

Kansas historical quarterly

Section 317, Pages 9481 - 9510

The quarterly journal of the Kansas Historical Society from 1931-1977, the Kansas Historical Quarterly succeeded the Kansas Historical Collections, 1875-1928, (also available as unit 221606) and preceded Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains, 1978 - present.

Creator: Kansas State Historical Society

Date: 1931-1977

Callnumber: SP 906 K13q

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 221562

Item Identifier: 221562

www.kansasmemory.org/item/221562



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SOCIETY

was our signal to move forward which we did immediately, but before we arrived at Newtonia the enemy had fled. We had expected to have a severe battle with the enemy here. All the troops had come out from Springfield which with Gen. Blunts division amounted to twenty thousand men, and the enemy fled at the first fire. Not over a dozen men were hurt on either side. We pursued them to the timber, then came back to Newtonia. The Springfield troops went back towards Springfield, and we camped near the town. We killed all the hogs we wanted and procured plenty of forage for our horses.

We remained here overnight and the next morning by nine o'clock our train came up, by noon four Co's of the regiment were ordered to go out and meet a supply train, which was coming from Fort Scott. The Co's were A, D, I and K, and were under the command of Col. Cloud; Capt Moore²⁴ was second in command. We passed through Granby the principal town of the lead mines, and Sarcoxie, then went on towards Carthage stopping on the prairie about one o'clock in the morning and remained until daylight, then went over a creek to another road where we found the train, then stopped got us some breakfast of roast beef, and apples, which was abundant. Then we were divided, Co's K, and I, in advance and A, & D, were in the rear of the train, went through Granby, and arrived at Newtonia at dark. We had no rations and the baggage train had left; So Capts Moore, and Russell,²⁵ demanded some hard bread of the Commissary, which was refused, when Capt Moore jumped up on a wagon and rolled off a box for each company, ordered the men to carry it away then gave the Commissary an account of it, which ended the matter. Early in the morning we marched on to Indian Creek, where the rest of the regiment was camped in a field near the creek, in the form of a hollow square, where we remained three days. It rained nearly all the time. The ground became very muddy, and we were glad to get away from there.

One night the camp was alarmed and we got up and saddled, mounted, and stood in line, until we were wet through, it proved to be a false alarm, and we went back to bed.

About the 10th of Oc we left Camp Mud, went nearly east going through Gad Fly, and arrived at Hazel Bottom five miles from Keitsville on the 13th [of October], where we remained until the 16th. We did not receive orders to march until two o'clock in the morning, and the available force moved at four, leaving the sick,

24. Amariah Moore, captain of Company D.

25. Avra P. Russell, captain of Company K.

and dismounted men, and cooks, to come up with the baggage train. I was on guard and did not come off post until just as the regiment left. I was relieved at seven and went on finding the regiment at Kiettsville. About twenty men of the company had gone out with what prisoners we had under a flag of truce to turn them over to the rebels and the regiment was waiting for them to get some distance ahead before starting. About noon we left Kiettsville taking the telegraph road arrived at Elkhorn Tavern by five o'clock in the afternoon. The train which had come with us from Kiettsville was sent back after we had taken out three days rations and forty rounds of ammunition and we stopped there for the night. We were on the battle field of Pea Ridge now where Gen. Curtiss had beaten the rebels in the spring. The country round was rough rocky and covered with timber which made it a hiding place for hundreds of guerrillas who improved it. Before we had gone to sleep the pickets commenced firing and the remnant of Co. A were sent out to reinforce them remaining with them until sunrise the next morning then went back to camp. The men who had been out with the flag of truce had returned, having found the rebel pickets five miles northeast of Bentonville, where they exchanged their prisoners. At ten o'clock we moved on to McColloch's gap, on [?] creek which had been fortified by McColloch, about the time the battle of Pea Ridge was fought remained here one night.

About ten o'clock the next day (the 18th) we left McColloch's gap taking the Fayetteville road went on about six miles when our advance guard was fired on by the rebels. Co. A, which led the column were sent to the right of the road mounted. Co. D to the left dismounted and advancing through the timber soon came to a field in sight of the enemy who were standing their ground but when we fired on [e] volley into them they left as fast as their horses could carry them. Our howitzers were brought up and a few shells fired after them. One of our men was wounded and one horse disabled. None of the enemy were killed or disabled so that they could not get away. We formed our line and waited one hour then went on to Cross Hollows seeing nothing more of the enemy. We found hats, coats, guns, &c. scattered along the road among which was a rebel sabre made out of an old mill saw the blade was about three feet in length ground sharp on both edges wooden gripe with a single piece of steel for a guard.

After watering our horses, went back about half [a] mile and camped. I was sent out on picket with six others, on post on a

road east of Cross Hollow, where we remained until three o'clock in the afternoon the next day, when the officer of the guard sent for us, to come in as the regiment had moved without his knowledge and we went to find them, but on arriving at Cross Hollow we met them, and went back [to our?] posts. The regiment had been joined by the Seventh M. S. M. and had been out to Mud Town but had not had any skirmish with the enemy. The rebels were camped at Elm Springs thirteen miles north of Fayetteville, where they intended to fight us, but the officers did not think it best to attack them there. The pickets were relieved about dark and we fell in to the rear of the regiment, marched about five miles back towards Pea Ridge, and camped. The next morning we were out of rations and made out our breakfast of roasted apples, and coffee, left camp early passed McCollochs gap and found the regiment three miles west of Elkhorn. Gen. [John M.] Schofield's division had advanced as far as Elkhorn. The 11th Kan. Inf't. had arrived from Fort Scott, and were attached to Col. Clouds brigade.

[Battle of Old Fort Wayne, October 22, 1862²⁶]

At three o'clock P. M. [October 20] we received orders to march at six, taking everything. At dark we started out taking the Bentonville road, and marched until three the next morning, when we arrived at Bentonville. Gen. Blunt accompanied this expedition with the 2nd, (Col. Weir²⁷) and the 3rd, (Col. Clouds) brigades. We remained at Bentonville until four o'clock P. M. of the twenty first of Oc. then marched on towards Maysville. Co. A & H of the 2nd Kan. were the rear guard kept moving until three the next morning, when we stopped built fires and slept till morning. The night was very cold and we suffered considerable.

By daylight Gen. Blunt sent back for us to come up on the double quick as he with only four companies of the 2nd had met the enemy. We went on through Maysville and found the Gen. four miles southwest of there, and eleven from where we were in the morning. The rebel pickets were captured, and small parties were out

26. General Blunt reported this engagement as follows: "After a severe night march of 30 miles I attacked the rebel forces of Cooper and Stand Watie this morning at 7 o'clock. Their force estimated at from 4,000 to 7,000. The attack was made by my advance, consisting of the Second Kansas Volunteers and two mountain howitzers, and after a spirited engagement of less than an hour resulted in the complete and total rout of the enemy, with the loss of all their artillery, one battery of 6-pounder brass pieces, a large number of horses, and a portion of their transportation and camp and garrison equipage. They are now fleeing in disorder in the direction of Fort Smith. All my available cavalry and four mountain howitzers are now [October 22—2 P. M.] in hot pursuit. My loss, as far as known, is 4 killed and about 15 wounded. The Enemy's loss in killed and wounded is much greater. I have 30 prisoners. . . ."—*War of the Rebellion*, Series I, v. 13, p. 325.

27. Col. William Weir, Tenth Kansas infantry.

to ascertain the position of the enemy. Co A was sent to the right and advanced a half mile when we were joined by Co. H, and continuing our advance another half mile, when we discovered the enemy about four hundred yards in front of us, then we run our horses over the fence, and attacked them. Lieut. [E. S.] Stover brought up the howitzers in front of us, and unlimbered and commenced firing on the enemy, with shell. All of the regiment but Co A., and the howitzers were sent to the left, and dismounted, Lieut. Stover called for more men to work the howitzers and Lieut. [John] Johnston sent him several. We were posted on a high piece of ground and in full view of the enemy. The enemy had four pieces of artillery which they directed towards our howitzers but nearly all their shots were fired to high. The enemy were posted in our front and both to the right and left of us, in all numbering three thousand men, commanded by Gen. [Douglas H.] Cooper, but he was intoxicated and managed the battle unskillfully. Just as the howitzers fired their last shell, Capt Crawford with five companies of dismounted men charged on the rebel battery, and captured it, the enemy retreating to the timber. This battle lasted twenty one minutes. On our side no troops were engaged but the 2nd Kan Cav'y. until the rebel battery was captured, then Rabbs battery came up and fired after the enemy. We had three men killed and mortally wounded. The rebels lost thirty killed, and wounded, but no prisoner[s] were taken on either side. As soon as the Inf't came up we were sent three miles to the right, where we captured a herd of beef cattle, then returned and camped on the battle field. The train came up at sundown, and we pitched our tents for the first night since leaving Hazel Botton.

The next morning we moved our camp half a mile, but before we dismounted an alarm was given, and the Inf't and artillery we[re] formed in line on the same ground that we occupied the day before, and cavalry was sent out to reconnoitre, it proved to be a party of rebels who not knowing of the battle the day before were coming to the camp, but discovered their mistake in time to get away again. In the afternoon a scout of two hundred men were sent out under command of Maj Fisk, and after dark one hundred and fifty men were sent out on picket. I was one of the last detail. We went out through Maysville and were posted in small squads on several different roads, but saw nothing except one bushwhacker and he got away.

At four oclock in the afternoon of the 24th we were relieved by the 6th Kansas. In the afternoon the weather turned cold very

suddenly, and the wind rose, and it commenced snowing and the next morning the ground was covered three inches with snow, but it all went off in a few days, Maj Fisk returned on the twenty fifth, not having any action with the enemy. He had heard some women telling about the battle of Maysville, who said that we had just thirty one thousand men there, and that they were obliged to retreat on account of our numbers. The scout went as far as Cincinnati. The battery that was captured was issued to Co. B, it consisted of three six pound field pieces, and one twelve pound [howitzer]. I was detailed on the twenty fourth as messenger for a court martial. The 28th [Henry S.] Shannon, and [John Y.] Hewitt, were promoted to sergeants and [James A.] Gooch and [George W.] Spencer, to corporals.

We left Old Fort Wayne the thirtieth of Oc. marched twenty miles and camped naming it Camp Solomon. The 13th Kan Inf arrived on the twenty eighth, and were attached to the 2nd, (Col. Weirs), brigade, the 3rd of Nov. we left Camp Solomon went twenty miles, and named the Camp Bowen. While here Maj Fisk took the available force of Co A, I, K and went down to Browns mill, eight miles from camp took possession while two companies of the 11th run it.

The 6th Capt. Crawford took the available force of the rest of the regiment, and went out on a scout went through Cane Hill where he met some rebels who fled and he pursuing them captured six wagons, and an ambulance, on Cove Creek but not having any teams to haul them away burned them. All the mills in the neighborhood of camp were taken possession of by the army, and in this manner large quantities of flour was produced. The 14th as the Co. were going to take their baggage to Browns mills, I requested Lieut. [Gideon M.] Waugh, the judge advocate, to relieve me which he did. We arrived at the mill about noon and had the tents pitched when a detail came round calling for three men of each company, we went out were gone all night and when we arrived at camp the next morning the company was gone, but we took their trail went back to Camp Bowen, then southwest twenty miles where we found the division all camped, this camp was named Babcock. The 16th I was on another scouting party we passed between Camp Bowen, and Browns mills, and arrived at Elm Springs about sundown went on three miles when night set in, dark and rainy when we turned back went about five miles, and the night became so dark that we could not find the road, stopped at a bushwhackers house lay down by the side of the road, and slept

till morning. The next morning we got up cold and wet and rode twenty miles to camp where we got breakfast. . . .

[At this point there are three pages lacking from the manuscript, pages which described events between November 17 and November 22. In an official history of the Second Kansas cavalry it is stated that "On the 17th of November [1862] Captain Crawford was sent with one hundred (100) men to Carthage, Missouri, to reinforce the escort to a supply train en route from Fort Scott, and returned on the 26th." Osborne's narrative, which resumes on November 23, indicates that he was a member of this detail.]

. . . command was called up, and formed in line but were sent to quarters in a half an hour. The pickets were reinforced and changed their position. A party of rebels had charged on the picket post, took the sentinel prisoner, and drove the rest into the town. The next morning Lieut Moore took twelve men and went out to the line road to see if the train had passed on that. Capt Gardner took a detail and went down Spring river to a mill where he procured some flour which was issued to the men, cattle were killed and we did not suffer with hunger. Lieut Moore did not return until after dark he ascertained that the train was on the road, and would camp near Sherwood that night.

The next morning we left Carthage taking a southwest direction intending to intersect the line road in the rear of the train, but the train not having passed we went to far, then turned to the north and camped at a cornfield at night sent some messengers to Sherwood where the train was found, and we were camped near their route. The next morning we took the advance marched until night when we stopped the next day we went in the rear. We arrived at camp about sundown the 26th While on our return several bushwhackers were captured among which was the notorious Fay Price The division was still camped at Camp Babcock, but was short of rations. Early in the morning of the 27th we received marching orders, left camp by sunrise. This time the whole division moved taking three days rations, but the train was left. We went south on the Cane Hill road halted at Cincinnatti for supper but went on after dark several miles, then stopped for the night.

[*Engagement at Cane Hill, Ark., November 28, 1862²⁸*]

At five oclock the next morning we resumed our march the third brigade in advance. The 1st battalion, Maj. Fisk commanding, of the 2nd Kan. was the advance guard, then Rabbs battery and the 11th Kan. next the 2nd battalion of the 2nd Kan. next the Indians. We followed the road as far as Rheas mills then turned to the right, went up a steep hill, and taking the ridge road kept on towards Cane Hill. kept on until nine oclock when the brigade halted, excepting Rabbs battery, and the advance guard, which went on and attacked the enemy. The enemy were in line readdy for them but expecting them on the main road had stationed their battery so as to command it.

When the enemy commenced firing on Capt. Rabb his battery was in the woods and he could get but two peices into position when he replied and sent the other pieces forward on open ground where they unlimbered and they with Stovers howitzers soon silenced the rebel battery which was taken away by the enemy Before Rabb fired a shot he had two men killed and some horses disabled Maj Fisk was wounded by a piece of a shell in the top of the head.

As soon as we heard the firing we mounted passed the 11th on double quick turned to the right came out on a high hill several hundred yards to the right of Capt Rabbs battery which was shell-ing some timber in front of us. Gen. Blunt now sent a messenger to the battery to have them cease firing and we charged into the timber and took a position and sent back for a battery Capt [Henry] Hopkins brought his up and the 11th came up to support it, the enemy were firing on us with shell but Hopkins soon silenced them and they fell back

We now took a circuitous route and comming into the town found the second brigade there but we soon passed them left the road on our right went through fields and by roads and came in sight of the enemy near the foot of the mountain their battery was placed in position about half way up and the cavalry at its foot. Co. C was sent forward to the left of the road dismounted Cos. A & D, took possession of the road mounted Co. C, soon discovered the enemy and opened a brisk fire on them and Co. A were dis-

28. Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis' report of this engagement stated: "General Blunt, with his division, made a forced march and attacked the enemy yesterday morning at Cane Hill, Ark. The battle lasted for several hours. The enemy, under General Marmaduke, began to fall back about 1 o'clock, but retreated, fighting till sundown. The victory was complete. Our loss is not great. The enemy much more. Our forces camp on the battle-field. The enemy has retreated to Van Buren."—*War of the Rebellion*, Series 1, v. 22, Pt. 1, p. 41.

mounted and went forward to assist them. After firing several rounds the enemy opened on us with shell and we retreated about a hundred yards and waited for the battery. E. Wilson was wounded in this action.

Rabb soon came up and fired some shell at the enemies battery when it was taken up the mountain, and the 1st Indian, and 2nd Kan. charged up the mountain continually skirmishing with the enemy, who kept firing, and falling back, we followed them about two miles on the mountain when the 11th, and 6th, were sent up and relieved us, they followed the enemy until dark. Once the enemy charged back on the 6th, killed several, and mortally wounding Lieut. Col. [Lewis R.] Jewell, who fell into their hands, but the 6th soon retook the ground, and the enemy still retreated.

About dark the enemy sent in a flag of truce, offering to give up Col. Jewell and wished to know what would be done with their dead and wounded, when Gen. Blunt told them that their dead would be buried, and their wounded delivered to them outside of our lines. The battle had lasted from ten in the morning until six at night and the enemy retreated fourteen miles with us after them, and continued their retreat during the night. Their loss was ninety killed, and wounded, ours was not so severe only one man in the 2nd was killed. Lieut Col. Jewell died in a few days. Maj Fisk was sent to Kansas where he remained six months, and recovered. The 2nd Kan. camped at night on the head of Cove Creek, and the rest of the command went back to Cane Hill. This battle was named Cane Hill, and was fought on the 28th of November 1862. The next morning we went back to Cane Hill, and details were sent out to bury the dead and bring in the wounded. The 30th our train came up and we camped in a field just east of Cane Hill.

The 31st two hundred men were detailed out of the regiment for a scout with Capt. [Hugh] Cameron in command, the other officers were Capt. [Arthur] Gunther, Lieuts [John A.] Lee, [W. M.] Hook, [P. B.] Mitchel[l], and [A. T.] Lavella [Lovelette]. About two oclock P. M. we started out went out to the grand guard where Capt. Guenther took half the men and went over the mountain on the ridge road while Capt. [Hugh] Cameron took the rest, and went over on Cove Creek followed it down meeting Capt. Guenther fifteen miles from where we separated, then kept on down Cove Creek to Olivers store, there halted. The enemy were camped two miles below we remained here half an hour, then faced about went back eight miles, then turned went up a

mountain, and went back towards the rebel camp went up near enough to the camp to see their fires, formed platoons and dress paraded around for an hour, then started back towards Cane Hill.

It was now nearly daylight, we went about two miles, and stopped fifteen minutes to feed, then went on up a creek Sergt. [C. A.] Archer had command of the rear guard and remaining a few moments after the scout left a rebel Capt. and soldier, rode up spoke to Archer not having any idea that there were any Feds about But Archer surprised them by inviting them to dismount and fork over what arms they had, which they did and were taken back to Cane Hill prisoners. The rebels had this road picketed and we being between their pickets and camp took them prisoners as we came up to them and took them to Cane Hill. About eleven oclock we arrived at Evansville where we halted fed our horses and killed hogs roasted meat and eat dinner then mounted and went to Cane Hill arriving there at four oclock P. M. having marched about seventy miles in twenty six hours.

In the afternoon of the 4th of Dec. Cos A, D, I and K were sent out on another scout, under command of Capt Russell seperating at the grand guard as before Cos A, and D, taking the ridge road under command of Lieut Moore but arriving at the descent of the mountain discovered the enemies camp in the valley Then they formed a line and watched them some time then went back to camp. But Capt Russel had not returned Gen. Blunt could not believe that the enemy were advancing and sent the same Cos. back the next morning under command of Capt Moore. When we arrived at the mountain the enemy had stationed their pickets and we driving them in formed our line in sight of their camp and they sent up a regiment of cavalry and we fell back our rear guard skirmishing with their advance for five miles when they gave up the pursuit. We arrived at camp about dark.

Early the morning of the 6th fifty men were detailed to go out to the pickets with the howitzers we were to arrive at the picket post by daylight. Capt. Cameron was in command and having one of his parades delayed starting until nearly daylight. We met the pickets near the foot of the mountain As Gen. Blunt had anticipated the enemy had attacked them at daylight and driven them in On meeting them we halted and retreated half a mile formed a line but no enemy approached The 2nd & 3rd brigades were called out and formed a line two miles to the rear of us The 11th brigade was sent back to guard the train which was at Rheas



Mills. About nine o'clock we advanced to the foot of the mountain and the enemy were seen on its top. Here we remained until two in the afternoon occasionally exchanging shots with the enemy. Col. Bassett came up with the regiment at noon.

At two o'clock Capt Crawford took Co. A, and went up to see what force the enemy had there. We dismounted and went up as skirmishers sheltering ourselves as much as possible behind trees and arrived at the top without discovering any enemy. Then kept on about thirty rods when we saw about a dozen fired on them and they retreated. One of them had a flag; he got behind a tree and waved it at us and then put spurs to his horse and was out of sight in a moment. We now halted and in a few minutes fell back to the top of the mountain and formed an ambush expecting the enemy to soon return. Capt Crawford sent back for a Co of infantry to come up and relieve us. Co H of the Eleventh came up and took our place and we went back and mounted and went back to the rest of the regiment which was nearly a half mile from the foot of the mountain. Soon after Co. I was sent up dismounted and the Infantry Co. came back.

We remained here in this position about an hour when we knew by the firing on the mountain that the enemy were advancing and the infantry Co was sent back and Co A and D of the 2nd were sent up soon after. We dismounted leaving our horses about half way up the mountain. Co D went to the right a report having come in that the enemy were flanking us there. Co A went up and went in among those that were there every man sheltering himself as much as possible behind rocks and trees. I fired one shot to the flagbearer and the flag dropped just then but was caught by another man and I think I must have hit him or his horse by the time I got my gun loaded again orders were given to reserve our fire by Capt Crawford who saw that they were about to charge and soon they did charge on us. We poured a deadly fire into their ranks and then retreated down the mountain and very fast at that. Albert L. Payne a private in Co A was severely wounded but succeeded in getting down the mountain and was sent to the hospital immediately. One of the Eleventh was severely wounded also.

The enemy charged to the top of the mountain and halted and poured a shower of buckshot after us but with little effect and occasionally a rifle ball would pass. After this we went down the mountain and did not go up any more that night as it was sundown now. We fell back about a half a mile and remained till after dark.

and then fell back across a field staying there some time A few companies of the Eleventh coming here we fell still father back and halted a short time after which we were allowed to go back to camp and get some supper

We fed our horses at camp but did not unsaddle expecting orders to go back in a short time but we did not go till about three oclock the next morning At that time we mounted and went out to where the Cove Creek road and the ridge road sepe- rate halted there built fires and got warm and then Co A was sent down the ridge road to guard it We went about a mile and halted and remained there till daylight While there we heard the heavy rumbling of artilery and tread of cavalry on the other road and we supposed that they would attack us early in the morning

[*Battle of Prairie Grove, December 7, 1862*²⁹]

At daylight we went back to the other road but we were sent back to the same place again Soon after Co C was on another road still father to our right The rest of the regiment and Cos D, F and H of the Eleventh were guarding the Cove Creek road. About nine oclock we heard cannonading several miles northeast of us and it continued some time About ten oclock we recieved orders to fall back and we went back This regiment was the rear guard leaving Cane Hill and we marched on at a common gait till we got within a mile of Rheas mill when we again heard cannonading to our right and each regiment turned to the right and marched on double quick in that direction This was about one oclock and by two were close upon the enemy The road we traveled over was bad enough at any time but it was at this time

29. Of this major engagement, near Fayetteville, General Blunt, on December 8, reported: "This place [Prairie Grove], on yesterday, was the scene of a hard-fought and bloody field, resulting in a complete victory to the Army of the Frontier. The rebel forces, under Generals Hindman, Marmaduke, Parsons, and Frost, numbered 25,000. My whole force in the field did not exceed 8,000. I had been holding the enemy on the Boston Mountains for two days . . . holding them in check until General Herron could come up with re-enforcements.

"On the 7th, they . . . commenced a flank movement on my left during the night . . . Their object was to cut off communication between myself and General Herron . . . They attacked General Herron at about 10 a. m., who, by gallant and desperate fighting, held them in check for three hours, until I came up and attacked them in the rear. The fighting was desperate on both sides, and continued until it was terminated by the darkness of the night. . . . the enemy . . . availed themselves of the night to retreat across the Boston Mountains. The loss on both sides has been heavy. . . . The enemy's loss, compared with ours, is at least four to one. My artillery made terrible destruction in their ranks. They had greatly the advantage in numbers and position, yet Generals Marmaduke and Hindman acknowledged to me, in an interview under a flag of truce, that they had been well whipped. . . ."—*Ibid.*, pp. 69, 70.

The rebel casualties were placed at 1,000 killed and nearly 2,000 wounded. The union losses were: 175 killed, 800 wounded and over 260 missing.—*Ibid.*, pp. 76, 83, 86.

so crowded that in some places it was nearly impossible to get along

When at the scene of action we came very near rushing up to the rebel army thinking it was our own. The rebels were in a thick grove of small timber the trees being from four inches to a foot in diameter. The rebel Gens intention was to get in our rear and capture our train. And willie Col. [Charles A.] Carroll with his cavalry regiment was making fients on Cane Hill while he and his army took another road which lead to Fayetteville. This road has been guarded by the Sixth Kansas but by some mistake they had been drawn off for a few hours and the rebel army allowed to pass. The meeting of Gen Herron³⁰ and the enemy was unexpected by Gen Herron. His advance guard had stoped to feed and on the enemy charging up to them threw them into confusion immediately. About two hundred were taken prisoners and the regiment they belonged to the Arkansas First lost thier train. Gen. Herron succeeded in getting the rest of his men into line and the battle comenced. And they fought till after Gen Blunt got there with his division. In this battle Gen Herron showed himself to be a brave and efficient officer and the men under his command done thier part nobly.

When we found out the position of the rebels we turned to the left and went down into a large cornfield leaving the infantry just at the edge of the timber where they formed a line to be ready to recieve the enemy. Hopkins and Rabbs batteries were placed on the left where they could see the rebel battery and they opened fire upon it and soon silenced it. Allens battery was placed on on the right. I[t] was but a short time before the infantry were engaged and the 2nd Kansas were dismounted and went forward in line passed the tenth and went up and some of us formed on the right of the Eleventh. Two Cos E and H formed on the left of the Eleventh and were under command of Capt Crawford. three companies of the 2nd A C and G were on the right of the Eleventh but did not have any field officer over them each Co acting indepen[den]tly. Where Col. Bassett was I do not know. At least he was not there.

Soon the enemy advanced on us again and after we had comenced firing the Tenth came up and formed on our right. The timber where we were was clear of underbrush but in advance of us where the enemy [was] the underbrush was thick and it

30. Brig. Gen. Francis J. Herron, at this time, commanded the third division of the Army of the Frontier which was headed by Brig. Gen. John M. Schofield.

made it difficult for us to see them. We did not fire by volleys but each man fired when he saw some enemy to shoot at and the enemy fired in the same manner. After we had been engaged some time Col Weir came along on foot swearing it was our own men that we were firing on so we reserved our fire for a few moments but they kept firing on us whenever they had a good opportunity. We soon found out that it was the enemy that were firing on us and then our men rushed forward sheltering themselves as much as possible behind trees and opened a brisk fire on them and kept it up some time. Joseph Ballance of Co. A was severely wounded in the breast about this time and was carried off the field.

We kept up this fire till about sundown when the enemy being largely reinforced charged forward in line and we were compelled to fall back the infantry into the field but we went back to our horses and mounted but remained in line. The enemy advanced to the edge of the field and then our batteries opened their fire with shell and kept it up till dark. The enemy got one battery into position on our right and commenced firing at us with shell. One came just over the right of Co. A and passing over us struck a horse in Co. C not more than sixty paces behind us killing him instantly but did not hurt the rider. We then moved back some distance. Allens battery opened on the rebel battery and soon silenced it and they moved it away.

At dark the firing ceased as if by mutual consent. We fell back about a mile from the position of the enemy and lay down for the night. The infantry stacked arms and lay down near them the cavalry went and got corn fed their horses but did not unsaddle and the horses were kept in line as near as possible till morning. We lay down near our horses but did not sleep very sound. The night was cold and not one of us were allowed to build a fire.

About eleven o'clock Lieut Johnson came and waked four of us up to go out with him to discover the position of the enemy and gave us instructions that if we ran into the enemy and got scattered to make the best of our way back to camp. We went at first directly towards the enemy but when we got about half way acrossed the field we turned to the right and went about a mile still getting closer to the enemy and then turned around and came back about a quarter of a mile from the timber and parallel to it. We came back to near where Rabb had his battery at dark and then turned towards our army. Just as we turned back we heard



sounds like artillery moving but in what direction we could not tell. The enemy were probably still on the field at least it had that appearance. On our road back we saw two men horseback and an ambulance but not knowing whether they were ours or not we struck the gallop towards them and they supposing we were the enemy turned to the right and run their horses and mules as fast as possible towards our army and by that we concluded they were our own men and so they proved. We went straight along instead of turning towards our army as they did but bringing our horses to a walk soon went to camp. On arriving at our army Lieut. Johnston went to headquarters to report and the ambulance having arrived before him. The driver reported that he had been driven in by the enemy who came near overtaking him. We went back to our places and lay down. About two o'clock Nugent came and waked me up to have me go with the ambulances under a flag of truce to gather up the wounded but after I told him I had been out once before and he then excused me.

The next morning we got up at daylight mounted and moved back into the timber and built fires. An armistice had been asked for by Gen. Hindman till 6 o'clock P. M. but which was not granted till that time but a short armistice was allowed. During this time Gen's Blunt and Herron met the rebel Gen. [Thomas C.] Hindman under a flag of truce and at first Hindman claimed the victory but Gen. Blunt told him that he would have to fight it over again and Gen. Blunt said his force would be ready in fifteen minutes and Gen. Hindman rather than fight it over acknowledged himself whipped but said the day would come when his army would be victorious. Giving as a reason why his army was whipped that his army was less in number to the army of Gen. Blunt and Herron and then Gen. Herron told him he would fight him man for man he would take five hundred one thousand or he would take his body guard against the same number of rebels and fight him and if that would not do he would fight him by himself but Gen. Hindman declined this offer.

About nine o'clock one day's rations were brought to us of bacon and hard bread. We not having any thing to eat since the night before the battle. About noon it was ascertained that the enemy were on the full retreat leaving their dead on the field and many of the wounded were left in our possession nearly every house having more or less of them. We immediately took possession of the field after learning that the enemy were on the retreat. The 2nd Kansas were sent about one mile from the field and camped for

the night A detail was made out for a scout of fifty men and we were ready a little before sundown and went at first back to Rheas mill and then took the ridge road for Cane Hill and went to that place but saw nothing of the enemy We stayed at Cane Hill about half an hour and then went back the same way we came getting back to camp about four oclock in the morning we lay down by the fire and slept till daylight

The loss of the enemy at the battle of Prairie Grove was four hundred and fifty killed and about fifteen hundred wounded Thier own report was sixteen hundred and fifty in killed and wounded Some of our reporters place the enemies loss at twenty five hundred Our loss was about five hundred killed and wounded most of which were in Herrons division Two companies of this regiment E K lost eighteen killed and wounded Capt [Avra P.] Russell of Co. K was mortally wounded and has since died The loss of the other Co that were engaged was but slight One in Co. A was severely wounded but not mortally

The ninth of Dec we went into camp at Rheas mill pitched tents and got us some thing to eat once more The first night in camp I was so nearly worn out that I could not sleep well not having slept any of any consequence for the three nights previous The next day we stayed in camp all day The Tenth [11th?] we went to Cane Hill once more and camped the same place we were when we were there before While on our road to that [place] we met several secesh ambulances which were going to the battle field after the wounded they were under a flag of truce

Nearly every house in Cane Hill has wounded in and flags of truce come in nearly every day At first we were obliged to issue rations to thier wounded but after a few days they sent in rations for them Our sick and wounded were sent to Fayetteville A. L. Payne and J. Balance were sent there and five that were sick of Co A were sent there also M. Stern was sent to take care of them The Second and Third brigades occupied Cane Hill after the battle but did not have near as much duty to do as when we were here before The details for forage and picket are by companies so that it is not near as hard on the privates as when details are made from every company for these purposes

Dec twentieth Co's A and D were detailed for a scout and were under command of Capt. Crawford We started with one days rations at daylight and taking the Cove Creek road went down as far as Oliver's store met two flags of truce one which was bringing



in provisions for the wounded and the other had despaches for Gen Blunt. The first one was inside the picket before we met it the other was near Oliver. The last one we met was just as we were turning a bend in the road and we were as near as fifty paces before seeing one another. We then kept on till as near as twenty paces when both parties halted and the flag bearer first saluted first with his hand and then lowered the flag. Lieut [John M.] Mencer who was in command of the advance guard returned the salute with his hand and then rode up to the flag bearer and asked for what purpose the flag was sent in and on being answered sent it back to Capt. Crawford who was at the head of the column and Capt. Crawford allowed them to go on towards camp. We saw nothing of the enemy at Oliver but some of the inhabitants said there was a rebel picket one mile farther on but as no confidence could be placed in what they said Capt Crawford did not think it best to go any farther so we started back towards camp.

The Valley of Cove creek had the appearance of having been occupied by large bodies of troops very recently. Signs of camp could be seen nearly all of the way from our picket to Oliver a distance of eighteen miles. There was no forage on the road and rebel horses suffered in consequences. Every tree that had horses tied to them had the bark gnawed off [f] even walnut trees had the bark gnawed off [f] by them. Grape vines two and three inches in diameter were gnawed clear off. We came back by the ridge road but had a very steep mountain to ascend and on getting to the top found ourselves at the same place where we were on the fifth of this month when the enemy were camped in the valley below. This mountain is so steep as to make it nearly impossible for two good horses to pull an empty wagon up. Nothing more of importance occurred before we got to camp except that the advanced pickets got frightened at our advance and fell back on the main body of the picket but no shots were fired. We arrived at camp about nine o'clock P. M. having rode almost incessantly since daylight and our horses and ourselves were fatigued very much.

[*March to Van Buren, Ark., December 27-28, 1862*]

Dec 26 we received orders to be ready at seven o'clock A M the morning of the 27th with three days rations of bread, meat and so forth and a peck of shelled corn on our horses and three days rations in the wagon to march from Cane Hill. Cane Hill is the name of a colledge situated about a mile from Boonsboro but most of the Federal soldiers nearly all call both the town and college Cane

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Hill it was formerly a thriving place but the war has left its mark The inhabitants were almost to a unit secesh but have nearly all left now There are about four hundred and fifty wounded secesh in the different hospitals at Cane Hill

We left Cane Hill the morning of the twen[ty] seventh equipped according to orders and marched towards Van Buren This was a general movement of the whole army and our object proved to be to take Van Buren and Fort Smith from the rebels The first division went in advance, in the following order the Kansas 2nd was the advance guard for the main army then the rest of the third brigade under Col Cloud the 2nd brigade under Col Weer. We had no skirmishing on the first days march the advance halted about a mile north of Olivers store and rested till morning At daylight the next morning we started on passed Olivers store and took the Van Buren road which led down [?] creek about half a mile and then went up the mountain Gen Herron arrived at Olivers store a few minutes after we arrived but halted till our division had passed and then fell in behind us They came down on the telegraph road from the battleground . . .

[There is a brief gap in the manuscript here, the account lacking only a part of the events of December 28, 1862. According to the official military history, the Second Kansas cavalry "moved rapidly forward" on the 28th, "met the enemy's pickets sixteen miles from Van Buren, drove them back, and met a regiment of Texas cavalry at Dripping Springs. At this place Lieutenant Colonel Bassett was ordered, with six squadrons, by Brigadier General Herron to make a detour to the right, and gain a road two or three miles further west, which caused him to enter Van Buren half an hour behind the advance. Captain Moore, in command of the other three squadrons, maintained the advance into Van Buren, and supported by a regiment of Missouri cavalry, drove the Texas regiment, before referred to, into and through Van Buren, and captured their baggage train, consisting of twenty-five wagons; the entire advance under Colonel Cloud.]

Osborne's narrative picks up the story again as the Texans are being driven out of Van Buren.]

. . . two men but were soon compelled to retreat again This stand was made to save their train which was just ahead of them They retreated through Log Town to Van Buren We charged after them until we arrived at the top of the hill over looking Van Buren where we halted and waited for the rest of the regiment We had expected to have a battle here. The streets appeared very



quiet and the cavalry we had been pursuing was galloping down the river below town and entering the woods were out of sight in a few moments. Three steamers could be seen on the river one was ferrying troops across the river the others were going down the river

Col. Cloud soon ordered a charge and we charged through the town and down to the steamer which was being used as a ferry boat and dismounted and commenced firing into her and she soon hoisted the white flag the rebel soldiers who were on board jumped off[f] and swam to the shore and escaped The rebel Gen. Sharpe [?] was on board and got a ducking with the rest. Leaving a guard with this steamer Col. Cloud took the rest of his men and went down the river after the rebel train.

About four miles below Van Buren we came in sight of the steamer Key West she was on a sand bar and was easily captured and a guard left with her and Col. Cloud kept on after the train which he captured two miles farther down A few moments after he left, the steamer Rose Douglass came in sight we having passed her coming down She was hailed and ordered to land which she did These steamers were loaded with corn and hard bread negros were throwing corn off the Rose Douglass and would not stop until fired on The captured train was nearly useless to us the wagons were old and worn out and the mules looked as if they were strangers to corn or any other kind of feed the wagons were loaded with rebel soldiers baggage When Col Cloud came back he went on board of the steamers examined their cargos and ordered them to return to Van Buren he going up on the Rose Douglass The train was turned over to Capt Cameron who took it to Van Buren

Cos A & D started back towards Van Buren but before arriving there heard cannonading in that direction when Co. A went down to the river bank hailed the steamer and told Col. Cloud of it and he ordered the boat to land. The firing proved to be the rebels They had posted a battery on the river bank opposite Van Buren and were shelling the town. Our artillery and infantry had not yet arrived so the rebels having no resistance shelled the town for an hour. Allens battery was brought up on double quick and fired a few shots at the rebel battery and it was taken away One man belonging to Co H was killed and some ladies living in town were wounded Several rebel hospitals were in town filled with sick and wounded rebel soldiers whose lives were in as much danger as ours.

When the rebel battery was silenced Gen. Blunt came down got on board the Rose Douglass and ordered it to go up to town. We now went back into town arriving there about sundown Gen. Blunts division had arrived and were formed along the levee We found the regiment camped back away from the river on low ground near McGees house Col. Cloud took two sections of Allens battery after dark and went down and complimented the rebel camp which he had discovered while coming up the river killing several of the enemy The loss of men was small on both sides although we had skirmished nearly all day we had not got into any close action The rebel army was all on the south side of the river excepting the 1st Reg. Texan Partisan Rangers which was camped at Dripping Springs and was the one that we had skirmished with during the day.

The next morning the reg't saddled and left camp at ten oclock and went down the river after the rebels and to get all the servicable horses and mules we could find. We went about fifteen miles saw some rebels across the river in several places when we found some negros ferrying some stock across and sent for them animals which they had taken over but night coming on were obliged to go back with out them. When we came in sight of Van Buren we saw the steamers we had captured burning and no camp fires were to be seen and the place seemed to be evacuated

During the day General Blunt had recieved orders from St. Louis to fall back across the Boston mountains immediately and the army had moved out of the town We went back to the same place where we stayed the previous night but before lying down recieved orders to shell two days rations of corn for our horses and be ready to march by five oclock the next morning At daylight we were ready to move but were delayed by negro reffugees who were going north with us The train we had captured was unloaded and mostly given to them A few hogsheads of sugar and some hard bread was all we retained of our captures the rest was destroyed As soon as the negros were ready and started we followed them forming the rear guard going back The night of the 30th we camped at Olivers store where we drew some rebel hard bread as our ration had been consumed it was not hardly fit to eat It tasted as though it was made of beans boiled mashed and mixed with flour and then baked. The next day went up Cove Creek and camped at its head near the picket post

New Year day we left Cove Creek and went past Cane Hill to Rheas Mill where we found our regimental train and camped pitch-

ing our tents once more. The man who had been detached in April for a battery had returned during our absence they had been in Tennessee nearly all the time while absent. The 2nd the division moved again with the 2nd Kan. as rear guard as usual in a retrograde movement at night camped at Willow Springs went on the next day to Elm Springs where we remained several days.

Gen. Blunt was removed from the command and ordered to Kansas. Gen. Schofield assumed command of the division and brigaded it again. The 1st brigade consisted of the 6th 9th & 11th Kansas & the 3rd & 9th Wis. and Allens battery. Col. Weer in command the 2nd brigade consisted of the 2nd 10th & 13th Kansas and Rabbs battery Col. Cloud in command the 3rd brigade had all the Indian regiments and Hopkins battery. The 3rd of Jan we escorted some officers to Bentonville and returned the 4th The army was reviewed by Gen. Schofield on the 7th The transportation was reduced to one wagon to a Co. Cos A & D had drawn A tents when at Fort Riley, these were returned to the Q. M. and we drew Sibley tents

[Hospital Duty, January 10-March 25, 1863]

The 10th I was detailed as an attendant in hospital at Fayetteville I was p[l]aced on duty in the ward where [Albert L.] Payne & [Joseph] Ballance were The room was small and had only five pat[i]ents in it one of whom died the 12th another, Culverson of the 20th Iowa, died the 20th he was severely wounded in the thigh had been neglected when first wounded if his leg had been amputated at first his life could have been saved J[ames] Hill and Silas Snook of Co. A of the 2nd Kan died of disease the 10th of Jan.

The 8th of Feb. orders were recieved to remove all the sick and wounded of the 1st division to Fort Scott. The 10th we started taking eight patients who could not sit up two ambulances only were furnished in which beds were placed and two men placed in each The other patients were obliged to ride in transportation wagons the wagon beds were filled with straw then mattresses laid on it and four who could not sit up placed in one but patients who could sit up were placed eight in each wagon Surgeons [E. L.] Pat[t]ee and [A. J.] Ri[t]chie had charge of the hospital. We passed Jones mill and Maysville crossed Cow Skin river and arrived at Neosho on the 15th We drew eight days rations at Col. [W. A.] Philipps camp on Cow Skin The 16th left Neosho The 18th the rear guard had a skirmish with Livingstons gurillas one

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Lieut and one private was killed and three privates mortally wounded Two scouts were captured Denton & McKinney but pretending to be sutlers were paroled one of them had Dr. Patees horse and saddle and all the Drs. papers these fell into the hands of the enemy.

The night of the 19th it rained all night and until four in the afternoon the 20th when it turned to snow and snowed for several hours. The patients nearly all got wet making them uncomfortable we arrived at Dry Wood at night had some trouble with the teamsters who would not take the train where the patients could be taken care of but the master of transportation made them remove the train to a house where the patients were taken out and the blankets dried The 22[nd] of Feb. we arrived at Fort Scott and the patients were placed in the Gen. Hospital there While on the road the patients suffered very much but one died he from sickness. I was placed on duty in Ward A.

The 19th of March all the patients were removed from the hospital and started for Leavenworth Payne and Ballance had permission to go home and remain until the last of April. March 25th I was relieved from duty in the hospital, and the 28th left Fort Scott for Springfield where the regiment was stationed I met the 6th 10th & 11th at Dry Wood they were going home on furlough passed Rouse Point Greenfield and arrived at Springfield on the 31st. The regiment had arrived there about the 15th of January and were on duty at the post as escorts, pickets, &c.

[*Regimental Activities, April-October, 1863*]

The 21st of April an escort was detailed out of the regiment to escort Maj Weed to Fayetteville we were absent six days and marched 220 miles. [*Manuscript torn. About three lines are missing*] . . . and drew Sharpes Carbines the 18th [of May] drew Colts Army revolvers The 19th [of May] the regiment left Springfield for a scout went through Cassville and Kiettsville had a skirmish near Bentonville the 22nd captured eleven prisoners then sent a flag of truce to Fayetteville but Lieut Ballard then turned went back through Neosho Pineville and Carthage had a skirmish near the latter place the 26th Here the dismounted men were sent to Fort Scott for horses and the others went back through Mt. Vernon to Springfield arriving there on the 29th At Mount Vernon Col. Cloud hearing that Vicksburg had fallen had a salute fired but on arriving at Springfield news was recieved that it had not.

The 18th of June I was detailed to go to Greenfield on duty with five others we arrived at Greenfield at sun down and returned the next day. The 28th of June six men were detailed out of the Co. to go after forage we went through Bolivar and found corn about twelve miles northwest of the town, loaded our wagons and came back through Humansville to attend a dance then through Bolivar and arrived at Springfield the 3rd of July. The next day had a grand review. The 15th of July Brig Gen. John McNeil relieved Col. Cloud of the command of the district All of the regiment left . . . [*Manuscript torn. Two or three lines are lacking.*] for Cassville. The 21st Co. A left for the same place as an escort for the pay master and on arriving at Cassville were ordered back by Gen. McNeil, and on the 30th were detailed as an escort for Gen. McNeil and placed on duty the same day.

The 3rd day of August I was detailed for duty as messenger and was on duty every other day until the 13th of Oc. Col. Cloud took the regt and the 1st Arkansas Inf. and two sections of Rabbs battery and went into the Indian Nation joined Gen. Blunt pursued the rebels as far as Perryville Choctaw Nation then came back towards Fort Smith and fought a battle at the Devils Back Bone routed the enemy and then took possession of Fort Smith & Van Buren the 1st of Sep 1863.

About the last of Sep Gen. McNeil went to St Louis on business leaving Col. John Edwards of the 18th Iowa Inf in command of the district. A few days after a force of rebel cavalry came into the state from Ark Commanded by Shelby & Coffee³¹ They passed through Neosho, Greenfield, Stockton, Warsaw and Cole Camp burning all the court houses as they went. They were defeated near Syracuse and came back. [*Manuscript torn. Two or three lines are missing.*]

. . . stationed at Springfield and went out after them, but was too late to overtake them before they crossed the Osage river going north so he retired to Buffalo where he remained until the 13th of Oc. when Gen. McNeil arrived from St Louis and assumed command.

The 14th orders were recieved for all of the Co. that could be spared from Springfield to go to Buffalo. We started at ten oclock at night and arrived there a distance of thirty five miles before daylight. At eleven oclock in the forenoon the command left Buffalo and marched to Bolivar. Early in the morning of the 16th we left Bolivar and went through Humansville and camped on

31. Confederate colonels Joseph O. Shelby and John T. Coffee.



Sac river at night Maj [E. B.] Eno of the 8th M. S. M. came up at dark and reported that the enemy had passed through Humansville in the afternoon on their way south Gen. McNeil ordered his command to saddle and we moved out to intercept the enemy at Stockton we marched all night and arrived near Stockton at day light but the rebels had taken another route we did not meet them. We remained here long enough to get breakfast and then went on to Greenfield remained there over night and in the morning went on to Sarcoxie We heard of the enemy several times and found their trail. They had avoided passing through any towns after leaving Humansville As they were going towards Cassville two messengers were sent to that place to alarm the troops at that place. The 19th we left Sarcoxie and went to Cassville. Col. [E. C.] Catherwood of the 6th M. S. M. took all the troops except the escort and leaving Cassville to the left went on to Keittsville. We had followed the trail of the enemy nearly all day they having passed during the night.

We left Cassville early the morning of the 20th [of October] joined Col Catherwood near Keittsville then went on to Sugar Creek The next morning we left Sugar Creek on the Fayetteville road but turned off of it near Cross Hollows went east to the ford of White river where we camped for the night. The next day we went on to Huntsville. We met a flag of truce before entering the town and while the Gen. was talking to the bearer of the flag the escort charged into the town drove out a Co. of rebels who were stationed there and captured about a dozen rebels. The 23rd we left Huntsville and went about twenty miles and camped At night a messenger arrived from Cassville with orders for Gen. McNeil to go to Fort Smith and assume command of the district of the frontier. Capt. [C. G.] Laurant and Lieut French were sent back to Springfield to finish all business which was left unfinished.

The 24th we marched through Kinston and over a range of the Buffalo mountains On the decent we discovered the enemy in the valley below. They were busy preparing their supper evidently thinking that we could not get our artillery over the mountains and they were not afraid of our cavalry as they had twice as many men as we had but they were mistaken about the artillery it had been brought up and was soon posted on a high point and commenced shelling their camp and they saddled and went on up another mountain. We went down into the valley where we found plenty of fresh beef and pork all ready to cook and plenty of forage. We remained there till morning and then went on after the rebels

The mountain was so steep that it took all day for the artillery and train to get over the first one and the infantry was left to guard them the cavalry went on to the head of Big Piney where we camped for the night. The enemy being all mounted and not having a wheeled vehicle of any kind got so much the start of us that we could not overtake them before they crossed the Ark river but Maj [Thomas J.] Hunt of the 1st Ark. Cav'y skirmished with their rear guard every day.

The 26th the cavalry moved only four miles and waited for the artillery and infantry to come up. The train did not get in until about dark. The morning of the 27th the mountain Feds as they were called executed a man who as they said had deserted from them twice he appeared very indifferent to his fate and was not pitied any by the soldiers. The same day we arrived at Clarksville and camped there one night Oc. 28th we left Clarksville on the telegraph road for Fort Smith. Col. Catherwood left us when near Osark for Springfield taking the detachments of the 1st Ark Cav'y and the 6th & 8th M. S. M. Capt [Henry] Hopkins and his Co. had a skirmish with the enemy the 29th on Mulberry creek.

[Regimental Activities, November, 1863-December, 1864]

Oc. 30, Gen. McNeil arrived at Fort Smith with his escort. Col. Cloud was in command of the District. The posts in the district were Fort Smith Van Buren Fayetteville and Fort Gibson. The company arrived from Springfield the 1st of Nov. and the next day Gen. McNeil assumed command of the District of the Frontier. Co. A, the escort was given quarters in the garrison and we had a stable for our horses We remained in quarters until April [1864] but most of the Co. was absent at times going to Springfield once and to Fort Scott once Gen McNeil went to St Louis in Jan. leaving Col [William R.] Judson of the 6th Kan in temporary command of the district and before he could return the state of Ark was set off into a separate department and Gen. J. M. Thayer ordered by Gen Steele³² the department commander to assume command of the district of the Frontier.

Gen. Thayer assumed command in Feb. The Indian Territory belonged to the Department of Kansas and Gen Blunt was assigned to the command of it. The town of Fort Smith belonged to one department and the garrison to the other, and the Generals were each jealous of the other. Gen. Thayer had nearly all of the troops

32. Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele.

and Gen Blunt most of the transportation. The 24th of March Gen. Thayer moved out with his army, and joined Gen. Steele about a hundred miles southwest of Little Rock. In the latter part of March 1864, the troops of the department of Ark. moved out to assist Gen. [Nathaniel P.] Banks in his expedition on Red River. Gen Thayer took all the troops that could be spared from Fort Smith and marched out and joined Gen. Steele about one hundred miles southwest of Little Rock. They went as far as Camden and fought several battles, but Gen. Banks having retreated the whole rebel army marched on them and they fell back to Little Rock.

The 17th of April Gen. Blunt recieved orders from the war department at Washington for him to report to Maj Gen. Curtis at Fort Leavenworth Kansas, and his district was attached to the Department of Ark. He took about forty of the Co. and went to Kansas, Col. [William R.] Judson of the 6th Kan. assumed command of the district. The whole available force at Fort Smith did not then amount to six hundred men, and many apprehended an attack from the rebels, but the enemy were too much engaged elsewhere to molest us. The 16th of May Gen. Thayer arrived with his army and assumed command of the district. He had the forts which had been commenced finished, and had a line of rifle pits dug from Peteau river to the Ark. Thereby completely encircling the town.

As warm weather advanced the gurillas spread over the country attacking any small party of our troops that they could find. The telegraph was cut so often that it was impossible to keep it in repair and it was given up in Aug. Mail parties were fired on and it became neccessary to abandon the regular mail and send parties through with it at long intervals without letting any one know when it would go or when it was expected to return. The 26th of July a battalion of the 6th Kan which was camped on Mazzard prairie, eight miles from Fort Smith was attacked by a brigade of rebels commanded by [Gen. R. M.] Gano and lost 16 men killed and one hundred men were taken prisoners. The mounted men nearly all escaped.

Several other attacks were made on detachments of the command, but only one more was successful. That was made on a supply train on Cabin Creek fifty miles north of Fort Gibson in the Cherokee Nation. A train of two hundred and fifty wagons was lost there all loaded with Commissary and Q. M. stores. This was a severe loss to the army as it was short of rations before, and were now obliged to subsist on half rations. Forage was even less abun-



dant than rations and many horses died for want of it. In the three cavalry regiments not fifty servicable horses were left by the 1st of Dec.

In Dec Maj Gen [E. R. S.] Canby who commanded the Military Division of West Miss. ordered the posts of Fort Smith and the adjacent posts to be evacuated. He removed Gen. Steele from the command of the department of Ark. and assigned Maj Gen [Joseph J.] Reynolds to the command of it. Four steamers came up to Fort Smith loaded with forage and returned loaded with Q. M. stores. About the first of Jan. orders were recieved from Lieut Gen. Ulysses S. Grant not to evacuate the posts of Fort Smith, Van Buren and Fayetteville and ordering Gen. Reynolds to forward supplies as soon as possible to those posts. Four steamers arrived on the 15th with supplies.

[Rebel Attack on the Steamboat Annie Jacobs, January 17, 1865]

On the 16th of January 1865 I was releived from duty as Messenger at District Headquarters Fort Smith, Arkansas, by order of Brig. General J. M. Thayer commanding officer District of the Frontier and ordered to report to my Company Commander for duty. The Co. were at Clarksville Ark a post sixty five miles by land below Fort Smith and four miles from the Arkansas river on the north side. The river was in boating condition and boats were at Fort Smith ready to start for Little Rock. Transportation was furnished my companions and myself on board the steamer Annie Jacobs and daylight the morning of the 17th found us on board of her ready for starting to Clarksville.

Before the sun was up we were on our way. We passed the Ad. Hine near Van Buren she was on a sand bar but working hard to get off. Afterwards passed the steamer Chippewa where she was wooding with dry rails and over took the steamer Lotus wooding and stopped to wood ourselves near her. While wooding the steamer Chippewa passed us but we were ready to start before the Lotus. We passed two small towns Osark and Roseville without seeing any rebels but just below the latter town a woman hailed us and told us that the enemy were waiting for us about three miles below. her story was hardly credited but we made some preperations for an action with them.

On ariving in sight of Joy's ford four miles from Roseville we discovered the Chippewa lying still on the south bank of the river. Col. [Thomas M.] Bowen of the 13th Kansas now procured a field glass and looking at her said that he thought that she was

wooding at first but soon said that she was on fire soon after that we could see the flames distinctly with the naked eye The officers now held a consultation about what was best to do Col. Bowen said to run through that we had more of an escort than the Chippewa and were able to run through Lieut. Col. Bassett did not like this plan but allowed it to be carried out.

When about a mile from Chippewa we discovered the enemy on the south bank of [the] river but did not see their artillery until they fired a shell at us which struck in the water about thirty paces to the right in the water; now for the first time we found out that we were in a sad predicament to go ahead we would have to go within sixty paces of their artillery and we had gone to far to turn back everything was in confusion no particular officer had command and all were giving orders Lt. Col. Bassett finally ordered the boat to run itself aground on the northern bank and the pilot succeeded in turning her and she soon struck the ground about ten feet from the waters edge during this time the enemy kept up an incessant fire both with their artillery and small arms two shells struck the boat one passed through the pilot house doing but little injury and one through the cabin neither of them burst untill after they had passed through the boat

As soon as the boat struck the reffugees with which she was loaded commenced getting off double quick time By this time our men had ceased their firing and prepared to leave the boat After most of the reffugees were of[f] I jumped off and started for the river bank just before arriving there I was requested to help tie up [the] boat having done this I started up the steep bank narrowly escaping being hit by a musket ball which passed just over my shoulder and very close to my neck After getting to the top of the bank I stepped a few paces back and seeing one of my companions Charles Wells lying down in a hollow to keep clear of the balls which were flying pretty thick around us asked him how he liked that he did not make an audible answer but got up and went father back into the woods

I turned and started back towards the river and had not gone more than three paces when a shot from their artillery and a volley of musketry poured into the timber a musket ball struck me about three inches above the knee.³³ My companions done every-

33. Col. Thomas M. Bowen, reporting the attack on the steamboats, stated: "Private Vincent B. Osborn, of the Second Kansas Cavalry, had his thigh bone shattered whilst making the cable of the Jacobs fast on shore. His leg was subsequently amputated and his life is lost."—*War of the Rebellion*, Series I, v. 48, Pt. 1, p. 16.

The colonel was mistaken in predicting Osborne's death from the amputation. It is noteworthy that Osborne, in his own account of the affair does not mention his bravery under fire in tying up the boat. Modesty seems to have been characteristic of the man.

thing in their power to make me comfortable and when the men arrived from the 2nd Kansas I was happy to find several of my Co. with them they and the officers, Dr. Hunt³⁴ especially, were very kind to me offering their assistance to me I slept but little during the night being compelled to lie on my back all the time and not being used to that could not go to sleep I partook very freely of wine and whiskey during the night drinking three bottles of the former and one of the latter at last daylight came, and then I was removed to the train

Just before starting I wishing to know what Dr. Hunts opinion of the severity of my wound and not wishing to put the question directly to him said Dr this is a pretty severe wound Yes said he its a terrible wound this answer settled the question in the affirmative in my mind about my leg being amputated I was carried by six men to the wagon and laid in carefully The wagon was a common six mule government wagon and not very easy to ride in but ambulances had been sent for and were to meet us on the road about sunrise we started for Clarksville I suffered considerably of the jar of the wagon but not more than I had expected The rebels had all left during the night and the next day preparations were made to remove the boats The Annie Jacobs was found to be disabled so that she had to be towed of[f] but the Lotus was able to be taken down the river.

About half way to Clarksville the ambulances met us and I was moved into one and we pushed on to Clarksville arriving there a little after dark There I met some more of my friends who took me up into a room where I remained that night Capt [N. Z. ?] Strong A A A Gen'l of the 2nd brigade came to see me and had some supper brought to me which was very acceptable as I had eaten nothing since I had been wounded except a few canned peaches Soon after eating supper Drs [Joseph P.] Root and [John S.] Redfield came in and examined my wound and prescribed water dressing to be put on it but did not tell me what they thought of the severity of my wound Two of my Co volunteered to keep it wet during the night It did not pain me much now and being very tired I soon fell asleep and slept till morning the next morning I looked at my leg and saw that it had already turned a deadly color and all hope of saving it was blasted

34. Maj. S. B. Hunt, surgeon-in-chief of the District of the Frontier.

I passed the fore noon quietly but about noon the Drs all came in half a dozen or so and said they had come for a final examination but their looks belied what they said as I could read in their faces that they thought the case hopeless but they looked at my leg and soon gave their decision that they should have to take my leg off I made no pa[r]ticular objection and a table was brought in and I was laid upon it my pants cut off and Dr. [Albert W.] Cheneworth applied the chloroform to my nostrils In a moment I was asleep and on waking up saw Dr. Root bandaging my stump Dr. Redfield holding it for him I had not the slightest recollection of it being taken off

I was placed on a stretcher and carried about a quarter of a mile to where the hospital had been established This was in a house situated on a hill just north of the town a healthy pleasant place I was put in a room about sixteen feet square by one of the southern windows five or six more patients were placed in the same room but they all left but one in a couple of days that one was shot through the shoulder and was confined to his bed William Paul of my Co. was detailed as nurse for me and he done it faithfully My leg was dressed with water and every night two men came up from the company to sit up with me and keep my stump wet with cold water To the men of my Co and to Co F of the 6th Kansas I shall always owe a debt of gratitude which I can never repay they done everything in their power to alleviate my suffering and they shall long hold a place in my memory

Wm Paul remained with me until the 10th of March and then went to the Co. which was stationed at Louisburg Ark. The 12th I started for Little Rock As Clarksville is situated four miles from the river I was obliged to ride that distance in an ambulance. A boat was expected down the river the same day but for some reason was delayed five days and I remained at Spadras Bluffs during the time. At night the 17th the Lotus came down and I was taken on board and the next morning started for Little Rock stopped three hours at Louisburg and arrived at Little Rock at eight oclock P. M. The next day I was removed to the Gen. Hospital at that place. I had been gaining slowly all the time from the 1st of March and continued gaining I was discharged the 8th day of May 1865 but remained in the hospital until the 7th of July, when I left Little Rock for home. I did not get able to walk until the 19th of June.

Bypaths of Kansas History

AN INDIAN BURIAL CUSTOM

From the Council Grove Press, May 18, 1861.

A strange custom prevails amongst the uncivilized Indians of the West. When a chief, brave, or notable squaw dies or is killed, besides the usual funeral ceremonies of burial, a horse belonging to the deceased or his friends is led to the grave and shot. This is done so that the disembodied spirit may ride away into the happy hunting ground. While on a visit to the Kaw villages below town, a few days ago, we saw no less than four dead horses lying near as many fresh made graves.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT AT IOLA

From the *Neosho Valley Register*, Iola, March 17, 1869.

The citizens of Iola who deal in swine will, undoubtedly, be interested in the fact that the Board of Trustees of the incorporation have passed an ordinance which prohibits the running at large upon our streets of the porkino fraternity. And in order that any of these troublesome quadrupeds, that may unfortunately set the law at defiance, a "calaboose" or pound is in process of erection wherein they may be taken and properly cared for by the Marshal. This we conceive to be a move in the right direction. It is a notorious fact that, of all the animal creation, the swine is the biggest hog, and that they take as little thought of the inconvenience to which they put men and women when they deliberately root the gate off the hinges, and destroy the "garden sass," as if we were all delighted to see their cunning pranks, and had no angry passions that occasionally take a rise. But there is hope now that they may see the error of their way, and, in fear of the wanderings up and down through the town of our Marshal who will prove to them to be an evil one, they may be induced to go and root no more.

WHEN BUFFALO WERE A HAZARD OF RAILROADING

From the *Newton Kansan*, November 28, 1872.

Engine No. 37—"Buffalo"—was drawn in Monday night from the front, it having been ditched the other day beyond Larned by its namesakes.

THE LAW IN DODGE CITY

From the *Dodge City Times*, October 6, 1877.

Frank Edwards spent a short respite in the lime kiln this week, until some of his "friends" obtained a key from the marshal and let him out. This