

In re; Collins diary of the Sibley Expedition, 1863, original in yourhands.

Notes by Col Dana Wright, St John N D, who was with the N D Historical Society and who made a study of that Expedition over many years. He notes errata;

July 11-12 Camp Martin, should read Wharton

Wharton

14 Camp Sheariton "

Shear?own. (letter not clear)

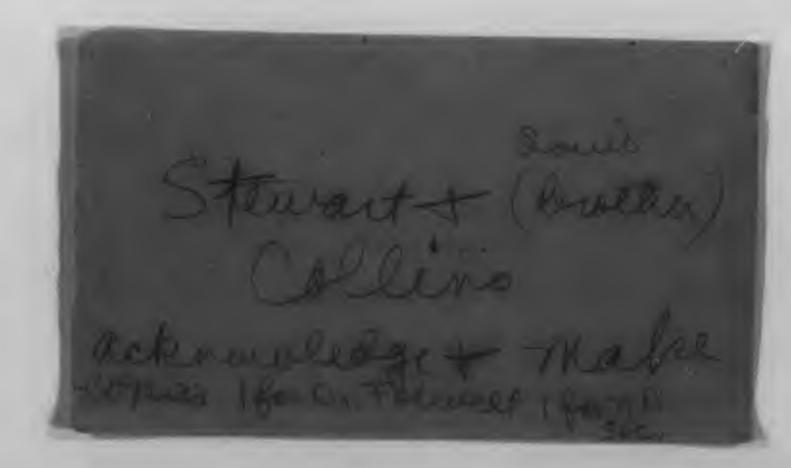
19 Lake Jessie was named by Fremont
for his future wife, Jessie Benton.

21 Camp Ohi should read Olin.

22 Cottin should read Coteau.

Aug 1 Camp Bryton should read Braden.

19 Gen Macy " Marcy.



DEFECTIVE PAGE

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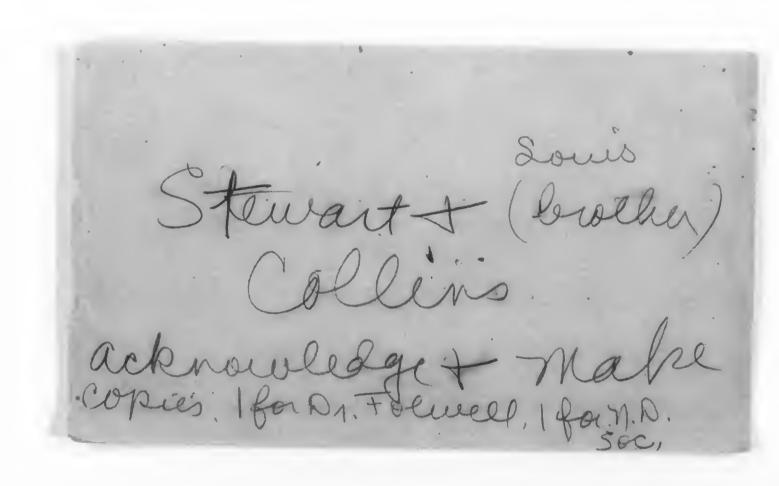
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INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE DEFECTIVE PAGE

7th Min. Infantry 1

Memorandum of Sibleys Expedition 1863

Kept by L[oren] W[arren] C[ollins]

Camp Pope June 16th 1863 The Expedition is to start to day at 4 A.M. consisting of the 6th, 7th, 8 Cos of 10th Infantry, 7 Co's of 1st Minh Mounted Rangers and 3rd Minh Battery besides about 50 Scouts.

Arrived in Camp Crooks — 10 miles at 3 P.M.

Arrived June 17th 2 P.M. at Camp Miller 12 miles from Crooks.

This Camp is near the old battle ground of Wood Lake

June 18th — 4 P M At Camp Baker only 9 miles. very hard

tramp owing to delay in crossing Yellow Medicine River

Laid over the 19th to fix Commissary Stores

Camp McPhail Saturday June 20th Got into Camp at 4 P.M.

distance 18 miles.

Situated four miles above old Camp Release

Sunday 21st. Lay in Camp -- had inspection at 4 P M of Company.

June 22nd. At Camp Ramsey out on the Plains near a Lake but without Wood. distance made 17 miles & men suffered a good deal for lack of water on the route.

Coffee cooked in the morning with barrels from Commissary Dept.

June 23d. Arrived at Camp Averill near Yellow Earth River, a fine stream about size of Vermillion distance 12 miles

June 24th At Camp Marshal on the Whetstone River a small

This signature is found on one of the covers of the little book.

stream emptying into Big Stone Lake near its outlet. Splendid ground for Camp though the tract of land over which we have passed for two days has been poor practic with here and there a slough

Boys caught pickerel in abundance — one weighed twelve lbs.
Distance 15 miles

Camp Jennison June 25th, 1863 Arrived in Camp situated on Swan Lake at 12 M.

We are about half way up B Stone Lake and distant two miles Plenty of fish and frogs

A man in Co L M Rangers shot a Buffalo, of which we had a small piece

A mail arrived in Camp Marshal this morning just as we started the last we get until by way of Abercrombie

Distance travelled to-day about 12 miles over poor land, but it is improving

Camp McLaren June 28th Arrived here on Friday 26th at 4 P.M. Two miles below L Traverse the source of the Red River of the North and on the Minnesota now a small stream perhaps one yard in width 15 miles

June 30. Started from Camp McLaren this A M and made ten miles over poor pracrie

Was taken sick last night and rode entire distance
Mustered for pay after camping

Camp Cook July 1st Arrived here 14 miles at 1 P M

Plenty of Water ponds along the route but no timber to be

seen except a few trees at one point. None near camp. Walked

entire distance though feeling quite unwell. All poor praCrie

Grasshoppers are getting abundant

Camp Parker July 2d. Made 10 miles at 12 1/2 M. Good camping ground near Skunk Lake. fine fish. plenty of ponds in the road

Camp Buel July 3d. 18 miles. very hot day.

Several men gave out from exhaustion

Water poor and at one place 10 miles from Camp Parker said to be poisonous

A fine lake 5 miles back. Poor camping ground here -- bad water and no wood

Grasshoppers in great quantities

Poor Pracrie Land

July 4th Arrived in Camp Hayes at 12 M after a march of 10 miles The rain which had been threatening for several days made its appearance during our march though not in great quantity

This Camp is on the Sheyenne River some Sixty Miles North of West of Abercrombie and on the very ground that a great battle between the Sioux and Sheyenne Indians was fought some forty years ago in which the Sioux were victorious

In the evening spent the time pleasantly at Capt Stevens
Co B 7th in company with Major Bradley, Capts Kennedy, Williston
Gilfillian and Arnold with Lieuts. Betcher Densmore Pratt
Eastman Trader Dr Ames & Lt. Gayle of the 6th.

Visited the 10th Regt by moonlight

Gay manner of celebrating the 4th

July 8th Received our first mail from Abercrombie to day
July 11th 2 P M Arrived at Camp Wharton — fourteen miles
from Hayes. On the Sheyenne River which flows through a fine
valley, good grass & some wood

Evidence of close proximity of Indian Scouts has been discovered to day.

Remain over Sabbath 12th inst.

July 13. Camp Weiser Laid over yesterday (Sunday) at Wharton Our Co. on guard at night, and it was cold outside of tents

Reveille at 2 1/2 A M Arrived at this Camp between several fine Lakes at 10 A.M. Distance eleven miles over pracrie and near the Sheyenne

July 14 Camp Sheardown Started at 4 A. M and reached this point at 12 M a distance of 18 miles Saw on Camp ground an English Hare, said to abound in large numbers here

Dogs unable to catch it. Mules to-day began to fail greatly

Country improving not so dry.

Vegetation increasing

July 15 Arrived at Camp Smith 10 miles at 9 1/2 A M

Near a large lake of poor water, tending to Alkali. No
wood but any quantity of Buffalo Chips which we use as a substitute

Weather pleasant & atmosphere hazy.

July 16 Marched 16 miles crossing the Sheyenne River at a point said by Capt Fisk of 1862 Expedition to be 83 miles from Ft. Abercrombie. Same place that he crossed one year ago the 14th inst.

Had several exciting chases to day between Mounted men and Elk One Fawn captured alive and brought into Camp Wind heavy Rough land and stony for four miles on either side of River

Camp Corning on a large lake of Alkali tendencies.

Camp D Pope July 17, 1863 In Camp on a small lake, 15 miles

at 12 M. No wood. Good water obtained by digging

Country very rough and stony

Camp Atcheson July 19. Sunday. Arrived here yesterday at .10 A M in the midst. of a pelting rain storm

On a beautiful lake 2 miles from L Jessie named so by Niccollet

Distance 10 miles

Here we are to leave several men from each Co. and two full Co's from each Regt, while the balance push forward at the rate of 20 miles a day until Indians are overtaken

News just reached us of surrender of Vicksburg on 4th July, causing great joy in Camp

C. Forbes 20th July Distance 20 miles nearly West over smooth Pracrie

No wood & poor water

Camp of Red River half breeds within two miles Came in Camp to night some two hundred mounted on ponies bringing Buffalo Robes and Moccasins

July 21st. Camp Olin Made ten miles camping on James River

Some little rain to-day

Mail reached us to night bringing two letters for me one from Kuster and one from Crosby.

July 22d 1 P.M. Camp Kimball Eighteen miles made over level practie in sight of the Coteau near which we camped at one P.M. Strong north wind prevailing No wood but fine soft water Good lake 9 miles back

Indian Scout captured near Camp by some of our men

Camp Grant July 23 Marched 20 miles nearly South over the

Coteau No water for 12 miles Camped near a large lake of

poor water

Sulphur Springs

. .

Country rough and very stony

Camp Whitney 3 P.M. July 25th On yesterday left Camp Grant and after marching 15 miles a halt was ordered for rest at a lake While halting Scouts reported the presence of a large body of Indians and of their Camp in close proximity Our Regt being in lead was ordered to keep well to the front prepared to deploy as skirmishers

Proper disposition was made but soon an order was made to pitch camp and entrench. Indians could be seen all around on hills.

While entrenching a small party of whites that had been talking with Indians on a hill in plain sight of Camp were fired at and Dr Weiser of the Cavalry killed and Stevens a Scout wounded Our Regt was deployed as skirmishers and drove the enemy from hill to hill for four or five miles. A halt was made for a few minutes and the chase then resumed. Col McPhail with two Battalions of Cavalry and a Section of Artillery went forward and drove them for a long distance compelling them to drop everything almost We pushed ahead ten

miles over road strewn with robes furs cooking utensils & partly dried meat At dusk halted and bivouaced on the plain covering ourselves with robes .

At ten the Cavalry returned when we started for our Camp supposed to be distant 15 miles Arrived soon after daylight terribly fatigued and worn out

The fight was practically a defeat as we lost Dr Weiser

Lt Freeman of the Cavalry who was hunting Buffalo with Geo

Brackett and two Privates. Brackett was wounded and is supposed to be dead

This morning at eleven tents were struck and we marched five miles to this point

The Cavalry claim to have done good service while pursuing the Indians Most of our men, myself included were in shirt sleeves & suffered greatly from cold hunger and thirst

Camp Pfender July 26, Sunday To day we marched at 5 A M following in the trail and at 12 M having arrived at our place of bivouac, night before last Scouts reported large numbers of the enemy near us

Precaution was taken and we advanced slowly to a Lake only a Short distance when Indians showed themselves on the hill tops Cavalry went forward supporting part of the 6th deployed as skirmishers

Co B of the 7th also deployed supported by the balance of the right wing Scouts then reported the withdrawal of the foe and the Infantry were withdrawn and a section of Artillery sent forward About 3 P.M. a small party made a dash on some of our

teams but were repulsed by Cavalry in good style. Cavalry brought in five scalps and a scout two. One man mortally wounded belonging to Co L of Rangers Two ponies captured one evidently belonging to a prominent man.

Distance made to day 12 miles

Man belonging to Rangers wounded has since died

Camp Schonneman July 27 Marched 20 miles on the trail of the Indians. A few scouts have been seen on the hills watching our movements Camp on a small lake.

July 28 Camp Stees On a small stream, said to be Apple River of good water with a little wood, the first seen since leaving Atcheson. This morning our train was attacked as we left camp and a brisk skirmish followed in which our Regt participated deployed as skirmishers Several Indians were killed with no loss to ourselves

About noon our scouts captured an Indian by running him down on the Plain. He claims to be a Teton and is a very young man

To night as we were going into Camp the Cavalry guarding the rear of our train killed an Indian and captured his pony.

On guard

Distance 18 miles

Camp Slaughter July 29. One mile from the Missouri River.

As we approached the body of wood and underbrush skirting the River it became apparent that the enemy had made a cross-ing as great numbers could be seen on the bluffs opposite

Sixth Regt skirmished through and rushed the banks but were fired upon by Indians concealed in the willows across the

river.

A retreat finally ordered to a point on Apple River nearly four miles below and a Camp selected

After dark guns were fired and rockets sent out to attract the attention of Lt Beaver A D C and a man of Co K. 6th who are not in Camp and supposed to be lost

A midnight fire and alarm of the pickets brought out at 1 P M the whole force under arms After lying on the guard line for some time our Regt. except our Co. were sent to Camp Our Co deployed and laid down on the guard line remaining there until morning

Distance 15 miles

Camp Slaughter July 30th 1863 To-day a detachment under Col. Crooks consisting of 3 Co's of Inf. from each Regt. 1 Co. of Cavalry and one Section of Artillery were sent down into the woods to find the bodies of Lt. Beaver and Private N Miller of Co K. 6th Regt and to destroy the property left by the Indians in their flight across the Missouri

Lt Beaver was found dead lying near his horse also killed He had evidently lost the trail and fell into an ambush was not scalped but had his whiskers with the skin of his face taken off

Everything taken of from himself and horse except his shirt & drawers. Miller was found near him entirely naked

A great number of wagons were destroyed estimated at one hundred

July 31st 1863 To-day we remain in Camp and at ten oclock

A M the funeral of Lt Beaver took place

He was buried with Masonic honors with Capts Grant 6th,

Wilson & Rubles of Rangers Ambler & Hackett of the 10th and Capt [all]
Williston and myself of the 7th with Q M Carver of the 6th P B[earers]

The grave was at the angle of the plateau of pracrie at the junction of Apple or Washtey River and the Missouri made due East and West and all trace obliterated by digging a rifle pitnear it throwing the embankment over it

At night after being asleep the Regt was called out with the others and placed in position to repel a night attack which was expected but "failed to connect" except that a small party mounted, poured a volley into the camp and were vigorously replied to by the left wing of the 10 Only one mule killed though the firing caused the beef cattle to stampede but were soon got in coral again

Camp Brayten August 1, 1863 10 miles in our journey home to-day

Camped near Apple River, poor water.

Have followed almost our old route thus far.

Find by calculation that the distance to the Missouri from Pope by our route is 424 miles, adding 30 made by us in chasing the enemy after the Big Hills fight makes distance marched, 454 miles

Camp Banks Sunday Aug 2, 1863 Marched 18 miles Parallel to and distant from our former trail about two miles

Camped on a small rush lake On guard to-night
Very warm day

Camp Kennedy Aug 3. 15 miles over rough stony pracrie
Camped near an Alkali Lake but found some good springs
This morning Chaska a scout, the man that saved George

Spenser from massacre last fall and was also with Lt Freeman at the time of his death, died of Apoplexy and was buried at Camp Banks He was a full blooded Sioux Indian

Camp Williston Aug. 4. 18 miles to-day over very fair pracrie

We struck our old trail at Camp Sibley five miles back from here and have followed it since Are camped between two fine lakes

Camp Gilfillan Aug 6. Laid over yesterday at Williston and at 10 A M received a mail and the news of the return of Brackett to Atcheson

Marched 17 miles to-day leaving our old trail to the left and camped near a poor lake but good grass

Camp Hall Aug 7 My Birthday, and I celebrated by buying a pony for Louis

Marched 14 miles and struck our old trail at our camping ground which is on a fine lake about ten miles from James River On guard to-night A little rainy

Three Indians & Seven Squaws brought in as prisoners to-

Camp Carter Aug 8. 1863 12 miles to day on new ground leaving our old track off to the right, crossing the James River some five miles below our former ford

Are now camped in sight of old trail

Camp Atcheson Aug 10th Arrived here 23 miles from Carter this P M at 4 oclock Found everything as we left except an addition in the shape of Little Crows son who was captured by a detachment of men sent from this Camp up to Devils Lake

He is a young man apparently not over 19 years of age

Camp Burt Aug 12th Laid over yesterday and to-day marched 17 miles on our old trail Camped near a fine Lake

Camp Sibley Aug 13th 16 miles to-day fording the Sheyenne at Fisk's crossing, the same place that we crossed at on our upward trip

Camped 3 miles from the river, poor water and scarcity of grass A good camping ground on this side of and near the river Camp Arnold Aug 14th 13 miles to-day following nearly in Fisks old trail towards the Fort

Very good lake water Mail arrived this evening

Camp Stevens Aug. 15th 12 miles over level pracrie camping

near a small lake Poor water but good grass

Camp Ambler Aug 18th 1863 Laid over Sunday 16th inst. at Stevens and on yesterday marched 17 miles to this Camp which is on a fine stream called Maple River Fine level practic and wood We here find an abundance of Cherries and Plums

Lay over to-day in order to make a long march to-morrow
Yesterday was one of our most severe days on men and mules,
it being very hot and no water to be found from Camp to Camp

Camp Chase Aug 19th On Sheyenne River at one of Fisks crossings

Made 17 miles to-day over a perfectly level & beautiful pracrie rich in vegetation

On our arrival in camp found Brig Gen Marcy Major Camp and Capt Carling here from Abercrombie

A mail also arrived in the afternoon.

Camp Edgerton Aug 20th 4 miles to-day crossing the Sheyenne At 7 A M a review of our Brigade was held by Col. Marcy

concluding at 11 oclock

Camp Hackett Aug 21st 16 miles to day arriving and camping near Ft Abercrombie

The country over which we have passed to-day is very level

prarie with fine grass Crossed Wild Rice Creek four miles back.

th

Camp Phelps Aug. 25 Left Ft Abercrombie this morning for

Snelling and marched ten miles

Camp White Aug 26th Marched 18 1/2 miles to-day crossing the Otter Tail and camping at Old Crossing

Fine level prarie with some timber

Camp Sullivan ACug 27th 15 miles to-day over a fine Prarie country with little wood

We follow the old Red River trail and camp near some large lakes of fine water

Camp Heath Aug 28th Marched 15 miles over a fine prarie country with plenty of wood and water

Crossed and camped on the Pomme Du Terre River where in the evening we were visited by Capt McCarty and Asst. Surgeon Thurston th of the 8 Regt who are stationed at the Pomme Du Terre post distant some 8 miles from our Camp

Camp O Connor Aug 29th 13 miles to-day camping near Elk Lake, a fine large body of water

Laid over at this camp Sunday 30 th inst

In the forenoon Adjt Baden and myself rode out some seven miles in search of Plums and in hopes of shooting some game with which this country abounds

Found a section post marked Town 128 W N of Range 40.

Camp Jones Aug 31st. 1863; 16 miles over a rough prarie with wood and water. Muster after arriving in Camp

Camp Beever Sept 1st 16 1/2 miles to-day over fine rolling pracrie with wood and water

Camped near a town-site called Westport Splendid camping ground

On guard at night and found it chilly

Ruble Camp Near Sauk Centre Marched Sept 2d 15 miles

Wilson Camp Sept 4th Marched 18 miles on South side of Sauk River

Camp Austin Sept 5th At Richmond 15 miles Lay over to-morrow Sunday

Camp Taylor Sept 7th 19 miles from Richmond. In sight of and 3 miles distant from St Cloud

Sept 8. Camp Daniels Crossed the Mississippi to day and marched 10 miles

Camp Anderson Sept 9 Marched 22 miles camping at Big Lake

[?]
Camp Davy Sept 10th 19 miles arriving and camping 2

miles above Anoka

Camp Swift Marched 15 miles arriving four miles above St Anthony Sept. 11th

Arrived at Snelling 12th inst at noon marching 13 miles

P Jenkins Dr to 4 6/16 1bs Pork 4 16 Nelson Dr to hauling wheat to 42 bushels 6.30 3 1/4 Days work Thrsing 1.50 4 90 1 3/4 Day work Plowing 2 60 Herding sheep 23 heads 1 40 Sheering sheep sheep 10 5 00

Allen H Att

Allen H. Atwater

Oak Grove

Wis

June

4 Muldron brought 36 sheep

14 Giles & Dumel

25 123 sheep

Watts sheep 57

Smith 4

Fuller 12

30 May Watts left 16 sheep

Barbary Fir No 7
Scotch Pine 2

3
Europe Lurch 8
Jumper 6
Clemetes 9
Honey Suckle 4

Cornus

Liniment

2 os oil

2 " olive oil

2 " Gum Camphor

2 " Spt Turpentine

1 " oil Ceder

1 "

1/2 " Gum Mysh

1 " Hartshorn

1 Pt alchohol

10 yds for at Nillson, 25 pr yd

3 or 4 Linen Hkerchifs

& Tea

Salratus, Coffee

Fish - Dr Apples

Oysters --

Tea Pot

F Mayhern 1st

K Houg Capt

H Pratt 1st

C Bohrer 1st.

A ... Rice 1st -- Stevens Capt

Collins 1st

B Marsh 1st -- Betcher Capt

G Densmore 1st

N Kasel -- 1

Hostford -- 1

Atkinsen-- 1111

Wm Johnsen -- 111

Buchman-- 1

Newell -- 1

Hendersen - 111

Harrison -- 111

Wilson -- 1

Countryman - 1

Chas Johnson -- 1

Moulton -- 1
Mess
July 20th

5 1/2 Beef 5

a pr of Shoes

Aug 2

The undersigned line Off of your Regt have just learned with sincere regret that 2d Asst Surgeon Ames has tendered his resignation and respectfully urge that the same be disapproved by you In making this request we state that it is the universal feeling of both off. & men that since the dis & departure of the Dr Finch[?] that A presence of Dr A is indispensable

Nillson Cr
By threshing
185 bushels
wheat

Dr to three 1/4

days work thrshing at

\$1.50 pr Day -- 4.90

Dr to 1 3/4 Days

work plowing 1.25

pr Day 2.36