

# FACING THE FRONTIER

*The missions, soldiers, and civilians  
of Fort Leavenworth Kansas*

*published by the Frontier Army Museum*

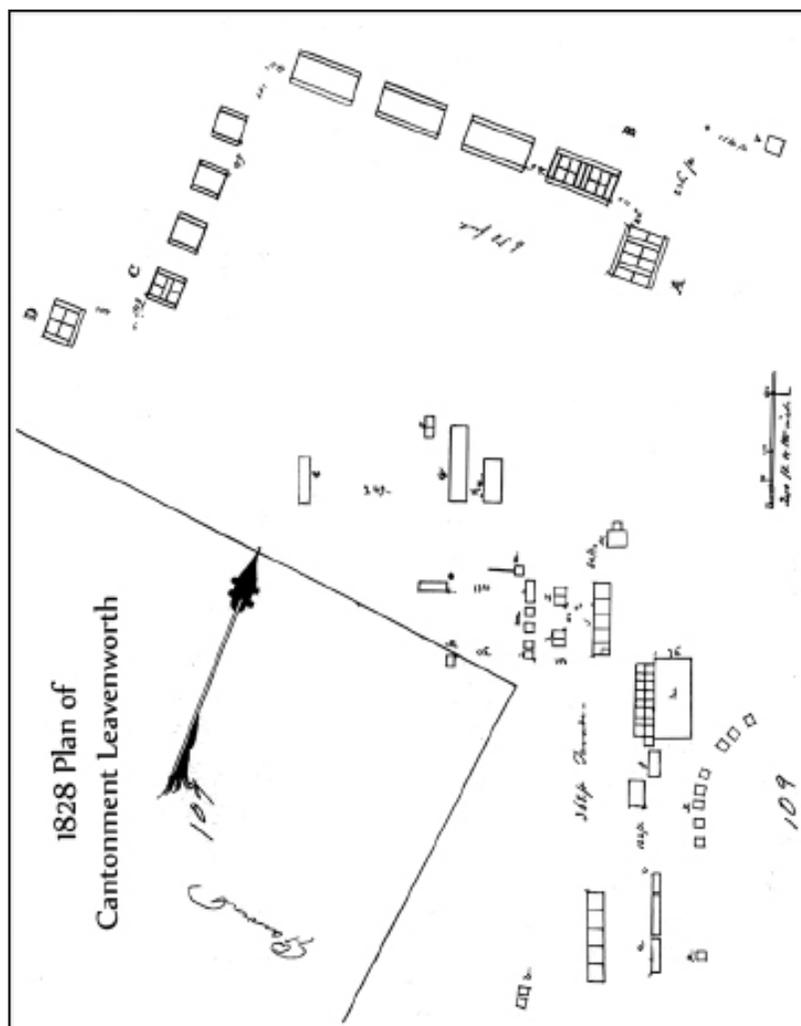




## **CHAPTER 1**

### **Historical Happenings at Fort Leavenworth**

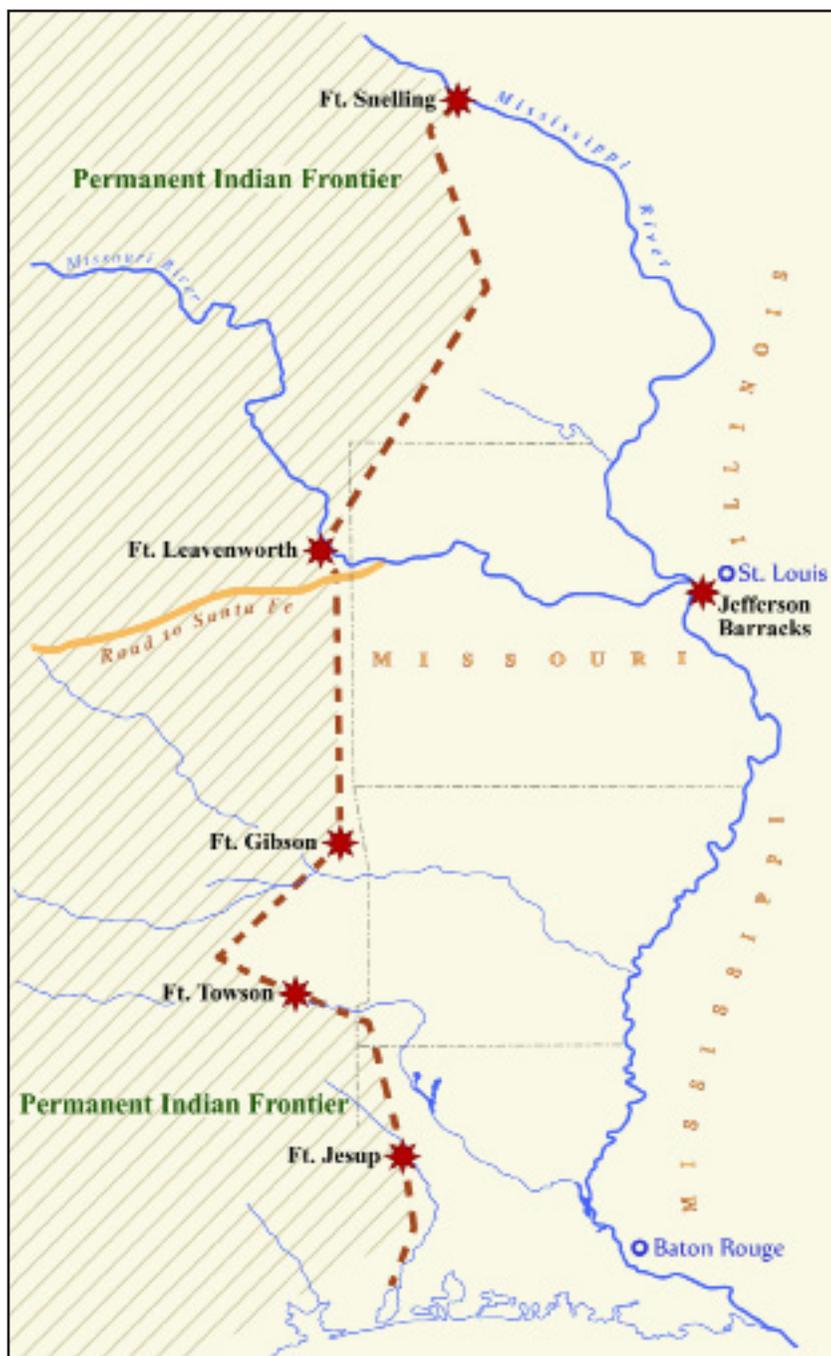
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## **Fort Leavenworth Closing/Abandonment**

Fort Leavenworth is the oldest active Army post west of the Mississippi River. It has been continuously occupied since its establishment in 1827. It has, however, been considered for closing at least twice during its history.

In his annual report for 1829, the Secretary of War, Peter B. Porter, stated that, "Cantonment Leavenworth, situated at the mouth of the Little La Plata River, was also reduced. The experience of several years (two actually) had taught that health in the garrison could not be maintained". The companies of the 3rd Infantry Regiment were returned to Jefferson Barracks and some of the healthy companies of the 6th Infantry Regiment were ordered to stations along the Santa Fe Trail to provide protection to the traders. These companies were instructed to return to Cantonment Leavenworth in the autumn, when the threat of malaria was reduced, and take up their winter quarters there. Nineteen enlisted men, under the command of First Lieutenant Frances Lee, 7th Infantry were left at Fort Leavenworth as a rear detail. In the following Spring and Summer, they were to repeat this operational cycle, which was intended to provide for the better health of the troops and enhanced security for traders as opposed to that of a stationary garrison at Cantonment Leavenworth.



## **Fort Leavenworth and The Indian Frontier**

Throughout the early 1800s, the eastern Indian tribes were moved steadily westward due to pressure from westerwarding American settlers, entrepreneurs, missionaries, trappers, gold seekers, etc. Finally, in 1830, Congress created an Indian Territory which included all of the territory along the border of eastern Kansas, the land north of Kansas and west of the Missouri River and all of what is now Oklahoma. Generally, the tribes from north of the Ohio River and from as far east as Delaware, were moved to reservations in eastern Kansas. The tribes from south of the Ohio were moved to reservations in what is now Oklahoma.

A string of military posts, extending from Fort Snelling, Minnesota to Fort Jesup, Louisiana approximated the boundary between the land available for settlement and that reserved as Indian Territory. Specifically, the Indian Territory lay in the unorganized remains of the Louisiana Purchase west of the line – Missouri River and the 95th meridian of longitude. Non-Indians were permitted to pass through the area, but they could not settle permanently nor own land there. At the time, this vast territory was considered unsuitable for agriculture and settlement.

The small garrison of Fort Leavenworth found itself in the center of this great Indian migration with the mission to maintain the peace among so many tribes along with the increasing movement of whites through the territory. Additionally, much of this area was already inhabited by the nomadic tribes, such as the Cheyenne, Pawnee, Kiowa, Comanches, and others who roamed this vast grassland area and lived off hunting the great herds of buffalo found there. These indigenous tribes shared their domain uneasily with the Indians uprooted from their homes by the US government. However, in 1833, part of the 1st Dragoon Regiment was moved to Fort Leavenworth. Up until this time, the government had depended upon infantry to pursue and punish misbehaving Indians. These troops were able to accomplish little pitted against the well mounted warriors of the plains. The Army would discover the need for more cavalry and additional garrisons before this remaining portion of the Louisiana Purchase was pacified.

The buffalo was the major source of food, shelter, clothing, fuel, and other essentials for the nomads of the plains. Anything which changed the availability or access to the buffalo impacted their way of life and was a source of great concern. By 1830, the eastern limit of the buffalo range was along the fringe of settlement in Missouri. During the next 40 plus years the size of the range would shrink dramatically until by 1870 it had shrunk to approximately one half its 1830 size.

In addition to supporting a larger Indian population, the increasing movement of emigrants, gold seekers, hide hunters, freighters, stage lines, railroad and telegraph survey and construction crews, etc. moving through the buffalo range took an increasing toll on the animals.

This situation changed dramatically in 1853-54 when the country west of the Missouri River suddenly became a very attractive area for settlement. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, May 30, 1854 created the two territories of Kansas and Nebraska. The only portion of the Louisiana Purchase still remaining as unorganized territory was the Indian Territory south of 37 degrees North Latitude (the southern border of Kansas) or present day Oklahoma. Up until 1870, the US government dealt with the tribes as separate nations.

After 1871, treaties were no longer made with Indian nations. Instead, following negotiations, laws affecting Indians were enacted by Congress. Throughout this period, there was much peacekeeping activity involving military forces. Fort Leavenworth functioned primarily as a departmental headquarters responsible for the command and control and support of the posts and Army expeditions operating along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails and the central route along the Smokey Hill River.

## **Fort Leavenworth and The Great Reconnaissance**

Beginning in 1842 and continuing to the Civil War, the Army's Topographical Engineers, in collaboration with leading scientists of the day, conducted many expeditions into the American West. Taken altogether, these expeditions constitute what became known as the Great Reconnaissance.

The Army Reorganization Act of 1838 expanded the Bureau of Topographical Engineers and raised its status to a Corps and coequal with the regular Corps of Engineers. Also, it was assigned the responsibility for the exploration and development beyond the Mississippi River. Under this reorganization, Topographical Engineer operations expanded rapidly, and a long series of explorations was undertaken. Fort Leavenworth's favorable location as a point of departure made it a logical place for organizing and outfitting some of these exploration expeditions.

The mapping and geodetic products of Topographical Engineer operations varied widely in type and quality. Sometimes they were not tasked to provide an accurate survey of their line of march but rather to note the nature of the topographical features that would influence the construction of railroads or wagon roads. Such surveys did not require the use of elaborate scientific equipment. These engineers, however, were capable of conducting extremely competent surveys based on careful astronomical observations.

Fort Leavenworth got an early start on the Great Reconnaissance. In May, 1835, Colonel Henry Dodge, accompanied by three companies of the 1st Dragoon Regiment, departed the post to conduct a show of force intended to hopefully awe the plains Indian tribes, in a peacekeeping effort, and to explore the region between Fort Leavenworth and the Rocky Mountains and between the Platte and Arkansas Rivers. The expedition made a wide circle: moving west along the Oregon Trail to the mountains, then south along the front range to the Arkansas River and there turned east along the river to the Santa Fe Trail back to Fort Leavenworth. No topographical engineer accompanied this expedition. Therefore, no topographic survey was conducted, and no accurate map was produced. The Army's knowledge, however, of the native tribes living in this area was greatly expanded, as was its general knowledge of the region.

In May 1845, Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny, with five companies of dragoons and Lieutenant William B. Franklin, as his Topographical Engineer, was ordered to gather information on essentially the same area that Colonel Dodge's expedition had covered in 1835. Additionally, he was to protect emigrants on the Oregon Trail and trader caravans using



the Santa Fe Trail and persuade the Indians to refrain from attacking the emigrants and traders.

Additionally, this reconnaissance was conducted to determine if an occasional cavalry patrol, through the tribal lands, might serve as an effective means of keeping the peace in lieu of constructing and maintaining an expensive chain of army posts in the area. This expedition covered approximately 2,200 miles. Lieutenant Franklin, the topographical engineer, produced a carefully drawn map of the territory crossed by the expedition.

The following year, 1846, Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny and his Army of the West, was ordered by President James K. Polk to extend his conquest of New Mexico to California. This provided an opportunity for an original exploration and creation of a new cartographic representation of this area. The expedition departed Fort Leavenworth on June 23, 1846 and headed toward Santa Fe. It would cross the entire Mississippi Southwest and in moving west from Santa Fe, along a little known route to California where weather conditions would permit year-round emigration and serve for a transcontinental railroad. Subsequently, the map produced by Lieutenant Emory, the topographical engineer, was the first accurate map of the whole area. Additionally, the expedition's report included topographic descriptions, lists of flora and fauna of the region, commentary on the geology and fossil remains, and comments on the potential mineral resources.

In 1849, Colonel William Loring's Regiment of Mounted Rifles was ordered to march to Fort Hall on the Oregon Trail, conduct a survey of the post and assist emigrants preparing to cross the desert to California. The Topographical Engineer, Captain Howard Stansbury, ordered to accompany Colonel Loring, arrived at Fort Leavenworth late. The expedition had already departed. Stansbury formed a small party and set out for Fort Hall in company with an emigrant train. His orders were to survey the entire Salt Lake valley and study the Indian tribes and the Mormon cities. The Oregon Trail, they discovered, had changed dramatically in the past decade, with westward moving emigrant parties everywhere, and long trains of empty government supply wagons and disappointed "49ers" from California moving eastward. Stansbury's party completed the survey at Fort Hall and located a new road from the fort to the Mormon settlements on the Great Salt Lake. In October, his party set out to explore the western side of the Salt Lake. This exploration provided the basis for their maps of the entire region covering some 5000 square miles. Stansbury's report on this exploration had a lasting effect on the history of American transportation

– the Overland Stage, Pony Express and the Union Pacific Railroad all followed part way along the trail he had blazed.

On June 23, 1853, Lieutenant John W. Gunnison accompanied by a topographer, geologist, botanist, and an astronomer, departed Fort Leavenworth to explore a possible central route to California lying between the 38th and 39th parallels of latitude. This route cut across what is now central Kansas, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. While working in the valley of the Servier River (in central Utah), Gunnison, the topographer, the botanist, a Mormon guide and four other members of the expedition were killed by Utah Indians.

This disaster to Gunnison's party had an important effect on the promotion of a central Pacific route. It forced the postponement, for the winter, of the second part of the survey. Gunnison had concluded that a railroad built along this central route was unfeasible due to the enormous expense of the required tunnels and bridging. Gunnison had been able to demonstrate that Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton's vision of "a great central path to the Pacific" was an absurdity.

Explorations and surveys would continue to discover feasible wagon and railroad routes through the southwest and northwest. However, Gunnison's 1853 expedition pretty well ended Fort Leavenworth's role as a starting point in the Army's exploration of the American west, which concluded with the beginning of the Civil War.

## **The Mormon Battalion**

The formation of the Mormon Battalion was connected to the exodus of the Mormon people from the state of Illinois to the Rocky Mountains region. Having little prospect, they believed, of living peacefully with their Illinois neighbors or in any of the neighboring states, they resolved to seek a new home in the west.

The Mormons approached the United States government to see if the government might offer any facilities for their emigration to the west coast. By this they meant any freight of provisions or naval stores which the government might be desirous of sending to Oregon or the Pacific coast. Their object in this was to try to lessen the cost of chartering vessels to convey their people to California where they intended to make a permanent settlement.

In May of 1846, their representatives approached the President, James K. Polk. On May 11, the United States in responding to a Mexican border incursion and attack on US troops, had declared war on Mexico. Part of the American response was to include a plan for the assembly of the "Army of the West" at Fort Leavenworth under the command of Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny. The objective of this force was to invade New Mexico and then cooperate with the Pacific Fleet in an attack on the Pacific coast of Mexico. What came to be known as the Mormon Battalion was to be part of this army.

In response to the Mormon request for assistance in their planned move to the far west, the president accepted their offer to assist in the war with Mexico. President Polk stated that the Mormon people would be protected in California and that 500 to 1000 of their people would be taken into the Army and Navy. Colonel Kearny was subsequently instructed to enlist Mormon volunteers up to one third of his command, approximately 500 men.

The battalion was recruited in the Mormon camps in the vicinity of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Five companies of approximately 100 men each were finally enrolled into the US Army, for a period of one year, on July 16, 1846. The battalion marched from Council Bluffs on July 20 and arrived at Fort Leavenworth on August 1. Here, the original commander Lieutenant Colonel Allen, 1st Regiment of Dragoons, became ill and died. He was replaced by Lieutenant Andrew Jackson Smith, another Regular Army officer.

The battalion then marched for Santa Fe, arriving there in two detachments on October 9 and 12. Here, Colonel P. St. George Cooke assumed command by order of General Kearny. The battalion, in the

opinion of its new commander was in no fit condition to undertake the 1,100 mile march through the desert to California. However, the march to the coast began on October 19, and after much hardship and effort, the battalion arrived in San Diego on January 29, 1847.

However, the conquest of California was accomplished easily by American naval forces aided by some limited ground forces and the fighting had ended on January 8 of that year. The battalion, however, had opened a wagon road to the Pacific coast and proved very useful in the conduct of occupation duties in San Diego, San Luis Rey, and Los Angeles.

The Army made an effort to re-enlist the battalion when its term of enlistment expired. The men, however, were anxious to return to their families and the Mormon community, now located in the Great Basin area of the Rocky Mountains. The battalion's introduction to irrigation, during their march across the southwestern desert, and their discovery of new kinds of garden, fruit and grain seeds would prove of great value to the new Mormon colony, at the Great Salt Lake, and other emigrants to the arid regions of the west. Finally, some of the homeward bound veterans of the battalion took advantage of employment opportunities that existed along the trail to Utah, deferring their return until the Spring of 1849.

## **Fort Leavenworth Frontier Quartermaster Depot**

The War with Mexico, 1846-48, presented the Army with a problem unique in its history: the continuous support of several thousand troops in garrisons eight to nine hundred miles from the nearest supply depot, across uninhabited regions, non-navigable rivers, where agriculture was limited or non-existent. Because of its location and the Quartermaster Department's dependence on land transportation, Fort Leavenworth was designated as the supply depot for the Army posts on the western plains. It would remain the only supply depot for the Army west of the Missouri until 1859.

The Fort Leavenworth Quartermaster's office, warehouses, shops, and corrals were located in the area of what is now the old Disciplinary Barracks quadrangle on McPherson Street. This was in close proximity to the steam landing at the foot of the bluff and provided easy access to the trails leading west from the post.

All supplies were delivered to Fort Leavenworth from Saint Louis by river steamer, a trip of 411 miles. Wagon trains then made the long overland hauls to Fort Kearny – 310 miles, Fort Laramie – 637 miles, Fort Union – 728 miles, and 821 miles to Santa Fe. The number of posts to be supported increased during the following period of national expansion. For example, during the Civil War, the following posts were added in Kansas: Fort Zarah-1864, Fort Harker-1864, Fort Dodge-1865, Fort Hays-1865 and Fort Wallace-1865. These posts, along with posts in Nebraska, were established to provide forward operating bases for Army expeditions, as well as security for the emigrant trains, settlements, stage coach and telegraph stations, and railroad construction crews along the Arkansas and Smokey Hill Rivers through central Kansas. The area included between the Arkansas and Platte Rivers was an extensive and sensitive terrain corridor, in that it included the direct routes to the west and also the primary buffalo hunting range of the plains Indian tribes.

Adding to the Army's supply problem was the need for more cavalry and draft animals. The plains were a vast area to control and the native inhabitants were a very mobile nomadic population. This situation required in turn a mobile military force. Campaigns against the Indians on the plains were usually long and arduous. Such marches required that men and animals move under their own power for extended periods over difficult and unknown terrain, in a climate of extremes, at great distances from any source of resupply.

Not surprisingly transportation costs were the largest part of Quartermaster expenditures, involving not only movement of supplies,

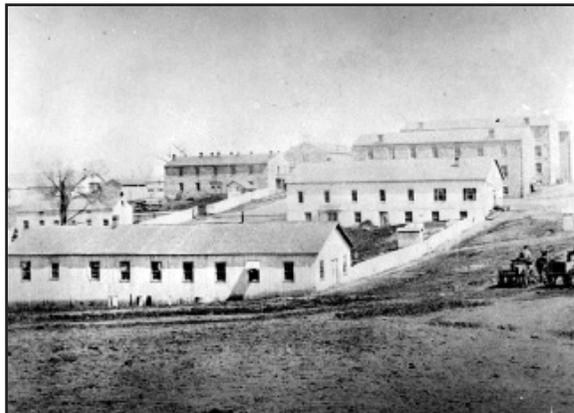
but also the movement of troops and their baggage. Forage for horses and mules constituted over 50 percent of the Army's transportation costs.

The daily amount of feed required for a cavalry mount was 14 lbs of hay and 12 lbs of oats, barley or corn, and a mule consumed 14 lbs of hay and nine lbs of grain. These rations were both bulky and heavy as well as expensive to transport. Army horses and draft animals did not do well on the native prairie grasses and required supplies of forage and grain during campaigns. The Army initially attempted to maintain and operate their own transportation resources with which to supply the far flung garrisons.

However, they experienced many problems with staffing, competition with civilian companies and maintaining the required wagons and animals, and they began experimenting with civilian transportation contracting about 1850. This option rapidly proved to be the best solution to the problem. However, transport for support of Army columns and expeditions was provided by the Army. At Fort Leavenworth, freighting firms, such as Russell, Majors and Waddell, established large corrals for their draft animals and storage yards for their wagons and spares, in the vicinity of Corral or One Mile Creek (near Patton School on Grant Ave). Fort Leavenworth's role as a Quartermaster Depot ended with the arrival of the Kansas Pacific Railroad at Fort Wallace, in far western Kansas, in 1870.

Lieutenant General William T. Sherman probably framed the supply situation best in a report to General of the Army Grant, during an inspection of western posts in the summer of 1866, when he wrote, "we have no business to put men out here unless we give them food and shelter, and all things, but sand and water, must be hauled from one to four hundred miles."

Quartermaster Depot pre-1874



## Fort Leavenworth Ordnance Depot and Arsenal

An ordnance depot, stocking supplies of munitions, weapons, and other ordnance items for deployed Army units, was established during the Mexican War in 1846 and discontinued in 1849. Subsequently, the Army Chief of Ordnance began to believe that the increasing westward movement of military operations required a corresponding forward movement of ordnance installations. Fort Leavenworth appeared to be a logical new location. In 1858, a small ordnance depot was authorized to be established on the post. In 1859, this depot was enlarged, and in 1860, it was recognized as an arsenal for the manufacture of munitions and weapons. Early in the Civil War, on April 20, 1861, the ordnance depot at Liberty, Missouri was seized by an armed body of men and the ordnance stores removed. Rumors immediately surfaced that an attack on Fort Leavenworth was also contemplated. Security was enhanced but nothing came of these rumors. In September of 1864, rumors again surfaced that Confederate General Sterling Price, with a large force intended to capture Fort Leavenworth. Price, however, was defeated at the Battle of Westport on October 23, 1864, ending the threat to the fort and arsenal. The arsenal was discontinued in 1874 since the improved national transportation system permitted fewer installations to provide the necessary ordnance support.

Ordnance Depot ca. 1870



## The US National Cemetery

Initially, the post cemeteries for officers and enlisted personnel were located along the river bluffs in the vicinity of the current Commanding General's quarters, #1 Scott Ave.

In 1860 these cemeteries were discontinued and the remains were transferred to a new cemetery location on the west side of the then post (Site #12 on the Wayside Tour). Following the Civil War, several frontier Army posts were closed and the bodies in these cemeteries were moved to Fort Leavenworth. This large-scale re-burial program caused the post cemetery to be declared a National Cemetery in 1867.

The oldest known grave is that of Captain James Allen, 1st U.S. Dragoons who died on August 23, 1846. Among the monuments in this cemetery are those of five officers of the 7th Cavalry, to include Captain Tom Custer, recipient of two Medals of Honor and brother of Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer, and Lieutenant James Calhoun, Lieutenant Colonel Custer's brother-in-law, who were killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn Montana Territory, 25 June 1876. Other Medal of Honor recipients buried here are Private Fitz Lee, U.S. 10th Cavalry and Corporal John Kyle, U.S. 5th Cavalry. Interestingly, Corporal Kyle's death in 1870 resulted from a saloon brawl with Deputy U.S. Marshal Wild Bill Hickok in Hays City, Kansas.

The monument marking the grave of Colonel Edward Hatch, the first commander of the U.S. 9th Cavalry, lists 54 battles in which he was engaged. In 1902, the remains of General Henry Leavenworth were brought to the fort from Delhi, New York. The re-internment was the occasion for the unveiling of the Leavenworth Monument, which is located in the cemetery.

Leavenworth Monument 1957



## The 10th Cavalry Regiment The “Buffalo Soldiers”



In July 1866, Congress passed an Act to increase and fix the military peacetime establishment of the United States. Within this act was a provision for six regiments of Negro troops, of which two were to be cavalry (9th and 10th regiments) and four infantry (38th, 39th, 40th and 41st regiments – these regiments were later consolidated into the 24th and 25th infantry regiments).

The Commanding General of the Army, Ulysses S. Grant, in early August 1866, directed Major Generals W.T. Sherman and Philip Sheridan, commanding the military divisions of the Missouri and the Gulf respectively, to each organize a regiment of black cavalry in their geographical divisions. Additionally, Grant recommended two officers, with fine Civil War records, Colonels Edward Hatch and Benjamin Grierson, to command the 9th and 10th regiments respectively.

Fort Leavenworth was the site selected for the formation of the 10th Cavalry. The 9th Cavalry was organized at Greenville, Louisiana. Benjamin Grierson was an unlikely individual for a distinguished career as a cavalry officer. As a young man, in Illinois, he disliked horses and was a small town music teacher. However, he volunteered for the infantry early in the Civil War but was commissioned in an Illinois volunteer cavalry regiment and rapidly rose to the rank of colonel. He was selected by General Grant in 1863, to lead one of the most famous exploits of the war. With three regiments of cavalry, he conducted a diversionary 600 mile, 16 day raid through Mississippi in support of Grant’s operations at Vicksburg.

Establishing the regimental headquarters at Fort Leavenworth in January 1867, Grierson, eager to get the regiment operational, organized his companies as rapidly as possible, and sent them west to Fort Riley, some before they were fully organized. Company C, 10th Cavalry was employed in the pursuit of hostile Sioux and Cheyenne in late May 1867. Finally, in early August 1867, the regimental headquarters deployed

forward to Fort Riley.

These regimental activities, in the Spring and Summer of 1867, marked the beginning of more than 20 years of continuous service against formidable challenges on the Great Plains and in the mountains and deserts of the Southwest. An additional 10 years was required to settle the Rio Grande frontier and operations against the Apaches.

The term “Buffalo Soldiers” is generally associated with the 9th and 10th Cavalry. The origin of the term is unknown.

## The Court Martial of General George A. Custer

Gen. George Custer U.S.A.



Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was court -martialed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas during September-October 1867. The charges against Custer resulted from a series of events that took place in Kansas during the Hancock Expedition in the summer of 1867.

Indian raids in the Department of the Missouri had reached alarming proportions during 1866-67. Major General William T. Sherman, commanding the Military Division of the Missouri, saw the situation as extremely serious. He ordered Major

General Winfield Scott Hancock, the departmental commander, to take charge of the spring campaign against these marauders. The general idea was to clear these Indians from a wide belt of land between the Platte and Arkansas rivers for the exclusive use of overland transportation. However, Hancock's expedition, which included Custer and six companies of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, had no salutary effect upon the Indian problem. Rather, it had intensified hostilities.

In June, Custer, with his six companies, was directed to leave old Fort Hays and scout north to Fort McPherson on the Platte, circle south to the Republican River, then to Fort Sedgwick on the South Platte and then back to Fort Hays – about a thousand mile round trip.

On Custer's return south from Fort Sedgwick, he established a base camp on the Republican River and sent his wagon train on to Fort Wallace, Kansas for supplies. This would enable him to search the surrounding area thoroughly for Indians. The Indians, in turn, had moved south to the Smokey Hill river and overland trail area. General Sherman learning, that Custer planned to continue his 'scout' further to the north, sent orders, through Fort Sedgwick, for Custer to proceed south with his entire command and search toward Fort Wallace and report there to General Hancock. A messenger from Fort Sedgwick, Lieutenant Lyman Kidder, 2d Cavalry, with 10 men and an Indian scout, was dispatched on June 26th to find Custer, and deliver Sherman's change in orders. Kidder failed to find Custer, and he and his escort were ambushed and all killed. Custer's column discovered the bodies of the Kidder party and moved to the nearby Riverside stage station, where Custer telegraphed for orders. A copy of Sherman's order was telegraphed to him and he started back to

Fort Wallace arriving there on July 13.

Fort Wallace, as Custer discovered, was in a virtual state of siege having been attacked twice within the last few days. Additionally, traffic along the Smokey Hill trail was at a standstill. Cholera had made its appearance in the frontier Army posts and deaths were occurring in the garrison almost daily. Post medical supplies were low, the food available was unfit to eat, and the reserve stocks of food were near depletion. Custer's command, animals and men, was trail weary, having just completed a 705-mile march; underfed and frustrated; it had not been paid in months and morale was at low ebb. It was apparent that more abundant and better food was required if the cholera epidemic was to be checked. The railroad end of track was at Fort Harker – 200 miles away.

Custer decided to immediately take approximately 100 men to break through to Fort Harker, obtain supplies and return to Fort Wallace as quickly as possible. The column covered the 150 miles to Fort Hays in 60 hours. Leaving the major part of the escort at Hays to guard the wagons and proceed at a more leisurely pace to Fort Harker, Custer, with half a dozen men quickly moved on to Harker. There he informed Colonel A.J. Smith, Commanding Officer of the 7th Cavalry and of the District of the Upper Arkansas, of the situation at Fort Wallace, that his wagons for supplies would arrive shortly, that he was continuing on, by rail, to Fort Riley to see his wife, and that he would return to take the supply train back to Fort Wallace.

The next day, Colonel Smith recalled this conversation with Custer and began to wonder by what authority Custer was at Fort Harker since he was under the operational command of General Hancock. Custer had just arrived at Fort Riley on 19 July, when he received a telegram from Colonel Smith ordering him back to Fort Harker as soon as possible. He was placed under arrest on July 28, 1867.

A general court martial was convened at Fort Leavenworth, during September-October 1867 by order of General Hancock. On September 12, General Hancock was replaced as the departmental commander by General Philip H. Sheridan. Fort Leavenworth was selected as the site because of the availability of officers of the rank and service required for the court.

*The membership of the court included:*

Brevet (Bvt) Major General William Hoffman, Colonel 3rd Inf  
Bvt Major General Benjamin H. Grierson, Colonel 10th Cav  
Bvt Brigadier General Pitcarin Morrison, Colonel retired  
Bvt Brigadier Michael R. Morgan, Major Commissary of Subsistence  
Bvt Brigadier General Franklin D. Collender, Lieutenant Colonel  
Ordnance Dept  
Bvt Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. English, Major 5th Inf  
Bvt Major Henry Asbury, Captain, 3rd Inf  
Bvt Major Stephen C. Lyford, Captain, Ordnance Dept  
Bvt Lieutenant Colonel Robert Chandler, Captain 13th Inf, Judge  
Advocate of the court  
Bvt Lieutenant Colonel Charles C. Parsons, Captain 4th Arty,  
Counsel for the defense.

*The charges preferred by Colonel Smith alleged that Custer:*

- Absented himself from his command at Fort Wallace and proceeded to Fort Riley without proper authority.
- Required his men to march at an unreasonable pace when both men and mounts were exhausted from the campaign on the Platte.
- Procured a number of government mules without authority for an unauthorized trip.
- Took no action to rescue stragglers from his march to Fort Harker when they were attacked by Indians.
- Made no attempt to retrieve the bodies of the stragglers slain in this encounter.

In addition to these charges, Captain Robert M. West, commanding Company K, 7th Cavalry Regiment, brought additional charges. Captain West alleged that on July 7, 1867, at a location approximately 15 miles south of the Platte River, Custer ordered Major Elliot and a detachment of troopers to bring back “dead or alive” a group of deserters. Because of these orders, three of the men were shot and severely wounded, and Custer refused to allow medical attention, and one of these men later died of these wounds.

Testifying in his own defense, Custer admitted the shooting of the deserters but said that such stringent action was absolutely necessary to prevent a large part of his force from deserting. He claimed the other officers understood his intent otherwise all of the deserters would have been shot dead.

The evidence against Custer was overwhelming. The court found him guilty of all charges and specifications. The sentence imposed, however, was light – Custer was to be suspended from the Army for one year and forfeit one year’s rank and pay. The Commanding General of the Army, Ulysses S. Grant, in approving the sentence of the court martial, thought the sentence to be lenient and that the court must have taken Custer’s previous service record into account. The outcome of the court martial did not satisfy Captain West. He decided to pursue the matter of Trooper Johnson’s death in another venue. Johnson had been a member of Captain West’s Company K and one of the three troopers shot as a deserter on July 7. He subsequently died of his wounds. On January 4, 1868, the Leavenworth, Kansas, Daily Conservative published the following:

“A warrant was yesterday issued for Justice Adam’s court in this city for the arrest of Gen. Geo.A. Custer, U.S.A. and Lieu. W.W. Cook, of the 7th Cavalry, on a charge of murdering one Johnson, a soldier, who it is claimed, was shot by Cook, under orders from Custer, in Colorado Territory, near Fort Sedgwick, Nebraska, on the 7th of July last. Constable Kirkham and Deputy Stillwell served the warrant, and the prisoners came down from the Fort last evening and gave bonds in the sum of \$1,000 each for their appearance for examination on Wednesday, 8th inst. .... Defended by W.P.Gambell and E.N.O. Clough, Custer and Cook’s case commenced before Judge Adams on Wednesday, January 8. On a motion by the defense counsel to dismiss the case on the grounds of informalities, and a question of jurisdiction of Justice Adams in this case, the motion was granted and the prisoners discharged.”

However, West was not yet finished with this. A new warrant was issued after a new complaint was filed, and by 2:00 PM on January 8, Custer and Cook had been re-arrested and a new examination had begun. On January 19, the Leavenworth Daily Conservative printed the following:

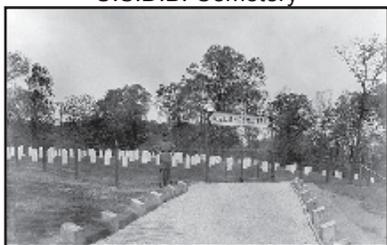
“Maj. Gen. Custer. – Gen. Geo. A. Custer was yesterday discharged from arrest upon the charge of murder, upon which he has been for several days undergoing examination. The charge, the Judge finds, was not sustained by the evidence.”

Following his conviction and suspension, Custer and his wife continued to live at Fort Leavenworth. They occupied the quarters (The Syracuse Houses, Buildings 20 or 21 Sumner Place) assigned to the Departmental Commander, General Sheridan. Sheridan did not plan to

arrive at the post for some months and offered Custer, a favorite of his, the use of his quarters. In May 1868, the couple returned to Monroe, Michigan. After nine months, since receiving his sentence, Custer received a telegram from General Sheridan summoning him back to duty with his regiment, then at Fort Hays.

## US Disciplinary Barracks Cemetery and German Prisoners of War Burial Site

U.S.D.B. Cemetery



The United States Military Prison (USMP) was established in 1875, and the first prisoners were incarcerated in 1875. The first prisoner to die while in confinement was John P. Hunter, who died of typho-malarial fever, September 28, 1875. He was interred in the National Cemetery. From this

date until 1883, 16 other prisoners died who were interred in the National Cemetery, and they all remain there to this day.

These interments were severely criticized by Quartermaster General Ingalls, during an inspection of Fort Leavenworth in 1883, because they were in violation of governing regulations. This criticism was probably the reason that the USMP established its own cemetery in 1884. This one-half acre cemetery is located on Sheridan Drive near the Fort Leavenworth airfield. It was intended for the internment of Military Prison inmates who died or were executed, and who had no next of kin - or their next of kin refused the remains. No family remains are buried here.

The Military Prison utilized this new cemetery until 1895 when it was turned over to the newly established Federal Prison. The Federal Prison operated the cemetery until 1905 when the prison reverted to military control. From 1884 to 1929, there were 75 military prisoners interred in the cemetery. The name change of the United States Military Prison to the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB) occurred in 1915.

From 1929 until 1940, the USDB was again transferred from the Army and established as an annex to the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. During this period, no internments were made by the Federal Prison or its Military Annex, because the Federal Prison had established its own cemetery in July 1905, which it has used exclusively since that time.

The reestablishment of the USDB in 1940 necessitated the reopening of the cemetery. There have been 18 internments from 1940 to date. Fourteen of these internments were German Prisoners of War. These prisoners were executed at the Disciplinary Barracks, in July and August 1945, for crimes committed at prisoner of war internment camps in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arizona in 1943-1944. These particular graves are located along the north fence of the cemetery.

## **Establishment of the School of Application For Cavalry and Infantry**

In 1881, the Commanding General of the Army, William Tecumseh Sherman, created the institution that eventually established Fort Leavenworth's modern reputation – the School of Application For Infantry and Cavalry, the forerunner of the present day US Army Command and General Staff College.

The Army of the period was in a poor state of professional training of the officer corps. There was no provision nor training structure for progressive military education for those commissioned directly from civilian life, the enlisted ranks or graduating from the US Military Academy. This professional stagnation was furthered by the dispersion of the Army in small isolated posts. While officers became expert in small unit administration and operations, attendant to such postings, they developed little appreciation of large unit combined arms operations, strategy and logistics. Only the artillery branch had an advanced school for officers which had been initiated at Fort Monroe, Virginia in 1823.

General Sherman, one of the most thoughtful and innovative of all the Army's commanding generals, along with Generals Grant and Sheridan, had devoted much thought to the future of war and its conduct and the need for enhanced officer professional education and training. The purpose of this School of Application was to provide, to the officers of the cavalry and infantry, the same or similar advantages of military education as provided by the Artillery School at Fort Monroe.

Sherman had noted that in all wars the cavalry and infantry composed the largest fighting force, and yet these arms of service had been the most neglected in the matter of professional education, and that this situation would be rectified by the School of Application. Fort Leavenworth was chosen as the location for the school, because of its central location and available space. The School was to consist of three field grade officers of cavalry or infantry, four companies of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry and a battery of light artillery which moved to Fort Leavenworth during 1881-82. These school troops were to provide the instructors and act as models for instruction in the correct use of the combat arms.

The class was to consist of one lieutenant from each infantry and cavalry regiment in the Army. Each student was to have the opportunity to serve five or six months with each of the three combat arms, united in one command. This experience would provide them the opportunity to acquire a knowledge of combined arms operations not available anywhere else in the Army..

It was further envisioned, by General Sherman, that as the students mastered all the duties of a captain, that at short notice they could command a company or a regiment; and that in a national emergency, they might command a brigade, division or an army.

The establishment of the School of Application was the beginning of the Army post commissioning education and training program.

The original building (Building #44), that housed the School of Application, still stands today. It is located at the southwest corner of the Main Parade at 400 Kearney Avenue. Today, it appropriately houses the headquarters of the US Army Mission Command Training Program. The mission of this organization is to support the collective training of Army units as directed by the Army Chief of Staff at worldwide locations in order to train leaders and provide commanders the opportunity to train on Mission Command in Unified Land Operations.

Building #44 First School House



Building #52 Grant, Sherman and Sheridan Halls - 1918



J. Franklin Bell Hall



## 14th Cavalry Regiment Suivez Moi (Follow Me)



On March 5, 1901, the 14th Regiment of Cavalry was organized at Fort Leavenworth. The organization was soon completed and the squadrons moved to their respective duty stations: 1st Squadron to Fort Riley, KS; Troops E and H, 2d Squadron to Fort Logan, CO, with Troops F and G to Fort Wingate, NM; 3rd Squadron accompanied the Regimental HQ, Non-Commissioned Staff and the Band to Fort Grant, AR.

On September 5, 1903, the regiment sailed from San Francisco for the Philippine Islands. It would remain there conducting counterinsurgency operations in Mindanao and Jolo until 1906, at which time it returned to the United States. Upon its return, the regiment was posted to the Pacific Northwest to Fort Walla Walla, WA, the Presidio of Monterey and Presidio of San Francisco, CA and Boise Barracks, Id. Here, they assisted Indian agents in Oregon with resolving cattle rustling problems and “open range” adherents issues. In California, they provided important emergency services during the great San Francisco earthquake and patrolled the Sequoia, General Grant and Yosemite National Parks. In 1909, the 14th Cavalry returned to the Philippines, where it engaged in garrison and training activities at Camp Stotsenburg, and where for the first time, the entire regiment was stationed at the same post. The regiment returned to the United States in February 1912.

Upon its return, the regiment was posted to the Mexican border where it was spread among 16 stations. This deployment stretched approximately 250 miles along the Rio Grande. Here the regiment engaged in patrolling and enforcing the neutrality laws along the international border between the United States and Mexico. These operations were maintained throughout the period 1914-16 with several skirmishes with Mexican bandits. On May 5, 1916, Mexican bandits attacked a cavalry detachment at Glenn Springs, TX. A 14th Cavalry punitive expedition crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico in pursuit, penetrating about 168 miles, routing and dispersing the bandits in several engagements.

The border patrol activities continued until early 1918, when the Department of the Army directed the regiment to prepare for overseas duty at the earliest practicable time. The regiment was to deploy as a mounted unit. The regiment moved to Fort Sam Houston and then to Camp Travis, TX where it conducted intensive training for overseas deployment. Although the regiment was reported ready for movement to Europe, the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 suspended the deployment.

## **World War I and II Induction Centers, Civilian Military Training Center, and Civilian Conservation Corps**

Besides its principle role – the support of the branch schools and staff college – the garrison at Fort Leavenworth performed other duties. During World War I, Fort Leavenworth served as both an induction and training center. This center was a camp built on both sides of Grant Avenue (vicinity of the current Day Care/Education Center & Commissary). It was used to process the large numbers of troops inducted into the Army for both World Wars. Between 1940-1946, 318,000 men were processed through its Induction Center, 452,000 went through its Reception Center and the Separation Center discharged 147,000 soldiers.

During the 1920s, this same area was used by the Civilian Military Training Corps (CMTC) program. The CMTC program was initiated by Major General Leonard Wood in 1915 and incorporated into the National Defense Act of 1920. It featured organized summer camps at which business and professional male volunteers could receive basic military training if they paid their own way. The intent was two fold: to enhance the national reservoir of trained personnel and to encourage a broader national preparedness for national defense.

In 1933, the War Department established a Reconditioning Camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees at Fort Leavenworth using the Induction Center area. This camp trained whole companies and provided individual replacements for companies that were already operating in Kansas and Missouri. Additionally, the CCC Missouri-Kansas District Headquarters was located at Fort Leavenworth which serviced 61 operational companies containing over 10,000 men.

Reception Center ca. 1942



## **The Army War College Fort Leavenworth**

The Army War College, the Army's senior service school, located at Washington Barracks, D.C, was closed during both World Wars I and II. Following the end of World War II, there was much discussion, study and debate among the Army's senior leadership as to whether there was still a need for an Army War College. If there was, what should be its role, course of instruction and location? One suggested solution was that an 'Army University', including both the Army War College and the Command and General Staff College be established at Fort Leavenworth. In 1949, Army Chief of Staff, General J. Lawton Collins, ended this debate by directing that the Army War College be reopened and located at Fort Leavenworth. This arrangement lasted for only one academic year 1950-1951. This War College class consisted of 96 officers and was conducted on the third floor of Grant Hall, Building #52, on Sherman Avenue. The school was then moved to its present location at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Grant Hall - Army War College 1950-1951



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## **Photographs and Illustrations**

Cover Image: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division  
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Call number: PGA - Britton, Rey & Co.--Mountain meadows (D size)  
[P&P]

Page 19: Gen. George Custer, U.S.A.

Call Number: LC-BH831- 365 [P&P] LOT 4192

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## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Fort Leavenworth Personalities**

Major General J. Franklin Bell

Major General Grenville M. Dodge

Major General Langdon C. Easton

Major General Frederick Funston

Colonel General Benjamin H. Grierson

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles

Colonel General Arthur L. Wagner

## **Introduction**

There have been numerous notable personalities that have an association with Fort Leavenworth. In its 190 year history the Fort has been the temporary home of some of the Army's most recognized names. Historic figures and modern day officers have impacted Fort Leavenworth's role as a frontier outpost, an advanced learning center for officers, and many of the Nation's conflicts both at home and around the globe. The individuals selected for this publication are but a few of those leaders. As our series of publications continues, we will select another group of outstanding soldiers.

## **Major General James Franklin Bell**

Born in Shelbyville, Kentucky on 9 January 1856, Bell graduated from the US Military Academy in 1878 and was initially assigned to the 7th Cavalry. Bell progressed through the ranks in a variety of assignments. In 1898, Bell was posted to the Philippines where he earned the Medal of Honor in 1899. Bell's greatest contributions to the Army may have been during his tenure as the head of the Army Service Schools at Fort Leavenworth from 1903-1906. As commandant, Bell increased rigor and substance in the curriculum, laying the foundation for the institution what would train officers to fight the nation's wars that were to follow.

In 1906, Bell became the Army Chief of Staff. During his tour, Bell was extremely successful in the devising and promoting a legislative program that improved the Regular Army (today's Active Component) by increasing pay, technical services, and reserve forces. He subsequently commanded The Army of Cuban Pacification and the Department of the Philippines. At the time of his death in 1919, he commanded the Eastern Department of the US Army.



Gen. J. Franklin Bell

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.  
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Call Number: LC-B2- 4197-7

## **Major General Grenville M. Dodge**

Grenville Mellen Dodge, 1831-1916, was a native of Massachusetts. After graduation from Norwich University, Vermont, he surveyed for railroads and engaged in engineering as far west as the Missouri River. Originally, commissioned as a Colonel in the 4th Iowa Infantry Regiment. In July 1861, he served in increasing positions of command responsibility during operations in Missouri and with the Army of the Tennessee. General Grant subsequently tasked Dodge to develop a method to provide an effective defense for the Army's vulnerable railroad lines of communication. Additionally, he tasked Dodge to create and operate an intelligence organization to support the Army of the Tennessee, and eventually the Military Division of the Mississippi. Dodge successfully accomplished both of these difficult tasks. Wounded in August 1864 at Atlanta, he then took command of the Department of Missouri.

In early January 1865, the plains Indian tribes had taken possession of the entire area crossed by the stage lines, destroyed the telegraph lines, halted all movement of supplies and mail to the settlements in Colorado, Utah, California and western Kansas and Nebraska, which were now in a state of panic and the Army troops, stationed along the travel routes, were fortified up in their stockades. Adding Kansas to Dodge's command, General Grant directed Major General Dodge to conduct a winter campaign to reopen these lines of communication. Dodge immediately moved his headquarters to Fort Leavenworth, collected five regiments of US Volunteers (Galvanized Yankees) and initiated a campaign against the hostiles, under extremely difficult winter weather conditions, which was successfully concluded within 60 days. However, the four columns, Dodge planned to operate in the north, between the Platte and Yellowstone Rivers, were delayed due to logistical problems, and after a summer campaign these columns accomplished little against the hostile tribes.

Dodge realized that with the next Spring and Summer of 1866 it would be necessary to expand the campaign against the hostiles in the area between the Yellowstone and Cimarron Rivers. Planning and preparation for this campaign was canceled, however, when the Government changed its Indian policy. Dodge resigned from

the Army in 1866 and became Chief Engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Southwest, commonly referred to as the Kansas-Pacific railroad.



Maj. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge  
Library of Congress  
Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.  
Brady National Photographic Art Gallery  
Call Number: LC-B813- 1672 LOT 4192

## **Major General Langdon C. Easton**

Langdon C. Easton was born in Missouri in 1814 and graduated from West Point in 1838, joining the 6th Infantry Regiment. He served in the Seminole War in Florida and at Fort Towson, 1838-1842. After an assignment as a recruiting officer, he was promoted to Captain and appointed Assistant Quartermaster, at Fort Leavenworth, 1847-49. He subsequently served as the Chief Quartermaster, Department of New Mexico 1850-1851; member of a board to select the site for Fort Riley, Kansas in 1852; Chief Quartermaster of the Department of New Mexico 1853-1858; site selection committee in 1859 and then Quartermaster at Kansas City 1860.

During the Civil War, Easton was in charge of the Quartermaster Depot at Fort Leavenworth 1861-1863. He was then appointed as Chief Quartermaster of the Army of the Cumberland in the Field, December 15, 1863 - May 4, 1864. He was then transferred by the Chief Quartermaster of the armies under General William T. Sherman's command for the conduct of the Atlanta Campaign and subsequently the March to the Sea and the campaign from Savannah, Georgia to Goldsboro, North Carolina. He then accompanied General Sherman, as his Chief Quartermaster, to his post Civil War command of the Military Division of the Missouri, 1866-1868. Subsequently, Easton served in several high Quartermaster assignments primarily in the eastern United States until his retirement in January, 1881.



Col. Langdon C. Easton

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U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center



Gen. Fred Funston

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## **General Frederick Funston**

Frederick Funston was born 9 November 1865 at New Carlisle, Ohio, but raised on a farm near Iola, Kansas. Funston began his military career in 1896 fighting with Cuban rebels in the 1895-98 insurrection and rose steadily as an artillery officer. Wounded numerous times, he earned battlefield promotion through lieutenant colonel before being captured by the Spanish. He was released and returned to the United States just prior to the Spanish-American War.

Funston obtained a commission as colonel and commander of the 20th Kansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The regiment, however, was sent to San Francisco rather than Cuba, although it later deployed to the Philippines where it took part in the 1899-1902 Philippine Insurrection. Funston was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic conduct at Calumpit, in Central Luzon in April 1899.

Returning to Kansas, Funston was promoted to brigadier general, US Volunteers. Returning to the Philippines, he commanded a brigade and planned and took part in the operation that captured Emilio Aguinaldo, the rebel commander, in March 1901, which helped in ending the insurrection. For this action, he was appointed a brigadier general in the regular army.

Serving in the Departments of the Colorado, the Columbia and California 1901-1907, he was the senior commander during the 1906 earthquake and was publicly credited "as the man who saved San Francisco". From 1908-1910, he commanded the Army Service Schools at Fort Leavenworth. He then returned to the Philippines to command the Department of Luzon (1911-1913) and then the Hawaiian Department (1913-1914). He then served as the military governor of Vera Cruz, Mexico during the American occupation of that city in 1914. Promoted to major general, Funston returned to the Mexican border in 1916 and sent the Punitive Expedition, under Brigadier General John J. Pershing, into Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa. Funston might have been designated as the commander of the American Expeditionary Force, sent to France in 1917, but for the fact that he died of a heart attack in San Antonio, Texas on 19 February 1917.

## **Colonel Benjamin Henry Grierson Commander, 10th US Cavalry Regiment**

Born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania in 1826. Grierson spent his early years on a farm near Youngstown, Ohio. He became afraid of horses at age eight, when he was kicked and nearly killed by a horse, a rather unusual beginning for a future cavalryman. In October 1861, Illinois Governor Richard Yates commissioned him as a major in the 6th Illinois Cavalry. The following April he was promoted to the rank of colonel and distinguished himself in the aggressive pursuit of Confederate guerrilla forces in west Tennessee and northern Mississippi during most of 1862.

His west Tennessee activities brought him to the favorable attention of Generals William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant. In the spring 1863, General Grant selected Grierson to conduct a cavalry raid to divert Confederate attention away from Grant's planned operations against Vicksburg, Mississippi. On April 17, Grierson departed La Grange, Tennessee with 1700 troopers and moved south through Mississippi. Traversing the entire state, the raiders destroyed railroad track, equipment, telegraph lines and government stores, and created panic among both civilians and rebel troops, before emerging practically unscathed at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on May 2. Grant called Grierson's Raid "one of the most brilliant cavalry exploits of the war", and as a reward he was commissioned a brigadier general of volunteers.

Grierson continued to successfully command large cavalry units and operations in the southern and western Confederacy. Promoted to Brevet Major General of Volunteers in February 1865, Grant dispatched Grierson to New Orleans to organize the cavalry in the Military Division of West Mississippi. He was discharged from the Army on January 15, 1866. Grierson successfully lobbied (on April 30, 1866) for reinstatement in the service and discharge at the rank of Major General of Volunteers.

Grierson reentered the Army on July 28, 1866 as the Colonel of the 10th US Cavalry Regiment. One of two new mounted regiments to be composed of black enlisted personnel and white officers. His Civil War experience had taught him to respect the fighting abilities of blacks. In September, he proceeded to Fort Leavenworth to begin organizing his regiment. This activity proceeded slowly, due to Grierson's insistence on high quality recruits, slow selection of officers and problems with the procurement of quality horses and equipment. The recruitment of officers posed a problem in that many refused to serve with blacks. Grierson organized his companies as fast as possible, and as soon as one was ready, he moved it west to Forts Riley, Hays, Harker and other points in Kansas

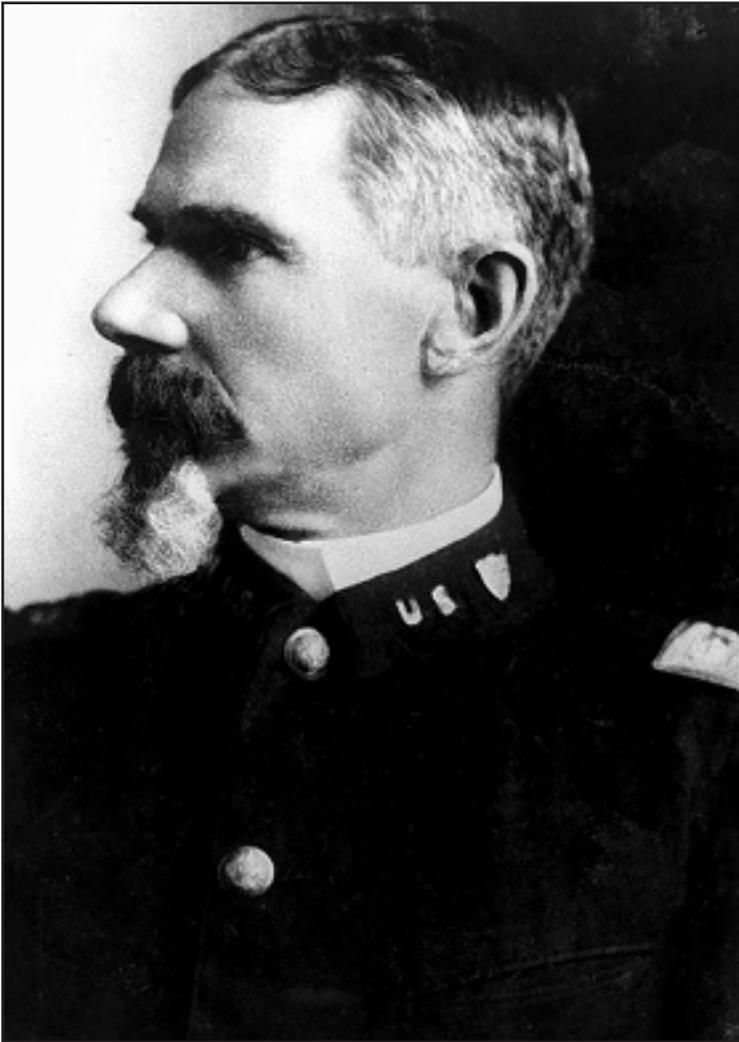
along the Smokey Hill River trail and the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Three companies were organized at Fort Gibson and assigned to the Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). The regiment moved its headquarters to Fort Riley, Kansas in August 1867. Shortly after his arrival at Fort Riley, Colonel Grierson received orders to return to Fort Leavenworth to serve as a member of the court martial of LTC George Armstrong Custer, 7th US Cavalry. The remaining four companies of the regiment were organized at Fort Riley. Grierson and his “Buffalo Soldiers” served in Kansas, Indian Territory, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and along the border with Mexico.

On December 1, 1888, Grierson relinquished command of the 10th Cavalry and assumed command of the Department of Arizona. He retired from the Army on July 8, 1890, with the rank of brigadier general. He and his family moved back to the family home in Jacksonville, Illinois. He died in 1911.



Benjamin H. Grierson

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Col. Arthur L. Wagner

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B W-Walker L SC 90476 Arthur L Wagner AAG  
Image Courtesy U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center

## **Colonel Arthur Lockwood Wagner**

Arthur L. Wagner, born 1853, graduated from the US Military Academy in 1875 and joined the 6th Infantry Regiment on the frontier. Between 1881-1885 he served as professor of military science at Louisiana State University and East Florida Seminary. A prolific and effective writer, he was regarded as one of the Army's intellectuals. In 1886, he arrived at Fort Leavenworth where he served as assistant instructor in the School for the Application of Cavalry and Infantry. From this time Wagner's career centered around Leavenworth and the Army's educational system. He served successively as instructor, department head, assistant commandant, and finally as the president of the newly formed Army War College. Wagner prepared several historical studies and tactical manuals. Working from European works on the military art, Wagner pioneered a type of American military literature that went far beyond earlier works. His literary contributions alone made him an key figure in the evolution of Army professionalism.

Wagner became one of the principal designers of what has become known as the applicatory method, a combination of study followed by practical exercises in the classroom and the field. Wagner also pioneered the use of the staff ride featuring visits to battlefields to study strategic, operational and tactical decision making on the actual terrain. After leaving Fort Leavenworth, Wagner served in the Army's Adjutant General's Office and then served on Major General William R. Shafter's staff in Cuba during the Spanish – American War. He then assisted Secretary of War Elihu Root in formulating plans for a Army General Staff and a modern Army education system. He then became director at the newly established Army War College, located at Washington Barracks (now Fort McNair), where he died one year later in 1905 at age 53.

## **Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles**

Born in Westminster, Massachusetts 1839. Working as a store clerk, Miles attended night school and acquired some military knowledge from a retired French army officer. In September 1861, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the 22d Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and rose to Lieutenant Colonel of the 61st New York Infantry by May 1862. He fought throughout the Civil War in the Army of the Potomac and was wounded three times. His rise up the ranks was rapid, earning a brevet as major general in August 1864. Following the end of the war, Miles applied for a commission in the Regular Army. While awaiting the results of his application, he was given the task of guarding Jefferson Davis, the former president of the confederacy, at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Subsequently, Miles was appointed colonel of the newly activated 40th infantry regiment of black troops and assigned to Reconstruction duties in North Carolina. In 1868, he married the niece of General William T. Sherman, and in 1869 managed a transfer to the 5th infantry and began service in the trans-mississippi region.

From 1869-1890, Miles participated in operations against the major western indian tribes. His military reputation rests primarily on his accomplishments in the west. During the period from April 1871 to July 1876, he served as the commanding officer of Fort Leavenworth. He subsequently got credit for the defeat of the Nez Perce, under Chief Joseph, in 1877. In 1880, Miles was promoted to brigadier general. During the next ten years he compiled an unequalled record in the pacification of the Western Indian tribes, including the surrender of the Apache chief Geronimo, and served as the Commander of the Department of the Missouri. As the commander of the Military Division of the Missouri, he saw the end of the Indian Wars in 1890 – the tragedy at Wounded Knee.

Promoted to major general in 1890, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1892 for his exploits at Chancellorsville, Virginia in 1863. Miles became, through seniority, the General in Chief of the Army in 1895, and directed recruitment and training during the Spanish-American War. Additionally, he commanded the forces that invaded and captured the Spanish colony of Puerto Rico in July – August 1898.

Following the war, Miles was promoted to Lieutenant General in 1900. Miles disagreed with the plans proposed by Secretary of War Elihu Root to reorganize the Army, create a general staff under a chief of staff and eliminate the position of Commanding General of the Army. Miles publically criticized this plan, and he retired from service in 1903. having reached mandatory retirement age.



Gen. Nelson A. Miles

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### **About the Author**

John A. Hixson, US Army, Lieutenant Colonel (retired) served the nation from 1956- 1987. LTC Hixson is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and Rice University. His active duty service includes time in the Field Artillery, Special Forces and as a faculty member of the United States Military Academy, the Command and General Staff College, the United States Military History Institute and the United States Army War College. “Uncle Jack” as he is affectionately known, currently volunteers at the Frontier Army Museum, providing museum and Fort Leavenworth information to visitors and assisting the museum staff with research projects. As part of an ongoing research project about Fort Leavenworth, the concept for “Facing the Frontier” was born. “Historical Happenings” is the first of a series of publications currently under development.

## CHAPTER 3

### **Diary of Private George Dodge Company G, 1st US Dragoons**

*In the collection of the Frontier Army Museum*



Pattern 1833 Dragoon Shako Plate  
*In the collection of the Frontier Army Museum*

## **Private George Dodge Company G, First U.S. Dragoons**

Born in 1814, George Dodge spent the first 23 years of his life in Guildhall, Vermont before leaving Essex County for New York City. In the spring of 1837, Dodge boarded a stagecoach bound for Albany, New York then traveled by steamboat to New York City.

While in New York, he discovered his “purse” could not supply the means to live in a first-class hotel, and crossed the Hudson River to New Jersey looking for work. Dodge became a school teacher in the village of Fort Lee and taught for about a year.

In his autobiography he states he contracted “sea fever” and spent the next few years whaling. He took two voyages, and during his second voyage the ship caught fire and he returned to New York.

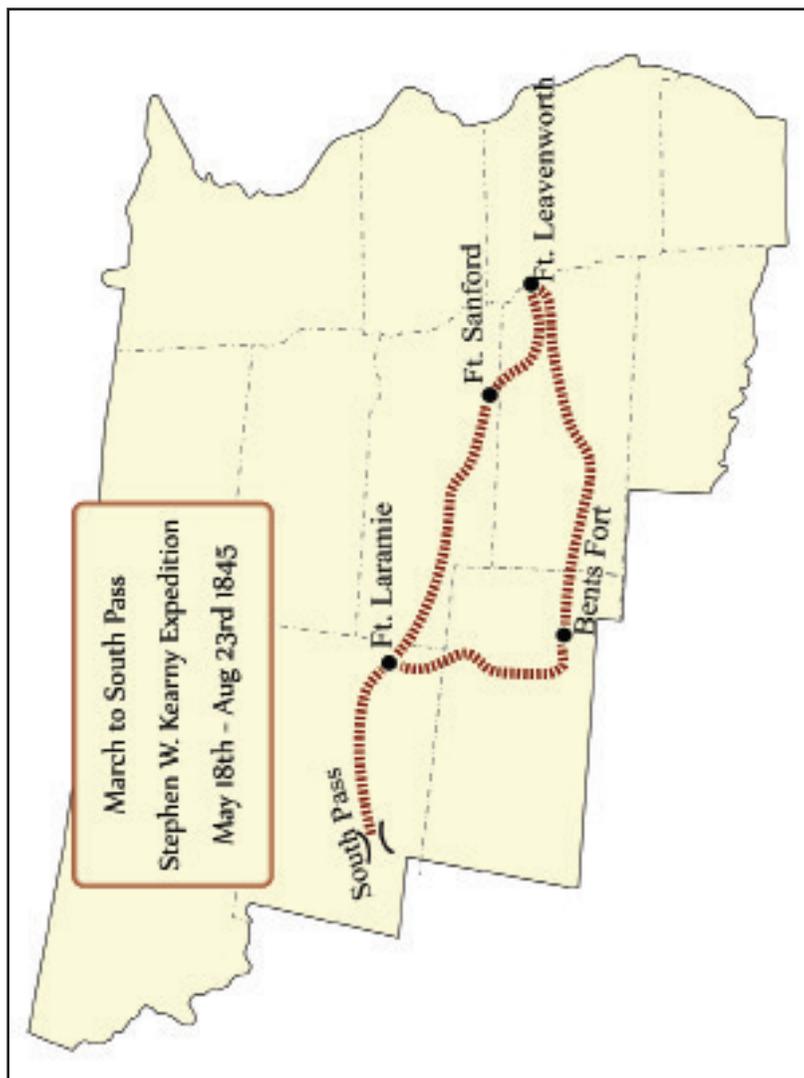
He also writes that “finding no craft that suited me, I finally answered a call for U. S. Cavalry service”.

George Dodge enlisted in the 1st Regiment of U.S. Dragoons in August of 1841. The recruits were initially housed at Governor’s Island, New York until being transferred to Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania for training. In November of that year 140 soldiers were sent to Fort Leavenworth for assignment to their companies. Shortly after arriving, Dodge, along with eleven other soldiers volunteered for duty at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Company G was ordered to Fort Leavenworth in February of 1842. Within two months the company was sent to Council Bluffs, Iowa for about 18 months before returning to Fort Leavenworth.

On May 18th, 1845, five companies of Dragoons marched from Fort Leavenworth to South Pass, Wyoming returning to the fort in late August. Presented here is the George Dodge diary from that expedition. The actual diary is the collection of the Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Company G would serve as one of the units of the “Army of the West” during the Mexican-American war. Private Dodge did not march to Mexico with his company since his enlistment was to end in October of 1846. Private Dodge remained at Fort Leavenworth and was assigned to the Quartermaster, he was later promoted to Orderly Sergeant and assisted in mustering volunteers who would serve in Mexico.

When his enlistment ended, George Dodge joined his sisters in Port Byron, Illinois. He died April 26, 1905 and is buried in Port Byron.



## **The Diary of Private George Dodge**

### **May 18, 1845 to August 22, 1845**

**May 18, 1845** - Left Fort Leavenworth for the Rocky Mountains. Arrived at Fort Leavenworth on the 14th June.

**17th June** - Left A Company and a detachment from each company (C, F, G, & K.) together with 9 Q.M. Waggons at this camp, and proceeded to the Mountains. Arrived at the South Pass June 30th and were mustered at 5p.m.; at the same time Corp. Walker was appointed Sergeant Major of the Regiment, and Pt. Douglas of C appointed a corporal.

**July 1ST** - Started back to Fort Laramie where arrived July 13th. July 14th detached 20 men and 4 Q.M. Wagons for Fort Leavenworth and the Command started for Fort Bent. 6 miles.

**15th July** - Started at 6 o'clock our march today has been over a tract of high rolling broken prairie. Very little or no grass. Tonight we encamped on the head waters of Laramie Fork very poor grass.

**16th** - 22 miles. Started at 6 o'clock today traveled up a bottom Prairie about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile wide, with high, bold, rocky Bluffs on each side- at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 came to a village of Shians, about 28 Lodges; the Col. Had a talk with them, gave them blankets, knives, Looking Glasses etc... Left them and struck across high rolling Prairie 14 miles to a creek skirted with Gooseberry bushes laden with ripe fruit- Killed 2 Buffalo. 23 miles to a camp.

**July 17th** - Started at 6- Struck across a very high rolling Prairie; at 9, watered and grazed- traveled all day and encamped on Pole Creek at 6 afternoon- Suffered very much for want of Water- at 4 p.m. saw 3 wild horses about 5 miles off. Our horse and mules very much fatigued- will not last much longer at this rate- traveled 33 miles, about 25 of this without water or grass. 3 of our Hunters have not come in and it is now 9 at night- We have sent up 3 rockets to guide them to camp. 33 miles.

**July 18th** - Started at 7 o'clock, the first 2 horse crossed 2 running streams skirted with very fine grass, left these and traveled over a Prairie almost dead level- the weather is very warm anywhere, but here upon this Prairie, the air was like the air from a Furnace. One Hunter came in today about 9 o'clock, very hungry, as well might be imagined after a fasting of 30 hours. The ridge of Mts. Called Longs Peak is in sight on our right front, distant about 60 miles; there is snow to be seen on the Tops of them. On the left are the Bluffs of the South Fork of the Platte.

Encamped at 2 o'clock on a creek bottom with very good grass. 15 miles today.

**July 19th** - Started at 6 o'clock and traveled over the same level Prairie about 3 horse, came to a stream of water and watered and grazed; the rest of the day our way lay over a gentle rolling Prairie with no vegetation at all- the creeks that we have seen for the last 3 days are a bed of sand- at night they are dry- in the morning there is water running in them. We are now 25 miles from the South Fork and 125 miles from Fort Laramie. Grass very poor tonight and we have to dig for water. 25 miles today.

**20th** - Guard Mount at 6 o'clock. At ½ past 5 fired one Bomb for our two Hunters who have not come in yet from yesterday's hunt. Passed over some succession of level Prairie- at ½ past one came in sight of the South Fork of the Platte- crossed the Cash La Poudre, a beautiful stream that empties into the Platte about 9 miles from here. Here we found excellent grass, unsaddled and grazed our horses for one hour- we then traveled up the Platte about 5 or 6 miles. Weather extremely Hot, Snow- topped Mts. In front of us probably 15 miles off, those tops half covered with Snow. It is Raining or Snowing all the time in one place or another on them. They extend as far as the eyes can see. 25 miles today- Hunters not come in yet.

**July 21st** - Guard Mount at 6 and out at ½ past 6. Traveled up the Platte all day. Passed four old Forts or trading houses, formerly occupied by the American Fur Company. They are built of dark-colored Brick made of mud and dried in the Sun. The walls appear to be about 3 ft. thick and 12 ft. high perfectly smooth & no wood in sight; they look as if they might stand a long siege by the Indians. None of these 4 are occupied. 25 miles today.

**July 22nd - 1845** - Guard Mount 7 o'clock. Last night we had a very heavy rainstorm, attended with Hail and heavy Wind. The consequence was that we had to lay by one hour longer this morning than usual to dry our blankets and horse Equipage. Traveled on the Platte due south for Cherry Creek; came to this creek at 2 o'clock and encamped. This creek, like most of the creeks emptying into the Platte, is entirely dry and but for some springs that run out of the banks and lose themselves in the sand, it would be impossible to travel through this country for want of water. The weather has been extremely hot and sultry today- the animals have suffered very much. Our two hunters came in last night as may be expected, very much fatigued and almost starved; they had nothing to eat for 2 ½ days. They are now in the sick report. Horses beginning to give out. 24 miles today.

**July 23** - At ½ past 6 took up our line of March. Traveled up Cherry

Creek 2 horse- Halted at a small run of delicious water and grazed. Kept on this creek all day and encamped in beautiful grass and good water at 2 o'clock. The day has been very hot and sultry, hardly a breath of air stirring. On our right front is to be seen Pike's Peak, belonging to the same chain of Mts. That we have had on our right the last 7 or 8 days. On the high land to our right is a large quantity of Pine Timber. 23 miles today.

**July 24** - started at 7 o'clock today (no meat for breakfast) came up to this creek two hours and grazed on a beautiful spot, a hill covered with pine trees on one side and the creek on the other. Left this stream and struck across a high rolling Prairie with considerable pine timber- at night encamped at the foot of a high hill covered heavily with Pin. Grass splendid - good water. 24 miles today.

**July 25th** - Started at ½ past 6 this morning- traveled 2 hours through a pine Forest, as beautiful a grove of Pines as I ever saw. Grazed. Struck across a high, rolling Prairie directly toward Pike's Peak. As we neared it we began to get a specimen of its weather, as a mariner does on nearing Cape Hatteras or Bermuda. Here there is a continual succession of showers, one following the other at intervals of about 1 hour. They seem to rise on the western side and blow down through the deep gorges to the Level, and usually don't go farther than 10 to 15 miles into the Prairie. Sometimes, as they did today, they cover the mountains entirely. Today, after one of these showers cleared off we could see about ¼ of the top of the mt. covered with snow. Encamped about 4 miles from the foot of the mountain on the 'Fountain De Boyou', a stream that takes its rise in the mts. In sight of our camp. Our guides, as well as a number of men we have along with us who have been past here a dozen times, say they have never passed here but it rained. 30 miles today.

**July 26th** - Guard Mount at ½ past 6. Traveled on this creek until 11 o'clock- grazed and watered, left the creek and struck across a high Prairie, and struck the Arkansas River at 5 o'clock afternoon. Had a long day's march today- a number of Men and Horses have given out. Still it's "Rush Ahead". 35 miles today.

**July 27th** - At 7 o'clock we put off. Traveled 2 ½ hours and unsaddled, watered and grazed. Started again. Same down the Arkansas until two o'clock and encamped. 22 miles today.

**July 28th** - At ½ past 6 Guard mounted and we started. Traveled down the river 2 ½ hours, grazed and watered. In our march today we crossed the bluffs that make down to the river two or three times. We find the grass improving every day. "Doe Boy Squad increasing." Tomorrow we reach Bents Fort. So says the guide. 20 miles today.

**July 29th** - Guard Mount at ½ past six o'clock and at 7 we moved forward over a high Prairie about three miles from the river. At one o'clock saw a large waggon and 8 mules before eat, off one mile to our right in the Touse Valley Road. The Col. Sent Lt. Hammond and 8 men to see what and who they were. The Lt. and party went and found them to belong to some traders, the waggon loaded with articles for Indians, and 1 ½ bbl of Whiskey. The Lt. spilled the whiskey and brought the men, 3 in number, team etc. down to our camp. Arrived at Bent's Fort at 2 o'clock, when the natives fired 3 guns (6 St) for us and hoisted the Star and Stripes. We took in Rations here, came one mile and encamped. Most of the officers got pretty boozy. 18 miles.

**July 30** - This Morning started at 8 o'clock, came down the river and encamped at 3 o'clock. Men all appear to be in pretty good spirits with the prospect of once more getting back to a civilized land. 20 miles.

**July 31st** - This morning started in immediately after Revillee, ½ past 2 morn. Crossed a high rolling Prairie about 8 miles in width, the weather beautiful, cool air, and we came into camp at 7 o'clock with our appetites sharp. Here we found fine grass and laid by all day. After breakfast all hands went to work some cleaning their equipment, some washing clothes & mending etc. Tomorrow morning we start for home. The Col. Intends to make Fort Leavenworth in 25 days, and there is a great many in camp who have they doubts about it. He may go in in that time but I am of the opinion that he will leave a number of Horses and Mules. 8 miles today.

**August 1st, 1845** - at 7 o'clock Guard Mounted men and at ½ past 7 we started once more for home. The sky was overcast with clouds all day, which made the weather cool and easy traveling for horses. At 10 o'clock we met a large body of Arrappahoos and Kiowa Indians. Besides those we me, there appeared to be about 200 on the opposite side of the river, all well mounted. We are now and have been all day, traveling beside what is called the 'Big Timber'. 20 miles today- encamped at 2 o'clock.

**Aug. 2** - at 7 o'clock guard mounted and we started. About noon met a small party of the Santa Fe traders, in advance of their waggons. From them we heard of the death of General Jackson. Encamped at 2 o'clock in a fine bottom of grass. Soon after we camped, 25 traders' waggons loaded with merchandise passed us. They also had a number of Barouches. 25 miles.

**Aug. 3** - started at 7, traveled very fast, saw very little to speak of today, but 3 Buffalo- sent a hunter after them- killed one, encamped at one o'clock.

**Aug. 4** - Guard Mount at 7, and at ½ past 7 we moved off. Last

night at ½ past 6 o'clock it became cloudy in the N.W. and S.E... Soon they were discovered to advance toward each other. At about 8 o'clock the two clouds (like two contending armies) came together with a resounding crash, the rain falling in torrents, forced by the wind. It came through our tents so that in a short time we were completely deluged. The rain lasted about 2 hours and cleared off to the S.E... The weather today has been intensely hot. At midday our hunters succeeded in getting 2 Buffalo, very poor. Encamped at 3 o'clock. Soon after, an express arrived from Bent's Fort, (Lt. Fremont) bringing letters from all parts of the world I suppose. We appear now to have gotten into the Buffalo range once more, and as we have been rather short of meat since we left Ft. Laramie, this Buffalo, although rather poor, is a great godsend. 22 miles.

**[Aug. 5]** - this morning we started at 7 o'clock, the weather very hot and sultry all day, hardly a breath of air stirring. This morning our old guide, Mr. Fitzpatrick, left us, under an agreement with Lt. Fremont, for 3 months at \$150 per month. All hands seem to regret his absence. It seems like the loss of an old and tried friend. On the opposite bank of the Arkansas (Mexico) we have seen a great quantity of Buffalo today- our hunters have brought in one. 22 miles today.

**Aug. 6** - Guard Mount at 8 o'clock. The reason for this late start was a tremendous rainstorm. Last night immediately after dark he rain fell in torrents and wind blew with such force as to blow two thirds of the tents, the shower was attended with fearful thunder and lightening... Our march with nothing in particular worth noticing except an immense number of buffalo on the south side of the Arkansas, some two dozen men were out at this time after some of them- and I expect they will kill a number. 25 miles.

**Aug. 7** - At ½ 6 o'clock guard mounted and at seven we put out, at 9 o'clock passed the "Crossing of the Arkansas". Here the Santa Fe Trail (two large roads side by side) leaves the river and crosses a high level prairie covered with short dry Buffalo grass. Here we saw a great many Buffalo scattered over the prairie, but all very poor. The Col. This morning gave an order to the Hunters to kill no bulls. The grass in our encampment is cut off almost as close to the ground as you could mow it with a scythe. 20 miles.

**Aug. 8** - Made sail as usual this morning at 8. At 9 o'clock, while traveling over a high Prairie, met a large caravan of Santa Fe traders, consisting of 39 large waggons heavily loaded, and some 10 or 12 coaches of different kinds. In the company were 4 Emigrant waggons with men, women and children and Negroes and a considerable number of horn

cattle. Encamped at ½ past 3 o'clock in a bottom with better grass than last night.

**Aug. 9** - Guard Mount at the usual time, and at 7 o'clock we put out; today we came down the river bottom leaving the Santa Fe Trail on our left. Leading off the river and on to the high Prairie, (don't see it for two or three days) and at nine o'clock came opposite "Jackson's Grove". At this place, Capt. Cooke, in 1844 disarmed a large party of Texians, supposed to be collected under one "Snivley" for the purpose of robbing the Santa Fe traders. At 4 o'clock, encamped in very poor grass. Some Buffalo killed today but very poor. 27 miles today.

**Aug. 10** - At the usual time we put out this morning, traveled down the river 7 miles and grazed. The soil appears to be getting better as we proceed down the river, but the grass is, as yet, very poor, probably owing to the excessively dry weather the whole summer. This afternoon one "Buffalo Slayer" Murphy killed 2 Buffalo right in our road. They both dropped at the same time and not more than fifteen feet asunder. The weather is today, and has been for the last ten or twelve days, very hot with hardly a breath of air. Encamped at ½ past 2 in very good grass, some appearance that we have got out of the Buffalo range. 22 miles.

**Aug. 11** - At 7 o'clock we started this morning and in two hours we came to Coon Creek, halted and grazed. Left this Creek and the Arkansas and struck across the high Prairie. Here we could discover that we are getting into better country; the soil is better, grass better, and the general aspect of the country is improved. Crossed Pawnee Fork, Ash Creek, left all the good grass behind and encamped on the middle of the prairie with no water, no wood, and no grass. Damn such work. 26 miles.

**Aug. [12]** - This morning was cloudy and we had guard Mount at 6 o'clock. At ½ past 5 it commenced raining and it continued to rain until ½ past 11 o'clock, when we halted, shook ourselves, grazed and moved on to Walnut Creek, where we met 27 Santa Fe teams, 24 coaches, crossed the creek and encamped on the east side. Old campaigners say it always rains here, and usually attends with heavy thunder and lightning. Think such must be the case, for it is raining at this present time, and, judging from the appearance of the heavens, it will rain for the next month. 18 miles today.

**Aug. 13** - At 7 o'clock we moved off with a fair prospect for rain but we had none all day. About 9 o'clock saw a very large herd of Buffalo on a bluff to our left about 4 miles distant. The Col. halted the command and sent out a hunting party consisting of Capts. Cooke and Moore, Lieuts. Ernell and Love, and one hunter from each company and three of four pack mules, determined, (as these were the last Buffalo we would probably see)

to give them a parting salute worthy of himself. After the party had started we moved on, crossed the sand hills, and encamped at 3 o'clock on Cow Creek. Hunters came in soon after, and reported having killed 5 cows, very fat. This is very good news as the beef we have will make many men sick. 27 miles.

**Aug. 14** - Moved at 7 o'clock this morning, cross Little Cow and Owl Creek, and at 2 o'clock encamped on Little Arkansas. Experienced considerable difficulty from flies today. 23 miles.

**Aug. 15** - Left camp at 7 o'clock and proceeded on our way over a high rolling Prairie. The day was very warm, the flies very plentiful. At 12 o'clock met a party of waggons on the way to Bent's Fork loaded with merchandise for that trading house. They were 13 days from Independence. 22 miles.

**Aug. 16** - Left camp at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 o'clock. This morning it looked very much like rain, but the sky in a short time became clear, and the day became extremely hot and sultry. Flies very troublesome today. Arrived at the Cottonwood Fork about 3 o'clock and we encamped on the east side. On the opposite side are encamped five waggons, Santa Fe traders. 23 miles.

**Aug. 17** - This morning Guard Mount at the usual time, and we left camp at 7 o'clock traveled till 12 o'clock and halted at the "Last Spring", unsaddled our horses, picketed them out, pitched our tents, and made other preparations to stop for the night. All hands laid down to sleep. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 Boots and Saddles blew and we saddled up, struck tents, picked up and started. Came on until 9 o'clock at night, and encamped 3 or 4 miles from Diamond Spring. 27 miles.

**Aug. 18** - Left camp at 7, came on about 3 miles to Diamond Spring and encamped for the day, for the purpose of allowing the men a chance to clean their arms, wash and mend their clothing, rest the Horses and Mules etc. We are now about 160 miles from Fort Leavenworth and the Col. Intends to reach there next Sunday. We are all in hope he will, as the men and horses are becoming very much fatigued. 3 miles.

**Aug 19.** - Left camp at 7 o'clock this morning and proceeded on to "Council Grove". The face of the country today is very fine, small patches of timber to be seen on very hand, and the country abounding with fine rivulets and springs of water. Council Grove, (so-called) is a large bottom of good timber, composed of Ash, Hickory, Hackberry, Walnut, Buttonwood, etc. Skirting the headwaters of the Neosho, or Grand River, the stream is clear and cold and abounding in fish. Passed this stream and came on to Big John Spring, a large cold spring. Stopped here and watered, moved

on five miles farther to Little Neosho, or Grand River, and encamped at 3 o'clock. At Big John Spring, met two waggons going to Texas to settle. One of our horses died today. 22 miles.

**Aug. 20** - Left camp at the usual time, traveled today through beautiful prairie country, crossing five or six fine streams of water richly fringed with timber. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past two o'clock encamped on one of these streams. This morning we had a light shower before starting. The day has been cool. Just before encamping we had a shower, enough to keep the air cool. Last night one of the Col.'s horses and a G company horse died. This morning, according to order, Co. A left for Fort Scott. They struck off to our right, and for a long time we were marching at an angle of about 27 degrees. At last they disappeared entirely and we wished them good luck. 21 miles.

**Aug. 21** - Left camp at 7 o'clock. The day has been beautiful, the sky entirely overcast with clouds which made it very cool and pleasant. The country today has been very much the same in appearance as it has been for the last 2 or 3 days. Crossed 110, a creek by that name, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 o'clock today-, came on five miles farther and encamped on mile from the road at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4. 24 miles.

**Aug. 22** - Left camp at 7 o'clock. The morning was thick and foggy. Traveled all day over a High Rolling Prairie to Elm Grove without water. This morning a detachment of the weakest horses and mules was left behind, in all about 30 horses and mules and bout 20 men, under charge of Lt. Smith. This detachment is to be one week going to the Garrison. 18 miles

## **Captain George Dodge** **Company M, 4th Illinois Cavalry Regiment**

George Dodge served during the Civil War from August 1861 until May 1862. As commander (Captain) of Company M, 4th Illinois Cavalry Regiment. During the early part of the war, he was involved in several actions in Kentucky and Tennessee. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, 5th Division, under the command of General William T. Sherman. Actions undertaken by the regiment are as follows:

*Fight at Black Jack Forest - March 6, 1862*

*Battle of Shiloh - April 6-7, 1862*

*Expedition to Bear Creek, Alabama - April 12-13, 1862*

*Pea Ridge, Tennessee - April 15, 1862*

*Corinth Road - April 24-25, 1862*

*Pea Ridge, Tennessee - April 27, 1862*

*Siege of Corinth, Mississippi - April 29-May 30, 1862*

Captain Dodge and his company were recognized in an official report dated March 28, 1862. The report, submitted by Major W. D. Sanger, Aide-de-Camp to General Ulysses S. Grant was in reference to the Fight at Black Forest on March 6, 1862. Major Sanger mentions, that even with the difficulties of a night maneuver through a forest, Captain Dodge with the aid of his lieutenant, advanced on the enemy with a most fearless and gallant style. He also noted that Dodge's men behaved with the coolness and bravery of veterans. George Dodge resigned his command on May 16, 1862 during the march to and siege of Corinth Mississippi.

At the age of 72, George Dodge applied for a pension for his service during the Mexican War, his request was denied in March of 1888. On May 21, 1890, under House Resolution 4789, he was awarded a pension of eight dollars per month.





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