear all signed Wynkoop's document, pledging to accept the peace made at the Little Arkansas, although they had no thought of giving up the Smoky Hill country to the whites.

Throughout the Spring and early Summer, 1866, the Dog Soldier Chiefs held fast to their promise of peace and no attacks were made on settlements or roads.

July 21, 1866, Agent Taylor gave the Indians written permission to hunt buffalo and travel on the Smoky Hill. On August 14th, Black Kettle, Old Little Wolf and Curly Hair [Big Head] met with Wynkoop at Fort Ellsworth. The Dog Soldier Chiefs did not attend this council. Tall Bull, White Horse, Bull Hair and Tangle hair had no intention of giving up their rich buffalo country.

Late in August, Roman Nose, together with Spotted Horse, led warriors to Fort Wallace and the stations on the Smoky Hill road. They told stage company employees to be out of the country in fifteen days. Lt. A. E. Bates, the commander at Fort Wallace,



White Horse (L) and Spotted Horse (R)

sent scout William Comstock to talk to the Indians. They told Comstock that as soon as the Sun Dance was over the soldier societies were determined to close the stations if the whites had not abandoned them.

On September 19th, 1866, Spotted Horse led a war party against Fort Wallace. No soldiers were killed, but the post's horse herd was run off.

Gray Beard and Roman Nose joined Spotted Horse. They watched and waited.

October 16, 1866, there was another council, this time at Fort Zarah. Tall Bull, White Horse, Bull Bear and Tangle Hair were not present. During the council, word arrived that Bull Bear and 40 warriors had struck the Smoky Hill road, burning the station at Chalk Bluff and killing two Holladay employees. The council was over.

Throughout the Winter of 1866-67, the Southern Chiefs held back their young men. Late in December, 1866, 65 warriors left Black Kettle's village to strike the Pawnee. On their way to the villages, they turned aside at Fort Harker, where on January 1, 1867, they struck the soldier horse herd, running off 40 horses and wounding a Kaw soldier scout. During February and March, other war parties were out at well. They struck the whites: running off stock from a party of buffalo hunters and forcing a rancher to cook a meal for them, then threatening his life when he had no sugar.

By Spring, Major General Winfield Scott Hancock had assumed command of the Department of the Missouri [which included Kansas, Missouri, Eastern Colorado and northeast New Mexico]. He had no knowledge of the tribes or their customs and from the beginning took a hard line with the Indians. He never tried to understand the problems the Chiefs had in trying to keep the peace.

By early December, 1866, Hancock had singled out the Southern Cheyenne, especially the Dog Soldiers, as the target of a Spring campaign. The Indians in his Department were not at war. The Cheyennes were still smoldering over Sand Creek and a campaign could only antagonize them. Colonel Edward W. Wynkoop, now the Indian agent at Fort Larned, begged him not to send a military expedition onto the plains, but to no avail.

April 19, 1867, General Hancock destroyed 250 Cheyenne lodges on Pawnee Fork, which is a story unto itself.

In the Smoky Hill and Republican River country, the Dog Men and Black Shin's Sutai were as determined as ever not to give up their lands and their buffalo. After Hancock's burning of their village, they knew that there could be no real peace as long as the whites remained in their country.

As the Indians were fleeing Pawnee Fork, a war party of northern Lakota Sioux struck the Smoky Hill Road. On April 15, 1867, they destroyed the stage station at Lookout Station, burned it to the ground, together with stables and forage. Eight horses and 4 mules were run off. They also killed three station attendants, Robert Anderson, John Reynolds and Frank Carter, tearing out their intestines, burning their bodies, leaving the mangled corpses behind for the soldiers to find. At Stormy Hollow Station they ran off stock.

April 30th the stock was run off from Goose Creek Station. May 6, 11, 23rd and 29th, Monument Station and Chalk Bluffs Station were attacked. May 11th, Pond Creek Station was hit. May 13th, W. H. Greenwood, chief locating engineer for the railroad had finished his survey of the road nearly to Sheridan. He had 20 in his party and an escort of 25 Buffalo Soldiers. He was attacked near Monument Station in

a battle that lasted four hours. May 18th, Smoky Hill Springs Station and a party of surveyors near Monument, on the railroad route, were attacked.

Cattle were run off from Pond Creek Station May 27th and on June 3rd, at that place, Favor and Thompson were killed and scalped. June 4th, it was Fort Wallace's turn. Two were killed at Big Creek Station June 6th and the horses driven off. June 11th Cheyenne Wells Station and Big Timbers Station were hit. June 18th, a coach was attacked near Fort

Wallace with 5 killed and scalped. June 21st, Roman Nose attacked Pond Creek, which was attacked again on the 22nd, along with Fort Wallace.

Then, there was the railroad, which was laying track just north of the Smoky Hill River. To the

whites, railroads were the ultimate herald of a dawning civilization. To the Indians, the building of the roads was little less than catastrophic. With the coming of Spring, the Kansas Pacific Rail Road crews began working again, pushing the tracks farther and farther up the Smoky Hill valley. Many times the Dog Soldiers had spoken against the railroads, now they attacked its crews, engineering and survey parties, again and again. By June 24, 1867, they had driven some one thousand laborers off the railroad line west of Fort Harker, where they gathered, refusing to come out and work for fear of attack. By the end of June, the Dog Soldiers and their companions were striking



Roman Nose

the railroad almost every day, so that work all but stopped.

By the end of May, 1867, the Dog Soldiers and Black Shin's Sutai struck the Smoky Hill and Platte River roads together. They hit them hard, burning stage stations, attacking coaches, killing whites wherever they could. On June 16th, Major General W. S. Hancock, out inspecting the Smoky Hill route, declared that every station along the road for one-hundred seventy miles on either side of Fort Wallace had been attacked at least four times. These attacks continued through the better part of June.



General Winfield Scott Hancock

June 1, 1867, General George Armstrong Custer and his command left Fort Hays for Fort McPherson [old Camp Cottonwood] on the Platte River, some 225 miles north.

On June 3rd, Cheyenne Dog Soldiers killed two station keepers west of Fort Wallace, scalping them and smashing the skull of one, before they left their bodies for the wolves.

June 11, 1867, a coach from Denver, escorted by Lt. James Bell and three soldiers was attacked by 25-30 Indians east of Big Timbers Station. The coach's driver, a woman passenger and a mil guard were with the coach. A four hour battle was waged until they got to Big Timbers. Miller, Company E, 3rd Inf. was mortally wounded. June 11th and 15th, Big Timbers Station was attacked. On the 15th, coaches were attacked between Big Timbers and Goose Creek Stations by 100 Indians. Edward McNally and Joseph Waldron, Co. #, 3rd Inf. and one passenger were killed, two wounded and 9 head of stock stolen.

(The article will conclude with the next issue)





GALVANIZED YANKEES

(Part 2, Conclusion)

By Elton Beougher

COMPANIES A AND I CONTINUE ON TO POST MONUMENT

After their arrival at Fort Fletcher, Companies A and I rested for two days and left on November 22, for Monument, the chosen location for a post, some 100 miles from Fort Fletcher. About noon on November 26, the men of the two companies got their first taste of the hit-and-run tactics of the Plains tribes. The Indians attacked and drove away the herd of grazing stock. The raiders escaped with more than 50 mules and were away before the soldiers could mount a counterattack. The commanding officers, Captains Hooper B. Straut and Richard Musgrove decided to transfer the contents of nine wagons to the remaining wagons and continue the march. During the next few days they encountered the evidence of attacks at several BOD station locations, including Castle Rock and Downer's.

On November 28, they finally sighted their destination, Post Monument. (6 days to travel 100 miles) This was not named a fort, but it was designated a "one-company" post. This would become the new home of Company A. This location is within about a mile of the Monument rocks in southwestern Gove County, Kansas.

The first camp was southeast of the rocks where dugouts were made to house the soldiers very close to the Smoky Hill River edge. They soon moved, possibly to avoid flooding, southwest of the rocks on the north bank of the Smoky Hill River and established more permanent quarters built from wood with a rock foundation. This site is well above the River. We now consider the record of a soldier stationed at Post Monument.

JOHN RILEY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Born in Johnson, Cabarrus County, North Carolina about 1845

Enlisted in the 20th North Carolina Infantry April 19, 1861

Mustered out on March 5, 1864

Enlisted in the 1st USVI, Co. A, February 22, 1864

Again, we see the discrepancy of dates. He enlisted in the USVI in February, before he was mustered out of the North Carolina regiment in March. Probably, he disappeared in February, or before, and the Confederates decided he really was gone in March.

John was a farmer of about 15 years of age when he enlisted in the North Carolina regiment. The First USV Infantry Company A record lists him as "present" November and December, 1864, and it is noted that he owed the U.S. for 1 bugle and 1 eagle, 5/100, 1 gun sling 31/100. This implies that he had lost some equipment, viz., a bugle insignia that an infantryman wore on the top of his kepi or forage cap, an eagle button from his uniform and his rifle sling. Often the records recorded that such items were lost due to "carelessness." (Note: Some reports indicate that soldiers often stripped brass items from their uniforms because the sun glinting off such accouterments revealed a trooper's position to the enemy.)

Apparently, Private Riley was posted at Post Monument during December, 1865, as the "Return of the Post of Monument Station, Kans." listed him as being "On escort duty to Fort Ellsworth Ka (sic) since December 13, 65." This agrees with the fact that Company A of the 1st U.S.V. Infantry had established the post at Monument by that time. Private John W. Riley was mustered-out from the Volunteer Infantry at Fort Leavenworth, Kans, in May, 1866. The military pension records of the United States show that he applied for a pension from the US government on November 26, 1889, and that he died in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. This is about 160 miles from his birthplace of Carrabus County. One of the questions

mentioned earlier about these soldiers was "Did they go back home after the War?" This is inconclusive in the case of John W. Riley. He went back to North Carolina, but not to his home county. His widow applied for a pension June 7, 1909.

COMPANY I MARCHES TO POND'S CREEK

On December 2, 1865, Captain Richard Musgrove assembled the men of Company I and they embarked for Pond's Creek, their ultimate destination, some 50 miles from Monument. Pond's Creek was located in present day Wallace County, Kansas, and would eventually be upgraded to fort status and was named Fort Wallace. At both the posts, Monument and Pond's Creek, the men of the 1st U.S.V. Infantry suffered due to the lack of enough food and shelter during the cold winter of December, 1865-January, 1866. The saga of their existence is told in great detail in Brown's book. Now, we look at the record of one of the soldiers who was posted at Pond's Creek. (Note: A letter written by Musgrove to his sister in 1866 gives details of this march. The document is an addenda to this paper.)

LARKIN COFFEY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Born in Caldwell Co., North Carolina about 1845
Enlisted in the 26th North Carolina Infantry,
February 4, 1863

Captured at Bristow Station, Va, October 14,
1863

Transferred to Point Lookout Prison,
Maryland, October 27, 1863

Mustered into the 1st USVI, June 6, 1864.

Farmer

A document in Coffey's file titled "Prisoners of War at Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C." lists him as being incarcerated

there October 15, 1863. Apparently, this was a way station for prisoners, who were eventually sent to Point Lookout, as such a fact is stated in several USVI records. Another document, dated Jan and Feb 1864, states that he "Has taken the oath of allegiance" to the United States. Both of these documents are found in Larkin's Confederate file kept by the State of North Carolina. This indicates to me that there was a line of communication between the armies of the North and the South. I also found such connections for other USVI troopers.

Larkin apparently performed his duties as was expected of him. His record in Company I is fairly routine, except he had trouble taking care of his equipment. In the May and June, 1865, muster roll it is indicated that he owed the US for lost equipment: 1 waist belt, 1 waist belt Plate, 1 Bayonet, 1 Bayonet scabbard, 1 cap pouch, cost \$3.41, 1 haversack 95c, and 1 canteen 65c. The only other notation in his record is that he was "Absent on D.S. (detached service) to Ponds Creek Kans," dated February, 1866. He was mustered out of the USVI in May, 1866.

There is an interesting sidelight here regarding the cost to Confederate soldiers for lost equipment - it seems to be much higher. One Confederate deserter's record of money due the CSA government was: 1 rifle \$54, 1 cartridge box and cap pouch \$2.23, 1 waist belt \$2.06, 1 shoulder strap \$2.57, cartridges and caps \$11.30, 1 haversack \$51, 1 knapsack \$65, 1 canteen \$5, and 1 gun sling \$12. These may be Confederate dollars so no direct comparison can be made with costs charged to Union soldiers.

Comparison of costs of lost equipment between CSA and USA.

Adams: canteen, knapsack, haversack and tent \$14.50

Riley: bugle and eagle 5c, sling 31 c

Coffey: belt, belt plate, bayonet, scabbard, cap pouch \$3.41; haversack 95c, canteen 65c.

The records of deserters from the USVI is intriguing. Some deserters show up "as present" in company reports after they had deserted. Had they been captured or returned voluntarily, or had they deserted but were not yet missed? Sometimes it was

noted that the individual returned "voluntarily." Other times no mention was made of how they returned to duty. There were very few records showing that deserters were tried and punished.

Another interesting, but puzzling factoid. Some deserters had the charge of desertion removed from their record in later years. A document indicating such is the following.

 WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

NOTATION

Filed August

July 28, 1925

The charge of desertion of October 30, 1865 against this man is removed and he is discharged to date Oct. 30, 1865, under provisions of the Act of Congress

Approved March 2, 1889.

Discharge certificate prepared by the War Department

July 28, 1925, and filed.

By authority of the Sec. of War.

Robert C. Davis

Major General,

The Adjutant General

 (Author's note: I do not know under what conditions, and why, this was done, or what extenuating circumstances applied. Desertion did not appear to be as serious an infraction, as I had believed.)

There are some summary observations that can be made that reflect on the question, "Who

were these Galvanized Yankees?" and come from viewing many of these soldiers' records.

1. Who were these men and from where did they come?

They range in age from teenage years (15 was the earliest found) to over 50 years old. They would be considered shorter in stature than we are today, only one or two over 6 feet tall.

The occupation of "farmer" was the prevalent one among these soldiers amounting to approximately 60%. What does this reflect: the agrarian nature of the South, that the rich did not carry their part of the burden of the fighting and they "bought" their way out,...? Would the percentage be the same across the board for all the Confederate army? Would the army of the North be any different?

The majority of the troopers in the four companies A, F, G, and I were born in the coastal South -- Virginia and North Carolina - with a smattering from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, but none from Mississippi, Arkansas, Florida, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. This may reflect the fact that the prison where they were incarcerated was in Maryland and they probably were captured close to that state. It might be surmised that Southern regiments fought close to home. There were 6 such prisons and a survey of all of the inmates in each may reflect a different origin for them. Some were foreign born, e.g., Germany and Ireland, and had immigrated to the US before the war.

2. Were they enthusiastic or unwilling volunteers?

Probably willing to escape the squalid conditions of the prison camp, but not enthusiastic. Several of them, 14 in number, deserted at Salt Creek, Kansas, soon after they left Fort Leavenworth. One source stated that the desertion rate (about 14%) of the USVI closely approximated the similar rate for all volunteers to the US army.

3. Where did they go after their service?

Very little information was found in the military records to bear on this question. One would have to do an extensive search of census records to ascertain the answer. The only place such information was found in the military records was in pension files. Sometimes those gave the location of the death of the veteran.

4. Was there an organization of brotherhood for them?

There was no indication that there was an organization formed for former USVI soldiers. Probably they did not want to remember their experience or wished not to be known as to have thusly served. One source hinted that they were not welcomed into the GAR. As a side note, there is an organization formed by their descendants, called the Descendants of Point Lookout.

5. About one-half of them applied for a pension from the US Government.

ADDENDA

The following document is a copy of a letter sent by Captain Richard Musgrove, commander of Company I of the 1st United States Volunteer Infantry, to his sister in 1866, after the company marched from Post Monument, Kansas, to Pond Creek Station, Kansas.

Pond Creek Station, Kansas

Nov 30th 1866

Dear Sister,

Now that I have safely arrived at my destination I will again write you. I wrote you last from Fletcher two weeks ago tomorrow. You will probably see accounts in the paper of affairs in this region so I will give you a true statement of the situation. We had not seen an Indian or heard of one until we were two days marches out of Fletcher and we had concluded there were none in this part of the country. On the afternoon of the second day we went into camp early and turned

the mules out to graze as usual when the first intimation we had of Indians a party dashed down and drove off 57 mules belonging to a part of the train that was distant from the rest. We gave them chase but they were mounted and got away. We divided up the contents of the nine wagons left without mules among the rest and next morning proceeded on our way. At night we arrived at one of the ranches or stage stations on Butterfield's Overland Route. We found the ranch destroyed and three dead men lying in front of the ranch. One of them was half burnt up. The next morning we found three more on the road a few miles west of there and towards night picked up a party of eight men and two women who had traveled forty miles to escape since having any thing to eat. On the sixth day from Fletcher we arrived at Monument Station. There Co A was to remain and one half the train unload so I laid over one day. We turned out the mules to graze with a guard out but a party came down and attempted to stampede them, but a few shots made the red devils leave. They then made for a train of five wagons that were coming towards the station but the train went into a corell (sic) until we could send out a relief party when they came to the station. They then tried to burn us out by setting fire to the prairie but that did not work for we set counter fires. They hovered around us until night, but dare not venture within range of our long range muskets. They were armed with bows and arrows, spears and a few revolvers. Two days more marching brought me to this station. No Indians have been seen here at all, but we shall be constantly prepared for them. I like the situation here very well. One Co., of Cavalry is also here with mine. We have made temporary quarters by digging in the top of high bluff covering the top with poles and then those with earth and having a hole to our den in the sides of the bluff. We have fire places in them and they are very comfortable. They are too very easily defended and all the Indians in this part of the country will not dare attack us. In fact their not much to be feared from Indians unless we allow them to surprise us. They are miserable cowards and will only attack small numbers and not then unless they have a decided advantage as was the case when they killed those



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referred to above. This new road runs directly through their best hunting grounds and they seem disposed to dispute our right to run road here. These ranches referred to above are from 12 to 15 miles apart and occupied by two and three men each to attend to the stage line stock. From here to Fletcher, a distance of 150 miles east of here, the stock has all been stolen and the ranches destroyed by them, but only six of the tenders killed. They have completely stopped the coaches running between here and Fletcher until more troops can be brought here to station a few men at each ranch which will be done immediately. I have not received any mail yet and may not for a few weeks although I am expecting dispatches any day from Fletcher and if they come I may get a mail. It seems a long time since I heard from home, but hope all are well and that I may hear soon. I do not know when I can send this, but will have it ready to send at the first opportunity. I hope you will not be uneasy about me as I think I am in no real danger. I do not even expect to have any fighting to do. And if I do it is not like fighting rebels. It is seldom that a man gets killed in an open fight with them.

R. A. Davis, a special artist for Harpers Weekly was with me at Monuments, Smoky Hill Spring Station and here and took sketches so you will probably see an account of affairs with views of scenery fights etc in that paper soon, but I think he is employed by the Overland Co to give the writer a puff so he may not give a true version of affairs. If you get the paper send me one.

This station I find is in Kansas but just on the Colorado line on Pond Creek which empties into the Smoky Hill Creek about a mile from here. We are of about 50 miles north of Fort Lyons which is on the Arkansas River so you can place our location on the map. I will write more about the country etc in my next. I enclose a directed envelope and hope that that direction may bring my mail to me more promptly.

Hoping soon to hear from home and that this may soon reach you. I remain very affectionately your brother.

Don't fail to write as often as usual and give me all the news.

Richard

