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Article Summary: Royall pursued the Cut-off Oglala to the Niobrara and Duncan later clashed with them on the Beaver. These expeditions were not conclusive, but they did demonstrate that the military intended to keep order and facilitate settlement in the Republican Valley.

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Photographs / Images: Iron Bull and Pawnee Killer, Fort McPherson, Pawnee Scouts



Iron Bull and Pawnee Killer.

THE ROYALL AND DUNCAN PURSUITS: AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE OF SUMMIT SPRINGS, 1869.

By JOHN R. FISHER

On Sunday morning, July 11, 1869, the Republican River Expedition, under the command of Major (Brevet Major General) Eugene A. Carr, surprised the encampment of hostile Cheyenne and Sioux, under the leadership of Tall Bull and his Cheyenne Dog Soldiers. The resulting victory for Carr's expedition, which took place on White Bear Creek south of Sterling in Logan County, Colorado, is remembered as the Battle of Summit Springs.¹

Eluding the winter campaign of General Philip H. Sheridan, Tall Bull and his band of Dog Soldiers, most noted of the Cheyenne warrior societies, moved into the Republican River valley of southern Nebraska in the spring of 1869. Here they were joined by other bands of Cheyenne and Sioux, under the leadership of Whistler, Little Wound and Pawnee Killer.

During the last week of May, Tall Bull's combined forces made several raids against settlements in Jewell, Cloud and Ottawa counties, Kansas. After killing more than two dozen homesteaders, taking several women and children as prisoners, the Indians retreated to the safety of the river valley in Nebraska.

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On June 1, 1869, David Butler, Governor of Nebraska, wrote General Christopher C. Augur, Commander of the Department of the Platte, requested troops be sent into the Republican country against the hostiles. This was the last in a series of reports concerning threatened and actual acts of Indian terrorism in the region. Though Augur could not act immediately, plans were already underway for a major expedition against the hostiles. Not only had the Indians made the valley their headquarters in the spring of 1869, it had long served as a haven of safety for Indian raids against the overland trails and the construction crews on both the Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific railroads.

During that period, it had not been difficult for the hostiles to elude the few small military expeditions which had been sent into the region against them. Unlike many plains rivers, the Republican has numerous tributaries; these steepbanked, springfed streams often wander back into the high divide country for as many as a hundred miles, providing the Indians with concealed, sheltered camps. Being in the heart of a major buffalo range, well stocked with other wild game, it was perfect Indian country, while unfavorable for military operations.

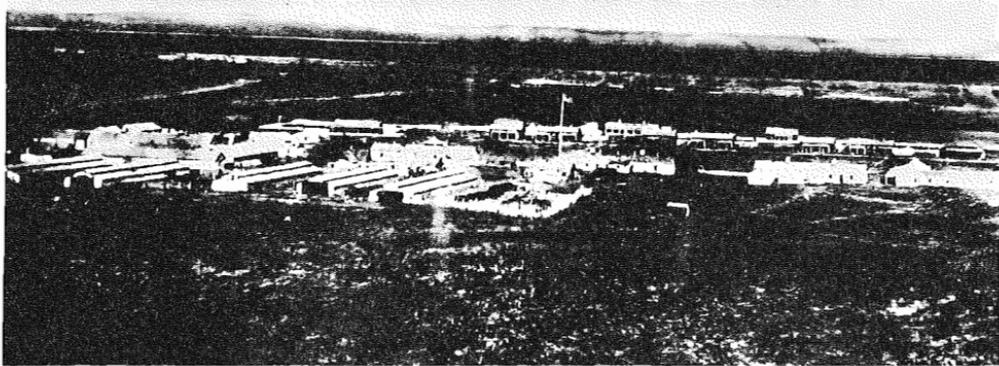
The Fifth Cavalry, which was to undertake the expedition, arrived at Fort McPherson, Nebraska, from the southern plains, on May 20, 1869. As Colonel Wesley Merritt, the regiment's senior officer, did not accompany it, command fell to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Duncan, who would remain in command of the fort, while senior major Eugene Asa Carr would command the expedition. His second and third in command were Major (Brevet Colonel) William Bedford Royall and Major Eugene Wilkinson Crittenden. Other majors and captains commanded the eight companies of Fifth Cavalry, which made up the Republican River Expedition.

Supplementing the regular troops were three companies of Pawnee Scouts, under the command of Major Frank J. North and three captains. William Fredrick

(Buffalo Bill) Cody was chief scout, while Leon Francois Pallardie served as interpreter.

Carr's Republican River Expedition left Fort McPherson on the Platte River on June 9, 1869. From there they crossed the divide south following Medicine Creek to the Republican River valley, which parallels the Kansas-Nebraska border three-fourths the length of those states.

During the first week Indian sign and a few Indians were seen, as well as there being one minor skirmish, but by the 19th the trail had been lost. The expedition at that time was in Kansas, on Prairie Dog Creek, a southern tributary of the Republican. For the next ten days, the command searched for Indians or sign, continually moving



Fort McPherson.

westward up the Republican or its tributaries. Finally, on July 3, on the North Fork of the Republican in Colorado Territory, a scouting party found a recently abandoned campsite and a fresh trail. Three days later, Royall and three companies of the Fifth Cavalry sighted a war party; the Pawnee Scouts charged and took three Cheyenne scalps. This was the first success of the expedition.

Carr, by then on the upper reaches of Frenchman's Fork, the major northern tributary of the Republican,

moved his column downstream, seeking a good route to intercept the Indian trail. Watching Cheyenne scouts thought the column was turning back and that their village was no longer threatened. The expedition, however, changed direction on July 9 and headed north in the direction of the now unsuspecting Indians, and on the following day it camped twenty miles south of Tall Bull's camp.

Carr's attack on the morning of July 11 was so sudden and so successful that only half his command took part in the battle. Tall Bull and his Dog Soldiers, as was their tradition, offered valiant resistance, but the battle was lost. Refusing to retreat, Tall Bull was killed, probably by Major North. Of Carr's command, only one soldier was wounded, while fifty-two Indians were killed and seventeen captured. Vast amounts of supplies were taken and those that could not be used by the command were burned.

The victorious expedition arrived at Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, on July 15, and went into camp. While there, Carr received word of the death of a son, and on the 25th he turned the command over to Major Royall, before joining his wife in St. Louis.²

William Bedford Royall, a native of Virginia, had moved to Missouri as a child and served as a lieutenant with the Second Missouri Mounted Volunteers during the Mexican War. After returning to civilian life, he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Fifth Cavalry in 1855. He served with this regiment until 1875, when he was transferred to the Third Cavalry. He retired as a colonel in 1887 and died in 1895. He is most noted for his controversial role in the Battle of the Rosebud of 1876.⁴

Royall was ordered to find the trail of the refugees of the Battle of Summit Springs, if possible, and to kill any hostiles encountered. Notes were to be taken describing the region through which he traveled, and maps were to be made or corrected.

The expedition left camp near Fort Sedgwick on August 2, intending to scout the South Fork of the Republican River and its tributaries. Three hours after making their first camp, Pawnee scouts reported a small horse herd and party of Indians approximately five miles to the south. Captain (Brevet Major) Leicester Walker took his company and about fifty Pawnee scouts to investigate. Later, a Pawnee scout reported back to Royall that Walker had found a larger party of Indians than was first reported. Captain (Brevet Major) Samuel Storrow Sumner with his company and the rest of the Pawnee scouts were sent to support Walker.⁴

At ten that evening, the column returned to camp, reporting that the Indians had been surprised but had burned their lodges before fleeing. A small party had decoyed the troops away while the main party scattered. Royall, from this information, felt the Indians were too well equipped and stocked to be survivors of Summit Springs.⁵

The command continued its march south on the 3rd. Sign indicated the horse herd sighted the previous day had been large. The trail seemed to become more compact and had a general direction of east by southeast, toward the head of Frenchman's Fork.⁶ The Pawnee scouts reported the Indians had dropped many skins and lodge poles during the day, indicating they were still in flight. Many of the found lodge poles were green timber, indicating that, after all, they might be survivors of the battle, as Carr had had the lodges and lodge poles burned on the battlefield. This, of course, conflicted with Royall's earlier assumption.⁷

After reaching and crossing to the south side of Frenchman's Fork, the Indian trail soon recrossed it and headed north. The hostiles had stopped for a short time after crossing the stream, but prior to this they had traveled forty miles without making a night camp.⁸ Here Royall's supply train was left with a rear guard, allowing

the main command to pursue more rapidly. The trail led to the South Platte, where about five miles west of Ogallala station on the Union Pacific Railroad, it crossed the river. This had been done about thirty-six hours before Royall's arrival and the Indians had still not made a night camp in ninety-five miles.⁹ With the arrival of his supply train, Royall camped on the North Platte.

The next day, August 9, Royall's command continued the pursuit. Thirty miles northwest of his camp on the North Platte, he found the first indications of an all-night camp made by the hostiles. The column followed the trail another twenty miles before camping.¹⁰

On the 11th, Royall took six companies of the Fifth Cavalry, Company "B" of the Second Cavalry, and one hundred Pawnee Scouts, along with a mule train carrying rations for five days, and continued the pursuit. They traveled sixty miles northwest to the Niobrara River, where after a further march of eight miles, they found a two-day-old camp site.¹¹ Royall stopped the pursuit at this point, as the command's horses and mules were collapsing. After a day of rest, the expedition turned back toward the supply train.

Royall's pursuit had taken him from a point twelve miles south of Fort Sedgwick, southeast to Frenchman's Fork of the Republican, then north and across both forks of the Platte River, and finally through the sandhills to the Niobrara River, one hundred ten miles northwest of North Platte. This was a distance of two hundred twenty-five miles, one way. Royall stated that the Indians escaped due to their supply of fresh riding horses.¹²

The Indians had lost or left behind two mules and forty head of horses and ponies, of which three were branded "U.S." There was evidence the Indians had killed and eaten some of their horses, emphasizing both the scarcity of game as well as the speed of their travel—there was no time for hunting. Even so, the one to six pony trails on

the elevations along the trail indicated that the Indians had employed a constant rear guard.¹³

Only with exceptional care were Royall's horses able to make it back to the supply train, but, even then, seventeen horses were lost on the three-day return march. Royall described the country between the North Platte and Niobrara rivers as the most desolate he had ever traveled. It was a succession of sand hills destitute of timber, impassable for loaded wagons and terribly hard on horses. The only water was in holes, usually unfit for drinking due to the high alkaline content. The command reached Fort McPherson on August 21, and, on the 24th, Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Brigadier General) Thomas Duncan replaced Royall as commander of the Republican River Expedition.¹⁴

Thomas Duncan, a native of Illinois, began his military career during the Mexican War. Until the summer of 1862, he served at various frontier posts, mainly in Texas and New Mexico. Throughout the Civil War, Duncan continued to serve with the Third Cavalry. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, Duncan was transferred to the Fifth Cavalry, with which he served until his retirement in 1873. From May until November 1871, he had charge of the construction of Sidney Barracks, Nebraska.¹⁵

Duncan's expedition left Fort McPherson on September 15, 1869. He had under his command five companies of the Fifth Cavalry, three companies of Second Cavalry, and three companies of Pawnee Scouts. Two companies of Fifth Cavalry were held in reserve at Fort McPherson, to accompany the supply train which was to meet Duncan in twenty days.¹⁶

The following day, however, one company of Pawnee scouts was detached for duty elsewhere, so the expedition totalled four hundred seventy-three men. On September 17, scouting parties were sent south of the Republican to Beaver Creek and the Solomon River in Kansas, returning

two days later having seen no new Indian sign. A week later the region was scouted again with the same result.¹⁷

From the 17th to 25th, the command traveled along Prairie Dog Creek, though on the 19th, the command camp was made at the "Old Stockade" on the Republican River, a few miles east of the mouth of Medicine Creek.¹⁸ During this time, the command built three to four log and brush bridges a day as they crossed and re-crossed the creek. Scouting parties reported an abundance of game, which apparently had not been hunted for some time.¹⁹

On September 26, the column marched up-creek from their Prairie Dog camp, following the several years old trail of General Robert B. Mitchell.²⁰ That afternoon Major Frank North and Cody were hunting buffalo a half mile ahead of the twenty men clearing the trail for the main column, which was two miles down the creek. At 2 P.M. six Sioux, not seeing the twenty men, appeared from a ravine and charged North and Cody. The trail breakers, commanded by Lieutenant William Jefferson Volkmar, had just been joined by Lieutenant George Frederic Price and two men out to select a camping site.²¹

As the Indians charged the hunters, they were sighted two hundred yards away by Lieutenant Volkmar. He and Price dashed to the attack, followed by the enlisted men. North signalled the Pawnee scouts, who also joined the chase. The original six Sioux were joined by others. One group crossed the creek and moved southwest, while another group moved westward up the creek. As the soldiers advanced, the Sioux began to show themselves in considerable force. Volkmar crossed the creek, following the Indians on the south side, while Price moved up the north bank.²²

The Sioux had been seen only five miles from their village, and it was abandoned by the Indians in haste. As they fled to the west, Lieutenant Volkmar and Lieutenant Price with their troops and the Pawnee Scouts charged the village. They suffered no casualties, while the Sioux

lost one warrior. Two surveying tripods were found in the abandoned village, and they were believed to have belonged to the William E. Daugherty survey party, which had been attacked twenty-four miles south of Alkali Station, U.P.R.R. on August 21st.²³

Duncan, with the main command, had been unaware that there were more than six Sioux and had halted the column. Lieutenant Volkmar returned and there were many more, but by this time the pursuing soldiers were ten to fifteen miles ahead of Duncan. Camp was made where the Indians had been first encountered, and a scouting party was sent out to hold the abandoned village of fifty-six lodges and much equipment. The soldiers that had made the pursuit did not return to camp until that night.²⁴

The next morning Captain (Brevet Major) William H. Brown, with companies "F" and "M" and some Pawnee scouts, followed the trail of the fleeing Indians for twenty miles. They went in a southwest direction toward Beaver Creek. They returned to camp that night without having made contact.²⁵

Captain John Mix with companies "B" and "M", Second Cavalry, was dispatched on the morning of September 28 to escort seventy-five mules to Sheridan, Kansas. They had been captured at Summit Springs and were found to belong to a Morris Mitchell of Sheridan.²⁶ Headquarters, District of the Republican, had instructed only one company to escort the mules, but, as a result of the September 26 action, the larger escort was sent. Captain Mix rejoined Duncan's command on Porcupine Creek on October 7. He reported having seen no new Indian sign, with the exception of a week-old trail made by about seventy-five animals.²⁷ Apparently it was a portion of the Sioux, pursued by Captain Brown, retreating from the Prairie Dog to their reservation north of the Platte.

Brown was then ordered, with a detachment of volunteers, to march west following the Sioux trail as long as

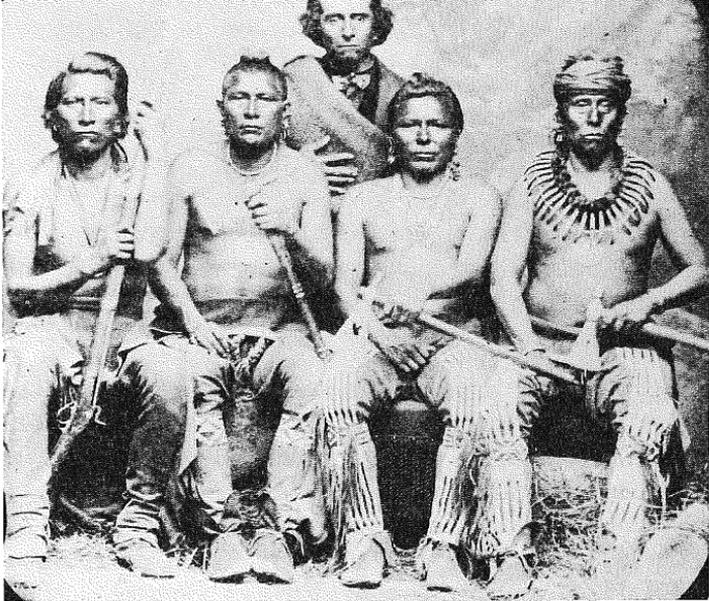
his judgment dictated, but to return on the third day if possible. After ascertaining that the Sioux had not made camp from the Prairie Dog to a point on the Republican two miles above Porcupine Creek, he rejoined Duncan on October 2, at Big Timbers on the Republican, in present Hitchcock County. The Sioux were heading in the direction of Frenchman's Fork.²⁸

Earlier the same day, while marching north northwest along Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Brigadier General) Luther Prentice Bradley's trail of 1868, Duncan's command captured an old squaw. At first she stated she knew nothing of the Indians pursued to the Niobrara by Royall in August, that there were no Indians between the Platte and Republican rivers. Later, however, she admitted that the pursued band had been that of her son, Pawnee Killer. After Royall's return to the Platte, the Indians had returned to the Republican only to be routed by Duncan the 26th.²⁹

Pawnee Killer and Whistler were chiefs of the Cut-off Oglala Sioux, a band which had broken away from Oglala under Red Cloud in the 1850's and had since lived with or near the Brule Sioux under Spotted Tail. They had taken part in the Summit Springs battle and since then wandered in the Republican Valley. When surprised by Duncan's command on the 26th, the warriors had tried to lead the troops away from the village but failed. She had been separated from the main body and was trying to make her way to the Brule village when captured.³⁰

As surmised, they had attacked the Daugherty survey party on August 21st, in present south Perkins County, and the tripods found in the abandoned village were from this fight. During the fight on September 26, the squaws were told to travel west to their reservation north of the Platte, not stopping until they arrived there.³¹

The old woman did not know how many there had been in the party but probably about one hundred men and some women and children. She repeated she was sure



Pawnee Scouts.

there were now, October 3, no bands of hostiles between the two railroads, as Duncan's observations had confirmed. The Cut-off Oglala, she said, were thoroughly demoralized, and they had been kept from going to the Brule reservation by Whistler, who she believed would be killed by them.³²

The supply train arrived at Duncan's camp on the Republican, six miles east of Porcupine Creek on October 6. Colonel (Brevet Major General) William Helmsley Emory, commander of the Fifth Cavalry, arrived with the train to inspect the camp. The following day, the supply train and Emory headed back to Fort McPherson.³³

On October 9, Captain Philip Dwyer was dispatched with two companies of Fifth Cavalry and fifteen Pawnee Scouts, to follow the Indian trail as far as Frenchman's Fork, scouting both it and Porcupine Creek. The following day two more scouting parties were sent out. Lieutenant James Nichols Wheelan with two companies and fifteen Pawnee Scouts were to scout up the south forks of the Republican, while companies "A" and "F", Fifth Cavalry, were to scout the north fork to its headwaters, then across the headwaters of Black Tail Deer Creek and Mable Forks.³⁴ All three parties were to examine all streams emptying into the main streams to be scouted by them.

Dwyer rejoined the command at the forks of the Republican on October 11, reporting having seen no new Indian sign. The other two parties reported the same on the 14th and 15th.³⁵

Again, this information verified the statement of Pawnee Killer's mother, that there were no Indians in the Upper Republican country. The following day Duncan sent a courier party with this information to Fort McPherson.³⁶ Duncan's command prepared to march south to Beaver Creek and then down it to its entry into the Republican River in present Furnas County. Here he awaited the arrival of another supply train at the "Old Stockade".³⁷

On October 18, Captain Edward James Spaulding was ordered to scout the vicinity of the Arickaree (middle) Fork of the Republican, as it had not been scouted for a year. The same day, the main command reached the Beaver and started their scout down it and adjacent streams.³⁸

On the 21st, the column came upon a deserted "white man's" camp. The day was cold with a light covering of snow and they paid little attention to it. The location was in present south Red Willow County, ten miles east of Elephant Rock, prominent military landmark in present Decatur County, Kansas. The camp appeared to be six to eight weeks old. Camp furniture, a tripod, and a carbine—all broken, were noted, but they saw no signs of violence. Abandoned camps were frequent in the area, Duncan later reported, and it was not closely examined.³⁹

Two days later, Duncan received a dispatch from headquarters ordering the expedition to Fort McPherson, where it would be disbanded and the troops sent into winter quarters.⁴⁰

The 24th, the command crossed over to the "Old Stockade", and the following day while traveling up Medicine Creek met the supply train. Camped there, Duncan

received a dispatch ordering him to send out a scouting party in search of the Nelson Buck survey party which had been missing since August. Duncan had not been aware the party was missing, but he at once realized that the deserted camp found the 21st on the Beaver was probably that of Buck. William Buck, the surveyor's son, recognized the broken tripod as belonging to his father. Duncan sent Captain Brown with a detachment, along with Cody as guide, to escort William Buck to the campsite. The detachment took provisions for eleven days, and, when the mission was finished, Brown was to bring them back to Fort McPherson.⁴¹

Duncan was also to send an escort with Oliver N. Chaffee, surveyor, to the Arickaree Fork, where he could join his surveying party in that vicinity, under an escort of the Ninth Infantry. This detachment was commanded by Lieutenant Peter V. Haskins, who was to return to Fort McPherson by the shortest possible route when his mission was accomplished.⁴²

Duncan's expedition reached Fort McPherson on October 28, 1869, and it was disbanded three days later. The companies of Second Cavalry were to report to Omaha, the Pawnee scouts went to the Pawnee reservation, and the Fifth Cavalry was to stay at Fort McPherson. In closing out his campaign, Duncan praised the enlisted men for their conduct and lack of complaint; the officers for their soldierly conduct; the Pawnee Scouts for their valuable contributions and Major North for his good discipline; and Cody for his excellent scouting. So ended the Republican River Expedition of 1869.

In retrospect, the expeditions of Royall and Duncan seem of little importance, lacking the drama of Carr's expedition with its Battle of Summit Springs. Yet, minor as Royall's pursuit of the Cut-off Oglala to the Niobrara, and Duncan's later clash with them on the Beaver might appear, they were of value. The Battle of Summit Springs in July had been a major defeat for the hostile Indians

of the central plains; the two later expeditions made it plain to the Indians that it was not a chance encounter. The military intended to keep the Indians and the plains in a semblance of order, that hence forward, at least as far as the Republican country was concerned, the military would have the upper hand.

During the following six years, with one minor exception, Indians continued to visit the valley peacefully. Aside from the Sioux raids between the Republican and Little Blue in May 1870, the Sioux and white contacts in the valley were basically harmless, though evident distrust was manifest by both.

Whistler, in particular, understood the lesson of 1869, becoming a close friend of the whites. While Pawnee Killer and his followers among the Cut-off Oglala remained with Brule, Whistler and his followers returned to the Upper Republican country in 1870, settling on Medicine Creek, near present Stockville, Frontier County. Until 1874, this band of the Cut-off Oglala lived in a region filling up with frontiersmen and homesteaders, and during that time, the only anxious days were those following Whistler's base murder by white hunters or trappers in late November 1872. In spite of their loss, the band remained at peace with their white friends and neighbors. Peacefully, they went north to the Brule reservation, during the winter of 1873-74, and, aside from a few hunting parties, the valley was then entirely free of Indians.

Without the major show of force, the Republican Valley Expedition, settlement of the Republican valley of Nebraska might have been delayed by several years.

NOTES

¹ James T. King, "The Republican River Expedition June-July 1869", *Nebraska History*, XLI, 3 & 4 (Sept. & Dec. 1960), 165-199, 281-297; Donald F. Danker, ed., "The Journal of an Indian Fighter:

The 1869 Diary of Major Frank J. North", *Nebraska History*, XXXIX, 2 (June 1958), 87-177; Donald F. Danker, ed., *Man of the Plains: Recollections of Luther North, 1856-1882* (Lincoln, 1961); Ray G. Sparks, *Reckoning at Summit Springs* (Kansas City, 1969). The foregoing publications give close examination of Carr's expedition, though Sparks' booklet is mainly concerned with the Indian raids in Kansas, the immediate cause of the expeditions.

² King, 284.

³ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Directory of the United States Army* (Washington, 1903), I, 849; George F. Price, *Across the Continent with the Fifth Cavalry* (New York, 1883), 292-98.

⁴ Report of Colonel Royall to Headquarters, Fort McPherson, Aug. 2, 1869, "Journal of the March of the Republican River Expedition; consisting of troops C, D, F, G, H, I, and B Fifth Cavalry and H, B, and C Pawnee Scouts," U.S. War Department Records, Selected Documents, Headquarters, Department of the Platte. National Archives and Records Service Group 98, Ms. Microfilm at Nebraska State Historical Society. The Citation of Correspondence and Reports in the remainder of the article are from this source unless otherwise indicated.

⁵ Letter, Royall to Forbush, Aug. 3, 1869.

⁶ Royall to Hdq. Fort McPherson, Aug. 10, 1869.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Aug. 3, 1869.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Aug. 4, 1869.

⁹ *Idem.*

¹⁰ *Idem.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Aug. 8, 1869.

¹² *Ibid.*, Aug. 18, 1869.

¹³ Report by Colonel Royall to Hdq. Fort McPherson, Aug. 18, 1869.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Aug. 14, 1869.

¹⁵ Heitman, I, 388; Price, 254-56.

¹⁶ Letter, Forbush to Duncan, Sept. 13, 1869.

¹⁷ Duncan reports operations of Republican River Expedition from Aug. 18, 1869 to Oct. 7, 1869, to Hdq. Fort McPherson.

¹⁸ The purpose of the "Old Stockade", near present Holbrook, Furnas County, Nebraska, has never been identified. It has been considered as possibly a military or civilian stockade, a trading post, or possibly a Pawnee horse corral.

¹⁹ Journal of the March of the Republican River Expedition; consisting of troops B, C, and M Second Cavalry; A, B, E, F, G, S, and M, Fifth Cavalry, and A, B, and C, Pawnee Scouts, under the command of Gen. Thomas Duncan. Sept. 26, 1869.

²⁰ Duncan to Dept. of Platte, Sept. 26, 1869.

²¹ Journal of the March, Duncan, Sept. 26, 1869.

²² Duncan to Dept. of the Platte, Sept. 26, 1869.

²³ *Ibid.*, Sept. 27, 1869. Surveying east-west township lines for the federal government, William E. Daugherty's party was attacked early on the morning of August 21, 1869. After being pursued in their wagons, the party stopped and dug foxholes. They were surrounded by about 175 warriors and pinned down throughout the day. After burying their survey notes, they escaped on foot during the night, walking to the Union Pacific Rail Road and catching a train into North Platte. This fight took place in Township 5 North, Range 37 West, Perkins County. Emory to Forbush, Aug. 23, 1869.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Sept. 27, 1869.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Letter, Emory to Ruggles, Fort McPherson, Oct. 11, 1869.

²⁷ Duncan to Dept. of the Platte, Oct. 7, 1869.

²⁸ Duncan, Journal of the March, Oct. 3, 1869.

²⁹ Duncan, *op cit.*, Oct. 2, 1869.

³⁰ *Ibid.*; Emory to Ruggles, Oct. 11, 1869.

³¹ Duncan to the Dist. of the Republican, Oct. 10, 1869.

³² Duncan to Dept. of the Platte, Oct. 3, 1869.

³³ Duncan, *op. cit.*, Oct. 6, 1869.

³⁴ Duncan, Journal of the March, Oct. 5, 1869.

³⁵ Duncan to Dist. of Republican, Oct. 21, 1869.

³⁶ Duncan, Journal of the March, Oct. 16, 1869.

³⁷ Duncan to Dist. of Republican, Oct. 17, 1869.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ The site of the Nelson Buck camp is near Danbury, Red Willow County, Township 1 North, Range 28 West. Buck, like Daugherty, was surveying township lines for the federal government. The party disappeared after leaving Fort Kearny in early August 1869. It is believed they were killed by the Cut-off Oglala prior to the Daugherty fight of 1869. Buck's helpers were all eastern teenagers and a later Indian account which said the surveyors fired upon the Indians is probably to be believed. The bodies of the surveyors were never found.

⁴⁰ Letter, Forbush to Duncan, Oct. 19, 1869.

⁴¹ Duncan to Dist. of the Republican, Oct. 26, 1869.

⁴² *Ibid.*