

#### Kansas historical quarterly

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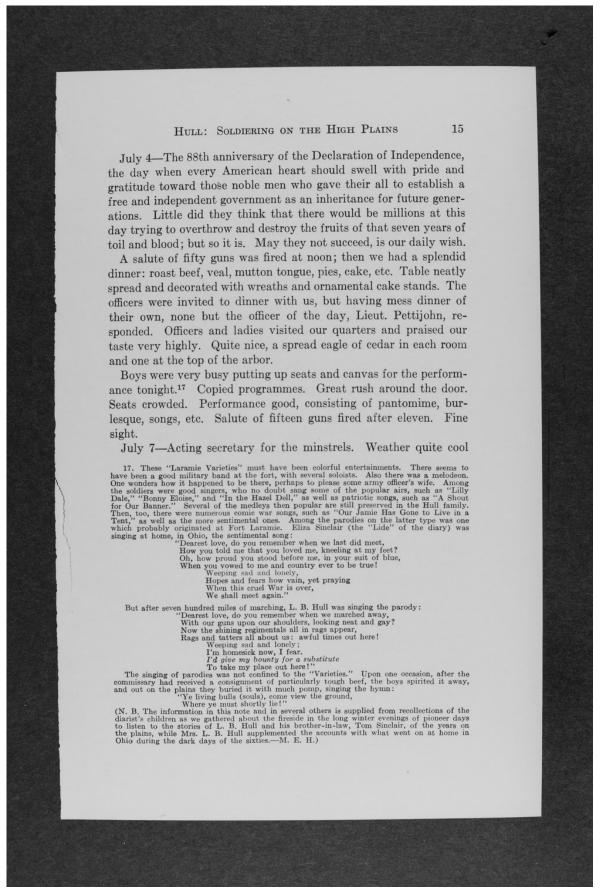
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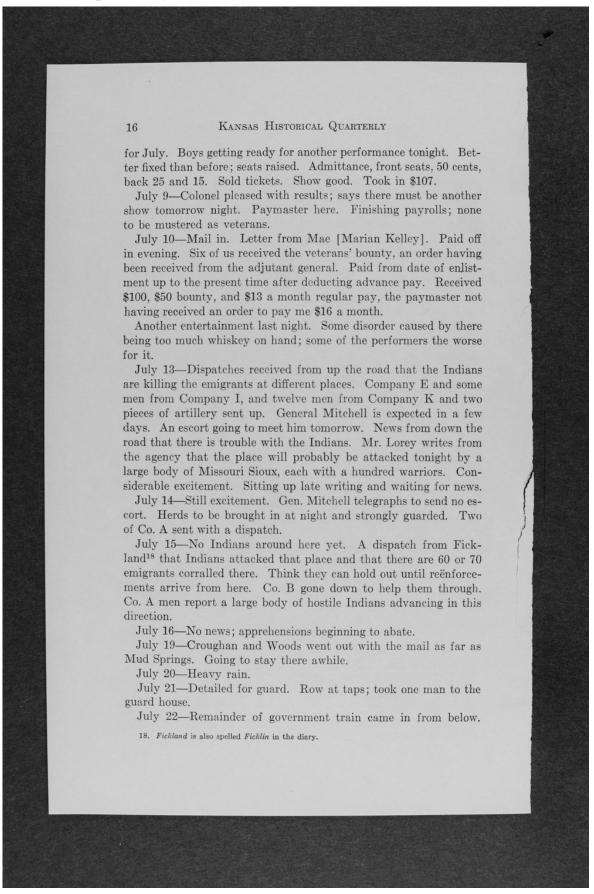
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# KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

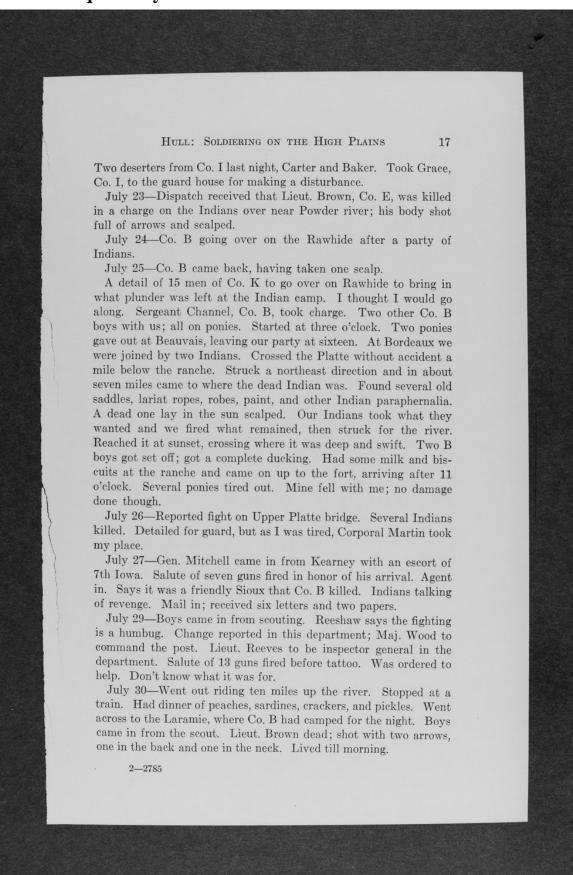










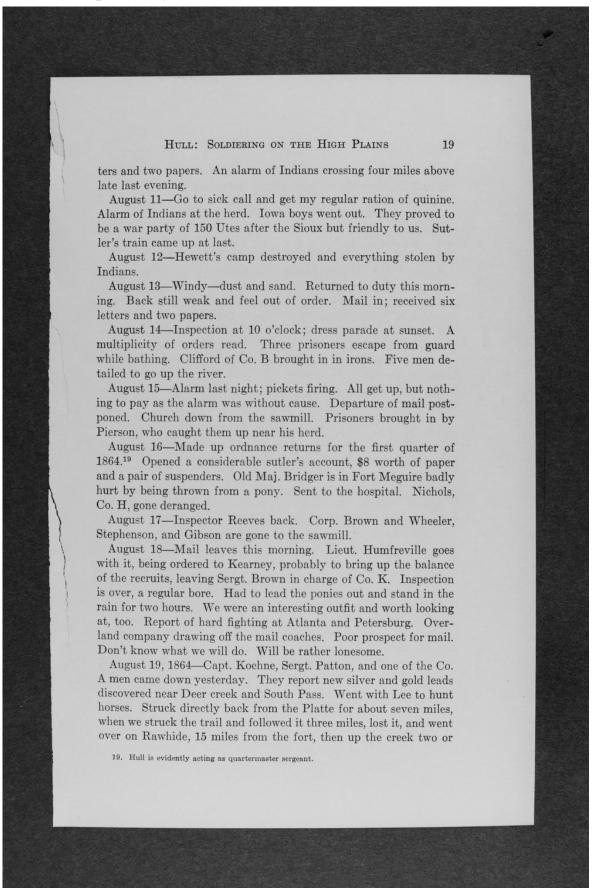




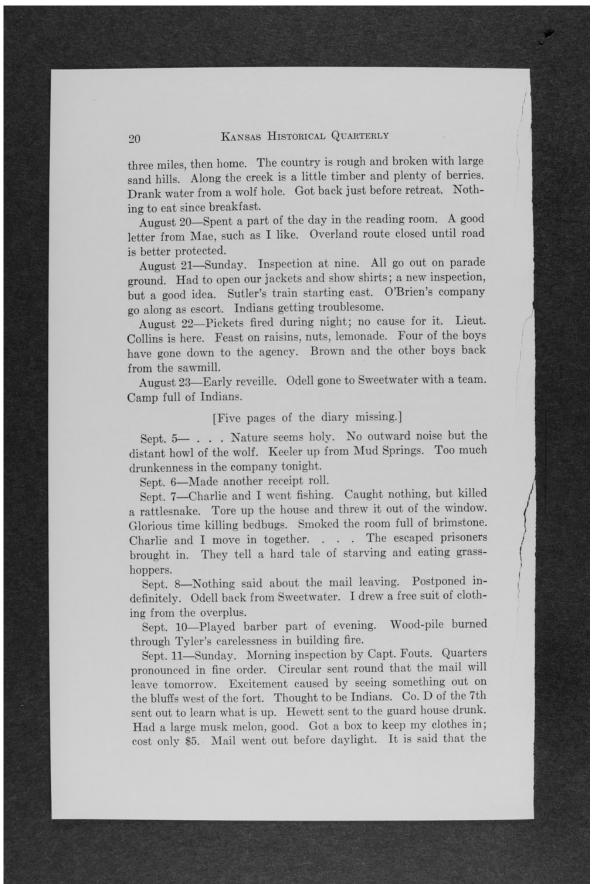


KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 18 July 31—Heavy wind. Very dusty. Provosts brought in some prisoners; arrested one man for raising a row. Patton, Co. G, shot accidentally, thought to be mortally. August 1-Busy all day making out monthly returns and clothing requisitions. Co. H gone down the road. Iowa boys moving into their quarters. August 2—Ladies in camp. August 3-Coe, Gibson, and myself got a pass and went up the river. Got all the currants we could eat. Came back and stopped at a train. Got a pressing invitation to take dinner with some ladies but declined. Made the acquaintance of some ladies from Missouri; had a pleasant talk and found them educated and refined. Sergt. Weaver bought a jug of molasses and sent it down in the hay wagon. Gibson left his pony for Settle. It broke loose; could not catch it. I came to camp and got a pass for Charlie and me till ten o'clock to bring in the pony. It was here before we started, but we went up to the train anyway, Scott with us, and got picked up by the patrol. We were reported to the Lieutenant, and Scott reduced to the ranks. We were ordered to quarters. August 4-Gen. Mitchell and Dr. Hitz and Mrs. Collins started for the States. Mrs. Collins took Flora Schneider with her to give her an education; a prairie flower for sure. August 5-Mail went out early. Indians stole part of the Quarter Master herd a mile above the fort. De Rush came in to give information. Iowa boys sent out immediately. Attack on a train at Star ranch. One man seriously wounded. Five boys of Co. K detailed to go with the ambulance for the man. August 6—Boys came in during the night with the wounded man. The Indians got off with the stock. They were close on to the Indians, but from some cause they did not overtake them. Stable call. Order for twelve men to be equipped for scouting, ready at any time. Grasshoppers by the myriad in the air, eating everything up-destroying the garden. Detail of eight men and Corp. Curtis for artillery drill. August 8—Sunday. Inspection by Maj. Wood and Maj. Underhill. Co. K ahead in neatness. Corp. Martin and two privates sent down to the agency. 13 men transferred, 7 to Co. E and 6 to Co. H, leaving 71 yet in Co. K, with a fair prospect of being permanently organized. Col. Collins and escort started this evening for Cache la Poudre. Caldwell, Hutchinson, Keating, Burns, and Tubbs gone. August 9-Mail came in last night after dark. Received six let-

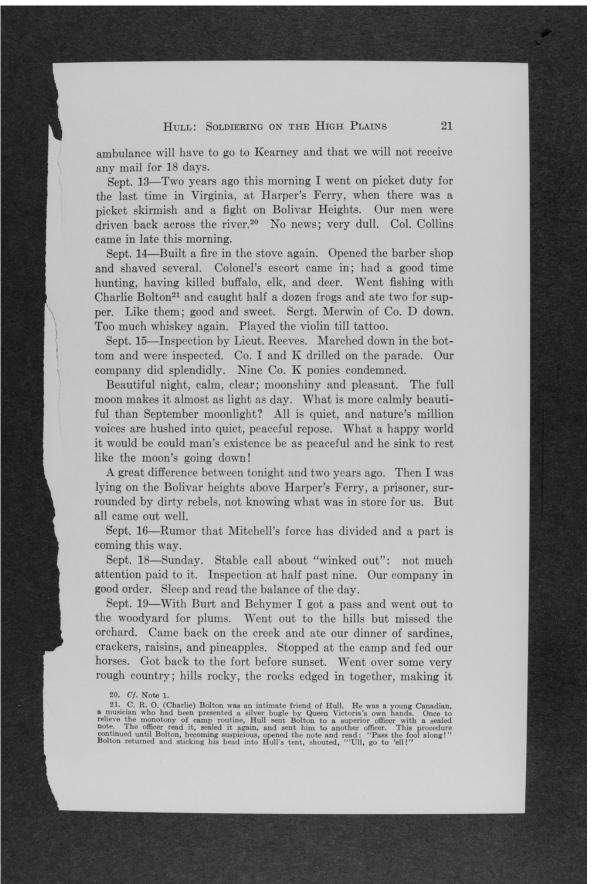




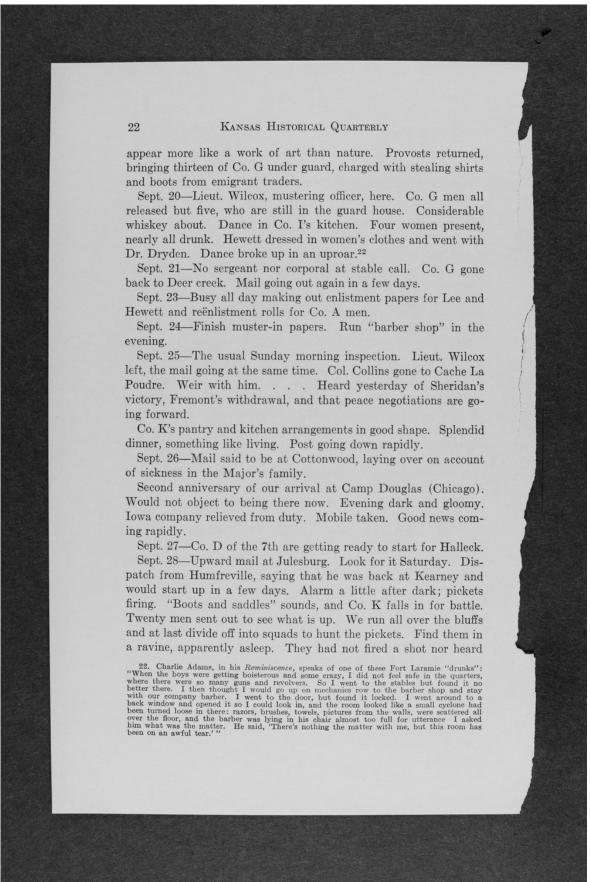




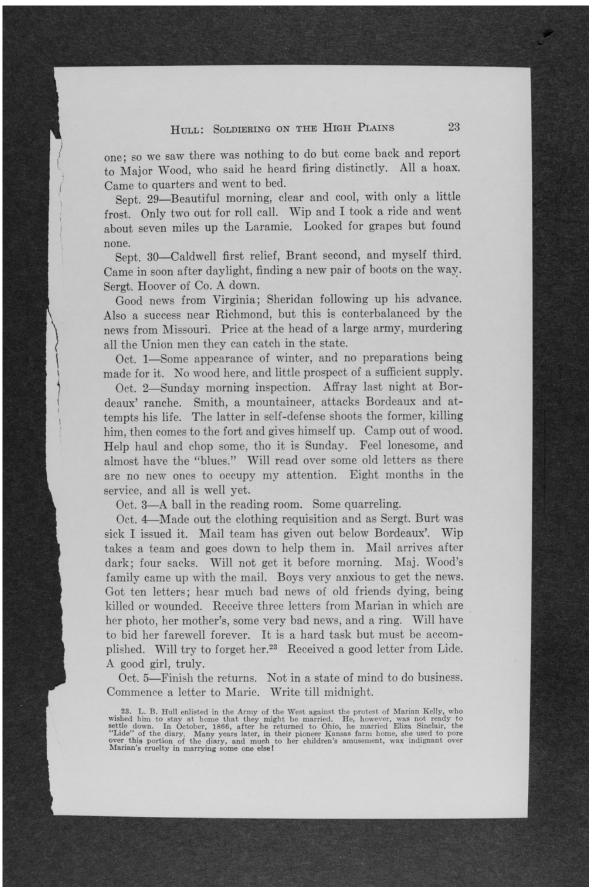




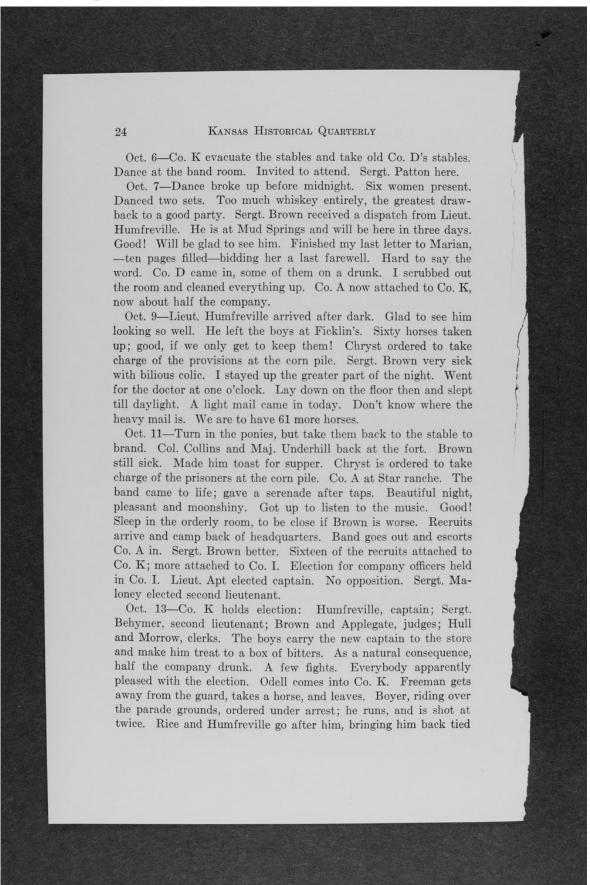




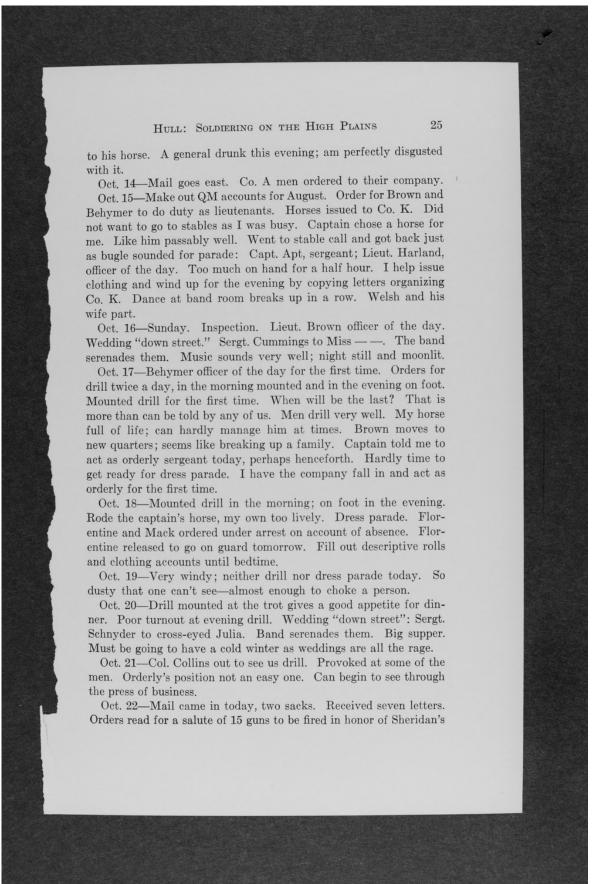




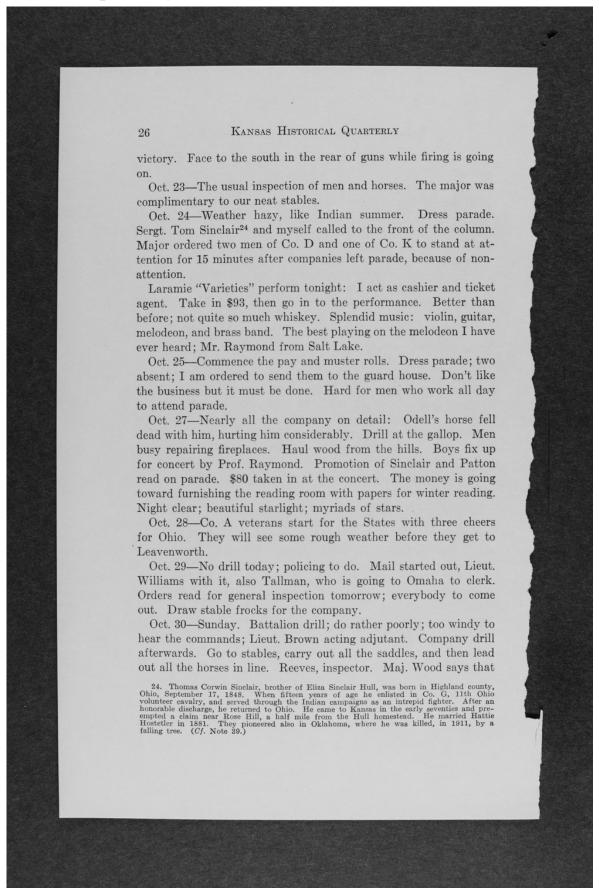




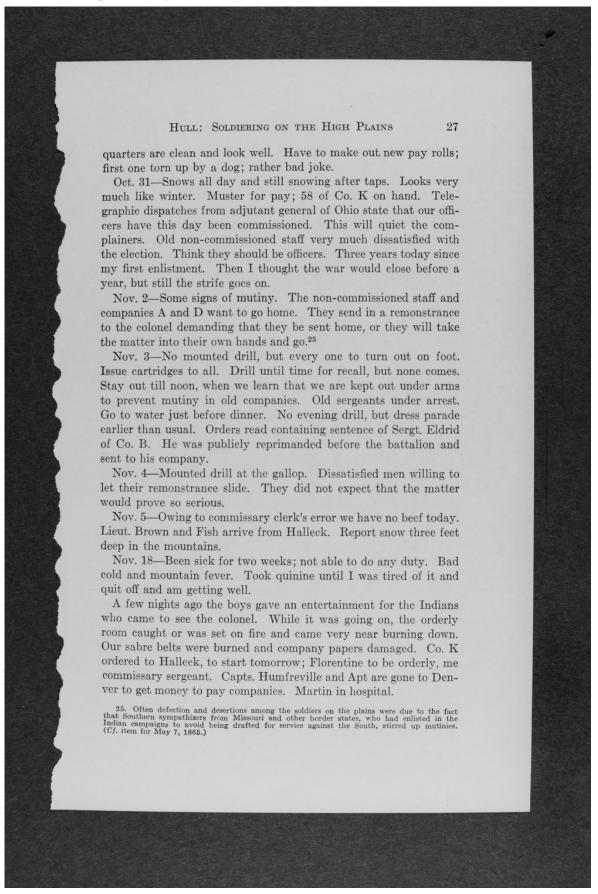




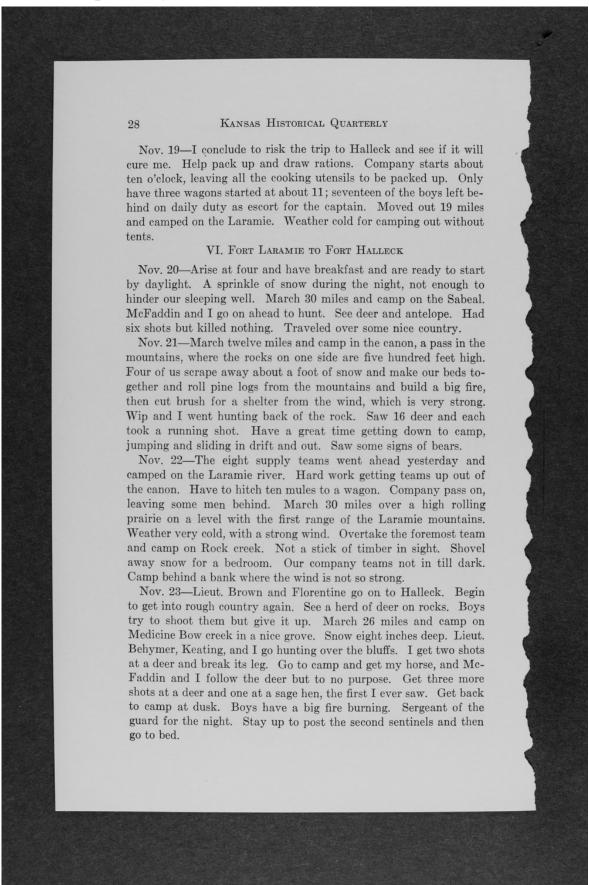




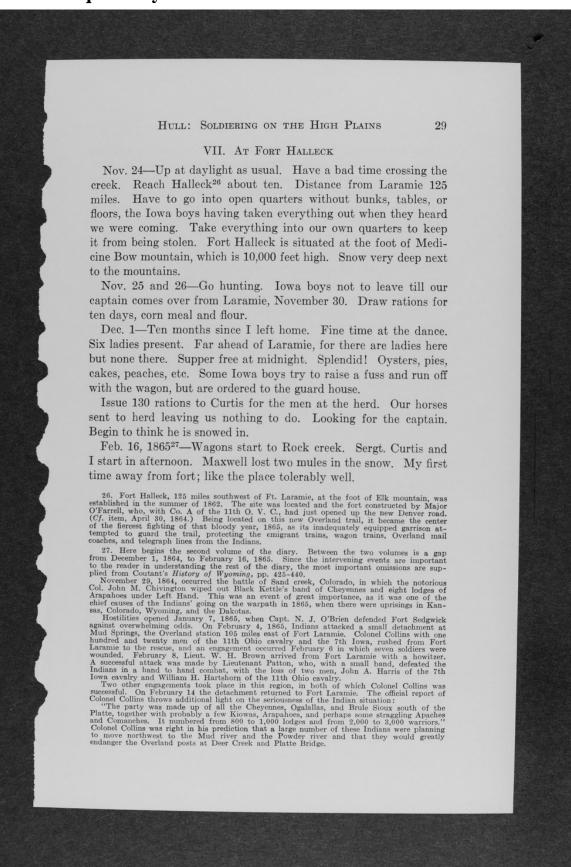




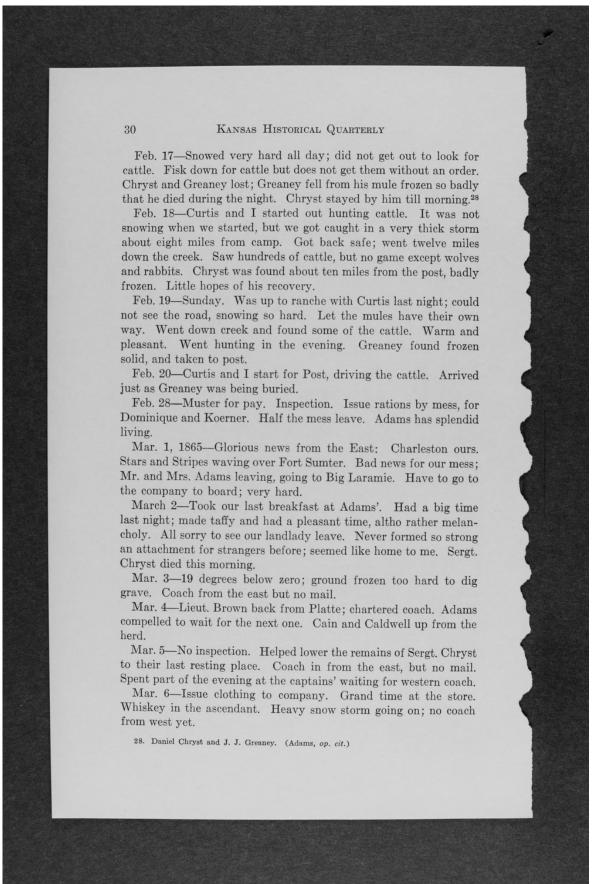












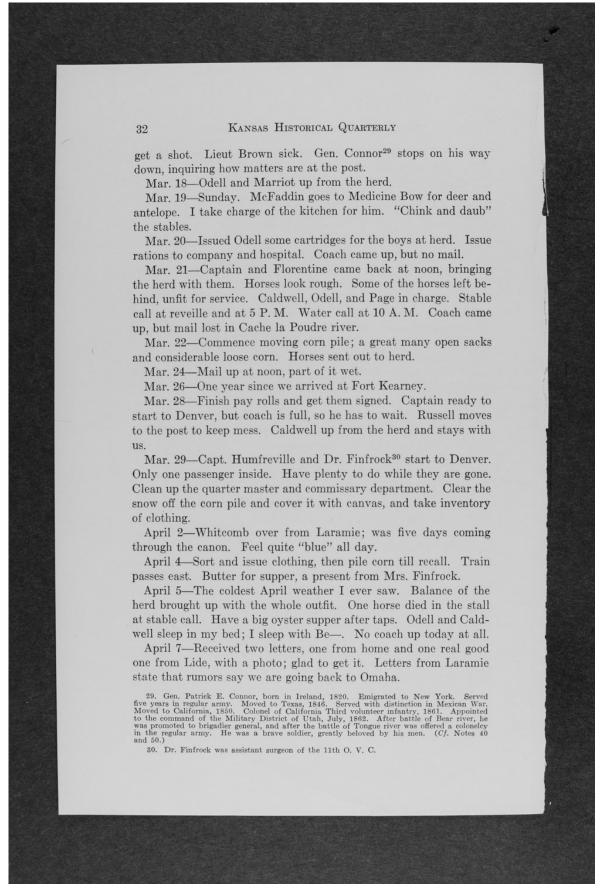




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HULL: SOLDIERING ON THE HIGH PLAINS 31 Mar. 7-Coach down at breakfast time. Go down to store and see them off. Behymer and Florentine going, Behymer to Rock creek and Florentine to the Dale. I bid Mrs. Adams goodbye and a safe journey. Their coach breaks down and they have to go to another one. Pack up clothing and sweep the commissary. Boys back from the herd. Mar. 8—Cold and very stormy. Can not see the mountains for the snow. Hutchinson again in charge of kitchen. No wood in Post; all playing "freeze out." Finish writing to Maggie Bowerman and go to bed under the folds of the Stars and Stripes. Mar. 9—Very stormy, the worst since we came to Halleck. Snow blowing all day; no wood yet; have to tear down old shop for fuel to keep from freezing. Too cold to work, so go to bed to keep warm. No coaches; roads completely blockaded. Mar. 10-Issue rations to company, to hospital, and to boys at herd. Brown's mess broken up; board in company now. They give company sack of beans, peas, and rice; not going to starve. Simpson and Johnson bring in fresh antelope. Prospect of better weather. Mar. 11—Getting up wood. Mail long looked for arrives. Good letters. Four letters and a photo; one from Lide. Good news from Virginia, Early whipped by Sheridan. Mar. 12—Snowing considerably, but pleasant. Company at work cleaning out and repairing stables. Another mail. Great victory: Sherman defeats Johnson, capturing 6,000 prisoners. The end is approaching. Thompson over from Laramie. Indians killing all the stock. Captain Rinehart killed by them. Mar. 13—Make out inventory of the effects of Greaney. Write to Lide and stay up till after midnight. Mar. 14—Coach came up, but no mail, not even papers. Florentine back from Big Laramie. Was near being shot by the outlaw, Jennings. Behymer sick at Rock creek. Company having more to eat. Had splendid roast antelope for dinner. Tomatoes and potatoes for supper. Mar. 15—Behymer back. Coach up. Captain Humfreville's birthday. Jolly time for some people. Splendid dinner, barrin' the hardtack. Have lunch at nine o'clock and write to Amy until bed time. Rumor that Lieut. Brown and captain are ordered home. Mar. 16—Lieut. Jewell, A. D. C. to Gen. Connor, passed down on the coach. Coach up, bringing Denver papers to the 11th. Mar. 17-Went hunting with "Chuff" and Ed Lewis. Walked about twelve miles. Saw jack rabbits and antelope, but could not







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HULL: SOLDIERING ON THE HIGH PLAINS 33 April 8-L. L. Adams came on coach last night. Glorious news in Denver extra. Richmond captured, Petersburg evacuated by rebels and Grant after them close. Walked about twelve miles; no game; so snowy I could hardly see. April 9-Sunday. Capt. H. and Dr. F. arrived from Denver. Will be paid off tomorrow. No bounty for veterans; paymaster refused to pay it. April 10-Guard mount for first time here. Guard placed at stable. Have to act as Sergt. Major as I have nothing to do. Receive \$93.09. Some of the boys can't pay their debts. Behymer gone to Platte to marry a couple. April 11—Snow very deep. No mail. Behymer back. Beef cattle brought in. Killed one of Foote's oxen by mistake. April 12—Wagons getting ready to go over to Little Laramie for hay. Rumor says that Lee has surrendered. April 13—Caldwell appointed corporal. April 14—Brown gone down the road on business. "Ota" music, fiddles, banjos, and guitars. April 15-Make our requisition for 700 men, one year's rations. Quite a pile, but perhaps will be needed. Make out ordnance returns for Post since Sept. 1864. Orders received from District No. 2. April 16—News of Lee's surrender confirmed with more good news. Very fair prospect of an early peace. Hay wagons come back loaded. April 17—Boys that were down the road are nearly blind from snow blindness. I officiated at guard as no officers were present. April 18—Received a letter containing a gem. Bad news in the Denver papers. The nation is mourning. The days of the French revolution are upon us. President Lincoln and Secretary Seward assassinated, supposed by rebel emissaries. Burning at stake too mild for assassins' punishment. April 19—Wip and I went hunting. Too stormy to go far; never saw snow come down so before. Three deserters captured and put in guard house; one chained to axle of wagon. They belong to 1st Colorado cavalry. Have a big supper, fruit, oysters, sardines, only \$6.25. April 20—Issue rations, all the flour and hardtack. April 21—Coach yesterday brought down mail that had been carried past. A letter from Lide. Eggs at a dollar a dozen for supper. California troops to be here in two or three weeks. Johnson has surrendered. 3 - 2785





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April 23—Sunday. Shotwell and I went hunting over towards the bluffs. Saw one rabbit and one sage hen. Come in nearly blind. News of capture of Mobile received.

April 25—Dig ditches to carry off water; had six men in forenoon and four in evening; two "camped" from "imbibing" too freely. News of Mosby's surrender received. Brown and Be— going to Rock creek. Have to mount guard without help. Lieut. Hawley of Gen. Connor's staff came up on coach.

April 26—Keating thrown from his horse at drill. Letters from Laramie speak of more trouble. Crow Indian to be hung.<sup>31</sup>

April 27—Brown and Be— came back at noon. Hay wagons back; all broke down except one.

April 28—Slept about ten hours last night, generally about six. Lieut. Hawley gone to Denver; Lt. Brown gone down the road after a deserter. Coach passenger reports commissary train at Cooper's creek. Mooney and "Yank" dismounted without orders on drill.

April 29—Lt. Brown back with his man. Receive letter from home, containing news of Grandfather's death. Another heir at Hulls.<sup>32</sup> Father has bought a piece of woodland at Irwin. Captain gave me permission to go to Laramie.

April 30—Sunday. Inspection and muster, the largest turnout we have ever had, 67 present. Will, Wip, and I take a walk up towards the mountains; snow ten or fifteen feet deep. Paper states that Booth is killed. Supply train arrives. Unload twenty wagons; balance in morning.

May 1—Finish unloading the supplies and loading the wagons with corn, 2,500 lbs. flour short. Issue 25 days' rations to teamsters. Coach up. Hay teams back. Gen. Hughes here.

May 2—Johnson's surrender. Receive letters from "Sorrel," Maggie B. and Bro. John.

May 3—Finish Com. papers, pack mess chest and get ready to start tomorrow. Wagon train camped by Russel's. Whitcomb moved up.

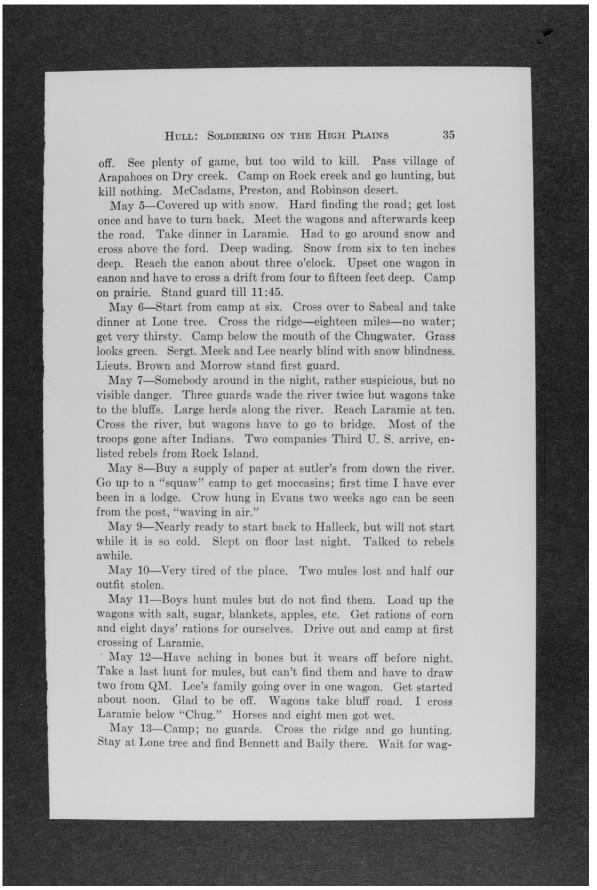
#### VIII. FORT HALLECK TO LARAMIE CITY AND RETURN

May 4—Load up and get ready to start for Laramie at nine o'clock. Hutch going after meat. Iowa boys and six of Co. K compose the squad. Run into snow at Sage creek and have to back

31. It was a very serious mistake to kill a Crow Indian, as the Crows were traditionally the friends of the white man against the warlike Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and Sioux.

32. The heir referred to is now Ella Hull McWilliams of Los Angeles, Cal. The "grandfather" was Edward Byram II, a soldier in the War of 1812, and the farm mentioned is still the Ohio Hulls' homestead.









KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 36 ons and go to camp six miles up the Sabeal. Camp where Arapahoes camped. May 14—Go hunting but only see one deer. Go north on bluffs and come into canon at prairie. Camp up near head of canon. Go out south hunting, but no game to be seen, so I amuse myself by rolling stone down mountain. Have dinner and wash up dishes while others go and shovel snow out of roads. May 15-Double teams and get out of canon by noon. Too cold for comfort with overcoat on. Have to walk to keep warm. Laramie high; nearly floats the wagons. Get across all safe. Camp by big snow drift eight miles from Laramie. May 16-Start out hunting. Shoot one antelope near road. It starts running, but I run it for a mile; it lies down; I shoot again, cut off hams, and overtake wagons. Cross Rock creek. Cripple another antelope but don't get it. Leave wagons and strike Medicine Bow about four miles below road. Supper with Simpson. Take Hutch with me. Camp on Bear creek. Fried antelope, "slap jacks," and molasses. May 17-Arapahoes around thick and more coming. Reach home (Halleck) at noon without accident. Many changes. Russell shot by Jennings. Dr. Finfrock and lady going to leave. Dr. Harstick in charge of hospital. Lt. Behymer and squad down the road. Post looks clean and nice. Got seven letters. Good. May 18—Squad brought up Bob North, now in guard house. Dr. F. and lady gone. Seems like Post is nearly deserted. Indians swarming. Arapahoes a-plenty. Give them rations and corn. May 1933—Issue rations to Arapahoes. They want everything in the commissary. Emigrants passing. Some camp close. May 2034—Keating and Wilson want to be transferred to engineer's corps. Jennings brought in by Comstock and the Arapahoe scouts. Desperate looking man. Jeff Davis reported captured. May 21—Sunday. Jennings tried; pleads guilty of shooting Olds and killing Russell. Sentenced to be hanged immediately. Sentence executed between one and two. He did not repent at all: said that he did murder Russell and was not sorry for it. He remarked that he was going to Hell a-whooping, but as he was good at finding 33. Cf. item for August 29, 1865. 33. Cf. item for August 29, 1865.

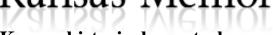
34. On May 20, 200 Indians attacked Deer creek station but were repulsed. They drove away twenty-two horses. Lieut. Col. Preston Bierce Plumb of the 11th Kansas cavalry, with thirty men, gave chase, killing one Indian but losing one man. June 1, 1865, Colonel Plumb, who was operating along the line from Fort Laramie west, in his official report from Camp Dodge, a short distance above Platte bridge, stated that Rock Ridge station had been attacked by Indians, the stock run off, and the telegraph wires cut. Lieutenant Collins, of 11th O. V. C. discovered that the station was in flames. This was one of the events in the Sweetwater region preliminary to the Platte bridge massacre. (Cf. Note 38.)



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Hull: Soldiering on the High Plains trails, he would look for a trail to Heaven. His last words were: "Hurrah for Jeff Davis and the Southern confederacy." Next moment he was swinging about twenty-five feet in the air. Cut down an hour later. Give Indians a large quantity of corn. Plenty of them around, big, little, old, and young. May 22—Have sale of Jenning's effects; amount to nearly \$800; proceeds to go to Mrs. Russell. One pony sold for \$240. Drove of 4,000 or 5,000 sheep go past, going from New Mexico to California. Trade with an Arapahoe chief for a buffalo robe. May 23—Hear that Capt. Humfreville is mustered out of service. Several small trains pass. Dr. Smith from Ft. Collins here. Dr. Finfrock writes that Co. L is at Julesburg on the way home, and that Co. I and K will follow soon. May 24—Odell, Caldwell, and Pumpelly on the mountain. Wagons go down the road with corn. Write out copy of charges and proceedings against Jennings. Make out descriptive roll of Keating and Wilson. May 25-Lieut. Drake up from Ft. Collins. Went back on evening coach. Fine drill today. Charlie Stout "Dismounted without orders." First ox train passes up. Play ball after supper. May 26—Had a good drill. Some of the horses very bad to ride; one down several times. Capt. Brown came down. Says his men will be in soon. California boys came in after dinner; look like they have seen hard times. Seem clever,35 good sort of fellows. Issue rations to teamsters. Music and dancing in quarters. May 27—Issue rations to California boys; no trouble; agree well. They are from all states. Went down and visited with them this evening. May 28—Beautiful evening, everything seems so fresh and growing. Busy all day issuing rations and forage to California boys and teamsters. May 29—California boys leave for Cache la Poudre.36 Trains passing up don't like to pay toll. May 30-Have fine drill; charge through mud and brush and close up well. Splendid fun. May 31—Monthly inspection. Company looks very well. Inspection of horses and equipment. Some of the men charged with 35. Clever in the Hull family meant generous or open-handed. 36. Cache la Poudre was a station between Julesburg and Fort Collins, on the new stage line to Denver. It was so named by French traders, who cached their powder there from the Indians.

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equipments lost. I take as correct an inventory of stores as pos-

June 1-Mail stopped at Rock creek by high water; bridge gone. Coach and team lost in Platte; one man drowned. Sale of Russell's property.

June 2-Messenger down from Platte for assistance; says Indians are running off stock and killing station keepers. Lt. Brown and thirty men go up to see what the trouble is. Captain gone to Rock creek. Halleck looks rather deserted.

June 3-Lieut. James A. Brown writes that he has found two dead men; will go on till he opens the road. Captain up from below. Judge Kinney and other notables go up on coach, escort of four men with them.

June 4-Sergt. McFaddin and ten men to wait as escort for Col-

June 5-First coach escort back. Bring no news from north of river. Was up to emigrant camp last night. Nothing going on at post. Dull.

June 6-Lieut. Brown, Florentine, and nine men back; others stationed at different stations north of the Platte. Colfax, Bross, Richardson,<sup>37</sup> and Otis came up with the escort from Co. F. Lt. Behymer went with them. Great bear chase. About forty shots fired, fifteen of which took effect. Bear steak for supper.

June 7-Write letters to Capt. Cochrane. Issue rations to Dominique. Behymer back; Sergt. Brown going up to take charge of the men. Martin writes that five Indians were seen near Sulphur Springs.

June 8-Bodine and Stewart killed at Sage creek. Caldwell and Wilson wounded. One citizen killed. Duckett and citizen missing.<sup>38</sup>

37. Hon. Schuyler Colfax, speaker of the house of representatives, Lieut. Gov. William Bross of Illinois, Samuel Bowles, editor of the Springfield Republican, and Albert D. Richardson of the New York Tribune. Richardson, who was one of the group of young reporters sent out by the Tribune, had spent some time in Lawrence during its bloodiest years, and later wrote of this California trip in Beyond the Mississippi.

It was upon this trip that Colfax repeated, upon every occasion, the "posthumous speech of President Lincoln," in which he spoke of the inexhaustible mineral wealth of the region from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. "Tell the miners for me," said Lincoln, "that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability because their prosperity is the prosperity of the nation, and we shall prove in a very few years that we are the treasury of the world."

Coutant comments: "Verily, the me, the fort of the state of

Coutant comments: "Verily, this was the first full and complete recognition of the West by a president of the United States."—History of Wyoming, p. 444.

38. (Cf. Note 34.) The Indian attacks in the Sweetwater region were becoming more furious. May 27, 150 savages destroyed Saint Mary's station, the garrison escaping to South Pass. The Indians cut 400 yards of telegraph wires and burned the posts. On June 8, Lieutenant Brown left Sage Creek station in charge of five soldiers. They were attacked by a hundred Indians, but held them off for an hour, until their ammunition gave out. The five soldiers and two citizens, all mounted, left the fort. They were immediately surrounded and, fighting desperately, were pursued eight miles. Of the five soldiers all of Co. K, 11th O. V. C., L. B. Hull's own company, George Bodine and Perry Stewart were killed; Orlando Duckett was captured; Corp. W. H. Caldwell and William Wilson escaped, wounded. Caldwell and Wilson were brought back to Fort Halleck by Sergeant McFaddin and ten other men of the 11th O. V. C. (Cf. item for June 10.)—Coutant, p. 452.



