

RECORDS OF THE
CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS AND ARMY REGULARS
IN NEVADA
DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE WAR OF THE REBELLION
☞ 1861-1866 ☞



California Volunteers and Army Regulars, along with companies of Nevada Cavalry and Infantry, helped quell secessionist movements in the West and engaged in Indian battles as Manifest Destiny reordered the nation's physical and political boundaries. Their service in northern Nevada is documented here in first person accounts.

It is the sincere desire of this compiler that an appreciation of these accounts will seed a greater core of humanity and promote a re-evaluation of the roles of all participants.

Records of the California Volunteers and Army Regulars in Nevada During the War of the Rebellion 1861-1866

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Although California did not furnish troops directly to the Union during the War of the Rebellion, the state maintained a volunteer force that numbered some 17,000 men who served the Union cause at posts scattered from the home state to Massachusetts to the Puget Sound through Nevada to Texas. California Volunteers helped quell secessionist movements throughout the West and engaged in conflicts with First Americans as Manifest Destiny reordered the nation's geographical and political boundaries.

Eight companies of cavalry and seven of infantry served in Nevada Territory and the subsequent state of Nevada between the summer of 1861 and the spring of 1866 at such familiar places as Fort Churchill and Fort Ruby and the lesser known Camp Dun Glen in modern Pershing County, Camp McDermit and Camp Black in Humboldt County; they patrolled the Egan and Schell Creek Ranges of eastern Nevada and the Smoke Creek Desert of western Nevada. They found good hay at Saint Mary's near modern Mill City and poor water at Rabbit Hole Springs on the eastern edge of the Black Rock Desert and were augmented by companies of Army Dragoons and Nevada Cavalry and Infantry as their service bracketed the history-altering events at Fort Sumter and the Appomattox Courthouse and the resurgence of westward emigration following silver discoveries on the Comstock Lode and in the Humboldt Range to the east.

This document follows these companies past the hysteria generated by an upstart secessionist movement on the Comstock and through "expeditions" across an unsettled Nevada with first-person accounts gleaned from two important primary sources: Richard H. Orton's 1890 *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1867* and *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Volume 50, edited by George W. Davis, Leslie J. Perry and Joseph W. Kirkley, 1897.

Two secondary sources, Hamersly's 1881 *Complete Regular Army Register of the United States for One Hundred Years (1779-1889)* and Heitman's 1890 *Historical Register of the United States Army from Its Organization, September 29, 1779 to September 29, 1889*, offer supplemental information for persons wishing to explore the subject beyond the scope of the present document.

Readers should be aware that some place names have evolved over the century and a half that have passed since the documents extracted herein were written and some spellings therein may vary from those of today (i.e. Shell Creek vs. Schell Creek) while other place names have changed completely. In some instances, regional place or vernacular place names were employed in the diaries presented here and may be difficult to correlate with modern topographical nomenclature. Persons interested in retracing the "expeditions" documented in these pages should seek out historical maps that are coincidental with the terrain in question. Several suggested map series follow.

United States Geological Survey topographic series of quadrangle maps are the most desirable, and although the oldest available editions were published twenty five or so years after the events described in the following extracts, the topography represented thereon may be considered "historically relevant."

Early topographic maps of eastern and central Nevada are non-existent, but preliminary survey plats of the these areas are available in some federal and state archives and their cultural content is relative to the events presented in the following pages. A knowledge of the township and range method of cartographic organization is necessary to access plats of specific areas.



Within two months of the events in Charleston Harbor, secessionist frenzy erupted on the Comstock Lode and spread to Carson City as indicated in a May 25, 1861, letter from the secretary of the “Committee of Safety” to a lawyer (Davis 1897, 1:500).

May 25, 1861.

BRIGG, Esq.:

As an American citizen I deem it my duty to warn my countrymen and the lovers of this glorious Union and Constitution, that a company of 107 men have been formed here to help Jeff. Davis and crib, and to take this Territory and declare it as seceded from the United States Government. Those men are enrolled by McMeans. Terry is to join them soon, and John Brown, the man-killer, is on his way here. Prompt action is needed. If not, we are all lost. It is the intention of the party to capture the fort, and take all the arms from it. They have spoken of Jack Haist, but could not learn anything about it. I am watching. They boast also of having eighty-three stand of arms in the hands of Blackburn, sheriff. Now, sir, be cautious. I am ready for action — five pounds bullets and one and a half pounds powder to fight for the Union, for the Constitution, and shoot any traitor I may meet, so help me God. Keep this to yourself and act accordingly. I will keep you posted.

Endorsement.

The writer's name is Charles Duval, who was afraid to attach his name. Mr. Duval is a truthful and very reliable man. He was approached by the McMeans party because he was a Southern man, a Creole of Louisiana.

JNOA. COLLINS,
Corresponding Secretary Committee of Safety.
J. L. VAN BOKKELEN, EPH. SMITH, Committee.

In early June, one Joseph “Atwill” requested of Brigadier-General Edwin Sumner, commander of the Department of the Pacific, military protection from secessionists (Davis 1897, 1:499).

June 5, 1861.

General SUMNER:

MY DEAR SIR: The Union men of this portion of our beloved country are very anxious to have aid from the United States representative on the Pacific coast, around which we can rally and protect this territory from the sympathizers of disunion. Cannot something be done for us? We are eleven-twelfths Union men, but we are without arms or organization, while the rebels have control of all the public or private arms here. Our hearts ache on beholding the vile secession flag floating in our midst, and we unable to destroy it. A single file of soldiers with a commander is all we want, provided they bring arms for us to use.

Yours, truly,
JOSEPH F. ATWILL.

A June 5, 1861, telegram from the commander of Fort Churchill to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Pacific, warned of rumored hostilities directed at the outpost (Davis 1897, 1:499-500):

HEADQUARTERS,

Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,

June 5, 1861 — 12 p. m.

Major DON CARLOS BUELL, Assistant Adjutant-General, San Francisco, Cal.:

MAJOR: A committee of gentlemen from Virginia City has just arrived and given positive information that a body of men numbering some 200 have organized themselves in favor of the Southern Confederacy. Today they raised the rebel flag in that place, and say that they will put down any Union demonstration that the law-abiding citizens may attempt to get up. This gang of men is well armed and is composed of such men as have for some months did defiance to the laws

of the Territory. One of their number, Doctor McMeans, late State treasurer of California, avows openly that he is acting under authority. It is also rumored that Judge Terry has the commission of Governor of the Territory from Jeff. Davis, and is only waiting the proper opportunity to act. What reliance may be placed in this rumor is hard to determine, but the fact of their open organization and the raising of a rebel flag would warrant us in believing that there must be some truth in the statement. The Union men in Virginia and its vicinity are much alarmed for fear of their lives and property. They are well organized, but have no arms, and desire that at least 200 may be furnished them for the preservation of the peace. There are now 200 enrolled and determined to carry out the laws of the United States if they can only obtain arms. As they are from the Northern States and generally quiet citizens they are without even revolvers, which are usually carried by the rowdies of this country. At Carson City there are some eighty odd stand of Minie muskets belonging to the State of California. These arms are now in charge of a Mr. Blackburn, who is looked upon with suspicion by Union men. They are also in such a position that a few resolute men could easily take them. It is feared that this may be done by persons in Carson who have kept themselves well posted on the secession movements. I would respectfully request that two companies be ordered here from California; also that 300 stand of arms with ammunition be sent as early as possible. I should also add that there is a rumor that the secessionists will attempt to surprise this post and secure the arms here [Fort Churchill].

Enclosed you will find a letter from a man who seems to have some information. The writing has been recognized by the men from Virginia City. He also says that he is a true man. The wire is down, or a summary of this would have been sent by telegraph.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. H. BLAKE,
Major, First Dragoons, Commanding Post.

The reply of June 6 proposed to increase the garrison of the fort and ordered Blake to make accommodations (Davis 1897, 1:501).

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
June 6, 1861.

Major G. A. H. BLAKE, First Dragoons, Commanding Fort Churchill, Nev. Ter.:

SIR: The general commanding the department proposes to increase the garrison of your post [Fort Churchill] by one or two companies of infantry, and he directs that you at once make the necessary preparation for quartering them. If buildings are to be erected they must of the simplest character that will answer the purpose of temporary shelter; probably adobes will be the cheapest. Boards for flooring will be dispensed with, and shingle roofing also, unless it will cost very much less than heretofore at your post. The determination of this question must be referred to headquarters. All the labor must be performed by the troops.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. BUELL,
Assistant, Adjutant-General.

Within a day, General Sumner telegraphed California Governor John G. Downey (Davis 1897, 1:502):

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
June 7, 1861.

His Excellency J. G. DOWNEY, Governor of California, Sacramento, Cal.:

SIR: I have been informed of the organization and partial armament of a body of men in Carson Valley for the purpose of overawing the Union portion of the population there, and involving the Territory in the cause of secession and opposition to the Federal authority. Apprehension has been expressed of the seizure by these of certain arms at Carson City belonging to the State of

California. I have therefore deemed it proper to take measures to secure them. The responsible agent will be furnished with the necessary receipts and the arms held subject to your orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. V. SUMNER,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Commanding.

That day, Buell requested judicial intervention from Associate Justice of Nevada Territory Gordon N. Mott (Davis 1897, 1:503-504):

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
June 7, 1861.

Judge GORDON N. MOTT, Associate Justice of the Territory of Nevada, Marysville, Cal.:

SIR: The general commanding the department has received information which leaves no doubt in his mind of the organization of an armed body of men in Carson Valley, having for their object to involve the people of that Territory in the cause of secession and opposition to the authority of the General Government. This information he deems sufficient to justify proceedings of treason against certain leaders engaged in the movement. As yet the government recently provided by act of Congress for the Territory of Nevada has not been organized, and there is no authority at hand for the issuance of a writ for the arrest of the offenders. It has occurred to the general that having the appointment of the President as one of the justices of the Territory, you may under the circumstances feel yourself authorized to issue the writ. The general would desire, if practicable, that the arrest of these treasonable acts shall be effected through regular judicial proceedings, and if such means do not exist, then others must be resorted to. He has directed me, therefore, to bring the subject to your attention along with some of the information on which the proceedings against the leading disturbers of the peace would be based, and he requests that you will give him at the earliest possible moment your views in regard to your duty in the matter, and information as to the steps you may decide upon, so that he may be prepared to second you, or else take, himself, such steps as may seem necessary. The general directs me to suggest to you, with deference whether in case you should consider your authority adequate to such a step, and view of the absence of all the civil functionaries of the new Territory government, it would not be well for you to repair to the scene of threatened disturbance the protection and support of the military commander, you may be able to act more advisedly and efficiently.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. BUELL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Mott replied on June 8 (Davis 1897, 1:506):

Marysville, [California],
June 8, 1861.

Major D. C. BUELL, Assistant Adjutant-General:

SIR: Your letter of yesterday has just been received, and in reply I have to say that after a very careful examination of the act of Congress organizing the Territory of Nevada, I have come to the conclusion that I would not be authorized to act in the matter mentioned in your communication. The Governor has not arrived, the Territory has not been divided into judicial districts, and there is not a single territorial officer there. Until steps are taken for the organization of the territorial government, I am of the opinion that I have no power to act in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GORDON N. MOTT.

In a telegram time-stamped June 8, 10:30 a.m., Virginia City, to Assistant Adjutant General Buell, Assistant Quartermaster T. Moore, Fort Churchill, confirmed, "I have taken fifty stand of arms in Carson and

Silver City. The Union men of this place have formed two companies. The oath is strong.” and queried, “Will I turn over the arms to them? The secession flag was to have been raised again today. My arrival put a stop to the movement. Will I take as prisoners those who refuse to turn over public arms?” to which Buell replied, “Issue the arms on receipt of responsible persons. Seize any public arms that are in store. Those who resist, disarm and make prisoners.” (Davis 1897, 1:505)

As indicated by the following telegrams, the hysteria turned to focusing on the need for home rule in the territory and forming a territorial militia. Brigadier General Sumner addresses E.D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. on June 10 (Orton 1890, 18):

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
June 10, 1861.

Lieut.-Col. E.D. Townsend, Assist. Adjt-Gen., Hdqrs. Of the Army, Washington, D. C.:

I have the honor to report that I have found it necessary to withdraw from Oregon a considerable part of the force stationed there to re-enforce the troops in California and Nevada Territory. The troops withdrawn are three companies of artillery, and will be nine of infantry.

There is no secession element in Oregon and nothing to apprehend there but the possibility of some Indian disturbances, which seem to me of little consequence in comparison to preserving the integrity of the Union.

As I reported on the 25th of April, I believe there is a large majority of Union men in this State, but they are supine from confidence, while there is an active and zealous party of secessionists who will make all the mischief they can. I have checked them in the southern part of this State by placing a strong command at Los Angeles, and they are now trying to organize in Nevada Territory, but I am moving re-enforcements rapidly to Fort Churchill, which will put down this movement. The leaders of this party claim to be acting by authority from the Montgomery government, which gives them some weight in the country. In concentrating troops to meet these contingencies I have been obliged to break up the posts of Ter-Waw and Tejon, but they had ceased to be of any importance as military posts.

I would respectfully and earnestly represent the great importance of organizing the civil government in Nevada Territory immediately. I believe if the Government and other officials had been there this difficulty would not have arisen. There is no law or government there at all, and the Territory is a place of refuge for disorganizers and other unruly spirits. I would remind the General-in-Chief that if he needs my service at the East I can make such arrangements that everything will be secure here. I would not say this unless I knew I could do it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. V. SUMNER,
Brigadier-General, U.S. Army, Commanding.

The following series of communiqués of June 10 and 11, 1861, are self explanatory. The series involves telegrams between Major George Blake, commander at Fort Churchill, and Major Don Carlos Buell, Assistant Adjutant General, army Pacific headquarters in San Francisco, dated June 11th (Orton 1890, 18) and a forwarded copy of the telegram from Assistant Quartermaster T. Moore, Fort Churchill, dated June 10 (Orton 1890, 18-19).

HEADQUARTERS,
Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,
June 11, 1861.

Major D. C. BUELL, Asst. Adjt. General Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.:

MAJOR: I would respectfully report that in carrying out your instruction by telegram of June 6, 1861, Captain Moore, assistant quartermaster, was directed to proceed to Carson City, accompanied by twenty dragoons, under the command of Lieutenant Baker, and take possession of all such public arms as might be held by citizens of that place or vicinity. Enclosed you will find

the report of his action and the success with which he carried out his instructions from these headquarters.

Captain Moore reports that the rumor that the secession organization in Virginia [City] did intend to surprise this post and secure the arms here had a foundation in fact, and that the secession flag raised there on the 5th was undoubtedly to ascertain the strength of the secession feeling in the Territory.

From all that can be learned I think that the force now en route for this post will be sufficient to preserve the Federal authority intact. I would, however, recommend that the arms called for in my letter of the 6th of June be forwarded, as the Union feeling is strong in and about Virginia, but unfortunately the law-abiding citizens are without arms and ammunition. I received June 4 a letter from Mr. Buckley, superintendent of the Overland Mail Company. He reports the Indians as quiet and as evincing a disposition to remain so. They are very poor, having but little food, and are really in a most destitute condition. Up to the present time everything remains quiet in Virginia [City].

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

GEO. A.H. BLAKE,
Major, First Dragoons, Commanding Post.

Enclosure.

Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,
June 10, 1861.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instruction of June 7, 1861, I proceed to Carson, with the detachment of twenty dragoons under the command of Lieutenant Baker. On my arrival at that place I called upon Mr. John Blackburn to turn over to me the public arms in his possession. Those he had in Carson were at once transferred to me, he at the same time giving an order on Captain Curtis and Mr. Shirich, of Silver City, for twenty-one stand left in their charge for safe-keeping. While in Silver City I heard of a number of muskets supposed to be in the hands of different individuals. On examining the houses of these person none were to be found, and they all stated that the arms had been turned over to Benjamin F. Lippincott, who was the quartermaster of the command under Colonel Hays and who had authority to receipt for the arms of the command. At Silver City I learned that the secession flag was to be raised at 10 o'clock that day in Virginia City. Although my orders did not contemplate any resistance on the part of the people of that demonstration adverse to the Federal authority would be made, I believed that the putting down of any movement of that nature would meet with your approbation.

On my arrival at Virginia everything was comparatively quiet, although there was considerable excitement among the advocates of the Southern rebellion. Immediate examination of all buildings suspected of containing arms was made. The building on which the rebel flag was hoisted a few days since was found to contain no arms, and the proprietor assured me that the flag was hoisted more for a joke than with the intention of causing any excitement. His statement, I believe, was intended for a blind, as I was subsequently informed from the most reliable residents of the place that there was, beyond a doubt, an organization to subvert the authority of the Federal Government in this Territory and declare in favor of the Confederate States. That there are arms or near Virginia there can be no doubt, but the organization has been so close in its operations that the responsibility can be placed on no one individual, nor can the Union men trace them to the haunts where they are probably secreted.

Information against Captain Caperton of a nature sufficiently strong was presented as to warrant his apprehension. I was obliged to release him, as he brought witnesses to swear that the arms belonged to Captain Stover and the ones referred to had been turned in to the quartermaster of the command, Benjamin F. Lippincott. The arms secured by me were, by the direction of General Sumner, commanding department, turned over to a company enrolled in Virginia on the night of the 9th for the especial protection of the interests of the Union. Two companies were formed, of fifty men each, who, in addition to the oath club, were sworn to faithful obedience to the President and the laws of the Federal Government, to suppress rebellion, and to be ready at any moment to yield obedience to the President or other loyal authority under him for the preservation of the Union.

Four hundred men are already enrolled. Of these one hundred are armed; the remainder, from the want of arms, are unable to place themselves in a state of such efficiency as they desire, but hope the general commanding will soon furnish the requisite arms and ammunition to enable them to carry out the object of their organization. After having taken such precautionary measures for the conservation of peace as I thought best, I returned to this post....

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. MOORE,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.

By early July 1861, Fort Churchill commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel George Blake was notified by Assistant Adjutant General Richard Drum, that the Sixth Regiment of Infantry which recently arrived at Fort Churchill “is no longer required for the protection of that post....” (Davis 1897, 1: 530)

Blake’s attention shifted to relations with the Native People as indicated in his reports of July 5 and August 8, 1861, respectively, to Assistant Adjutant General Buell in San Francisco (Davis 1897, 529, 560):

Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,
July 5, 1861.

Major D. C. BUELL, Asst. Adjt. General, Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.:

I have the honor to report for the information of the general commanding the department, that Shokup, the head chief and most influential man of the Shoshone tribe, from Ruby Valley, came into the garrison today on a visit. He represents his people peaceably disposed toward the whites, and that he will do all in his power to keep them so. He says his people are very poor, and much in want of provisions. The overland stage men say that this chief is a good friend of theirs, and peaceably disposed toward them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. H. BLAKE,
Major. First Dragoons, Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS,
Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,
August 8, 1861.

Major D. C. BUELL, Asst. Adjt. General, Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.:

I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding the department, that with an escort of dragoons I accompanied Governor Nye, of this Territory, on his visit to the Indians about the vicinity of Pyramid Lake. Found them all peaceably disposed, and have no doubt but that they will remain so if they are not disturbed by the white settlers. The Governor made them some presents, and they appeared to be very well satisfied.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. H. BLAKE,
Lieutenant-Colonel First Dragoons, Commanding Post.

A request of California Governor Downey for “one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the overland mail route from Carson City to Salt Lake and Fort Laramie” came from Secretary of War Simon Cameron on July 24, 1861, to which Downey responded on August 12 with the following proclamation (Orton 1890, 12-13):

In pursuance of a communication from the Secretary of War ... I, John G. Downey, Governor of the State of California, do hereby call for volunteers for the above mentioned service. The forces will be organized in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States and will be mustered into service at such times and places as may be directed by the commanding officer of the United States on this coast.

Under a second call from Secretary Cameron on August 14, 1861, the Second Regiment of Cavalry and Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Regiments of Infantry were raised, and by 1863 seven more companies of cavalry were raised to bring the First Cavalry to full regiment strength. In all, California furnished to the Union War Department two full regiments of cavalry, eight of infantry, one battalion of native California cavalry, and one battalion of infantry known as the "Mountaineers." In addition, California supplied several companies to Massachusetts and Washington Territory, making a total of some 17,000 California Volunteers.

Of those, companies of the following served at Nevada stations of headquarters and temporary camps during the war. This chronology has been extrapolated from incomplete muster roles and selected "Remarks on Return."

Second Regiment of Cavalry

Company A: December 31, 1861 - February 28, 1862, Fort Churchill; November 30, 1864, Camp Desert Wells; Early December, 1864, Fort Churchill

Company B: June 30, 1865 - April 30, 1866 (with noted exceptions), Camp Dun Glen; July 31, 1865 - August 12, 1865, Gravelly Ford; November 13, 1865 - November 20, 1865, Black Rock Mountains

Company D: July 31, 1865 - April 30, 1866, Smoke Creek

Company F: sometime in 1863, Smoke Creek

Company H: January 31, 1862 - February 28, 1862, Fort Churchill; November 30, 1864, Fort Churchill

Company I: June 30, 1863, Fort Churchill; June 30, 1865, Otter Creek (Camp 16); June ?, 1865 - June 24, 1866, Camp McDermit; July 26, 1865, Paradise Valley, engaged Indians; July 31, 1865, Queens River Station; August 22, 1865, Camp McDermit; August 31, 1865 - November 30, 1865, Camp McDermit

Company K: March 31, 1863 - April 30, 1863, Fort Ruby; May 1 - May 10, 1863, Shell [Schell] Creek; August 31, 1863 - September 30, 1863, Fort Ruby; November 30, 1864, Desert Wells (Camp 33); August 31, 1865 - October 31, 1865, Smoke Creek; October ?, 1865 - May 1, 1866, Fort Churchill; December 21, 1865, executing orders at Dun Glen

Company L: June, 1863, Fort Churchill; July 31, 1863, Fort Ruby

Third Regiment of Infantry

Company A: July 31, 1862, Carson City; September 30, 1862, Fort Ruby; February, 1863 - March, 1863, Fort Churchill

Company B: June 30, 1863, Fort Churchill; July, 1863 - October, 1864, Fort Ruby

Company C: Spring, 1862 - September, 1863, Fort Ruby

Company E: Summer, 1862 - November 1, 1864, Fort Ruby

Company F: Summer, 1862 - Spring 1864, Fort Ruby

Sixth Regiment of Infantry

Company D: June, 1865, Camp McDermit

Company I: June 14, 1865, Fort Churchill; July, 1865 - August, 1865, Paradise Valley (Camp Black)

The following "Remarks on Return" are summaries of field operations of the Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, as reported to the Adjutant-General of California. Conflicting time frames exist in some of the reports, but their content, overall, is substantive and provides insights into the campaigns and the cultures of the times; they should be considered from those perspectives (Orton 1890, 184-187).

Remarks on Return of Company B, Second Cavalry, for August, 1865. — The company left Gravelly Ford, Humboldt County, Nev., on the second day of August, 1865, on a scout for Indians. Traveled across the mountains twenty-five miles; came to the river and found a camp the Indians had left. Followed their trail, killed one, and captured a number of squaws. Returned to camp, scouting down the river; found a camp of hostile Indians. Killed two and wounded several more; and, in compliance with instructions from Headquarters District of Nevada, left Gravelly

Ford on the twelfth day of August, 1865, for Dun Glen, and arrived there August 21, 1865. Distance, one hundred and twenty-five miles.

Remarks on Return of Company B, Second Cavalry, for September, 1865. — In accordance with Paragraph 5, S. O. No. 4, Headquarters District of Nevada, and in compliance with Paragraph 2, Orders No. 2, Headquarters Dun Glen, Nevada, dated August 30, 1865, a detachment of twenty enlisted men of Company B, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, under command of Second Lieutenant H. C. Penwell, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, was ordered to report at Unionville to a citizen named Stafford, who, affording three Indian guides, went to a rancheria of hostile Indians, about thirty-five miles from last place, and found, at daybreak, the Indians, seven in number, and three squaws in the rancheria. Killed all the Indians, and accidentally killed the squaws; also destroyed a large quantity of ammunition and supplies. Finding no more hostile Indians in that vicinity, the detachment returned to Dun Glen. Entire distance marched, one hundred and fifty miles.

Remarks on Return of Company B, Second Cavalry, for November, 1865. — In accordance with S. O. No. 35, dated November 12, 1865, First Lieutenant R. A. Osmer, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, and sixty enlisted men of Company B, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, proceeded to the Black Rock Mountains on November 13, 1865, taking with them one mountain howitzer. At Willow Creek Station, thirty-five miles from this post [Dun Glen, Nev.], seven enlisted men, who were on detached service, joined company; also two citizens, and ten Indian warriors under command of Captain "Sou" (friendly Piute). On Friday, at daybreak, attacked the Indian camp five miles from Black Rock Mountains, and one hundred and five miles northwest of this post. Killed about one hundred and twenty Indians in all; of these about eighty were bucks, but the Indian allies could not be restrained from a general slaughter, neither could a squaw be distinguished from a buck in the general fight, and but one Indian is supposed to have escaped. Captured a quantity of ammunition, several guns, five Indian ponies, and destroyed a large lot of provisions. These were the same Indians who killed and robbed the teamster two weeks ago, as some of his load was found in camp. The loss was private David W. O'Connell, killed, and Sergeant Lansdon and private Moon, wounded; also one horse wounded, but will recover. Four privates deserted the day of departure from this post. Detachment returned to this post at 6 o'clock A.M., November 20, 1865. Distance traveled, two hundred and fifty miles.

Remarks on Return of Company B, Second Cavalry, for January, 1866. — Captain George D. Conrad, and thirty-seven enlisted men of Company B, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, left this post [Dun Glen, Nev.] on the eighth instant, to scout the country in the vicinity of Paradise and River Valleys. On the morning of the twelfth instant, discovered and attacked an Indian camp, on Fish Creek, in Queens River Valley, killing thirty-five Indians. Our loss was three men wounded, one horse killed, and seven horses wounded. Command returned to post on the fifteenth instant. Distance marched, two hundred and twenty miles. Captain Conrad, Lieutenant Osmer, and forty-eight enlisted men of Company B, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, left this post on the twenty-fourth instant, and proceeded to scout Humboldt Valley, in the vicinity of Badger Ranch. On the morning of the twenty-sixth instant, discovered fires on the opposite side of the river. The delay in crossing caused by us, and high water, enabled the Indians to escape. Distance marched, ninety miles.

Remarks on Return of Company D, Second Cavalry, for March, 1866. — Lieutenant George H. Robinson, with thirty-three enlisted men, returned March 4, 1866, from scout after Indians, having had an engagement on the fifteenth of February, 1866, at or near Rock Canyon, Nev., killing a large number of Indians, and losing one man.

Remarks on Return of Company F, Second Cavalry, for February, 1866. — Left Castle Rock, Nevada, with Major Smith's command on February nineteenth, in pursuit of Indians. Discovered the Indian camp after traveling five days in a northeast course, eighty miles from Fort Bidwell, Cal., at Rock Canyon, Guano Valley, Nev. The attack on the Indian camp was made at 9:30 o'clock A.M. on the morning of the fifteenth, [erroneous time frame] the fight continuing till 3:30 o'clock P. M. As the troops charged on the camp, the Indians retreated to Rock Canyon and Bluff. The chief, Smoke Creek Jim, was killed at the commencement of the fight. Found on the field, at the close of the fight, eighty-one warriors. Killed fifteen squaws and papooses in the rocks, it being impossible to distinguish one sex from the other. Fifteen Indians, supposed to be badly wounded, hid in caves and escaped the following night. During the action, nineteen squaws and

papooses were taken prisoners and placed under guard. On breaking up camp on the morning of the twentieth, they were set at liberty and supplied with thirty days' rations of dried beef. Captured seventy-five horses, belonging to citizens of Superior [Surprise] Valley, Cal. The whole Indian camp and equipage, and about three tons of dried beef, were committed to the flames. The camp was composed of thirty-five wickiups. The band of Indians was composed of Piutes, Bannocks, and Snakes, who had been committing depredations in this section of the country for the past four years.

Remarks on Return of Company I, Second Cavalry, for August, 1865. — Lieutenant Tagge, with twenty-three men, returned from detached service on the fifth instant, from escort duty. Sergeant Stevens and twelve men had an engagement with the Indians in Paradise Valley, Nevada, on July twenty-sixth. Private Herford was killed, and privates Joshua C. Murphy and Thomas J. Riehl were wounded. They were reinforced by a Sergeant and ten men from the First Cavalry, Nevada Volunteers, routing the Indians, and killing twenty-one of them. On the twenty-second Sergeant Stevens, Corporal Rugg, and twenty-one privates joined the company at Camp McDermit, Nev.

Remarks on Return, of Company K, Second Cavalry, for May, 1863. — On May first, pursuant to orders from Major Gallagher at Fort Ruby, Nev., Captain S. P. Smith left Fort Ruby with company to march against the Indians committing depredations on the overland mail route. May second, Lieutenant Quinn, with his detachment, joined the company at Shell [Schell] Creek. May fourth, forty miles south of Shell [Schell] Creek, had a fight with the Indians, killing twenty-nine. Private John L. Cree was slightly wounded by an arrow in the back. May sixth had another fight with Indians in Cedar Swamp, fifty miles south of Spring Valley Station; killed twenty-three Indians. Arrived at Fort Ruby on May tenth, after traveling a distance of two hundred and fifty miles.

Remarks on Return of Company K, Second Cavalry, for January, 1866. — According to instructions from Headquarters District of Nevada, and S. O. No. 31, of December 20, 1865, I left Fort Churchill, Nev., December 21, 1865, with nineteen men of company, to execute orders at Dun Glen, Nev. After four days' march, I arrived at Blake's Station, where the citizens turned over to me a notorious Indian called "Black Rock Tom." After being put in charge of the guard, he tried to escape, and was shot dead by some of the command.

Correspondence from commanders of Army and Volunteer forces in Nevada between May, 1862, and December, 1866, provide additional insights into the daily activities, struggles and achievements of pro-Union forces in Nevada. The first correspondence from General Wright to the Army Adjutant-General in Washington discusses the possible establishment of what would become Fort Ruby, among other objectives (Orton 1890, 506).

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
May 30, 1862.

Brig.-Gen. L. Thomas, Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: Since I received instructions from your office to prepare a command for the protection of the overland mail route, I have received no instructions as to how far east it was intended that I should send my troops. Colonel P. E. Connor, Third Infantry, California Volunteers, whom I appointed to command all the troops on the mail route, has advanced with seven companies of his regiment, and is now encamped near Stockton. Supplies are being collected and transportation preparing for crossing the Sierra Nevada, as soon as the roads are practicable for wagons, probably about the twentieth of June. I have two companies of cavalry at Fort Churchill, and one company temporarily near Pyramid Lake, which, with the two companies of the same regiment, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, now near this city, will constitute the mounted force I designed for Colonel Connor's command. Three companies of the Third Infantry, California Volunteers, are now serving in the District of Humboldt [California]. I propose, as soon as their services can be spared, to order them to join Colonel Connor. At present there seems to be no danger apprehended on the mail route between here and Salt Lake. Unless otherwise instructed, I shall advance Colonel

Connor to the neighborhood of Salt Lake, establishing one, possibly two, intermediate stations between Fort Churchill and Utah. Colonel Connor has with him two field pieces and mountain howitzers, with equipments and ammunition.

With great respect, your most obedient servant.

G. WRIGHT,
Brigadier-General, U.S. Army, Commanding.

Within two months the establishment of Fort Ruby was becoming a reality, according to another Wright correspondence of July 25 (Orton 1890, 507):

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
July 25, 1862.

Brig.-Gen. L. THOMAS, Adjutant-General, V, S. Army, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL: Colonel Connor, Third Infantry, California Volunteers, with his regiment, has passed the Sierra and is probably now in the vicinity of Carson City, Nev. Colonel Sims, with headquarters and two companies Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, left this city on the twenty-first instant, and are now advancing on the overland mail route, and will join Colonel Connor beyond the mountains. This force, with the addition of one company of cavalry from Fort Churchill, will move forward and establish a post at Ruby Valley and another in the vicinity of Salt Lake, the latter to be the headquarters of Colonel Connor. Supplies for a year are being thrown forward for all the troops on the mail route, including Fort Churchill.

In the District of Oregon all is quiet. The headquarters of the First Infantry, Washington Territory, Colonel Steinberger commanding, have been established at Fort Walla Walla. The Oregon cavalry companies at Walla Walla were ordered to move on the fifteenth of July, on the emigrant road, to meet the approaching emigration and afford them protection through the Indian country.

In the District of Humboldt [California] Indian difficulties still continue; the troops have been zealous and indefatigable in their exertions, and more than four hundred Indians have been captured and brought into Fort Humboldt, and await the action of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for their removal to some reservation.

The Indian difficulties on Owens Lake and River, and Mono Lake, on the eastern borders of this State, have nearly terminated, and it is expected that a permanent peace may be soon established.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Brigadier-General, U.S. Army, Commanding.

In an extensive report to the commander of the District of Utah, Major Edward McGarry discusses a “quest for guerrillas” and the results in language that reflects the culture of the day (Orton 1890, 171-172).

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CAVALRY, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS,
Camp Douglas, Utah,
October 31, 1862.

Col. P. EDWARD CONNOR, Third Infantry, California Volunteers, Commanding District of Utah:

COLONEL: Agreeably to your orders, dated Fort Ruby, Nev., September twenty-ninth, to proceed thence on the next day (the thirtieth) with Company H, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, on the northern overland route, via the “City of Rocks,” in quest of guerrillas or hostile Indians supposed to have congregated there, I have the honor to report that, having left Fort Ruby on the day specified, I overtook, on the second day’s march, Captain S.P. Smith, of the Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, who preceded me with his company the day before, and who encamped in Pine Valley. Here I remained awaiting the return of the Indians who accompanied Captain Smith, and who had been sent out by him to bring in hostile Indians.

Having been informed that fires were seen near our camp, I dispatched Captain Smith with a portion of his company, at night, to learn of them. He returned next morning and reported, "No trace of Indians." On the morning of the fourth we took up the line of march, on the route designated, and arrived at Gravelly Ford on the fifth, without having discovered any Indians. Here, on the seventh, I sent Captain Smith and Lieutenant Darwin Chase with a party of men down the river, and Lieutenant George D. Conrad up the south side of the Humboldt, with instructions to scour the country for hostile Indians or guerrillas, and to report to me, at a place designated, on the north side of the Humboldt, where I encamped on the ninth with the balance of the command. This evening (the ninth) some of the command enticed into camp three Indians; two of them were armed with rifles, and the other with bow and arrows. I immediately ordered their arms taken from them, and placed them under a guard, intending to retain them until the arrival of my interpreter, who was with the detachment under Lieutenant Conrad. A short time after their arrest the Indians made an attempt to obtain their arms, and, having succeeded, they resisted the guard and broke and ran a short distance; they were fired upon by the guard and crippled. Fearing that they would escape, and not wishing to hazard the lives of my men in recapturing them alive, I ordered the guard to fire, and they were killed on the spot. Here, on the tenth, Captain Smith joined the command, and reported that he had received no information, nor had he seen any signs of guerrillas or hostile Indians.

On the eleventh I proceeded on the march, having sent out the officers of the command with instructions that if Indians were found to bring them into camp. Captain Smith having been sent in advance, had not proceeded more than ten or twelve miles when he came upon a party of about fourteen or fifteen Indians, who were armed with rifles, bows and arrows. He surrounded them and took from them their arms. Immediately after, the Indians attempted to escape by jumping into the river. They were fired upon and nine of them killed. On the same day Lieutenant Conrad and party brought into camp three Indians and an Indian child. Captain Smith returned in the evening with two squaws. Next day, the twelfth. Captain McLean returned, bringing in one Indian and a squaw. Same day Lieutenant Clark returned with one Indian; another Indian was captured during the evening. The next day, the thirteenth, I told two of the Indians, through the interpreter, that if they would go and bring in Indians who were engaged in the massacre of emigrants I would release them, but that if they did not return that night I would kill all the Indians I held as prisoners in camp. The next morning, the fourteenth, hearing nothing from the Indians I had sent out the day previous, I put to death four of those remaining, and released the squaws and child, telling them that we were sent there to punish Indians who were engaged in the massacre of emigrants, and instructed them to tell all the Indians that if they did not desist from killing emigrants that I would return there next summer and destroy them. On the next day, the thirteenth, I sent Lieutenants Chase and Conrad with a detachment on the south side of the Humboldt, with instructions as before. They came upon a party of Indians encamped in the mountains, armed with rifles, bows and arrows. They were surrounded and their arms taken from them. The Indians, attempting to escape, were fired upon, when eight of their number were killed. The balance of the route no traces of Indians were seen. On the twenty-eighth I arrived at the place designated by you; the next day, at about 3 o'clock P.M., arrived at this camp.

The route is a good one, with an abundance of grass and water. In conclusion, it affords me great pleasure to report the efficiency of the officers, and the good conduct of the men of the command without the loss of any.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD McGARRY,
Major, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers.

Official: RICHARD C. DRUM, Assistant Adjutant-General.

The “Mormon Question” was a key element of General Wright’s March 30, 1863, report to the Army Assistant Adjutant-General in Washington, D.C. (Orton 1890, 512).

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco,
March 30, 1863.

Brig.-Gen. L. THOMAS, Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the General-in-Chief and War Department, a communication dated on the fifteenth instant, and addressed to my headquarters by Colonel P. E. Connor, Third Infantry, California Volunteers, commanding at Camp Douglas, Utah Territory, together with the remarks of Brigham Young on the third of March, and the replies of Governor Harding and Judges Drake and Waite to the Mormon committee who waited upon those gentlemen and presented the resolutions passed by the mass meeting held on the third instant, requesting them to resign and leave the Territory.

The astounding developments exhibited in these documents demand serious consideration and prompt action to enforce obedience to our laws, and to sustain and support the officers of the general Government in the proper discharge of their duties. Although the excitement at Great Salt Lake City brought about by the treasonable acts of Brigham Young and his adherents has somewhat subsided, yet I am fully satisfied that they only wait for a favorable opportunity to strike a blow against the Union. When Colonel Connor approached Salt Lake City he submitted to me the question as to the location of his camp.

Brigham Young was exceedingly anxious that the troops should occupy Camp Crittenden, or some point remote from the city, but after mature consideration I came to the conclusion that the site of the present camp was the most eligible for the accomplishment of the objects in view. It is a commanding position, looking down on the city, and hence has been dreaded by the Mormon Chief. The good order and strict discipline enforced by Colonel Connor have left the people of the city without any cause of complaint, on account of the proximity of the troops; but they have, doubtless, great apprehensions that their odious institutions, so repugnant to civilized society, may receive a check by the presence of a large body of loyal men sworn to maintain the laws and authority of the United States.

Colonel Connor has a strong position and is in no immediate danger, and I shall throw-forward reinforcements as soon as they can be procured; as they advance towards Salt Lake the command will be increased by the addition of such troops as can be spared from the posts east of the Sierra Nevada.

By late telegraphic dispatches I am advised of attacks on two or three of the overland mail stations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Commanding.

Brigadier-General Connor, U.S. Volunteers, in an extensive communiqué to Army Assistant Adjutant-General, finds a possible solution to the “Mormon Question” in the discovery of mineral wealth in Egan Canyon, Ruby Valley and in the Goose Creek Mountains (Orton 1890, 513-514).

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF UTAH,
Great Salt Lake City, Utah,
October 26, 1863.

Lieut.-Col. R. C. DRUM, Assistant Adjutant-General, U.S. Army, San Francisco, Cal.:

COLONEL.: In former communications I have had the honor to fully set forth my views to the Department Commander relative to the condition of the Mormon people and the sentiments of their leaders, and have endeavored to present my opinions as to the settlement of the Mormon question, so far as it has necessarily thrust itself upon me in the performance of strictly military duties. I need hardly repeat that it has been my constant endeavor to maintain amicable relations with the people and avoid conflict, so far as compatible with the strict and proper fulfillment of the

obligations resting upon me. Fully understanding that it is no part of my business to interfere with the religious tenets, or even the illegal practices of this peculiar people, except when called upon by the civil authorities, the open declaration of hostility to the Government on the part of their public men, and their bold, continued, and unceasing teachings of disloyalty have time and again tended to produce excitements leading to collision, which have only been avoided by the most temperate and moderate course of the officers and men of my command. Until such time, therefore, as the Government, in the interest of humanity and the vindication of its offended dignity and laws, shall deem it advisable to inaugurate by force an observance of its recorded laws, and come to the relief of a people oppressed and downtrodden by a most galling church tyranny, my own course has been plainly marked by the dictates of policy and the manifest necessity of the case.

Entertaining the opinion that Mormonism, as preached and practiced in this Territory, is not only subversive of morals in conflict with the civilization of the present age, and oppressive on the people, but also deeply and boldly in contravention of the laws and best interests of the nation, I have sought, by every proper means in my power, to arrest its progress and prevent its spread. As a question for the civilian, I can conceive of but two ways of striking at its root and annihilating its baneful influence. The one, by an adequate military force, acting under martial law and punishing, with a strong hand, every infraction of law or loyalty; the other, by inviting into the Territory large numbers of Gentiles to live among and dwell with the people. The former, I am aware, is at the present time impracticable, even though it were deemed advisable. The latter, if practicable, is perhaps, in any event, the wiser course. With these remarks I desire to inform the Department Commander that I have considered the discovery of gold, silver, and other valuable minerals in the Territory of the highest importance, and as presenting the only prospect of bringing hither such a population as is desirable or possible. The discovery of such mines would unquestionably induce an immigration to the Territory of a hardy, industrious, and enterprising population, as could not but result in the happiest effects, and, in my opinion, presents the only sure means of settling peaceably the "Mormon question." Their presence and intercourse with the people already here would greatly tend to disabuse the minds of the latter of the false, frivolous, yet dangerous and constant teachings of the leaders that the Government is their enemy and persecutor for opinion's sake.

As I have said, these doctrines are continually being preached to them, until the mass of the people believe that the Government, instead of desiring their welfare, seeks their destruction. To the end, then, that the inducements to come hither may be presented to the teeming populations of the East and West, seeking new fields of exploration and prosperity, I have looked upon the discovery of mines in this Territory as in the highest degree important, first to this people, and secondly to the Government, for the reasons stated. Having reason to believe that the Territory is full of mineral wealth, I have instructed commanders of posts and detachments to permit the men of their commands to prospect the country in the vicinity of their respective posts whenever such course would not interfere with their military duties, and to furnish every proper facility for the discovery and opening of mines of gold, silver, and other minerals. The results, so far, have exceeded my most sanguine expectations. Already reliable reports reach me of the discovery of rich gold, silver, and copper mines in almost every direction, and that by spring one of the largest and most hopeful fields for mining operations will be opened to the hardy and adventurous of our people. Both gold quartz and silver leads have been discovered at Egan Canyon, about two hundred miles west of this place; also, in Ruby Valley, and at points along the mail route. The Goose Creek Mountains, one hundred and fifty miles northwest of this city, are believed to contain rich mines of precious metals. The mountains in the immediate vicinity of this place are being explored and prospected, and I have reason to believe with successful results. Already within a distance of from twenty-five to fifty miles of this city, in the east and west mountains, mines have been discovered yielding, with imperfect tests, rich indications of silver, and largely charged with lead and copper ores. The work is still going on, and I have little doubt that rich veins of silver, and probably gold, will be discovered in almost every direction, and still nearer to Great Salt Lake City.

I may also mention that near Camp Connor, one hundred and fifty miles north of this place, large deposits of salt, sulphur, and extensive beds of coal have been found, while the springs adjoining the camp yield immense deposits of the carbonate of soda, which will one day, I have no doubt, be of very considerable commercial value. If I be not mistaken in these anticipations, I have no reason to doubt that the "Mormon question" will at an early day be finally settled by peaceable

means without the increased expenditure of a dollar by the Government, or still more important, without the loss of a single soldier in conflict. I have every confidence, therefore, in being able to accomplish this desirable result without the aid of another soldier in addition to those already under my command, notwithstanding the obstacles sought to be thrown in my way by the Mormon leaders, who see in the present policy the sure downfall of their most odious church system of tyranny. I have no fear for the future, and believe the dawn is breaking upon this deluded people, even though their elders and bishops and chief priests may escape the personal punishment their sins against law and crimes against humanity and the Government so richly merit.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. EDWARD CONNOR,
Brigadier General, U.S. Volunteers, Commanding District.

Major Brackett, Commander, U.S. Cavalry, offered an assessment of the year's operations in General Orders No. 8, datelined Camp McGarry, Nevada (Orton 1890, 187).

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NEVADA,
Camp McGarry, Nevada,
December 31, 1866.

1. The successful operations of the military of this district during the year 1866 deserve to be commended by the commanding officer, as it is believed they will bear favorable comparison with any that have been carried on against hostile Indians in any section of the Union. Several bands have been entirely broken up, and the country has been rendered safe for travelers and settlers. A brief summary will show what these operations have been.
2. On the eleventh of January, 1866, Captain George D. Conrad, with thirty-five men of Company B, and twenty-five men of Company I, under Lieutenant Duncan, Second California Cavalry Volunteers, attacked a band of hostile Indians on the west side of Queens River, near Fish Creek. Thirty-five Indians were killed and nine taken prisoners. Corporal Biswell and private Allen of Company I, and privates Thomas A. Outfield, John Riley, and Richard Shultz of Company B, Second California Cavalry, were wounded. Two horses were killed and nine wounded.
3. On the fifteenth of February, 1866, a detachment under command of Major Samuel P. Smith, Second California Cavalry Volunteers, composed of thirty-two men of Company D, and nineteen men of Company F, same regiment, and thirty citizens, fought the Indians near Rock Canyon — one hundred and fifteen Indians were killed and nineteen captured. Private Austin of Company D was killed. Major Smith, privates Resler, Grimshaw, Rhuman, and Belta of Company D, privates Mills and Smith of Company F, were wounded. Major Mellon, Captain Starr, and Lieutenant Robinson, Second California Cavalry, accompanied Major Smith. Sixty horses, which had been stolen from the settlers, were recovered, and a large amount of Indian property was destroyed.
4. On the seventh of March, 1866, Sergeant James T. Edwards, with eight men of Company I, Second California Cavalry Volunteers, killed six Indians in Paradise Valley.
5. On the eighteenth of May, 1866, one hundred and twenty Indian prisoners were brought into Fort Churchill and delivered to Brevet-Colonel A. G. Brackett, Major First U. S. Cavalry, Commanding Post. They were subsequently turned over to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Nevada, in obedience to orders from Department Headquarters.

A. G. BRACKETT,
Major First Regiment, U. S. Cavalry, Commanding District.

Following are first-person accounts of several principal events involving Volunteers and Regulars in Nevada during the Pacific campaign of the War of the Rebellion. They are windows into the daily lives of the emigrants, the settlers and of the military forces in the field and of those the military pursued.

August 8-9, 1861 — Attack on Emigrant Train near Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory

Reports of George A.H. Blake, Lieutenant Colonel, First Dragoons, U.S. Army

E. M. Baker, Second Lieutenant, First Dragoons, U.S. Army (Davis 1897, 1:24)

HEADQUARTERS,

Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,

September 10, 1861.

Captain R. C. DRUM, Asst. Adj. Gen., Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.:

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of Lieutenant E. M. Baker, First Dragoons, who was detached from this post on the 6th of September, 1861, for the purpose of meeting and relieving a party of emigrants who were robbed by the Indians this side of Salt Lake. According to the statement of Mr. S. M. Harriman, in charge of the train, to me, the train consisted of 74 persons, 11 wagons, 89 head of work cattle, 5 horses, and 2 mules, which was the total number of the party when attacked. The total number brought into this post was 54, viz, 22 men, 13 women, and 19 children. The train was attacked on the night of the 8th of August, and abandoned on the morning of the 9th of August, 1861. Almost daily emigrant trains are passing in want of provisions, and I have issued such quantities necessary to carry them to the settlements, and for which I would ask the approval of the general commanding the department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. H. BLAKE,

Lieutenant-Colonel First Dragoons, Commanding Post.

Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,

September 10, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to state that in compliance with orders dated headquarters Fort Churchill, September 6, 1861, I proceeded with a detachment, consisting of one non-commissioned officer and ten men, and a wagon containing provisions, for the purpose of assisting such emigrants as were absolutely in need of it. I found about thirty miles from this post (on the Carson River) a party of emigrants, about fifty in number, who had been attacked and robbed of everything (except what they had on their backs) about sixty-five miles northeast of Salt Lake. They stated that the party who attacked them were Indians, commanded by white men. They were attacked on the night of the 8th of August, and lost all their animals on the night of the 9th. They had since walked the whole distance to the Carson River, receiving such assistance from other trains as they were able to give them. I distributed 400 pounds of flour, 300 pounds of pork, 26 pounds of rice, 44 pounds sugar, 60 pounds coffee, and 1 quart of salt, which, with the assistance received from the citizens of Virginia and Carson Cities, will be sufficient to last them until they reach their destination. The women and children belonging to the party were brought to this post, and have since gone on to Carson and Virginia.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. M. BAKER,

Second Lieutenant, First Dragoons.

Lieutenant Colonel G. A. H. BLAKE

**November 3 -29, 1862 — Scouts from Fort Crook, California,
and Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory, to Honey Lake Valley, California**
Reports of Henry B. Mellen, Captain, Second Cavalry California Volunteers
Charles McDermit, Major, Second Cavalry California Volunteers
Thomas E. Ketcham, Captain, Third Infantry California Volunteers (Davis 1897, 1:180-181)

HEADQUARTERS,
Fort Crook,
November 30, 1862.

Colonel R. C. DRUM, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, San Francisco, Cal:
COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report: On the 2nd instant an express from Honey Lake brought news of an outbreak of Indians on the Humboldt road near Lathrop City. I left the post on the 3rd with twelve men, taking from Hot Creek Station eight more. Arrived at Susanville on the 7th. Was joined on the 11th by Captain William Weatherton with twenty-six citizens of the valley. Examined the country from Smoke Creek to the northeast to the headwaters of Pitt River, striking the road again on the Forty-Mile Desert, finding but seven Indians, who were killed. Arrived at the post on the 29th instant. Private Jacob Haber wounded by an accidental pistol shot. A party of about twenty citizens armed and mounted went to the locality to bring in the bodies of the two men murdered, and had they followed the trail while it was fresh, or at least tried to ascertain the direction the Indians had gone (neither of which was done), the scout might have had a more satisfactory result. But an express was sent one hundred miles for assistance against a party not larger than their own numbers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY B. MELLEN,
Captain, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS,
Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,
December 1, 1862.

Colonel R. C. DRUM, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, San Francisco, Cal:
SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of the report of Captain T. E. Ketcham, Third Infantry California Volunteers, commanding detachment sent from this post on the 22nd November, to chastise the Indians who committed the late depredations between Honey Lake and the Humboldt, Nev. Ter. In obedience to your instructions one wagon load of supplies left this post this day for the command to be stationed in the vicinity of Susanville, Honey Lake. The balance of supplies necessary to subsist said command during the winter will be forwarded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. McDERMIT.
Major, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, Commanding.

Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory,
November 28, 1862.

Second Lieutenant WILLIAM L. USTICK, Third Infantry California Volunteers, Post Adjutant:
SIR: I have the honor to report that in pursuance of Orders, No. 88, November 21, 1862, twenty-five enlisted men of the Second Cavalry California Volunteers, placed under my command, left this post on the 22nd instant for Honey Lake Valley on a scout against hostile Indians in that section. Upon the arrival of command at the Truckee Crossing, I received positive information that twenty-five soldiers from Fort Crook were already at Honey Lake and had attacked the Indians. I therefore returned to this post in obedience to my instructions.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. E. KETCHAM,
Captain, Third Infantry California Volunteers, Commanding Detach.

**November 22 -27, 1862 — Expedition from Fort Ruby, Nevada Territory,
to the Sierra Nevada Mountains**

Report of P.A. Gallagher, Major, Third Infantry California Volunteers (Davis 1897, 1:183-184)

Fort Ruby, Nevada Territory,
December 2, 1862.

Lieutenant THOMAS S. HARRIS, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, District of Utah:

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that on the afternoon of the 21st ultimo one of the herders belonging to this post, who was some thirty-five miles down the valley, came in and reported that 10 horses, 1 mule, and 1 head of beef had been stolen by the Indians the night before. I immediately telegraphed the fact to you. On the morning of the 22nd I started with a party, consisting of Captain Potts and forty-two men of Company F, Third Infantry California Volunteers, with six days' rations, for the purpose of recovering the stock and punishing the guilty parties. We left this post at 10 on the morning of the 22d, and after marching thirty miles encamped at 9 P. M. On the morning of the 23rd we started at sunrise, and after marching thirty miles over a rough, swampy road, where we had to make bridges, &c., for our wagon, we encamped for the night about sundown. On the morning of the 24th, finding it impossible to proceed farther with the wagon, Captain Potts and myself, with three men (mounted), went ahead, leaving the command under Sergeant Buxton to follow on as fast as possible, leaving eight men as a guard to the wagon. I made a reconnaissance of the whole valley north to the mountains and finding no pass through the mountains, nor signs of either stock or Indians returned and met the command about twenty-five miles from our morning camp. The men suffering very much from fatigue and cold, and our rations being nearly exhausted, I deemed it advisable to return to the fort, where we arrived on the afternoon of the 27th. From my personal observations I am satisfied that there are no Indians in this valley north of this fort, and those that stole the stock came from Thousand Spring Valley, or that vicinity, probably belonging to the Bannock tribe. In conclusion, I would say that the men who were with me have done nobly, having marched a distance of 170 miles in less than five days (myself and Captain Potts and the three men with us some thirty miles farther), with weather intensely cold, and they thinly clad, without a murmur. I must say I am proud of them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. A. GALLAGHER,

Major Third Infantry California Volunteers, Commanding post.

June 23, 1863 — Affair at Canyon Station, Nevada Territory

Report of P.A. Gallagher, Major, Third Infantry California Volunteers (Davis 1897, 1:230)

Fort Ruby, Nevada Territory,
June 28, 1863.

Captain C. H. HEMPSTEAD, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, District of Utah:

CAPTAIN: Inclosed I have the honor to transmit corrected proceedings of garrison court. I would also inform the general commanding that on yesterday Assistant Surgeon Kirkpatrick returned to this post from Canyon Station with Private Abbott, of Company E, who was wounded at that place on the 23rd instant. I learn from Abbott that on the morning of the 23rd Corporal Hervey and himself left the station as a guard to the water cart. After they had left Privates Burgher and Elliott also left to go hunting, leaving the station unprotected, something which has not been done since the troops have been guarding the road. Between 11 and 12 A.M. as the water cart was returning they were fired upon by Indians, who had made a screen of sage bushes, and Corporal Hervey was shot dead. Private Abbott, although wounded by a ball through his neck, jumped out of the wagon and seized Hervey's gun and pistol, and returned the fire, as also did the driver of the water cart. He is confident that they hit three or four of them. This happened within about 500 yards of the station. They immediately drove there, thinking if the balance of the guard was there they might get some of the Indians, but found them gone. Soon after they saw two or three Indians going up the mountain south of the station, one of whom had a bright gun. Although they were upward of 1,200 yards off they fired at them, and from their actions immediately after think that one of them

was hit. An express was immediately sent to Deep Creek, and eight of the cavalry left for the scene at once. On their arrival they found the body of Elliott with thirty-five ball holes in it, horribly mutilated, but not scalped. Soon after they found the body of Burgher with four ball holes in it, and in about the same condition as Elliott's. The bodies of all three were taken to Deep Creek and there buried under the supervision of Lieutenant Hosmer, who left his post immediately on the receipt of the news. The Indians succeeded in getting Burgher's musket and fifty rounds of ammunition; also a double-barreled shotgun and a small quantity of powder and shot from Elliott. I have ordered Lieutenant Quinn to scout in that vicinity, and if possible discover their place of concealment. I have also increased the infantry force along the road, sending every man that can be spared from the garrison. I feel perfectly satisfied that if Burgher and Elliott had not disobeyed orders and left the station they would not have been killed, but on the contrary would have had an opportunity of rendering a good account of some of the Indians, as they were within range of their pieces, and there were seventeen counted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. A. GALLAGHER,

Major Third Infantry California Volunteers, Commanding Post.

**June 8 -August 9, 1864 — Expedition from Fort Churchill to the Humboldt River,
Nevada Territory**

Reports of Charles McDermit, Major, Second Cavalry California Volunteers
Almond B. Wells, Captain, First Nevada Cavalry (Davis 1897, 1:377-381)

HEADQUARTERS,
Fort Churchill, Nevada Territory.
September 4, 1864.

Lieutenant E.D. WAITE, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Sacramento, Cal.:

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith Captain Well's report of his late expedition up the Humboldt River, also to Smoke Creek and Surprise Valley. I was in Surprise Valley in 1852 and 1853. It is situated at the east side and at the base of the Nevada Mountains, about 175 miles north of this post, 60 miles east of Fort Crook, and by the Lassen route 200 miles east from Yreka, and about the same distance from Rogue River Valley. It was in the north end of this valley where Captain Warner had a severe battle with the Indians in the year 1849 or 1850. The Indians are not very numerous, but they are expert thieves. The water, grass, and timber are abundant and of the best quality. I think it would be well to have a company of troops stationed in this valley for one or two years, but not permanently, as the country will in a few years be settled, and the Indians either run off or become domesticated. There is a good wagon road from Humboldt River to Surprise Valley, also from Fort Crook and Yreka. If the general commanding would wish me to go to Surprise Valley in October to select a military station I will be pleased to do so. The troops can put up their quarters without any expense to the Government, as the timber is abundant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. McDERMIT,

Major, Second California Cavalry Volunteers, Commanding Post.

Endorsement.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,
Sacramento,
September 9, 1864.

Report of Captain Almond B. Wells, First Nevada Cavalry.

June 8, 1864, left Fort Churchill, Nev. Ter., pursuant to orders from Major Charles McDermit, commanding post, at 8 A. M.; traveled east ten miles and camped about 2 P. M.; water and wood plenty. Camp Number 1, June 9, left camp at 7 A.M.; traveled a distance of eighteen miles in an easterly direction and arrived at camp at 3 P.M.; wood and water plenty. Camp Number 2, June 10, left camp at 5 P.M.; traveled a distance of thirty-five miles in a northeasterly direction; arrived at the sink of Humboldt River at 4 o'clock next morning. This was a complete desert, the whole distance being destitute of wood, grass, and water. Camp Number 3, June 11, laid over one day to

rest men and animals, they being much fatigued, as also the animals of supply train. June 12, traveled a distance of thirty-five miles; encountered a severe rain storm, which lasted from 11 A. M. till 3 P. M. Camp Number 4, June 13, left camp at 7 A.M.; traveled a distance of twenty miles and arrived at Camp Number 5 at 3 P.M. Laid over two days in a fine valley supplied with an abundance of wood, water, and grass. Several of the animals stampeding was the cause of my detention in the camp. However, I was fortunate in recovering the whole of them. Left the camp on the morning of the 14th of June; the command arrived at Star City, in the west range of the Humboldt Mountains, about 2 P.M., traveling a distance of twenty-two miles over a barren country. Thinking it prudent to rest men and horses previous to the many deserts I had to cross, and the place affording the best kind of grass and water, I camped here for three days. Camp Number 6, June 19, here I divided the command, taking fifty men with me to visit the scene of the late massacre; the remaining twenty men I sent with the train both to form a junction at Camp Pollock, in Smoke Creek Valley, traveled twenty-six miles; crossed the Humboldt River at Basse's Ferry; grass and water plenty. Camp Number 7, June 20, left camp at 5 A.M. and traveled in a northerly direction a distance of fifty miles, thirty miles of which was a desert country without wood, water, or grass; camped at 7 P. M. Camp Number 8, June 21, left camp at 8 A.M. and traveled a distance of twenty-nine miles over a mountainous country. Here was the scene of the late massacre. Country supplied with abundance of grass, wood, and water. Camp Number 9, June 22, left camp at 9 A. M.; arrived at Camp Number 10 at 3 o'clock, having traveled a distance of eighteen miles; wood, water, and grass plenty. Camp Number 10, June 23, left camp at 4 A. M. and traveled in a southwesterly direction a distance of fifty-five miles, the whole distance being an alkali plain, and arrived at Rabbit Hole Station, on the Humboldt and Susanville road, at dark. Grass very poor, water scarce, and no wood. Camp Number 11, June 24, left camp at 7 A.M. and arrived at Hot Springs Station, distance of twenty miles directly west of Rabbit Hole, at 2 P. M.; wood and grass very scarce. Camp Number 12, June 25, left Camp Number 11 at 4 A.M. and traveled a distance of twenty-four miles directly west over an alkali country and arrived at Camp Number 12 6 P.M.; water plenty, but wood and grass scarce. June 26, left Camp Number 12 at 5 A.M. and traveled a distance of thirty-five miles, thirty miles of which is a barren waste, arriving at Camp Pollock at sundown. Here I formed a junction with the train and are awaiting supplies. Remained at Camp Pollock until July 18, 1864.

July 8, sent Lieutenant Littlefield with detachment of ten enlisted men; took up the march to Surprise Valley, a distance of about fifty miles, with instructions from commanding officer to be absent for eight days, at the expiration of which time to report to Camp Pollock. Detachment arrived at camp on the evening of the 15th, having traveled a distance of about 180 miles, traversing nearly all of Surprise Valley (which is about sixty-nine miles in length) without meeting any Indians. This valley is situated at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, about seventy-five miles from Susanville, Cal., the greater portion of which is in the State of California, here wild game of nearly all kinds abounds, with an abundant supply of bunch grass and clover. Water of every description, from boiling hot springs to the pure mountain streams, in all parts of the valley. Detachment arriving in good order, the whole command remained at Camp Pollock until July 18, losing one enlisted man by disease and eight by desertion. July 19, left Camp Pollock at 5 A.M.; traveled a distance of thirty miles in a westerly direction; arrived at Camp Number 14 at 6 P.M.; grass and wood scarce; water plenty. July 20, left Camp Number 14 at 5:30 A.M. and traveled a distance of twenty miles in a westerly direction, and arrived at Camp Johns, near Susanville, in Honey Lake Valley, Cal., at 2 P.M. Whole command stayed at this camp until July 25, when, pursuant to orders from headquarters Fort Churchill, a detachment of thirty men with twenty days' rations, under command of Lieutenant Littlefield, took up march for Unionville, in Humboldt County, Nev. Ter. (report of proceedings of detachment is herewith submitted), the balance of the command remaining at Camp Johns. Detachment under Lieutenant Littlefield returned to Camp Johns August 9, after which the whole command [remained] at the camp until August 17, when a detachment of forty men, commanded by Captain Wells, left for the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains with four days' rations, the remaining portion of the command, under Lieutenant Wolverton, removed camp about two miles for the purpose of getting better feed for animals. Arrived at new Camp Number 15 at sundown, and remained here until ordered to report to Fort Churchill, the detachment under Captain Wells arriving on the 20th of August. Whole command remained at the camp until August 24, when we broke up camp and started for Fort Churchill. Traveled a distance of thirty miles to camp Number 16 at 6 P. M. Water plenty, grass scarce.

August 25, left Camp Number 16 at 6 A.M.; traveled a distance of twenty miles in a southwesterly direction; arrived at Camp Number 17 at 3 P. M. Wood and water plenty, grass scarce. August 26, left Camp Number 17 at 5 A.M., traveling a distance of thirty-two miles through Long Valley in a southwesterly direction; arrived at Camp Number 18 at 6 P. M. This camp was at Pea Vine Station on the road from Susanville to Virginia City; but little water and no grass. August 27, left camp at sunrise and traveled a distance of thirty-two miles, arrived at Camp Number 19 at 5 P. M., Virginia City. No grass, plenty of water. August 28, left Virginia City at 6 A. M.; arrived at Fort Churchill at 3 P. M.; left Virginia City at 6 A. M.; arrived at Fort Churchill at 3 P. M.; distance from Virginia City, twenty-five miles.

Respectfully submitted to Major Charles McDermit, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, commanding Fort Churchill.

A. B. WELLS,
Captain Company D, First Cavalry Nevada Territory Volunteers.

Enclosure.

July 25, 1864, detachment of Company D left Camp Johns, near Susanville, Cal., at 6 A. M. (Lieutenant Littlefield in command) for Unionville, on the Humboldt River; traveled forty miles over dry and dusty plains; arrived at Mud Springs at 6 P. M. Good water and hay for horses. July 26, left mud Springs at 6 A.M.; arrived at Smoke Creek Station at 10:30 A.M. Good water and hay for stock. Took in Government grain for horses, and purchased beef for men. Nearby showers of rain during the night. July 27, left Smoke Creek at 5 A.M.; watered at Buffalo Springs; arrived at Deep Hole at 4 P.M.; distance of thirty-four miles. Found water and hay for horses. During the night three men deserted, taking with them three Government horses, three saddles and bridles, three revolvers, and two carbines. July 28, left Deep Hole 6 A. M.; arrived at Hot Springs 4:30 P. M.; found hay for stock; water bad. July 29, left Hot Springs at 5 A.M.; arrived at Willow Creek at 6:30 P. M. after a hard drive of forty miles. Hay and at Saint Mary's on Humboldt, at 1 P.M. Camped at Humboldt River; plenty water and hay for stock. July 31, Lieutenant Littlefield left camp at Saint Mary's for Unionville, leaving command at camp. Stock and men in good condition.

August 1, still at camp. August 2, Lieutenant Littlefield returned from Unionville at 2 P. M. August 3, still at camp. August 4, started back to Camp Johns at 5 o'clock, arrived at Rabbit Hole Station at 3:30 P. M.; distance of thirty miles. Found good hay for stock, but water bad. August 5, left Rabbit Hole at 5 A. M. Stock in good condition; arrived at Hot Springs 2 P.M.; distance twenty miles. Found hay and poor water. August 6, left Hot Springs at 5 A. M.; arrived at Deep Hole at 3 P. M., traveling twenty-four miles to-day. August 7, left Deep Hole at 5 A. M.; arrive at Smoke Creek at 4 P. M.; distance thirty-two miles. Good water and hay for stock. August 8, left Smoke Creek at dark, traveling all night. August 9, arrived at Soldier's Bridge at daylight; fed stock and proceeded to Camp Johns; arrived at 9 A.M.

March 12-19, 1865 — Expeditions from Fort Churchill to Pyramid and Walker's Lakes, Nevada, with skirmish (14th) at Mud Lake and Affair (16th) near Walker's Lake, Nevada

Reports of Almond B. Wells, Captain, First Nevada Cavalry
William Wallace, Captain, First Nevada Infantry (Davis 1897, 1:403-408)

Camp Nye, Nevada,
March 19, 1865.

Major CHARLES McDERMIT, Commanding Sub-Military District of Nevada:

SIR: In obedience to instructions from headquarters Military Sub-District of Nevada, Fort Churchill, Special Orders, Number 15, dated March 11, 1865, I have the honor to report that on the 12th of March, with fifty men, I traveled a distance of ten miles in a northeasterly direction and camped for the night. At 6 o'clock the next morning broke camp and marched a distance of forty-eight miles in a westerly direction, arriving at Pyramid Lake at 6 P. M. I immediately ascertained from good authority that there was a band of Smoke Creek Indians encamped about eleven miles below; that they were continually stealing cattle from the ranchmen and herders. I place a guard

over the Indians encamped around me and gave orders not to let one escape. The next morning (the 14th instant) at 3 o'clock I left camp with twenty nine of my men and two citizens, Messrs T. W. Murch and W. H. Wilson, who volunteered their services as guides, for the purpose of arresting the guilty Indians. We came within sight of their encampment about 5:30 A. M. I divided my command into three squads under Sergeants Wadleigh and Besat, ten men remaining with me. I then approached their encampment intending to arrest them, but when within about 150 yards they commenced firing upon me. The first shot took effect in Corporal Dolan's shoulder, wounding him slightly; the second passed through the cape of my overcoat. I then ordered a charge with sabers. The Indians fell back to the bushes on both sides of the slough. By this time the men under Sergeants Wadleigh and Besat came up and a general engagement ensued. The Indians fought like veterans. I killed twenty-nine in all, but one escaped. I destroyed several guns, a quantity of powder, fresh beef, &c. I pursued and fought them for about ten miles up into the mountains. Some of my men had hand-to hand conflicts with them. Several were beaten on the arms with the Indians' guns. I also captured nine horses, but as they were very poor I did not deem it necessary to bring them in. Throughout the battle my men behaved with a valor and fortitude rarely equaled. Without an exception they were as cool and collected as though on an ordinary skirmish drill. My acknowledgments are due Messrs. Murch and Wilson for the benefit of their experience as guides and for the aid they afforded throughout the conflict. After the battle, Winnemucca, chief of the Pi-Utes, called on me and expressed himself as highly pleased with the result. He told me through the interpreter that he had been talking to them all winter, telling them not to steal the white men's cattle, and he thought that the punishment they had received would teach them a lesson.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. WELLS,
Captain Company D, First Battalion Cavalry Nevada Volunteers.

Fort Churchill, Nevada,
March 20, 1865.

Major CHARLES McDERMIT, Commanding Sub-District of Nevada:

I have the honor to report that in accordance with the above order I took up the line of march at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 12th instant. I had along with my command twelve friendly Indians and a white man to act as guides. My whole force was thirty-seven infantry of my own company and fifty cavalry Company E, Nevada Volunteers, under Lieutenant William H. Clark. I arrived the first day at Mason's ranch, on Walker River, distant from Fort Churchill eighteen miles. I was there joined by about twenty friendly Indians who wished to go along with the expedition. I informed them that I had no use for them and no supplies, and they then turned back. I started from Mason's ranch at 6 A. M. on the 13th, and traveled up the Walker River fourteen miles to the junction of the East and West Walker; thence up the West Fork four miles to the crossing; crossed the river and camped on the east side at Wilson's ranch, a distance of eighteen miles from Mason's ranch. Left Wilson's at 5 A. M. on the 14th; traveled fifteen miles and camped on Wheeler's ranch on the west side of the East Fork of Walker River. The settlers here said that the murderers of Stewart and Rabe and their friends, about 300 strong, were camped at the foot of Walker Lake, but knew nothing of my coming, having thus far misled them by saying that I was on my way to Aurora. To get to where the Indians were at the foot of the lake I had to cross a range of mountains where it was impossible to get teams over and the trail was very little traveled. The Indians' camp was distant from this point (Wheeler's ranch) thirty miles, twenty miles to the lake and ten miles down to the camp, and no food for our animals on the way. I had no pack saddles with me, and on the morning of the 15th I sent out men and borrowed five saddles of the settlers. I then ordered the men to provide themselves with two days' cooked rations, as I did not wish to build any fires after leaving camp until the Indians could be surrounded. I was getting everything ready for an early start in the morning when about 11 o'clock an Indian courier arrived with the news that he was sent by Josephus (a friendly chief), who was watching out for the murderers at the head of the lake, to let me know that they had come up there the night before. Placing full reliance upon this information, I immediately acted upon it, and left Wheeler's ranch at 12 M. Went one mile down the East Fork of Walker River and crossed. From here I sent the infantry, under command of Lieutenant G. J. Lansing, across by a trail with a guide, and I took the cavalry and went around by the road a distance of twenty-five miles. The infantry made it in fifteen miles to a tollhouse on the

Wellington road, which had been uninhabited for some months. It was situated in a very deep canyon two miles from the mouth and eight from the head of the lake. I arrived at the tollhouse about 8 in the evening, and the infantry came in about fifteen minutes afterward. I halted here until 2 A.M. on the 16th. I had attained a correct idea of the location of the Indian camp and made my arrangements accordingly. I moved out the cavalry and infantry together to the mouth of the canyon. In coming out of the canyon one of my wagons upset. I left a guard with it with orders to right it up and follow on. I had ordered the cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant William H. Clark, to go up the lake road three miles, then to take a trail to the left and cross the river about two miles and a half above the lake, and then as the land was level and sandy to go half a mile from the river, and then down close to the lake, so that when they had formed in line and deployed the right would rest on the river and the left on the lake or close to it. The country was all open to the left and rear, and it was impossible for the Indians to have made their escape in that direction. Lieutenant Clark had orders to wait in that position until I gave the signal with my bugle for him to advance, which was to be about daylight. He was then to march his command up to within fifty yards of the Indian camp, and if not fired upon to await further orders. If firing was commenced by the Indians not to let one of them escape him. The Indian camp was on both sides of the river where it emptied into the lake. Along the river for the three miles from its mouth is a thick growth of underbrush, willows, and cottonwood, and at the camp the river is thirty or forty yards wide and about two or three feet deep. The cavalry arrived on the ground about thirty minutes before daylight. I took the infantry up the lake within about half a mile of the mouth of the river, then deployed and covered the ground from there to the river, my right resting on the lake and my left on the river, and the whole camp of Indians on the south side of the river within easy range of my rifles. I took this ground about fifteen minutes before daylight. Just at the break of day the Indian Josephus, I had down at the Indian camp, came out to me and told me that one of the men was in camp on the other side of the river and the other fifteen miles down on the east side of the lake. I sent Josephus back across the river and told him to stay with the Indians and send back a guide. In about ten minutes an Indian came back, and (I had an Indian interpreter with me so that I could converse with him) he said that Josephus was with the murderer. I had kept five mounted men (cavalry) with me to use in case of necessity. I had sent one to the rear to stop the wagons, the others I took with me, and we started for camp on the other side of the river with the Indian guide, who had first come out to me to cross the river. We had to go through the camp on the south side next to the infantry, but our guide, myself, and the four men being well mounted, we went through the camp on a run. We could see the Indians running in every direction and making a great deal of noise, but there was not a shot fired. At this time it had just got to be fairly light. We crossed the river, and I found that the camp on the north side was about 100 yards below and more on the lake. I ordered my bugler to sound the call for the cavalry, and sent one of the men to have Lieutenant Clark bring his force down in order. By this time the guide had got halfway to camp; the Indians commenced to yell. After I crossed the river I saw the Indians who acted as guides to Lieutenant Clark leave his lines and start for the camp, hallooing to the Indians to lay down their arms or they would all be killed; that we had them surrounded, and they could not get out. I now saw Josephus about the center of the camp. I rode up to him and asked which was the man we were after. Just then and before he had time to answer an Indian jumped out of the campoode (Indian hut) with a gun in his hand, when Campbell, the sub-Indian agent, who had just come in with the Indians from Lieutenant Clark's lines, leveled his revolver and told him to lay down his gun or he would shoot him. Josephus told me that he was not the one we were after. His gun was taken away from him, and the Indian that we were after pointed to me. I dismounted and tied and placed him in charge of twenty-five of the cavalry, with orders to move up to the bridge two miles above. The infantry, under Lieutenant Lansing, was ordered to the same point. I then took the remaining twenty-five cavalymen and started around the east side of the lake, with Josephus as a guide and a brother of the man we were after in custody. When I had arrived within about one mile of the camp I sent ten men around to the head of the ravine in which the Indians were camped, and halted the command in order to give them time to get into position. From where we had halted we could not be seen by the Indians in camp. After I had given the ten men sufficient time to take their position to guard the head of the ravine, I ordered a forward movement on the camp. We had not proceeded more than 200 yards before I saw an Indian running up a small ravine some half a mile ahead. I deployed the cavalry and pursued him. His brother and Josephus hallooted to him not to run or he would be shot. Before we got within shooting distance of him he stopped. When we came up with him I took his gun away from him and tied him. I then had the recall sounded, and started back for the head of the lake at 7:30 A.M., and arrived at the bridge at 10 A. M. I found

about 300 warriors assembled here, but without arms, and they all appeared to be friendly except the relatives of the two men we had taken. I found my teams here all right and moved up the river about three miles to Camp Josephus, where the grass was good, there being none at the bridge where the infantry halted. We all got into camp at 12 m. I now informed the Indians that I must have the saddles and pistols that belonged to the murdered men, and that if they did not bring them in I would go after them. They said that the things were at the foot of the lake. I sent the brothers of the prisoners for them and told them to bring them to this post. They arrived here today. I left Camp Josephus at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 17th; crossed over to the north side of the river, and traveled up fifteen miles to the Reservation house, on the main Walker River. I here found about 100 warriors of the same tribe as those on the lake (Pi-Utes), but all friendly. It was this part of the tribe that rendered me so much assistance as guides and interpreters. A large number of them spoke English, and kept me posted of the whereabouts of the Indians. I left the Reservation house at 6 A.M. on the 18th. Went fifteen miles up the river. Camped with the infantry at Smith's ranch. As there was no grain or hay to be had at this point, I sent the cavalry on five miles to Mason's ranch. Left Smith's ranch at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 19th, and arrived at Fort Churchill, distance twenty miles, at 11 A. M. The cavalry left Mason's at 8 o'clock and arrived here at the same time, on arriving at this post I placed the two Indian prisoners in the guard-house, under charge of the sergeant of the guard.

Before closing this report I desire to say that Lieutenant William H. Clark, Company E, Cavalry, and Lieut. G. J. Lansing, of my own company, deserve great credit for the prompt manner in which they fulfilled all orders. The men, both cavalry and infantry, at the critical moment when the advance was made by the cavalry on the Indian camp were perfectly steady and behaved like veterans. If at this time there had been a shot fired on either side we would have had a desperate fight, as the Indians were ready for a fight, and had sent us word that they would not give up the murderers, and it was only by taking them by surprise and having them completely surrounded that we succeeded in taking the criminals without great loss on both sides. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

WM. WALLACE,
Captain Company A, First Nevada Vol. Infy., Commanding Expedition.

**May 3-June 15, 1865 — Expeditions from Fort Churchill to Carson Lake
and the Truckee and Humboldt Rivers, Nevada**

Reports of Charles McDermit, Lieutenant Colonel, Second Cavalry California Volunteers
G. Wright, Brigadier-General, California Volunteers (Davis 1897, 1:409-412)

HEADQUARTERS SUB-DISTRICT OF NEVADA,
Fort Churchill,
May 9, 1865.

Lieutenant E.D. WAITE, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Sacramento, Cal.:

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report for the information of the general commanding that settlers at Caron Lake and also on Truckee River requested me to send troops to those localities, informing me that they anticipated trouble with the Indians.

On the morning of the 3rd of May I left this post for Carson Lake, taking with me First Lieutenant D. Vanderhoof, Company C, Nevada Infantry, Second Lieutenant D. H. Pine, Nevada Infantry, and detachment Company E, Nevada Cavalry, consisting of fifteen men, with six days' supplies; arrived in camp at Cottonwood Station, on the overland road, at 3 P. M. having marched twenty-six miles. 4th, left camp at 4:40 A.M., arrived at Taylor's ranch, on the Carson River, near the lake, at 9:30 A.M. that being the place previously designated by me to meet the whites and Indians. 5th, a large number of Indians and some twenty settlers met me at Mr. Taylor's house. In conversation with the Indians I soon learned that the excitement was caused by the peaceable Indians from the Humboldt coming to the Carson Lake to avoid trouble, and the Indians living in the vicinity, not knowing the cause of so many coming in, supposed that a general war of extermination was about to commence, and to confirm them in this belief some reckless white men had told them that I was coming in, soldiers to kill them all. They had commenced sending away their squaws and children and burning their wigwams. The white settlers seeing these movements on the part of the Indians

in turn became alarmed, and dispatched a messenger to me in great haste; but through my interpreter, Richard A. Washington, I soon learned the facts in the case, and they assured me of their great desire for peace with the whites. I talked with the whites and Indians about three hours, assuring them that I would protect the good and at the same time punish the bad of either party. At 5 P. M. I left with the command for Saint Clair Station; arrived there at 6:15 P.M., where we camped during the night, having marched five miles. 6th, took up line of march direct for Truckee River at 5 A. M. Having procured an affidavit that a citizen named Cook had been exulting over the death of President Lincoln, I dispatched Lieutenant Pine with one enlisted man to arrest Cook and deliver him over to the commanding officer at Fort Churchill, which was done. Arrived at Reservation house, on Truckee River, at 1:15 P. M.; distance, twenty- eight miles. 7th, had talk with the Indians, who informed me that the agent had told them lies and otherwise treated them badly, having hired the reserve to white men to keep their stock on it, receiving the money for the same and appropriating it to their [his] own use; and when the Indians would ask the agent for something to help them procure subsistence or clothing, he would tell them that all the money he received had to be turned over to the Indian Department, and if they gave any trouble he would send to Fort Churchill for troops and clean them out. Upon an investigation of the treatment of the Indian by the agent I am really surprised to know that they have borne all these impositions so patiently.

Last year \$25,000 was appropriated for the purpose of cultivating the Truckee and Walker River reserves. The money has disappeared, and not one pound of anything is being raised on either reserve for the Indians, and the agents are determined to continue their impositions further by herding stock on the reserves and consuming the grass, the seed of which, if permitted to mature, would afford them a great part of their subsistence. I told the Indians to remain peaceable and injure no white men, and now since the war is over our Great Father at Washington would do something for them, and in the meantime if any of the whites abused them not to resent it, but come to me and make their complaints, and I would investigate the matter and punish the guilty party. I also requested the whites to take all their stock off the reserve. I talked to the Indians about four hours, and they appeared much pleased with all I told them. 8th, I left camp on Truckee River at 4:30 A. M.; arrived at Fort Churchill at 12:45 P.M., having traveled thirty miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. McDERMIT,
Lieutenant Colonel Second California Cavalry, Commanding Sub-Dist. of Nevada.

Endorsement.

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS,
Sacramento,
May 17, 1865.

Respectfully forwarded to department headquarters, with recommendation that copy be furnished to the Congressional Committee appointed to inquire into Indian affairs on this coast.

G. WRIGHT,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS SUB-DISTRICT OF NEVADA,
Camp Number 10,
June 9, 1865.

Lieutenant E.D. WAITE, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Sacramento, Cal.:

SIR: I have the honor to report for the information of the general commanding that on the 30th of May I left Fort Churchill in company with Governor H. G. Blasdel, Surg. A. F. Mechem, Lieutenant C. C. Warner, and an escort of thirteen cavalry from Company E, First Battalion Nevada Volunteers. On the 2nd of the present month we arrived at Austin, Lander County, and on the afternoon of the 3rd instant the Governor and myself had a talk with about 100 Indians (all we could collect on so short notice), telling them to come into the settlements and separate from the hostiles, be peaceable, and they would be protected. They appeared quiet and peaceably inclined. On the morning of the 4th, leaving the Governor at Austin, we started for the Humboldt River, traveling mostly due north through a mountainous country with a number of small ranches and dwellings, but mostly deserted on account of the hostile Indians. On the evening of the 4th instant

Lieutenant Seamands, of Company B, First Nevada Infantry, with twenty mounted men, an interpreter, nine friendly Indians, and a 12- pounder howitzer from Fort Ruby, joined my escort. On the evening of the 8th instant I struck the river at a point seventy miles north of Unionville. On the morning of the 9th instant I undertook to cross the river, but failed on account of its swollen banks, and deemed it best to move down the river to a bridge eighteen miles distant, where I found Captain William Wallace, Company A, First Nevada Infantry, with his company of seventy-three men and a 12-pounder howitzer. Most of the ranches along the river are deserted. I propose moving tomorrow morning to a suitable camp up the north side of the main Humboldt River to await the arrival of Captain Doughty, Second California Volunteers. In the meantime I will be joined by Captain Wells, Company D, First Nevada Cavalry, eighty-two men, and Captain Payne, Company E, same battalion, fifty men, when I propose moving upon the Indians, who are reported to be in the vicinity of Gravelly Ford, in strength and hostile. If we can catch them we propose to give them a whipping which they will remember. Since leaving the fort we have traveled a distance of nearly 330 miles in eight days.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. McDERMIT,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS SUB-DISTRICT OF NEVADA,
Camp Number 15,
June 15, 1865.

Lieutenant E.D. WAITE, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Sacramento, Cal.:

LIEUTENANT: For the information of the general commanding, I would respectfully report to district headquarters that I left Camp Number 10, where I made my last report, at 5 A.M. on June 10, 1865; crossed the main Humboldt River and arrived at the Little Humboldt River at 7 A.M.; crossed the stream on a ferry-boat procured by Captain W. Wallace, Nevada Infantry, at Dun Glen; succeeded in crossing all property, &c., without accident, and camped on the opposite side of the stream. Remained at this camp during Sunday awaiting the arrival of Captain Wells' command, consisting of his company and detachment Company E, forty-two men. Captain Wells having joined us, we left this camp the morning of June 12; traveled east fourteen miles, camping in Littlefield Valley, where we found good grass and water. Left Payne, Asst. Surg. A. F. Mechem, and Lieutenants Littlefield (Nevada Cavalry), Seamands, Warner, and McGowan (Nevada Infantry), Interpreter Butterfield, with four Indian scouts, taking six days' rations in our haversacks, and leaving the balance of the command with all the teams at Camp Number 12; traveled to Camp Number 13, where we arrived at 1:10 P. M., Distance to Camp Number 13, twenty-five miles. My object in this expedition was for a reconnoitering tour and to visit the battlefields of Lieutenant Littlefield and Captain Wells. Left this camp at 10 A. M. and arrived at Camp Number 14, in Valley Wells, having traveled fourteen miles, which camp is situated opposite Fort Redskin, where Lieutenant Littlefield's fight took place May 7, 1865. I visited the canyon and mountain where the Indians were posted, and their fire pits among the rocks which were ingeniously constructed, and capable of containing about 200 Indians. Here we found most excellent grazing ground. Left Camp Number 14 at 8:30 A. M. June 15; traveled northeast; saw upon the route many Indian signs; also where they had grazed their stock about five weeks ago; country level and fine grass all the way. Arrived at the camp (Number 15, twenty- five miles distance) at 3:30 P. M., it being at the foot of the Table Mountain, where Captain Wells had his fight of May 20, 1865. This camp is within twenty-five miles of the headwaters of the Owyhee River, and near the boundary line of the States. I shall reconnoiter this vicinity for the ensuing three days to find the position and strength of the Indians, at the end of which time our supplies and the remainder of the command will be up to this camp. I am determined to pursue them until I catch them or run them out of the State. Have traveled 108 miles without seeing a stick of timber which would measure six inches, and no place suitable to establish a military post. Have also traveled sixty-five miles without a road, but have seen nothing to delay our train of supplies.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES McDERMIT,
Lieutenant- Colonel Second California Cavalry, Commanding.

**May 25-June 15, 1865 — Expedition from Fort Ruby to the Humboldt Valley, Nevada,
with skirmish (May 29) near Austin, Nevada**

Report of John U. Tolles, Lieutenant, First Nevada Infantry (Davis 1897, 1: 412-414)

Fort Ruby, Nevada,
June 22, 1865.

Captain GEORGE A. THURSTON, Commanding Post, Fort Ruby:

SIR: I have the honor to report that pursuant to Post Special Order, Number 16, we took up our line of march on the 20th of May, 1865, the command consisting of myself, forty non-commissioned officers and privates, and ten friendly Indians, with one piece of artillery, the whole under the command of Lieutenant W. G. Seamands. After marching the distance of about 135 miles by the usual Overland Mail road, we arrived at Camp Number 7, sixteen miles north of Austin, this being the point at which the most of the recent Indian depredations were committed. While here the men purchased sixteen head riding animals, and there being four with the command, made twenty in all. Lieutenant Seamands here divided the command, himself taking the twenty mounted men, the Indians, and the artillery, and marching with Lieutenant-Colonel McDermit, Second California Cavalry, to the recent battlefield of Captain Wells against the Pi-Ute and Bannock Indians, on the 29th ultimo. While at this camp a citizen came running down to the camp, informing me that the Indians were up at the foot of the mountains, about two miles distant, running off some of the cattle that were being herded at this place by Mr. Worthington. Lieutenant Seamands being absent at Austin, I immediately started in pursuit with some fifteen men. Upon the summit of a small rise, some 300 yards from camp, I discovered there were three Indians (two of them mounted) with some eight or ten head of cattle, driving them toward a large ravine into the mountains. The Indians being upon the elevated lands, it was impossible to approach them without being discovered, which was the case, and started on the run up the ravine into the mountains toward Grass Valley. It being a very rough place for the Indians to get their horses through, some of the men succeeded in getting near enough to fire a few shots very close to them, as one of them stated afterward, so I was very credibly informed by Mr. Klemp, a citizen of Austin, who told me that he was in Grass Valley when the Indian came into that place, and said the soldiers had shot at them. Mr. Worthington, the owner of the cattle, found where they had just killed two a short time before our arrival. From these facts and other information I believe it is the Indians about Austin, Grass Valley, and the immediate vicinity that have committed the recent depredations in the Reese River Valley. We broke camp on the morning of the 6th of June and marched in a northerly direction down Reese River Valley to Mr. Tenant's ranch, a distance of sixteen miles; camped for the night; grass and water good, it being the sink of the Reese River. June 7, marched from Tenant's ranch in a northerly direction to Warm Springs, passing through Reese River Canyon, which opens out upon a large sagebrush and alkali plain, which continues down to the Humboldt River. Camped at the springs; grass and water good. Distance, twenty-eight miles. June 8, continued the direction, marching from Warm Springs to Hay Ranch, eight miles from Humboldt, and camped; grass and water good. Distance traveled, twenty-eight miles. June 9, marched from Hay Ranch down to the old emigrant road on the south side of the river, ten miles; thence east up the river to Klemp's ranch, six miles, and camped. Water warm and riled. Grass not very good on account of the river being so high; the best of it was covered with water. Distance traveled, sixteen miles. While on the route we were overtaken by the previously mentioned citizen, Klemp, who went with us down to his ranch for purpose of looking after his property and one of his hired man, he concluded the Indians had killed him. After arriving at the ranch and looking around, we found the missing man's pants, boots, and hat a short distance from the house, the pants being stiff with blood and having two ball holes in them, one evidently having passed into the left hip and the other in the small of the back near the buckle on the pants, no doubt causing almost instant death. The body was not to be found, no doubt having been cast into the river.

June 10, marched from Klemp's ranch about southeast up the valley of the Humboldt and camped on the river. Distance traveled, sixteen miles. Grass and water same as at last camp. June 11, at this point, which is some four or five miles below Gravelly Ford, we left the river, taking a blind road that leads in a southeasterly direction to Ruby Valley, passing today over two ranges of mountains, the first being a wide range of rolling hills, the second a very high, steep mountain, the road leading up a long, steep canyon. After passing over this second summit about three miles found a spring to the right of the road; camped; grass and water good. Distance traveled eighteen

miles. June 12, marched about five miles and came into what is called Pine Valley; traveled up the valley about eight miles; crossed it and passed over another range of mountains. After passing this summit about one mile came to a spring to the left of the road; camped; grass good, water scarce and not very good. Distance traveled, twenty miles. June 13, marched about four miles and came into Diamond Mountain Valley. Crossed the valley and passed through Diamond Mountain by what is known as Railroad Canyon, and came into Mound Valley. Camped on a small stream that runs through the same; grass and water good. Distance traveled, fourteen miles. June 14, the team mules (of which I had six) not being shod, and some of them having become foot-sore, remained here one day for rest. June 15, resumed the march; traveled five miles and came to Overland Mail Route, five miles east of Jacob's Wells Station; thence ten miles to this post. Total distance traveled, 168 miles. I will state that we saw no Indians on the route, nor any signs of them, except at the point where the murder was committed. The country traveled over is a barren, desolate waste of sagebrush and alkali plains, producing no vegetation whatever, except in Reese River Valley there are some few good hay ranches, and on the Humboldt River, the valley of which is from five to ten miles wide, the greater portion of it very rich and fertile, and will eventually be of very great value to this State. But very little water on the route except at the points mentioned. No timber whatever but a little scrubby pine on the mountains surrounding Pine Valley.

The above report is most respectfully submitted.

JOHN U. TOLLES,
Second Lieutenant Co. B, First Nevada Infty. Vols., Command. Expedition.

June 13-26, 1865 — Expedition from Dun Glen to Fairbanks Station, Nevada

Report of Richard A. Osmer, Lieutenant, Second Cavalry California Volunteers (Davis 1897, 1: 414-415)

Fairbanks Station, Humboldt County, Nevada,
July 7, 1865.

Lieutenant Colonel CHARLES McDERMIT, Second Cavalry California Volunteers:

COLONEL: In obedience with your instructions contained in letters of June 13, and 26, I have the honor to make the following report of my movements since my departure from Dun Glen: I left that place on the morning of the 3rd instant, and proceeded to this station without delay. Arrived here on the 4th instant. I had learned that the gentleman who keeps this station (Mr. Fairbanks) could both inform and, if necessary, guide me to a camp where some fifty or more hostile Indians, who had stolen much cattle from this vicinity, were camped. I made it my business to inquire from Mr. Fairbanks the particulars regarding this band of Indians, and he informed me of their many hostilities and depredations. Whereupon, on the night of the 5th instant, I took with me Second Lieut. W. G. Overend and sixty- five enlisted men, together with Mr. Fairbanks as the guide, and proceeded to the range of mountains lying east, called the Second East Range, where I understood from the guide he had seen this band and the stolen cattle. Having traveled a distance of over twenty-five miles of a very rough and barren section, I arrived at daybreak to where the camp stood. I took all the necessary measures and precautions to surprise them and make the attack while they were unprepared, and after searching the camp I found, much to my disappointment, that I could find none in it, notwithstanding the place was well fortified and much time and labor must have been given by the Indians to make it so formidable. I then made a thorough scout for them on foot for miles around in the different cliffs and rocky mountains which abound in this section, but with as little success; however, the place bore their tracks in some parts, and I followed them until hidden from view. While returning to this place I dispatched squads of my men in different directions to scout, and on their arrival in camp reported that no Indians could be seen. It is my intention to start from here tomorrow for Summit Spring, situated in Golconda Range, and scout for several days in that section, and give my particular attention to the surrounding country until, in obedience to your orders, I will bring my company to Dun Glen for inspection on the 20th instant. At the earnest solicitation of Mr. Fairbanks and other settlers, I will leave a squad of ten men at this place to protect them against an invasion, which they expect daily.

Hoping I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

R. A. OSMER,
First Lieutenant, Second Cava. Cal. Vols., Commanding Company B.

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