

THE COLORADO MAGAZINE

Published by
The State Historical Society of Colorado

VOL. VIII

Denver, Colorado, May, 1931

No. 3

History of Fort Lewis, Colorado

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At the base of the La Plata Mountains, twelve miles west of Durango, was located the military post of Fort Lewis. During frontier days this was an important place not only in military operations and Indian fights but in the social life of the region as well. Here were stationed not only dashing young graduates of West Point but also many officers who had gained fame on the battlefields of the Civil War. The fort owed its existence to the warfare between the Indians and whites and was abandoned when the need for protection was no longer felt.

The first issue of the *La Plata Miner*, published in Silverton on Saturday, July 10, 1875, contained an editorial written by the editor, John R. Curry, on the need for the establishment of a military post in the Animas valley. Though two years earlier the Utes had signed the Brunot treaty, relinquishing their rights to the San Juan mining region, they still roamed at large through the country, becoming increasingly hostile as the white settlers increased in number and more land was taken up. As the Indians lived largely by hunting they knew of no other way to exist and realized that as more land was occupied by the immense herds of cattle which were being brought in, game would disappear and their food supply be diminished. Their ideal was to preserve their hunting grounds intact while periodically visiting an agency to receive their rations. The whites, on the other hand, wished to make use of the fertile land and abundant water supply which they felt was entirely wasted on the Indians, who were utterly averse to farming.

The conditions were such as to promote a continual conflict between the two races. By the terms of the Brunot treaty of 1873 the Indians had ceded a rectangular-shaped portion of their reservation, embracing the San Juan Mountains area, to the whites.

* Mrs. Ayres wrote an article upon "The Founding of Durango, Colorado," which appeared in the *Colorado Magazine* of May, 1930. She lives in Durango today and is active in gathering and disseminating information upon the history of southwestern Colorado.

Mrs. Ayres has gathered data upon the Indians and Fort Lewis from contemporary newspapers and from a number of pioneers. Data about the troops and camp at Animas City and the early fort were obtained from Mrs. Davies, who lived at Animas and married Lieut. Davies of the 13th Infantry. Mr. Hildebrand and Mr. Scribner were in the Elk Mountain fight and the former was at the fort for five years. The City Manager of Durango, Mr. Wigglesworth, whose father was a pioneer civil engineer, gave valuable help, as did Mrs. Grant Sanders. Other pioneers read and approved the manuscript.—Ed.

As the Los Pinos agency was situated at the eastern end of the reservation the Indians had to travel as much as seventy-five miles to reach it, and because of the mountainous character of the country must cross through the white man's territory in passing from one part of their reservation to the other. On the other hand, the attempt to carry out the terms of the treaty with the Indians and keep the reservation free from the forbidden whites was equally futile, for if settlers could not cross the reservation it stood like a Chinese wall between Colorado and New Mexico, entirely shutting off communication for 110 miles. The presence of troops was deemed necessary to carry out the terms of the treaty, and accordingly the 45th Congress authorized the establishment of an army post at Pagosa Springs, where the Indian and military trails crossed the San Juan River. This was garrisoned on October 17, 1878, and was called Fort Lewis in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Lewis of the 19th Infantry, who had been killed in action during the raid of the Cheyenne Indians the preceding summer. The military reservation was six miles square and had ten buildings for troops, each housing ten men. The buildings were erected under the superintendence of Captain W. T. Hartz of the 15th Infantry, then the commanding officer of the post. Two companies of troops were encamped at Pagosa—the 15th Infantry under Lieutenant George A. Cornish and Company D, 9th Cavalry, under Lieutenant John F. Guilfoyle. This post, under command of Lieutenant Fletcher, remained at Pagosa until 1882, being kept during the latter part of its occupancy merely as a commissariat garrisoned by about twenty men, as the main body of troops had been moved to a new location.

That the reservation was poorly shaped was soon realized by the Indian Bureau. F. H. Weaver, the Indian agent at the Southern Ute agency, reported in 1878: "Experience has shown that the shape in which the reservation has been thrown is very unfortunate. A strip of ground 15 miles wide with herds of cattle from both sides pouring into it is no place for Indians." Acting on these suggestions, an act of Congress was passed in 1878 authorizing a negotiation. Under this authority a commission consisting of General Hatch, Hon. Lot Morrill and Hon. N. C. McFarland was appointed and during that same year they negotiated an agreement with the Southern Utes by which they were to accept another location, but before this could be acted upon by Congress the outbreak of 1879 occurred.

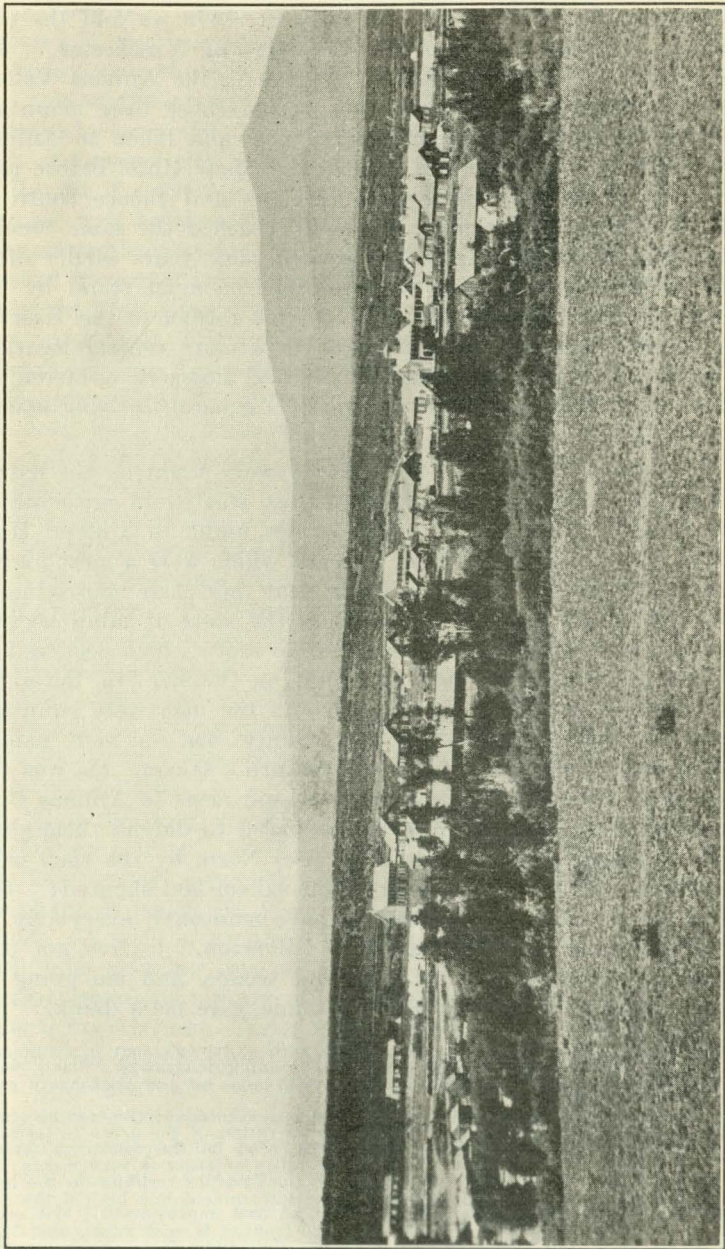
Early in 1879 it was obvious that there was to be trouble with the Indians. In response to the settlers' appeals for protection made to the United States government, Lieutenant General Phil Sheridan made a tour of inspection. He went first to Meeker,

from Meeker to Ouray, thence to Silverton, where he arrived with his escort on Saturday afternoon, May 31, 1879, to find the city decorated with flags in honor of "The Hero of Winchester." He rode from Silverton to Pinkerton Springs in the Animas Valley, where exhausted by a 700-mile ride on horseback over mountain trails, he was met by the army ambulance¹ and taken to Animas City, where he stayed a short time at the Shaw Hotel before proceeding to Fort Lewis at Pagosa Springs and thence south to Santa Fe. General Sheridan, no doubt, reached the same conclusion on this trip which he had expressed some years earlier after a similar trip through New Mexico—that he must stand by the people and give them protection.² On his return to the East he recommended that the fort be moved to a more central location, but before this could be done the Meeker massacre occurred on September 29, 1879, and fears existed of a general uprising among the Indians.

At Animas City, signal fires blazed every night on the mountains around town and a blockhouse was started in anticipation of an attack. Forty men drilled every night in Culver Hall. Some of the women buried their carpets, which were a most highly prized possession in those days, in the fear that their houses might be burned by the Indians. How tense the state of mind became among the settlers is shown by an Indian scare which occurred at Howardsville, four miles from Silverton, on October 7th, the night of the election in San Juan County. As the men were counting returns in Howardsville—then the county seat—a man named McCann rode to the door of Jimmie Soward's saloon. He was the bearer of an appeal to the governor to send arms to Animas City in order that the citizens might be prepared to defend themselves in case of attack and was bound for Del Norte by the road over Stony Pass. He rode to the door of the saloon and shouted: "Git up and git out of here; the Indians have massacred everybody in Animas City and are moving on to Silverton. I have got dispatches for the governor for arms and troops, and am going to Antelope Springs before daylight. Jimmie, give me a drink." He

¹The army ambulances were conveyances with a driver's seat in front and two seats in the rear facing each other and running lengthwise. They were drawn by four mules. The riding was so rough none of the passengers ever forgot the experience.

²As commander of the Division of the Missouri Lieutenant General Sheridan had been called before Congress to defend the operation of the army in its attitude towards the Indians, and had stated his policy in the following terms: "I have in my command at least five hundred miles of frontier settlements, my chief and only duty being to give protection to the families residing on the long lines against the outrages of the Indians. The government has invited the settlers by opening the land to them for pre-emption and improvement. The number of men, women and children on the extended frontier is very great, and there is not a day from one year's end to the other that their families are exempt from the fearful thought of being murdered in the most fiendish manner * * *. I have no hesitation in making my choice. I am going to stand by the people over whom I am placed and give them what protection I can." (U. S. House Executive Document No. 269, 41st Congress, 2nd Session.)



VIEW OF FORT LEWIS, COLORADO, IN 1881.

showed his dispatches and swore his story was true. He got his drink and started as fast as his horse would carry him up the gulch. Messengers were immediately sent to Animas Forks—another little mining town—to arouse the people to arms. Then the balance of the party started for Silverton. Finding a camp of men engaged in constructing a telegraph line, they repeated the story to them. As the boss of the gang said everyone should look out for his own scalp, they immediately broke camp, some going to the mountains, some over the range to Del Norte, and some into Silverton. The camp was entirely abandoned and no more work was done there that fall. On reaching town on a run they learned the nature of the message which McCann carried. He had told the story to secure a drink, knowing no one would hesitate to give a drink of whiskey to a man on a mission of mercy with a forty-mile ride before him over a mountain trail in the dark. He got his drink, but the whole country was aroused by the story.³

About October 8, 1879, under the command of General Hatch, the United States troops marched from Pagosa Springs and occupied Animas City. Colonel George P. Buell of the 15th Infantry took command of the troops, which consisted of four companies of the 22nd Infantry from Indian Territory, two of the 15th Infantry from Fort Wingate, one of the 19th Infantry from Fort Lyon and four companies of the 9th Cavalry from Pagosa Springs. These troops, numbering 600 men, were camped in tents on the east bank of the Animas River across the wagon bridge from the town. They remained there until January, 1880, when they left for Santa Fe with the exception of the 15th Infantry, which returned to Pagosa Springs.

The prompt and decisive action of the government, assisted by Chief Ouray, had averted the fierce Indian war which seemed imminent, and early in 1880 a number of the chiefs and head men of the tribes, accompanied by Chief Ouray and Chipeta, were taken to Washington, where on March 6, 1880, a new agreement was entered into by them which was afterwards ratified by the tribes. The Southern Utes agreed to remove and settle upon the unoccupied agricultural land of the La Plata River in Colorado, and if there should not be a sufficiency of such land in Colorado, then upon such other unoccupied lands as might be found on the La Plata River and its vicinity in New Mexico. The Uncompahgres were to settle upon lands along the Gunnison and Grand rivers and the White River Utes were to be settled at Uintah in Utah. Before this agreement could be carried out there was danger of a serious conflict between the Indians and the whites and the Uncompahgres and the White River Utes were hurried off to the

³Told in *La Plata Miner* of December 30, 1882.

Uintah reservation, but the Southern Utes were left just where they were when the agreement was entered into, the committee reporting that there was not enough land on the La Plata River in Colorado, and they did not have time to make a sufficient examination elsewhere.

For almost a score of years afterwards the Southern Utes remained on their reservation in the anomalous position of having ceded their land and yet remaining on it—a situation unsatisfactory to whites and Indians alike. This situation was finally terminated May 4, 1899, when the reservation was thrown open to settlement and such Indians as did not take land in severalty were removed elsewhere. Before this removal was accomplished Fort Lewis had been built, occupied and abandoned by the army, and at the close of the period was used as an Indian school to house the very Indians for protection against whom it had been built.

General Buell, ordered to choose a new site for the fort after the Meeker massacre, chose one on the Mancos River farther west, but the present location, selected by General Thomas H. Ruger, who had been sent out from Leavenworth, was ratified by General John Pope, the commander of the department, as being more suitable. The first cantonment was in tents, two miles north of the site chosen for the buildings. Five companies of the 13th Infantry regiment, with Lieutenant R. E. A. Crofton in command, brought in their own sawmill in July, 1880. One hundred government wagons drawn by six mules each accompanied them. The fort was finished by snowfall in 1880, the barracks for the men being built first and then the houses for the officers. The *Durango Record* of February 19, 1881, in speaking of a dance given at the fort, said: "The post consists of quite a little village of 17 or 18 different houses arranged around the parade for the most part. The barracks in which the dance was held are to be enlarged shortly by the addition of a wing 170 feet in length. There are now five companies stationed there." The 13th Infantry remained stationed there until October 25, 1881, when they were sent to New Mexico.

The 15th Infantry, which came in next, was commanded by General George P. Buell, of Civil War fame. It stayed until the fall of 1882, when it was succeeded by companies B, D, G, and K of the 22nd Infantry, who were sent in from Texas under the command of Colonel David Stanley. The command of these troops was later turned over to Major R. H. Hall and Colonel Stanley returned to his headquarters at Fort Marcy near Santa Fe. When Colonel Stanley was promoted to the post of Brigadier General in April, 1884, his place was taken by Colonel Peter T. Swaine, who remained in command at the fort until 1888. Both Colonel Stanley and Colonel Swaine were the commanders of the

District of New Mexico, Colonel Stanley in 1883 and 1884 and Colonel Swaine in 1885. They were followed by Captain James W. Powell of the 6th Infantry, who took charge of the fort in 1888. Two companies of colored troops of the 9th Cavalry were encamped in tents below Fort Lewis for a few months in 1882, waiting for arrangements to be perfected to remove the Jicarilla Apaches from Amargo to a reservation in New Mexico. As the Indians had no respect for colored troops, it was necessary to send some of the 22nd Infantry from Fort Lewis to start them on their march, after which the colored troops furnished them an escort through the country. The 6th Cavalry came to the fort from Fort Apache, Arizona, in May, 1884, and remained at the fort with the 6th Infantry after the departure of the 22nd. They were in charge of Major Tullius C. Tupper.

Fort Lewis was situated at an altitude of 7,610 feet and commanded a magnificent view of the La Plata Mountains. The old parade ground, which was one of the largest in the country, is today the campus of the Fort Lewis school of agriculture. At the northern end of the parade ground was built the commissariat for the troops, the post trader's store, the theatre and dance hall, the headquarter's office and other buildings. On the east side were the barracks for the troops. Behind the barracks on the river bank were the sheds for the horses. Facing the barracks across the parade ground on the west were the houses occupied by the families of the officers. As the senior officer had the choice of residence, and so on down the line, changes in residence were frequent. There is a tradition in Durango that one officer's lady took the army ambulance to town to spend the day with friends after getting nicely settled in her residence, and returned to find that the wife of an officer higher in command had just arrived and her household goods were set out and the wife of the senior officer was in possession of the place.

Two regimental bands were stationed at Fort Lewis. The 15th Infantry band was there when Colonel Buell was stationed there and the 22nd regimental band was also there when the fort again became regimental headquarters. Besides playing at the fort, the bands would frequently play at public affairs in Durango and Silverton, and the Fort Lewis orchestra, which was part of the 22nd band, furnished the music for the "Mikado" when it was put on by local talent in Durango. The performance was later repeated at the fort, where there was a stage in the dance hall. This building, now fallen from its high estate, is serving in the useful if more humble role as a stable for the horses of the agricultural college.

One well-known building at Fort Lewis was the post trader's

store. This was run by Colonel J. G. Price. This sutler's store furnished the men their only relief from the weeks and months on end of boredom. Here they could find beer and even perhaps stronger liquors. Payday usually came only every two months and on such an occasion the place would be thronged. Later those who were drunk were rounded up and escorted to the guard house to sober up. During one of these celebrations the guard house was so full of men they had to stand up, as there was not room to sit down. One of the men had a fiddle and while he played and the rest shouted, one of the general prisoners sawed a hole in the floor and escaped. So sparsely settled was the country that once away from the fort a prisoner stood a good chance of making his escape. This frame guard house was later replaced by a more substantial one of stone, which is still standing. This had massive walls fully two feet thick and contained a number of small cells lighted by one small window above the prisoners' heads. This building was later used as a dairy at the agricultural college, and when the cells were torn out a letter from one of the prisoners was found in which he was expressing very uncomplimentary views of the entire army system. Many inscriptions in foreign languages were written on the walls of the guard house, as many of the men, both officers and privates, were of foreign birth.

At one time a lieutenant of the Saxon-Uhlans came to Fort Lewis and enlisted as a private soldier. Every morning with due solemnity the corporal would take the new recruit out and give him a riding lesson as required by the army regulations, much to the delight of the onlookers, as the recruit rode with an ease and grace which the corporal had failed to attain. However, the members of the cavalry companies could perform marvels of horsemanship. The horses were trained to lie down at a certain signal. The company would ride up at full gallop and in the twinkling of an eye would be off, lying behind the horses ready to shoot at the enemy. Remounting was performed at the same rate of speed.

About a half mile northwest of the fort was the rifle range, where the men were trained in marksmanship. Lead from the bullets is still plentiful on this site and at one time could be picked up in quantities. On this site occurred the death of an ordnance sergeant who was demonstrating the action of a Gatling gun. He was standing in front of the gun showing how it was to be used and ordered a private soldier to turn the handle. There was a shot in the gun which passed through his body and killed him.

As all supplies, except such as were bought locally, were shipped from Fort Leavenworth and had to be hauled from Du-

rango by wagons, each company was given a plot of ground for a garden to raise vegetables and thus lessen living expenses. A factor which added to the high cost of living was the fact that the road over which the wagons traveled to Fort Lewis was a toll road which charged fifty cents a trip for a two horse wagon and probably more for the army wagons drawn by four or six mules. The troopers on horseback, as they approached the toll gate, detoured over the mountain and thus avoided toll.

The weather reports were kept at Fort Lewis from the founding of the post, as the weather bureau in those days was a part of the War Department. Records made of the rainfall have since been used as evidence in many law suits concerning water rights. The record snowfall up to the present time occurred during the spring of 1884, when Fort Lewis almost disappeared from sight beneath the snow drifts. Where the paths were shoveled through the snow, it was like going through a tunnel. As the snow was much higher than a man's head, the sentries posted in these paths could not see the houses they were guarding. During this time the D. & R. G. Railroad running into Durango was blocked by the snow for seventy days. Fortunately, Fort Lewis was well stocked with provisions and supplies of tea, coffee, rice and sugar, which being exhausted in Durango, were hauled from the fort in wagons. The Durango stores were rationed and could sell only one pound of sugar at a time.

During the early years of the fort, General William T. Sherman, accompanied by General John Logan, made a tour of inspection. He arrived at Durango on a special train at ten in the morning and was taken to the fort, where he spent two days. What made this visit memorable to the people at the fort was not so much the presence of the general, but the fact that the cannon which was used to fire the official salute of seventeen guns become overheated after the first few shots and exploded, costing the gunner who was firing it his arm.

The early days of the fort were filled not only with trouble with the Indians but discord with the white settlers as well. Early in 1880 there seemed to be the danger that the Utes and Navajos might combine against the whites. After the death of Ouray on August 24, 1880, conditions again became unsettled, as he had always sought peace and restrained the younger braves, who counseled war, and people feared what they might do without him.

During the spring and summer of 1881 the settlers were expecting the removal of the Utes and were apprehensive that there might be bloodshed at that time unless a sufficient number of

troops were furnished by the government. As the removal did not take place, the danger did not materialize.

On May 1, 1881, about thirty miles from Dolores the Indians burned the ranch of John Thurman and killed Thurman, Richard May and Frank Smith. Then taking 140 head of horses, they headed north to the San Miguel. William, brother of Richard May, who went to Fort Lewis for help, was informed that they would do nothing for him and would not even send out a party to search for the missing men. Finally he was told that the troops were there to protect the Indians. This resulted in a growing feeling of indignation against the government's Indian policy throughout the section. One man in a government surveying party in the Mancos country wrote: "The chances run very high if the ball is once set rolling that the Indian bureau will have considerably fewer Utes to feed, arm and pay."

Later in the month signal fires were burning every night on the hills at Mancos, and it was reported that the Indians were stealing cattle and horses and had robbed a wagon. James I. Hall, one of the early settlers, wrote: "It looks hard to pay taxes to feed the Indians and clothe them while they steal our property and savagely murder our best citizens. But it is harder still to support a standing army and then be compelled to fight our own battles. It is said that 100 soldiers are on their way here now from Fort Lewis, but little is expected of them. The only way out of the difficulty is, if the army will not do it, for the citizens to arm themselves and drive every Indian out of Southwestern Colorado, and do it as quickly as possible." However, the next paper tells that a company of cavalry with six wagons under Captain Rogers was on its way to Mancos. The issue of June 25th told of a fight between the Indians and cowboys in Castle Valley, Utah, in which one man was killed and two wounded. The troops were sent from Fort Lewis under Captain Carroll. General Hatch accompanied them and they had a supply train of sixteen wagons.

The history of the next four years is much the same. The Indians, angered by the slowness of the government in carrying out its promises, would commit depredations upon the whites in the sparsely settled parts of the country, especially in the Mancos valley. The soldiers would be appealed to for protection, but would have to report the matter to Washington, and by the time the orders were given the Indians would have made good their escape. This slowness in turn would infuriate the settlers against the soldiers, who, on the other hand, were somewhat justified in the stand they took by the fact that a trivial incident magnified

in the telling had often resulted in a wild goose chase for officers and men. Congress, hampered in legislation by the Indian Rights' Association, did nothing.

In July, 1884, the country was set in an uproar by the killing of a government scout and a cowboy. The Indians had been stealing horses and one day a Ute Indian came into a cow camp leading a branded horse. When asked about it he said he had bought it. A cowboy reached for a knife to cut the horse loose and the Indian, thinking he was reaching for a gun, promptly shot him. Cowboys followed the trail of the Indians for days and were joined by the B and F troops of the 6th Cavalry. After following the Indians as far as the Elk Mountains in Utah the cowboys saw them cross the crest of a high ridge just at dusk. During the night the troops caught up with the band of cowboys, who had camped in the valley awaiting daylight. The troops were uncertain whether the Indians had remained at the top of the hill or had gone on, so at sunrise, in response to an appeal for volunteers to explore the ridge, a government scout named Worthington and a cowboy named Rowdy started up the narrow, rocky trail. As they reached the top they were shot and killed in full view of the men below by the Indians who were intrenched in the rocks at the top of the hill and held the cowboys and troops under fire all day. As they were without water and it was certain death to attempt to rescue the bodies, the troops and cowboys withdrew during the night.

In the summer of 1885 the storm broke. It was just after the murder near Cortez of a man named Gunther, who had objected to the Indians stealing his watermelons, the burning of his ranch house and the wounding of his wife, who with two small children crawled two miles to the nearest ranch house. At the same time on Beaver Creek, west of Dolores, a band of cowboys, infuriated by continued depredations, killed an entire camp of Indians except one squaw, who made good her escape and was later taken to the fort guarded by the soldiers. Settlers fled from their ranches to the settlements for protection. Finally the soldiers received their orders to proceed against the Indians and peace was restored.

There was an increased demand for the removal of the Indians and under agent C. F. Stollsteimer a delegation was again taken to Washington late in 1885, where they once more expressed their desire to be moved. By the treaty of 1886, made at this time, the government allowed each family 320 acres of land and each child 160 acres. Irrigation ditches were to be built, rations were provided and an annuity of \$24 per capita was made. The agent reported at this time that there were 983 Indians on the Ute reservation. Through the pacifying influence of Chief Ignacio, to

which scores of white settlers owe their lives, peace was restored and the situation quieted down to such an extent that in the fall of 1891 the troops were withdrawn.

In 1892 the abandoned buildings of the fort were made into an Indian school. Angered at being compelled to attend the school, the Indian children burned many of the buildings one after the other. In this way the barracks were entirely destroyed and most of the officers' row, only two houses being left on the northern end. The second summer an epidemic broke out at the school which killed many of the Indian children and the parents came and took the rest away by force, after which the school was closed for some time. It was opened later and ran successfully until the establishment of schools on the Indian reservation made it unnecessary.

By act of Congress, approved April 4, 1910, a grant of 6,300 acres of land with all buildings and fixed equipment of the former Fort Lewis Military Reservation and Indian school was made to the State of Colorado as part of the land grant college system of the State. The provisions of this act were accepted by the 18th General Assembly of the State and a School of Agriculture, Mechanic Arts and Household Arts was established by an act approved January 25, 1911. This act provides that the "lands, buildings and equipment shall thereafter become and be a part of the Agricultural College system of the state, and shall be controlled and managed under the same laws, rules and regulations, by the State Board of Agriculture as the Agricultural College at Fort Collins; provided that Indian pupils shall at all times be admitted to such school free of charge for tuition, and on terms of equality with white pupils."

As conditions have changed throughout the years, various courses have been added. At the present time the Fort Lewis college is doing excellent work in the course covered during the first two years' work of the Colorado Agricultural College. Students from Fort Lewis can complete their work at the State Agricultural College in two additional years, or if they wish to attend other colleges the work done at Fort Lewis is accepted for credit through the Colorado Agricultural College in the North Central Association of high schools and colleges, thus giving many students, to whom the opportunity would be otherwise denied, the privilege of an education on the ground made historic by the incidents of the past.

Colorow, Renegade Chief, Dines Out

WOLFE LONDONER*

When I kept store in California Gulch, Colorow was chief of a band of Utes. He used to come in there and do a little trading. His squaws would bring in buckskins, etc., and trade for such things as they wanted. He would make his headquarters at my office. I was living just down the road about two hundred feet from the store, where I had a little log cabin. It was my duty to ask him to dine with me and keep on the right side of him because I was afraid he would take the top of our heads off. I used to start out in the night on the road to Denver and take money with me and I did not wish to be caught by him, so I wanted to keep on good terms with the old devil, and asked him down to dine.

On one particular occasion I asked him to dinner. He grunted "Yes." I did not know he had his squaws with him. He had three or four. He told them all to march down, so the procession moved down to the house. I got in a little ahead and told my wife we had some company for dinner. She said she did not know whether we had enough to go 'round, but would do the best she could. When I brought them in, her face lengthened about a foot. I gave the old devil the head of the table. *They* got soup, but we did not get any soup that day. He would take a spoonful of soup and then spit. He would spit alongside the table. It was the most villainous thing I ever encountered, but durst not say a word. The six sat right up and chewed along.

After the thing was over he mumbled something in Indian and one of the squaws gave my wife a buckskin. She hardly knew what it was or what to do with it. They went out and I went up to the office. In a little while my partner, Dr. Fouts, who was a kind of physician and one of the celebrities of those days, came in. I waited on the customers and he would do the recording. Dr. Fouts said he would go up the gulch and collect some bills. He had not been gone more than ten minutes before the old chief came in. He was a man weighing about 275 pounds, a terribly big Indian. I was apprised of his arrival by his darkening the whole front. His shadow blocked out the light.

There was the old fellow with his hands over his stomach and looking very pale, for an Indian. He says, "Where is Fouts?" I said, "Fouts has gone up the gulch." (I was a little afraid, anyway, about the dinner business.)

* Mr. Londoner, prominent and picturesque Colorado pioneer, lived at California Gulch (the region of later Leadville) in 1860. Subsequently he became mayor of Denver. This is an extract from an interview had with him in 1884 by H. H. Bancroft. The original is in the Bancroft Library, University of California.—*Ed.*

"Injun heap sick."

"What is the matter," I said, "what have you been doing, drinking whiskey?"

"No, no, eat too much."

"What do you want?"

"Want Fouts."

"Fouts gone."

"You give me medsin."

I was kind of scared. I did not know but what he would go for me. I got up and looked around for something to give it to him in. I picked up a tin cup. We had nothing but tin cups in those days. I thought the best thing I could do was to give him some Epsom salts. I knew it would not kill him. I filled the cup up, nearly, and he had a hard time to get it down and had to take a great deal of water with it. Then he went off and I did not see him until next morning.

I went down to open the store about seven o'clock and opened the rear door to go down into the gulch to bring up a pail of water, and in going down the stream met my friend coming up. While he had weighed probably 275 pounds the day before, he looked now like an umbrella cover. We stopped; I did not know what to say, but thought I would face the music.

"No good, white man heap bad."

"What's the matter, Colorow?" I said.

"Oh, heap sick, pretty near die, no more medsin, see your partner."

I helped him up to the store. It was quite a little climb from the gulch. I went and got Dr. Fouts up and told him what the trouble was. Says he, "How much did you give him for —— sake?"

"I gave him a tin cup full," said I.

"Why, that was enough to kill an elephant."

"Well," said I, "it hain't killed Colorow."

The Second Colorado Cavalry in the Civil War

BLANCHE V. ADAMS*

Jesse H. Leavenworth, son of the colonel for whom Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was named, was charged on February 17, 1862, with the duty of raising six companies of volunteer infantry in Colorado Territory. These companies, together with the independent companies of Captain Dodd and Captain Ford, and two independent companies of dismounted cavalry under Captains Backus and Sexton, were to form the Second Colorado Volunteer Infantry. Leavenworth was to receive the commission as colonel when the regiment was mustered in.¹

Captain Backus' and Captain Sexton's cavalry had been recruited at Nevada City, Denver, Golden, and Central City from September 2 to December 1, 1861.² These troops took up quarters at Camp Weld, near Denver, when the First Regiment of Colorado Infantry went to New Mexico to participate in the campaign against the Texans.³ The editor of the *Weekly Colorado Republican* said of them: "It is a fine looking and orderly body, and will gain many friends wherever it goes."⁴ These troops were at one time ordered to go to New Mexico to aid in expelling the Confederates, but they were not sent on account of the retreat of the Texans.⁵ The two companies left Camp Weld for Fort Union, New Mexico, on April 24, 1862, under the command of Captain Backus.⁶ While on duty at Fort Union in November, 1862, they captured the Green Russell party on its way to Georgia.

Leavenworth did not reach Denver to begin the work of recruiting until May 12, 1862. Early in June he made the following appointments of captains: Company E, J. N. Smith; Company F, L. D. Rouell; Company G, ———Howard; Company H, George West; Company I, E. D. Boyd; and Company K, W. W. Wagner. Captain Theodore H. Dodd was made Lieutenant Colonel, and Captain James H. Ford, Major.

Recruiting progressed very slowly. Men with jobs were drawing good wages and did not care to change to a soldier's pay. In the *Denver Weekly Commonwealth*, for August 21, 1862, an ap-

*This paper is a chapter from Miss Adams' Master's thesis, written at the University of Colorado in 1930.—Ed.

¹L. Thomas, Adjutant General, to Jesse H. Leavenworth, Feb. 17, 1862, in *War of Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series III, Vol. I, p. 892. Hereafter this will be cited as *Rebellion Records*.

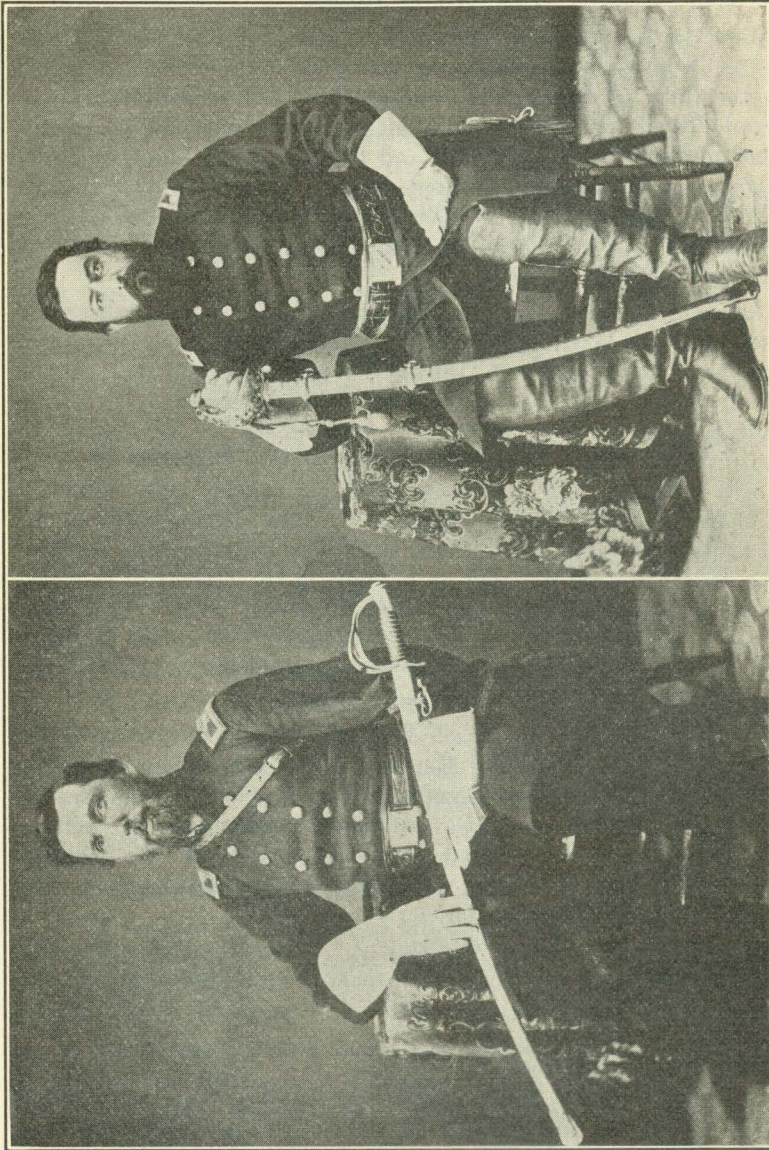
²*Extracts from the Muster Rolls of the Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*, compiled by Captain J. H. Nankivell, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, The First Colorado Cavalry Volunteers, 1861-1865. Hereafter when this volume is cited reference will be made to the muster rolls of the different companies.

³*Weekly Colorado Republican*, Feb. 27, 1862.

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵*Weekly Colorado Republican*, April 12, 1862.

⁶*Ibid.*, May 1, 1862.



COL. JAMES H. FORD (LEFT) AND LIEUT. COL. THEODORE H. DODD (RIGHT)
OF THE SECOND COLORADO CAVALRY.

peal was made for troops, offering inducements for volunteers. Recruits were to be given thirty-eight dollars in cash in advance, and the pay and clothing were estimated to be worth forty dollars a month. Citizens were urged to hold up Colorado's name and not make necessary a draft to fill the regiment.

So few were the recruits, however, that during the summer of 1862, when Fort Wise was in danger from marauding parties, the volunteers of the different companies formed one company and marched to the relief of the fort. On their return they were restored to their original companies.⁷

In the summer of 1862, while Leavenworth was recruiting the Second Colorado Infantry, he felt that Colorado was in need of a battery company. Accordingly, he authorized W. D. McLain to enlist an artillery company, although he had no authority to do so. McLain found less difficulty in getting recruits for the artillery than for the infantry. Work in recruiting this company was checked in September, when knowledge of this irregular conduct reached Washington. The officers were thereupon discharged, but were soon restored to their former positions.⁸ The battery, known as the "Independent Battery of Colorado Volunteer Artillery," was mustered in for three years on December 15, 1862, in Denver.

Although an active recruiting campaign had been carried on throughout the summer, only two-thirds enough troops for the infantry were enlisted by August, 1862. The incomplete companies left Camp Weld for Fort Lyon in August, and the recruiting stations continued to operate. The companies remained rather inactive at Fort Lyon until April, 1863.

The nucleus of the Second Colorado Infantry, Captain Dodd's and Captain Ford's companies, were the first volunteers to leave the Territory. Their work in New Mexico was important. After the Texans were driven from that Territory, these companies were stationed at Fort Craig for some time, then ordered to Fort Marcy at Santa Fe, and in the early winter were sent to Fort Union, and assigned garrison duty.⁹ Orders to report at Fort Lyon were received in January, 1863. They reached Fort Lyon the latter part of April, joining for the first time the remaining companies of the Second Colorado Infantry. The companies now received their letter designation in the regiment, which had been intended from the first. Dodd's company became Company A and Ford's company became Company B.¹⁰

⁷*Weekly Colorado Republican*, June 26, 1862.

⁸Information secured from Special Orders, No. 431, War Department, dated September 26, 1862. Copy in Old Records files, Office of Adjutant General of Colorado, Denver.

⁹Williams, *Three Years and a Half in the Army or A History of the Second Colorado*, 33.

¹⁰Captain J. H. Nankivell, "History of the 157th (First Colorado) Infantry," *The Command Post*, Jan., 1930, p. 25.

In May, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Dodd was ordered to report at Fort Leavenworth with a detachment of the Second Colorado Infantry. The detachment was composed of six companies, A, B, E, G, H, and I.¹¹ On their way to Fort Leavenworth the order was countermanded. They were ordered to proceed from Fort Riley to Fort Scott, south of Kansas City, and were charged with escort duty for government trains to Fort Gibson in the northeastern part of the Choctaw Nation.¹² There were various other companies engaged in this work. On the way to Fort Gibson the train was harassed by swollen streams. When they reached Cabin Creek on July 1st, they encountered the pickets of a Confederate force. In a short skirmish three Confederates were killed and three wounded. The Confederates retired across the swollen stream to their main force. The Federal troops, as well as the train, were unable to cross, because of the swollen condition of the stream and the fact that the Confederates were still in command of the ford. On the morning of July 2nd, Colonel Williams, of the First Regiment of Kansas Colored Volunteers, commanded a group of nine hundred men and charged the Confederates at the ford. After a brisk engagement the enemy fled in all directions. As the river had receded, the train was able to resume its march, and arrived at Fort Blunt on the 5th without further trouble from the Confederates.¹³ Three companies of the Second Colorado Infantry participated in the battle at the ford.

The Colorado Volunteers participated under General Blunt's command in another engagement with the Confederates at Elk Creek, near Honey Springs, Indian Territory, on July 17, 1863. The swollen condition of the Arkansas River again made the attack difficult. Although the Confederates greatly outnumbered the Federals under Blunt, they were put to flight. The Colorado battalion was commanded by Major J. N. Smith. The casualties of the Second Colorado were five killed and fourteen wounded.¹⁴

After the engagement at Elk Creek the troops returned to Fort Gibson, where they arrived July 19th. Here they remained until August 20th, when they started in pursuit of Steele,¹⁵ who had the combined Confederate forces of Cabell, Cooper, and Stand Waite, aggregating nine thousand men. The Confederates were stationed on the south side of the Canadian River, sixty miles from Fort Blunt. On the approach of Blunt's force of forty-five hundred men, they

¹¹Muster-Out Roll, Company F, Second Colorado Cavalry Volunteers, "Record of Events."

¹²Nankivell, *op. cit.*, *The Command Post*, Jan., 1930, p. 26.

¹³Col. J. M. Williams to Col. W. A. Phillips, July, 1863, *Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part I, pp. 380-381.

¹⁴Report of Major General James G. Blunt to Major General John M. Schofield, July 26, 1863, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part I, pp. 447-448; Return of Casualties in the Union Forces in the Engagement at Elk Creek, near Honey Springs, Ind. T., July 17, 1863, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part I, p. 449.

¹⁵Muster-Out Rolls of Company E, Second Colorado Cavalry Volunteers.

dispersed. About five thousand went to Perryville, Choctaw Nation, and the Federals pursued them, taking the town after a short skirmish on the night of August 25th. The Second Colorado Volunteers participated in this march.¹⁶ Cabell retired toward the Red River. Some of the Second Colorado followed McIntosh to within thirty miles of the Red River, while the others followed Cabell.¹⁷ By the middle of September all the Colorado Volunteers under General Blunt were in Fort Smith, Arkansas. While here a short expedition, of no importance, was made to Van Buren, Arkansas.¹⁸

The companies of the Second Colorado under Blunt were ordered in November, 1863, to report at Benton Barracks, St. Louis, where they arrived about the middle of December. They were ordered here to facilitate the consolidation of the Second and Third Colorado Volunteer Infantry.

In May, 1863, soon after Dodd and his detachment left Fort Lyon, Company F, under Colonel Leavenworth, was ordered to Fort Larned, Kansas. Their duty was to protect the Arkansas River route, as well as the Santa Fe Trail. Soon after this transfer Leavenworth resigned.¹⁹

On May 14th the company was ordered to Council Grove, and in August was sent to Kansas City, upon receiving news of the burning of Lawrence, Kansas. At this time two very noted guerrilla leaders, Quantrill and Shelby, were causing much trouble in Kansas and Missouri, having burned the city of Lawrence after one of their raids.²⁰ Company F of Second Colorado Volunteers participated in the pursuit of these bands.²¹ Of its services, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Hayes, commanding the station at Hickman's Mills, Missouri, reported: "Captain Rouell's men are constantly in the saddle, and with another such squadron of cavalry I believe that I can keep this section clear of guerrillas."²²

Despite the fact that the Second Regiment, Colorado Infantry Volunteers, was not complete, in the latter part of 1862 "General" William Larimer had been authorized to recruit a third regiment of infantry in Colorado. In the *Weekly Commonwealth*, August 21, 1862, there was the following notice:

¹⁶Report of James H. Blunt to J. M. Schofield, August 27, 1863, *Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part I, pp. 597-598.

¹⁷Report of W. F. Cloud, Commanding Fort Smith, to Major General Schofield, September 8, 1863, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part I, pp. 598-599.

¹⁸Muster-Out Rolls, Companies B and E, Second Colorado Cavalry, "Record of Events."

¹⁹Manly D. Ormes, "Colorado in the Nation's Wars," Baker and Hafen, *History of Colorado*, III, 976.

²⁰Muster-Out Rolls, Company D, Second Colorado Cavalry, "Record of Events."

²¹Muster-Out Rolls, Company D, Second Colorado Cavalry, "Record of Events."

²²J. H. Hayes to Brigadier General Ewing, Commanding District of the Border, September 9, 1863, *Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part 2, p. 521.

* * * General Larimer is here with full power to raise the Third Regiment of Colorado Volunteers. He will commence recruiting immediately, and the regiment will be sent directly to join the Brigade of General Lane for service in the field.

Recruiting was very slow, for labor was scarce and wages were high and Colorado had already furnished a great number of men. In the *Soldier's Letter* still another reason was given: "The copperheads and the more respectable class of out and out rebels—done what was in their power to hinder enlistments, and throw obstacles in the way of filling up the regiment * * *."²³

On December 1, 1862, the five companies that had been enlisted assembled at Camp Elbert (Weld). Larimer had become disheartened with the progress of enlistment and had resigned. The five companies of the regiment that had been recruited were ordered to the States in January, 1863, but were delayed in starting until March 3rd, when they proceeded to Fort Leavenworth under Lieutenant Colonel Curtis.²⁴ Colonel Ford and Major Pritchard with fractional companies remained at Fort Lyon to obtain more recruits.²⁵ In the spring of 1863 an active campaign to encourage recruiting was carried on in Denver. Public spirited men and business firms contributed sums of money to a bounty for recruits. Some of the contributions were as follows: "Officers of the Third Regiment, five hundred dollars; J. S. Filmore, three hundred dollars; and Governor Evans, Warren Hussey, and Kiskadden and Company, each two hundred dollars."²⁶

The five companies of the Third Regiment left Fort Leavenworth on April 28, 1863, for St. Louis, where they arrived on May 2d. Without tarrying here they continued on to Sulphur Springs, Missouri. During the summer they were occupied in building Fort Davidson. From Pilot Knob, Missouri, the companies went to Rolla, Missouri, arriving on October 28th, and continued on in a few days to Benton Barracks at St. Louis, where they arrived on December 10th.²⁷

Company K of the Second Colorado Cavalry remained at Fort Lyon until November, 1863. Three companies of the Third Colorado Cavalry, F, G, and K, which had been recruited after the first five companies of the regiment had left the Territory, went to Fort Lyon in November, 1863. On November 20th the three companies of the Third and the one company of the Second started on

²³*Soldier's Letter*, Second Colorado Cavalry, A Regimental Paper, vol. I, No. 3, p. 1.

²⁴Ormes, *op. cit.*, III, 974.

²⁵Colonel J. H. Leavenworth to Maj. Gen. Sumner, March 22, 1863, *Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part 2, p. 172.

²⁶*Rocky Mountain News*, March 5, 1863.

²⁷*Muster-Out Roll, Company I, Second Colorado Cavalry*, "Record of Events."

a forced march to Kansas City, where they arrived early in January, 1864.²⁸

On October 10, 1863, General Halleck ordered Major General Schofield, commanding the Department of Missouri, which included Colorado, to consolidate the Second and Third Colorado Regiments and to mount them.²⁹ In pursuance of the above order, Special Orders No. 278, Department of Missouri, was issued on October 11, 1863, respecting the consolidation of the two regiments.³⁰ The new regiment was to be called the Second Colorado Cavalry Volunteers. Officers appointed were James H. Ford, colonel; Theodore H. Dodd, lieutenant colonel; Samuel S. Curtis, J. Nelson Smith, and Jesse K. Pritchard, majors. In the reorganization, Company K of the Second Infantry and Companies F, G, and K of the Third Infantry were consolidated with the other companies. In the new organization the former companies of Dodd and Ford reversed their letter designations. Companies A to G were formed from the Second, and H, I, K, L, and M were formed from the Third. This new regiment was composed of twelve companies, comprising eleven hundred men.

Early in January, 1864, the Second Colorado Cavalry was ordered to occupy Jackson, Cass, and Bates counties, Missouri, relieving General Ewing and his Kansas troops.³¹ These counties formed the Fourth Sub-District of the District of Central Missouri. Colonel Ford was placed in charge. They left for Kansas City, Missouri, their headquarters, about the middle of January. Ford and three of his companies arrived in Kansas City on the 26th, having left the others at Dresden to await supplies. Ford was especially in need of horses, as his work in this district was to protect the people from bushwhackers.

Sufficient force of the Second Colorado Cavalry to enable Ford to assume control of the district and relieve Ewing did not arrive in Kansas City until February 18, 1864. First Lieutenant E. L. Berthoud, Company E, was appointed acting assistant adjutant general, and Captain J. C. W. Hall, Company B, was appointed assistant provost marshal.³²

During the first weeks of the occupation of this district there was little disturbance from the bushwhackers. Just previous to the occupation by the Colorado Volunteers, much destruction of property had taken place in the attempt to rid the country of the bushwhackers, many people having been forced to leave their

²⁸Williams, *op. cit.*, 36-44; *Second Colorado Cavalry*, "Record of Events."

²⁹*Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXII, Part 2, p. 627.

³⁰Nankivell, *op. cit.*, *The Command Post*, January, 1930, p. 26.

³¹Maj. Gen. Schofield to Maj. O. D. Green, January 7, 1864, *Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXXIV, Part 2, p. 42.

³²General Orders, No. 1, of 4th Sub-District, Central Missouri, February 18, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XXXIV, Part 2, p. 365.

homes. On March 29th, Inspector General R. G. Marey reported to Major O. D. Greene that "The Second Colorado Cavalry is now stationed in that unfortunate section, and I am happy to say that their presence seems to give very general satisfaction to the inhabitants."³³

During April and the first part of May various changes were made in the location of the troops throughout the district. Scouting expeditions were sent out frequently. In the meantime the troops were engaged in collecting forage. The bushwhackers did not begin to cause trouble until the middle of May.

In the latter part of this month several reports of depredations were made. A band of twenty-five guerrillas attacked an escort for a forage wagon on the Little Blue, on the 23rd. One man in each party was killed and the wagon was partly demolished. The bushwhackers destroyed part of the telegraph line between Pleasant Hill and Warrensburg.³⁴ Various incidents of a similar character occurred at this time.

The guerrillas continued active during the summer. On July 6th, Captain Wagoner, Company C, and twenty-five men of his company were attacked by the leader, Todd, and one hundred well-armed men. Wagoner and his troops were scouting from Raytown when they were attacked two miles south of the Little Blue, on the Independence and Pleasant Hill road. Captain Wagoner and seven of his men were killed. The enemy retired, dividing into several squads.³⁵

The rebels became so numerous in Platte County, Missouri, that Colonel Ford and a force of four hundred cavalymen of the Departments of Missouri and Kansas went into this region. A part of the Second Colorado was included in this detachment. They attacked the enemy at Camden on July 13th, and succeeded in "completely routing and scattering" them. The loss in Ford's detachment was one killed and one wounded, while fifteen rebels were killed.³⁶

Ford was commanded to stay here and rid the country of guerrillas. The rebels were under Thornton. Ford reported to General Rosecrans that "nine-tenths of the people of this region" were disloyal and aided Thornton in recruiting his band.³⁷ Colonel Ford called a mass meeting at Platte City on July 22nd to enlist the aid of the people in ridding the country of rebels.³⁸ Ford had

³³*Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XXXIV, Part 2, p. 776.

³⁴Report of E. B. Brown to Major O. D. Greene, May 26, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XXXIV, Part 4, p. 51.

³⁵J. H. Ford to Captain J. H. Steger, July 7, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 1, p. 52.

³⁶S. R. Curtis to Major General Halleck, July 14, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 1, p. 49.

³⁷*Ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 2, p. 204.

³⁸*Ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 2, pp. 204-205.

orders to seize persons and their property, should he find them aiding the Confederate cause. Thornton's band soon left Platte and Clay counties and went to Ray County.

On July 17th, Captain Moses and forty-seven men were doing scouting duty near Fredericksburg, Ray County, when they met a force of three hundred men led by Thornton. Moses' men scattered to the brush to protect themselves. In the engagement their loss was six killed, four wounded, and two missing, while the enemy's loss was sixteen killed and twenty-one wounded.

During the month of August the rebels were not so active; however, the Second Colorado had to be continuously on the watch. In Colorado Territory conditions were getting very serious. The Indians were on the "war path." Repeated requests were made by Governor Evans for the return of the Second Colorado. But their presence was deemed indispensable in Missouri, so they were retained.

Missouri was aroused in the middle of September when Major General Sterling Price began an invasion of the state. He had with him about twenty thousand Confederate troops. On September 29th, Colonel Ford was ordered to report to Major General Curtis, commander of the Department of Kansas, where his command was to become a part of the Army of the Border. The major part of the troops were concentrated at Pleasant Hill. Conditions were such in Missouri that Ford did not withdraw all his troops immediately. Two companies under Major Pritchard were left to protect Kansas City, and two were retained at Independence. It was Ford's duty to see that Price did not reach Kansas, which involved a thorough job of scouting. McLain's Independent Battery of Colorado Volunteer Artillery, which had seen service against the Indians in Colorado and Kansas during the spring and summer of 1864, joined Ford's Fourth Brigade on October 20th. Price, pressing on to Kansas City, engaged Colonel Moonlight, commanding the Second Brigade, First Division, in battle at the crossing of the Little Blue on the Lexington road. On October 21st Ford was commanded to go to his relief. He proceeded with the following brigade: "Second Colo. Cav., 384 men; Sixteenth Kansas Cav., 400 men; Independent Colorado Battery, 116 men; five 3-inch guns, and one mountain howitzer; total, 900 men and six guns."³⁹ The battle was a hard fought one for the Federals, who were greatly outnumbered, and they finally had to retreat under cover to Independence.⁴⁰ The death of Major J. Nelson Smith in

³⁹Report of J. H. Ford to Captain G. S. Hampton, December, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 1, p. 607.

⁴⁰Report of J. H. Ford to Captain G. S. Hampton, December, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 1, pp. 606-608.

this engagement was a great loss to the Second Colorado Volunteers.

From Independence the entire Army of the Border took up a position on the Big Blue. They commanded every possible ford from its mouth to Hickman's Mills, a distance of about fifteen miles. Price entered Independence on the 21st, and on the morning of the 22nd advanced to the Federal position and forced a crossing at Bryan's Ford. Captain Green's gray-horse squadron participated sharply in this engagement. Some of the Federals retreated to Kansas City, while others stopped at Westport. Another stand was made against Price at Westport on the 23rd. The Federals succeeded, after a fierce engagement, in defeating Price, and sent him retreating southward along the Kansas-Missouri line, the Second Colorado and other troops in hot pursuit.⁴¹

The rebels were headed for Fort Scott, but at Trading Post the squadrons of Captains Green and Kingsbury kept them from reaching their objective. "Had not the Colorado Battalion," said Captain R. J. Hinton, "carried the Mounds, and so opened the hall before daylight, the important post at Fort Scott, and the whole of southeast Kansas, would have fallen prey to the rebel army."⁴² There were further engagements with the retreating force at Marias des Cynges, Kansas, and Little Osage, Kansas. A charge at Mine Creek "resulted in the capture of Generals Marmaduke and Cabell, seven guns, and a large body of prisoners."⁴³ There was another skirmish at Newtonia, Missouri, on October 28, 1864, which was severe, as the Federals were greatly outnumbered. Major Pritchard was in command of the Colorado troops in this engagement.

The Confederates, pursued by the Federals, continued their retreat beyond the Arkansas River. A final engagement at Fayetteville, Arkansas, marked the end of the pursuit. The Federal forces then returned to Missouri. From the time that McLain's battery was attached to Ford's brigade, it rendered brilliant service in the campaign.

In the official report of the thirty-eight days' campaign against Price, Major General Curtis cites on his roll of honor the following members of the Second Colorado Cavalry: "Col. James H. Ford; Majs. J. Nelson Smith, J. L. Pritchard, and S. S. Curtis; Cpts. Greene, Kingsbury, Elmer, Boyd, and Moses; Lieuts. W. H. Pierce, R. S. Roe, William Wise, and J. Fenton Seymour; Surgeon I. J. Pollak and Asst. Surgeons Vance and Akin."⁴⁴

⁴¹Report of Col. J. H. Ford to Capt. G. S. Hampton, December, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 1, p. 609.

⁴²[Captain R. J. Hinton], *The Army of the Border*, 217.

⁴³*Muster-Out Rolls, Second Colorado Cavalry*, "Record of Events."

⁴⁴*Muster-Out Rolls, Second Colorado Cavalry*, "Record of Events."

The following is a part of a proclamation of thanks "TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE SECOND REGIMENT OF COLORADO CAVALRY AND THE FIRST COLORADO BATTERY," issued by Governor Evans on November 2, 1864:

"I thank you in behalf of our common country, and especially of your fellow citizens of Colorado Territory, who have heard with pride and pleasure the report of your gallant and heroic conduct in the late bloody battle with the rebel hosts under Price."⁴⁵

Soon after reaching Fort Leavenworth the three-year terms of Companies A and B expired and they were mustered out, respectively, on December 19, 1864, and January 2, 1865.⁴⁶ The troops were very glad to be relieved, for they had experienced hard service. The remaining companies proceeded on to Fort Riley, Kansas, to do service in the Indian campaign of the plains. Major Pritchard was made commander of the post by Special Orders No. 36 of the District of Upper Arkansas.⁴⁷ Colonel Ford was commander of this District. The troops were distributed to four main posts in this region: Forts Riley, Zarah, Larned, and Ellsworth. While in this region they did escort duty for trains passing east or west. They scouted surrounding territory for dangerous Indians and guerrillas. Some of the recruits of the Second Colorado Cavalry, who had never joined the regular regiment, were stationed at Junction Station (later Fort Morgan), Colorado Territory. They did escort duty between Julesburg and Denver, participating in many encounters with the Indians.

The Indians were more troublesome in the vicinity of Forts Larned and Zarah than elsewhere in this region. On February 28th, Companies F, I, L, and M of the Second Colorado were stationed at the former post, while Companies C, E, G, and K were stationed at the latter post. Company D was at Fort Riley and Company H at Fort Ellsworth. There were other forces in this district, but the majority of the troops were of the Second Colorado Cavalry.⁴⁸

There were various skirmishes with the Indians, but most of them were of no importance. On January 20, 1865, as a train was being escorted from Fort Larned, it was attacked by the Indians. The Colorado troops received a loss of one killed and one wounded. Another skirmish with Indians occurred near Fort Zarah, on February 1st, in which a Colorado volunteer was wounded. The Indians were rather quiet during March and April. Colonel Leavenworth had the Indians agree to stay away from the Santa Fe road

⁴⁵*Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 4, p. 407.

⁴⁶*Muster-Out Rolls, Second Colorado Cavalry*, "Record of Events."

⁴⁷*Rebellion Records*, Series I, vol. XLI, Part 4, p. 919.

⁴⁸*Ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLVIII, Part 1, p. 1042.

until peace proposals could be heard from. They kept this agreement.⁴⁹

By Special Orders No. 85, of the District of the Upper Arkansas, the Second Colorado Cavalry was relieved of duty at Fort Riley, inasmuch as there was little trouble with Indians there, and the regimental headquarters were transferred to Fort Zarah, where the Indians were hostile.⁵⁰

On June 3rd, Ford, who was now a brevet brigadier general, stated that the Indians were as "hostile as ever, but so far have not succeeded in doing us much harm." He also stated that he planned no further offensive movements against the Indians.⁵¹

The Colorado troops continued in service in this district until September 23, 1865, when they were ordered to Fort Leavenworth and were mustered out. Companies E and F had been mustered out on June 15-16, 1865,⁵² and the Independent Battery in August, 1865.⁵³

Experiences at Fort Bridger, With the Shoshones and in Early Colorado

HIRAM VASQUEZ*

I was born in Missouri. My mother's maiden name was Land. She was an American woman from Kentucky. When I was very young she married Louis Vasquez and he took us out to Fort Bridger in about 1848, when I was four or five years old. I have always called my stepfather, Louis Vasquez, father. He and Jim Bridger were partners and were owners of the trading post, Fort Bridger, located in the southwest corner of present Wyoming.

One day my sister and I were playing at Fort Bridger when some Indians came up and caught me. Sister got away. They gave me to Chief Washakie and I was kept by the Indians for about four years. I played with the Indian children and became expert with the bow and arrow. These Indians lived mostly on buffalo, deer, and antelope meat. They used no salt; I don't like it yet. My clothes, when with the Indians, were decorated with porcupine quills. My hair grew long and was ornamented with silver ornaments. The Shoshones make bows by splicing two buffalo ribs and wrapping them with sinew. These Indians always

⁴⁹H. D. James to Lieut. J. E. Tappan, April 11, 1865, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLVIII, Part 2, p. 74.

⁵⁰*Ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLVIII, Part 2, p. 185.

⁵¹General Ford to Major J. W. Barnes, June 3, 1865, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. XLVIII, Part 2, p. 761.

⁵²*Muster-Out Rolls, Second Colorado Cavalry Volunteers, "Record of Events."*

⁵³*Muster-Out Rolls, Independent Battery Colorado Artillery Volunteers, "Record of Events."*

*Mr. Vasquez has for many years been a resident of La Veta, Colorado.

When visited by LeRoy R. Hafen in July, 1930, he gave the story here presented.

—Ed.

camped on high ground, not down close to the river. They feared floods.

One time, when I was nine years old, Washakie's band went to Salt Lake City and camped on a hill northeast of the city. They wouldn't let me go into town, so I decided to go alone. I went to bed early. Then in the night I got up, pulled on my leggings, put on my moccasins and buckskin shirt, picked up my buffalo-calf robe and took the trail toward the city. I went to a corral and doubled up like a jackknife in one corner. In the morning women came and began milking the cows. I climbed the fence and went to some houses and looked in at the doors. I could speak no English. An interpreter was found who had heard of my being stolen. He told me to stay in the house for ten days. That time seemed longer than my stay with the Indians had been. I strongly objected when they wanted to cut my hair. They bought me some little red boots and other clothes and I felt like a king.

They then took me back to Fort Bridger. Father (Louis Vasquez) did not know whether the Indians had taken me or not. My sister went with Jim Peck to Oregon.

Father and Bridger had a Spanish land grant at Fort Bridger. The first Fort Bridger was about 200 yards south and east of the second fort, and the military fort was built just to the east of the second fort. I visited the fort again in 1929 and pointed out the location of the first fort.

Father had a flatboat ferry on Green River. Wagons were taken across on the boat, the toll being \$2.50 per wagon, I think. The horses and cattle were swum across. I remember once two Frenchmen tried to get a horse across. They tied the horse to the boat; he reared back and was drowned. They cut the rope and the horse floated down stream. I ran about a mile down the river trying to get the rope, but failed.

Mother had folks in Missouri and wanted to go back there. We returned to St. Louis when I was eleven or twelve. We went the Platte route. The buffalo were around us for fourteen days; there were millions of them. Father had a brick house in St. Louis, on Hickory street. We lived there until the outbreak of the Civil War. Father bought a brick house in Westport and we had a farm ten miles south of Kansas City and one mile east of the State line.

I was drafted in the Civil War. We paid \$30 and I was let off. I was drafted again and it cost \$90 to get off. Then I was ordered to report at Kansas City and they wanted \$300. I got on a mule and rode one hundred miles that night. I joined a train bound for Santa Fe. Felix Bridger and I were the water carriers. We had a ten-gallon keg which we filled and carried to the wagon.

Felix Bridger was about my age. We were raised together.

He was the son of Jim Bridger by a Flathead squaw. Jim Bridger then married a Piute and by her had three girls and a boy. Their names were Betsy, Jane, Lizzy and Billy. Jane is the only one living now. In Missouri Bridgers lived within two miles of our place. From town out, there was William Bent's place, ours, and then Bridger's. Felix Bridger wasn't afraid of anybody or any thing. He was a good shot. Jim Bridger was buried on his farm, under an apple tree.

The train to Santa Fe consisted of 26 wagons, 26 drivers, two wagon bosses and one herder. The wagon boss used his blacksnake to help whip out of a mud hole. Sometimes he used it on the men. I had trouble with the wagon boss and quit the train near old Fort Lyon on the Arkansas. I got a job cutting hay for Bill Young with an "Armstrong" mower. The hay was cut on the bottomlands six miles above the fort. I made from \$2.50 to \$7.50 per day.

Later I went to Santa Fe and got a job with Ceran St. Vrain, working in his warehouse. Ceran St. Vrain was a prince of a man. His son Felix could not leave booze alone. I was sent with him part of the time to try to keep him straight.

When I first came to La Veta the grass was as high as a calf's back. There was grama grass, blue grass, and some buffalo grass here. We ran cattle here. We saw some mountain buffalo west of La Veta. They were about one-third smaller than those of the plains. La Veta was first called Francisco Plaza, after Col. J. M. Francisco. Daigre and Livernau built the first house here.

Louis Vasquez lived to be about 72 years old. He is buried in Kansas City, in the Catholic cemetery. Mother came out here with me and died in Pueblo. She is buried in Walsenburg.

After dinner we went to lead them to the pump to drink, when one of them became frightened and got a little wild, and finally made a dive, threw the old man with them head over heels, and away he went. We started with horses in hot haste after him; but he finally took a bee line for one of the men on a horse, and struck the horse a full blow, which knocked the horse end over end—still nobody hurt. I then got a man who was used to that kind of business, and his horse understood it as well as he did. He put after the ox, and in half an hour brought him in, completely subdued, and all right, although not until he had been twice thrown from his horse. On Monday we crossed the river by ferry, and entering Kansas were fairly on our journey. Without further mishap than the breakage of a wheel and the axle of our boiler wagon, we reached Seneca (K. Territory) on the Monday following the day we started. We have found a sprinkling of game on the route, and when we have time to shoot them, have ducks for breakfast.

Ira is in his element, having charge of the teams, and driving the four yoke of oxen attached to the boiler. We have a "night watch" of two men—the first to sit up until half past one, and the other until morning. On Friday night, about 12 o'clock, a dog came into our camp which, appearing friendly, we attached him to our party.

You can form no idea of the number of men passing through here for Pikes Peak. There is a perfect stream of wagons going all the time. This is a busy place, but I don't admire its location. It lies on the bank of the Missouri River, which is now very low, and there is a continual cloud of dust from its banks.

Marysville, May 16th.

I am now in my wagon, on top of a heap of baggage, and my writing desk is my cot bed, which answers for bed, table, sofa and desk. The country and inhabitants are suffering from severe drouth. There has been but little rain in six months, and the beds of many streams are entirely dry. Game abounds here, and we have plenty of rabbits and prairie chickens. We are passing through a fine, rolling prairie, and the land is of the first quality for cultivation, but clearly showing the want of water and the absence of timber. The country is very thinly inhabited, and only here and there is to be found a settler. The roads are very good and a load can be drawn over them as well as on Town Hill Avenue, except where occasional bluffs and sloughs intervene. We are getting along finely on our route. (Tell Mr. J—— I have not uncorked that bottle yet, and am saving it for a drink on the Rocky Mountains.) We are bound to go through—"fodder or no fodder."

(The next letter, dated at Little Blue River, Nebraska Terri-

Overland to Pikes Peak with a Quartz Mill

Letters of SAMUEL MALLORY*

No. 1

St. Joseph (Mo.), May 6th, 1860.

Without any incident particularly worthy of note, we reached this place on the 3rd instant, and went immediately to work getting our wagons put together and loading in hopes of getting away from here on Saturday (yesterday), but could not, as we only got through about 5 o'clock. We shall leave here tomorrow morning, if all is well.

We had quite a time, yesterday, with one pair of our oxen.

*These letters were written for and published in *The Jeffersonian* of Danbury, Connecticut. Mr. Mallory had been mayor of Danbury before he came to the Pikes Peak region to engage in gold mining. A copy of this correspondence was furnished by Mr. W. E. Mallory of Danbury, a nephew of the writer of these interesting letters.—*Ed.*

tory, is devoted to a description of wash-day in the camp. As a "taking" description of the manner in which in camp life means may be adapted to ends, it would no doubt be interesting to many. From the readiness which it proves to us that men in cases of necessity may settle down into the performance of duties which have usually been monopolized by the other sex, we argue that should they assert their "rights" in that direction, the women would not have quite so much to laugh at as they might desire to. But we must pass over the patent wash benches, etc., to other incidents in the narrative.)

Banks of Platte River,

17 miles west from Fort Kearney, May 27th.

Heard by traveler on stage that A. Lincoln is nominated for President, and so every man in our company being Republican, we were ready for three hearty cheers. He will be elected, and this company will give him eight votes if all goes well.

Tuesday—We have traveled today over 17 miles of the most dusty road I ever saw—in fact it was perfectly awful for man and beast. On Thursday we had twenty miles to travel without a drop of water for our cattle. About 9 o'clock we were favored by the weather becoming cloudy, so we drove ahead with all the force we had. Stopped one hour at noon to rest the cattle, and at 2 p. m. came in sight of the Platte River, and at once halted and gave three cheers—but we were yet seven miles from it. At five we reached the river, and were not long in getting the poor oxen where they could have all the water they wanted. This river is some two or three miles wide, and yet I can wade across it. It is very sandy, and the water is never clear, but we use it for drinking and cooking. We reached Fort Kearney about 12 o'clock the next day, and found letters from home. Following the banks of the Platte River, we have seen large numbers of dead buffaloes, but as yet have seen no live ones. Have had a sight of antelopes, but no chance to shoot one yet.

No. 2

O'Fallan's Bluff, Nebraska,

June 3, 1860.

I will now give you a brief history of our progress the past week. On Monday we left encampment at 6 a. m., and had a fine day's drive of 20 miles. While we were eating lunch at noon we saw a fine, large buffalo on the bluffs, about a mile from us, and I somehow felt the spirit of Uncle Philo White when he sees a fox. So I got one of our men to drive my team and off I started with rifle on my back and revolver in my belt, accompanied by a man equipped in the same style. We chased the buffalo about four

miles, but failed to get a shot at him, and were obliged to return home without his meat for supper. I have seen quite a number of antelopes, but as yet have had no chance to hunt them. On Monday night, soon after we encamped, we had a severe storm of hail, wind and a little rain. It was very tedious for man or beast. We were out trying to get the cattle together before the storm reached us (fearing they might stray away), but the hail came so strong that we were glad to make our way back to camp again and leave the cattle where they were. We found them all right next morning. On Wednesday we halted near an encampment of Indians, who by the way are perfect beggars. One of them offered Mr. W. two ponies *for his wife!* They were no trouble to us except their continued begging.

Camping at "Fremont Slough" over night, we crossed the bluffs, which was a hard job for men and cattle, the road being hilly and very sandy. At 4 o'clock the job was accomplished, and we in camp on Platte River.

We have had another letter from the old gentleman we sent on by express, with the most encouraging news. He says he has taken up a claim for the company that has an excellent spring upon it, that will supply us with all the water we want for all purposes. He also has taken up a building lot, and expects to have a house ready built for us when we arrive. He says the neighborhood is good, and in the richest mining district.

You can guess whether our appetites are poor or not when I tell you we have devoured since we left St. Joseph's about two hundred pounds of meat, one hundred and fifty pounds hard bread, twenty pounds butter, some few pounds codfish, three bushels potatoes, and coffee and tea to match, without mentioning the game, rice, dried apples and beans.

We are yet traveling along near the Platte River, and shall continue to do so until we get near our destination. We are within about 227 miles of the Peak, and with the good luck that has thus far attended us, we hope to get there about the 25th of the month.

Platte River, June 10th.

Corn in this country being \$6 per bushel, when we reached this place last evening I mounted a horse and forded the River, and found the best feed we have had since we started. We took the teams across, and three of us stayed with them through the night for fear the Indians (of whom there were plenty) would steal them. We had "sixteen barrels" ready had they attempted it, but we had no trouble. It rained all night, and while the others were watching, I laid down on the prairie and had a good nap. Awaking in the night, and feeling rather cool, I went and made my bed against the back of one of the oxen that was asleep,

and found it very comfortable. We could hear the wolves howl, but they did not trouble us.

The Platte is the most peculiar river I ever saw. It is about a mile wide and runs with a rapid current, yet I can wade across it at any place, and I have not seen a place yet where it is four feet deep. The water is always "riled," and to appearance not fit for use, yet we like it very well, and use it for all purposes. We expect to be in the mountains in about two weeks.

You can form no idea of the number of persons going to the Peak. I think we see as many as 50 wagons per day, and last night one train of freight passed us with 27 mammoth wagons, loaded with from 6,000 to 9,000 pounds each, and drawn by six pairs of oxen.

We got set one night while turning off the road to camp, and broke three chains, but finally with seven yoke of oxen on each wagon we got out safe and sound. We have been twice troubled this week by our oxen drinking alkali water, of which this country abounds. The first time all drank it, but we soon discovered it, and proceeded to stuff down the fat bacon, which was no small job to do to 28 head. At another time two pair drank of it, and were cured by the same process. While thus far we have not lost an animal, we have seen hundreds of dead oxen along the road that have been killed by drinking this water.

We have been in sight of the mountains four days, and now we can see them very plainly, their tops being covered with snow, making it appear like winter in June. We are passing parties of Indians, who come to our camp with faces painted, and many of them with no covering except a narrow strip around their waists.

We are now within fifty miles of Denver City.

No. 3

Arrival at the Peak.

Nevada City, June 24th, 1860.

I have at last the pleasure of writing you from our Mountain Home. We arrived here yesterday about noon, safe, sound and healthy; dirty, tired and awful hungry. I believe there has been no company over the route with so little delay and few accidents as ours. We arrived in sight of the famous Denver City on Tuesday, and encamped at night about one mile from it, passing into it on the following morning, when we found our letters. Twelve miles from Denver brought us to the foot of the Rocky Mountains at a very pretty little place called Golden City. Here we had beef steak for supper and breakfast, the first since we left the States.

A woman who, with her husband, had traveled with our company two or three weeks, brought with her a sewing machine, and

at this place was offered \$3 per day and board for her services and use of the machine, which she accepted. Her husband came up into the mountain from Golden City. From the foot of the mountain we had 24 miles to travel, which gave us 2½ hard days' work.

You can form no idea of the mountain we climbed (unless you can think of one ten hundred thousand million feet high). In making the ascent, one company ran their boiler wagon off a bank 50 feet high, and killed two pair of oxen. Another party were going up a very steep place with four mules, when the mules got set, and the wagon ran back. A man tried to put a stone under the wheel, was caught between the wagon and a tree, and killed. We feel very thankful for our safe deliverance.

You are no doubt expecting to hear me say how I like it, and what are the chances? It certainly looks better here than I expected to find it, and a very busy place it is. It will be a month, at least, before we can get our machine ready for work, and until that time we must remain in uncertainty. We shall put the machine up and get to running before we erect a building for it, or the home; so you see we shall have to live in a tent nearly two months yet. There is any quantity of quartz nearby us, and we have already had application to crush it.

Our agent, who came on by express, has secured a good place for our mill, and also for our house. We have good neighbors, most of whom are from Illinois, and plenty of water, which is a great item in gold working. The water is very good and cold. At one place on our way up the mountain we found ice three feet thick. It had formed there during the winter, and some pine trees falling over it, the tops had protected it from the air. We are about ten miles from the snowy range and can see it very plainly.

Nevada City, July 1.

We have just got through one of the hardest week's work ever performed in our lives, in getting our "quartz mill" up. Some of us were engaged in drawing stone, others digging for the foundation, and the rest in cutting and hewing timber, the most of it 2½ feet through.

We cannot tell much more here about the success of the mines than we could in the East. The whole community are enthusiastic whether they make anything or not.

We lost a pair of oxen yesterday, and it took two of us all day to find them. I wish you could have seen some of the hills I climbed. From the top of one of them I saw some cattle at the foot and they did not look much larger than rabbits. I went within a few miles of the snowy range.

P. S. I just got my mail, including seven letters. Among the

rest I read and passed around the "puff" of the *Danbury Times*, and I must say I felt very highly flattered.

No. 4

Nevada City, July 8, 1860.

With a trunk for a seat, a wagon for a house, and a barrel of hard bread for a desk, I will sit down again to write you a few lines.

We are now having very fine weather, and have made up our minds that the rainy season has not commenced. Our company are all in high spirits, with appetites No. 1½, at least, with increasing prospects. We have been very busy the past week working at our mill. We have dug out and stoned one well for our engine, and have 8½ feet of water in it. We have also dug out and stoned another mammoth well, 10 feet across, for our stamp, and this week we are to dig a deep ditch from our spring to our large well, for it is all important in our new business that we have a good supply of clean water.

We have each taken up a quartz claim on a lead near us, and hope to get our engine ready for running the last of this week, though we may not until next. We have recently experimented a little, and bottled our first gold, which I would like to send you, but know of no chance. When we get our mill in operation I will give you a little sketch of description of it. There are quite a number being set up here, but only one or two are in fair working order.

Many persons are still coming to the mines and many are leaving, perfectly disgusted. But I am satisfied that many leave for want of "pluck" and lack of energy, while others get awful homesick, and are ready to cry wolf when there is no wolf, for the sake of an excuse to go home. At the same time a large number come here with less than a cent in their pockets, and when here are too lazy (or constitutionally tired) to work; and I am decidedly of the opinion that the latter class have no business in these mountains, for of all poor creatures here, a lazy man is the poorest.

We have paid for green lumber \$70 per thousand, taking it at the mill. We bought one load of hay at 7 cents a pound, which you will perceive is \$140 per ton. We only keep one pair of oxen here, and the balance are turned off to grass seven miles off, at \$1 per month a head. We intend to keep what we want for our winter beef, and sell the remainder, the price averaging about \$50 a yoke.

We celebrated our national anniversary by discharging our revolvers on the evening of the 3rd, and digging a well on the 4th. I suppose you had a great time in Danbury, and burned some powder. I understand that there are no less than four nomina-

tions for the Presidency, and I am happy to say that I think Old Abe's chance all the better.

July 15. We fired up our boiler yesterday, and our engine worked to perfection. In fitting our water works up we have dug a ditch 200 feet long, 2½ feet wide, and 5 feet deep, into which we have put timbers, and by covering them over we get a fine stream of water, which very few have here, from the fact that they depend upon the gulch for it, where it is thick and muddy. It is said by experienced men here that one-third more gold can be obtained with clean water, and for this reason we have been at the expense of the ditch and wells. Another company from Chicago are locating here with a quartz mill, saw mill and hardware store. They have in a train on the way here 22 wagons and 90 head of cattle.

We have made a contract for our house, 18x24 feet, to be done in three weeks. It costs more to build here than I expected, in consequence of labor being high, and lumber doubly so. When done, our house will cost about \$500 and our mill house \$1,000. We are satisfied of having as good a location as any in the mountain. I have seen taken from a mill a short distance below us some very fine lots of gold, and each 24 hours they clear up (as it is called here), they take out from two to four hundred dollars. (But this I should like to have you keep to yourself, as it is quite possible we may not come within a long distance of that figure.) One mill ran 32 hours, and did not get gold enough to pay for the oil they used in their machinery. But I think the difficulty with them was they did not have the right apparatus for separating the gold from the dirt.

The lead on which we staked our claim when we first came out here proves to be good and we hope to make something rich out of it. Yesterday morning, while it was raining, I thought I would make my first or *maiden* effort to get native gold. So I took a piece of quartz rock about as large as a pint bowl, and pounded it up with a stone hammer, washed it out, and enclosed you will find the first gold I ever took with my own hands from its native place.

(We are satisfied. There is gold in the Peak, and we believe we know how to get it out.)

Early Days at Wetmore and on the Hardscrabble

JACKSON TAYLOR, JR.*

The thriving agricultural community of Wetmore, situated as it is in the Arkansas valley, with a magnificent view to the north,

*Mr. Taylor, late Secretary of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, did much work in the field of local historical research. This short sketch is but an extract from his writings.—*Ed.*

and the picturesque valley of the Hardscrabble to the south, has always been a favored spot for the homes of the inhabitants of the valley, whether they were Indians, trappers, or ranchers. Before the white man came the Utes made their winter camps just below the old Church place, on the Barrow ranch. In this vicinity bones have been dug up by parties digging post holes. A main trail of the Utes led up the North Hardscrabble to the Wet Mountain Valley and a portion of this may still be seen just below MacKenzie's ranch, where the trail left the creek on account of the many beaver dams and passed up over a spur. On and over the plains between Wetmore and Florence the Utes and the Arapahoes had many skirmishes, with one pitched battle at Black Dog Mountain in the spring of 1861. These fights were occasioned by the Arapahoes seeking to run off the Ute horses.

The last of the Indians left the Wetmore district in 1874, for the tide of the white man had swept over and annihilated their tribes. The conflict between the red and white in this section began somewhere between 1835 and 1840, when the half breed Maurice established a trading and trapping post on Adobe Creek just a few miles west of Wetmore. Shortly after the establishment of this post another was built on lower Hardscrabble at the old William Bruce ranch. Practically all of these trappers were wiped out by the Indians on Christmas Day, 1854, and the lonely graves of six of them may be seen today on the Hiawatha ranch. Only Maurice and two of his boys escaped this massacre, they being out hunting at the time. They made their way back to their home at Taos and from then until 1860 there was no settled habitation at Wetmore. On New Year's Day, 1860, the Bruce mentioned above as having a ranch on Hardscrabble settled in the country. He was the first actual white settler, as the trappers were half breeds. After establishing his ranch, Bruce moved a sawmill into the country and set it up on Hardscrabble Creek in the little bottom just to the left of the road that turns into the ranger station from the main Hardscrabble road. Here he got out considerable lumber, and here he died in April, 1863, a victim of the Mexican fanatics, the Espinosas. They took his horse and traveled on across the country towards Colorado Springs, and their next victim, a man named Harkin, was killed in what is now called Dead Man's Canyon, named for this event.

There was no one living at Florence when William Bruce came and only a small settlement at Canon City. Soon after this came a man named Hammet, who located on the lower Hardscrabble south of the Phillips ranch. One lone apple tree still remains to mark the site of this ranch. Hammet is buried on the J. W. Bowers ranch, as is also a man named Morrissey, one of the early

settlers who lost his life at the hands of a man named Barrett in 1871.

One after another the pioneers drifted into the Hardscrabble community, and when W. A. Watson came to Wetmore in the spring of 1870, his was the sixth cabin in the settlement. Prior to that time Mr. Watson had occupied a portion of the vacant lots just west of where the Methodist Church now stands, and also in Pueblo and at Carlisle Springs. Shortly after Mr. Watson's arrival at Wetmore a colony of fully twenty-five people from Spring Garden, Illinois, settled at Wetmore. Since then progress has been more rapid. The road up the North Hardscrabble was put through in 1874, although at first it was hard to identify it as a road. In the same year the pioneers were able to enjoy the services of the United States mail, which came as far as Canon City.

Among the pioneers of the community besides Mr. Watson and his family were the Bowers family, W. S. Bernard, Mrs. Kate Hopper, S. G. Vaughn, J. W. Coleman, the father of Mrs. Albert Lehrer, the Porters, Dicksons, MacKenzies, McKinnons, Mrs. Lydia Crouch and others. Mr. Watson says that in those days a large pine tree grew at what is now the Sweeten home in Wetmore, and from this tree one of the old settlers, Clark Harrington by name, killed a bear which was passing through on the Hardscrabble road and was treed by his dogs.

Another incident told by Mr. Watson destroys a romantic legend concerning the naming of Black Dog Mountain. The romantic history stated that a noted Indian chief named Black Dog was buried on this butte. Mr. Watson says that on one occasion Stephen Frazier, who though no relation to Jesse Frazier, lived just west of the latter, was returning with his son from a hunt for his winter's meat in the Greenhorn Mountains. With them was a favorite hunting dog, black in color. The dog left the party near Black Dog Butte and was never seen again, and the incident has given a name to the landmark which will last for generations.

Wetmore is now a prosperous community, shipping out grain, hay, head lettuce and other agricultural products, as well as lumber and mine props. The people are wideawake and progressive and are proud of their beautiful and healthful community. More and more outsiders are coming to recognize the charm of the district and are building their cabins and pitching their tents in the vicinity. Only a man like W. A. Watson, who has seen the change from the slow moving bull trains or the pony express to the automobile and the airplane, who has seen the Indian and the buffalo pass into the limbo of forgotten things, who has with a keen intelligence marked the marvelous changes that have been worked in the short span of man's life, can realize the wonder of it all.