

67 thomson x x x -

68

lop made there. the fort was built of sod. not a solid (?) material

Scharman 6/22. next 2 days. dried bricks. 3 x 6 x 12 inches. & good of new guns. immense platform. Thickly cov. w/ grass. - ash cone of some fresh kind to which my wife longed. - in the most acc. & convenient way he kept me up on a side on the Qm Dept. where I obtained 15 lbs per barrel vs cheaply

u.s. Coles, C. hamstrung horses. - temp stockade. Stuart 6/17. repair saddles & overhaul packs. Clothing Ltd to 30th & weighed. 6/19 went to the fort to sell a gun. Got of me: more & got some sugar from men. Gen Co. bought some flour from the Govt stores at \$2. - & hatched ponds. Lt. Stanbury train 1/2 below me

John 49/ an ^{letter} 5/23 I help up has no accident. road literally filled w/ 2 wks travel either way & the only to w/ us is to get out of the way or pass others. The road is so plain & no trav. the 72 manure & waste ^{road} at least 10,000 on the way. 2000 ahead

Wesley 49/ 6/19 F + other bldgs. estimate of about, or sun-burnt bricks, w/ 1 keep. by no innigo ever above the F. & also a co. of U.S. Cavalry. - the date 5400 wagons. & 3 pack trains

d? Watson 49/ 10 m before we reached the P we p. FK; 200 soldiers of the rifle regiment there. bowl of Oregon a. 5/20

Maltby 49/ 5/24 (letter). 200 team & parcel us, supply 3000 behind. - we constantly pass mule teams ch left st of top. w/ 100

Getton 49/ 5/24. similar can mine in operation (acc) Seale 6/5. stands for slight eminence, nearly 100 ft & is at present of 200 soldiers

Woodward 5/16. Stopped about - Horn there is nothing that is worthy of particular notice. There is 3 tolerable frame houses. in Rest in brief up roads it is so situated nearly opp to head of

Drake 5/14. Officer grey horse. Colonel interpreter. Soldier rescue a P. boy. - winter snows

? 5/21. near F many. Bldg all made of mud or turf & thatched. Prep in progress of erecting them - a to outlet. man. Coal overhauled & repacked in by don of Calips here. (some to pack) in mules.

John 49					
87	Beigan - Byrley	5/20			
47	Wymen - war	5/17			
49	✓	✓	5/22		
50	✓	✓	5/18		
54	✓	✓	6/19		

5/23

> Dalano 49/18 nothing but a cluster of adobe, low, one story bldgs, suff. f 2 Cos of soldiers, who were sta. there as a check upon the Indians, but preps were made to erect a horse power sawmill, and to enclose the barracks within a wall . . . half a mile f the river
an emigrant trail here f shooting one of his comrades. a man offered a gross insult to his wife let to prove his honor he shot the scoundrel down . . . back to the Fort, honorably acquitted

? > Clark 49/12 - sit level flat prairie a few hundred yards f river

> Woolly May 23/ - Jan FK " cold & windy - full - pull off apple tree, back to FK

? > Bensall 5/23/ - Morgan & Post tried, put out over family Dodge - Camp - p. Fort children c. 3 where we found a gr. many emigrants; also some 50 goat wagons w/ troops of Fort Hall . . . a few odd houses, a total of 50, altho they are bldg on a diff scale

X > Johnston 49 5/15/ when exp heard G1 . . . Capt B, with celebrity 10 cabins of adobe . . . 3 large pounds . . . well stocked w/ goods . . . syrup not abn. com but toothsome . . . letters young mail waiters, such sights rare of late . . . Paucity see w/ the Stamp

(> Clark 38F 49 5/26/ Coupled over wagon started, Dubois dep. I disposed of my books. Got some to Capt McLane + Major Roubt, U.S. Army

> Gould 49: 6/16/ - G1 again us, 20 m, wood only on island - FK see 3 Cos - bldgs of turf except 1 frame ho, intended as a hospital - public house kept 3 - Mormon
6/17 - what's sacred about it? delay repair wheel

> Lewis 5/29/ - c. in a bean spot . . . in our front stands F Lamey Pan east, hi bluffs - s . . . to west a broad plain . . . den a small boundary over to broad open plain

> Evans 5/23/ - wagon (Wright?) w/ wgs, sold flour & bacon to Linton a load . . . Capt Gray bot 1 yoke oxen . . . w/ pitch 500k our load, still too heavy

> Castles 6/4/ - p. FK may 100c - some Es lvg wgs there w/ intent of passing time while others lightning stack of prairie sell for all price under first cut, some throwing it away - The plains . . . 4,000 + wgs registered . . . estate but a short time . . . bldg of trap kind . . . cut out one - sq blocks & put up like stone, no planes except doors + windows shutters heat f m. riv, etc . . . circular saw 58 in - planing com
preparation

XX

- Breyfogle 5/8/ - apparatus and letters - officers eggs to send mail to the states in morning - on 7 or 8 m

- Ashley 5/12/ - I visited - letters writing - wgs shortened - Saedians take of Comanches a Pawnee boy prisoner

- Lumbury 5/23 - 5 m to into New Fort Kearny - pro. store, Bakery, etc. - This was strange things in a wilderness - but few bldgs as yet erected - They of adobe, & scarcely res. civ. life - dist 200 m west FK (or 229 1/2?) (w a many a little better time than I anticipated)

65 ^{4/3} X - Howe X - letter - Anon man Capt Davis party, Rockbury, Mass - more cloth - to go at FK than would fill the logst store Boston

X - Wale (49) 5/24/ no of rudely constr bldgs of sods - Furps of the frame, laid up w/ the mane of lays bricks, roofs of same material. Glass windows & ve decent-looking doors, the jr. thy dem. civ - fresh faced w/ sod - Store, bs & wgs shop - gr. low & muddy, team stall in sight of FK; double of 1 1/2 time - old wgs of 1/4

128 X - Staples 6/16/ - turf. w/ the acceptance of one frame bld under erection - 2 cos inf 1 of dragons - Boards bld - Stop here acc Sunday - prayers to Mr. Crist & Sweetser, & hymns sung

- Bullin 5/24/ - plain straw w/ B... formerly Fort C - few adobe bldgs & quarters of the troops - about to be improved - Capt Ross commands here - rain - bad roads - sublimic storms, lean to sleep anywhere

- Chamberlain 49/ 6/2 - c m FK plain cord w/ wgs cattle man wme & chest - 6/3 - went to Fort Lecky thru w/ Lieut Woodbury - but with slept in the open air, w/ no poles.

- Lott 6/6/ - repaired wheel, went to the fort, looked around - not a good spot for a fort - Major Bowensville in command

X - Wells 5/27/ Fine Chieft, Pawnee territory - Letter

- Tatal 5/21/ Fort Chieft - 10 mi of upper end of the Island. The bldgs a now all built of sod w/ beams placed on top then willow brush & sod on top of its covering & the earth / floor. They a now add plank and bark to aid in turning the rain, but are preparing to put up better bldgs, but there is no rock near & cottonwood the only timber on the Island

- Hixon 5/20/ letter went E FK - 6 mi - 1000 ft mountain of Pawnee - remodel bldgs - will get only 2 c of Bacon at the fort & the same / flour - 800 team ahead

5/25 - Wingpatent 49/ at the head of Col Fort Chieft is dit. at present it is but a poor looking place, there a sev houses or huts built of frame sods. - one store, a bs shop & a few drunk & lazy soldiers

- Starr 49/ Pawnee Fort Chieft which is just established (5/17), there is no preparing fort built yet but they & a circle saw many w at a sawy out lumber -

- Peach 5/18 - g. Fort Chieft at 10 o'clock today

5/31

Shawnee 49 / I then got by the fort to see on floor had heard
 were just 61. per sack & all the fort costs of some 40 turf less
 some look very neat 1 store 1 blk shop sold tents & saw some
 ladies in a house went to see them they were very sociable ---
 There is a small crooked creek bet the Plate & the Bluffs 20 hrs long
Eastern 49 / ... ab. 2 o'clock we came (6/9) in view Fort, & ab. 11 o'clock halted
 at 2 m below it. I had never seen a Fort before & esp. I had a g.
 deal of curiosity to see this one. I was gr. disap. w/ its app. It is
 a low square block, const. of turf of the prairie. It is ab 200' sq. &
 10' hi. & its walls are at 3' thick. It is - the base of the P. It is true
 there is no comm. pos. for it this defence cld. be cannonaded, even w/ a
 gun of heaviest calibre, but it does seem to me - exceed un military
 position. With a heavy day 24 pounders it might be blown to atoms
 in a few moments. all the outbldg. a const. of the same material
 keep the hospital, ch. in frame. There is a store, ls & mechanic
 shop here, also an upholsterer & a tailor. It is a nasty
 dirty looking hole & the very air breathe of prostitution. They & 2
 since pits in the gr. here some 3 or 4' of water. I had a long
 evens w/ Col. Bonville the CO of the fort. He said in the war
 5000 wgs ahead of us as it would be seen. But he said
 we were in plenty time & had no use to be dinc & adv. by all
 means not to abandon the usual trad route. said we had suff.
 gun at least until we got to Fort Hall. at ch place it is
 time enough to pack. ... remain to give all ops to write to the
 frs & sweet hearts

Bellevue 49 / Fort Chiles, on a bend of the river, & built of unburnt
 mud bricks, frs. but a sorry app. Here was sta 2 cos of mtd rifle. a
 made the app of a hacienda in Mexico - Carpenter & B's were busy
 eng. in getting out timbers & making benches, etc for a new & tasteful
 fort. ch. it is the intention of the Govt to creek the com. summer. we got
 500 lb flour at the fort. & sev other articles that we needed / the sutler
 It will not be a bean spot. But it is not so now (3/9)

d. Young 49 / The F is a wide estimate 2000 lbs, 1 store & a garnish
 of 3 cos. One team of troops are this day. Cholen. & small fort & fort

Scott 49 / there is an Am. fort a few m. after we came to the Plate.
 Called Kearney where there is some soldiers sta. there were 3 divs of
 dragoons 88 to Oregon, about 800 w/ 200 wagons

Chapman 49 / fort Chiles. stopped 1/2 day & all night. had a very

5/24

LB

72 Wynne - ms 49 For home to Fort C, we had small, narrow
richness, w/ contrary teams

76 Fanchild 49 ... we p. For child - ... to take
a horse with, all the horse & bones of small one
story high. Col. Bonnell is in command we intend to
stop near there but word with who 100 far off.

55
62

Cross 49 X X X

Porter 49 X X X

45
27
30
190

Wathnis, History History X X X

Stansbury 49 6/19 X X X

Daniel 6/14 X X

Horton 49 5/24 limit of adobe walls of some

Boyle 49 5/14 X X X

Bosco 49 5/13 For Charles

Daugherty 49 sutler X X X

304

Fanham 49 X X

57 Harker 49 X X

Marshall (Newman) 49 5/24 ... all bldg. has a structure
of mud, except a saw-mill driven 5 12 miles; there is a
frame bldg - frame of iron & Gov. this part - 2200 - one!

445

Kearney 49 5/22 above man we p. F Childs (now
Fort Kearney) the bldg of the bones of oak or turf cut up
spoke into blocks of about 1' square. the F stack all
1/2 m of the river but for the low letter land

Deegan 5/14 X X

Cosar 5/12 X X

Jayson 6/6 X X

Hunter 2 X X

Wheeler 6/1 as we passed the fort many of us
left letters for home ... a few m above the F we passed
The Oregon or Rifle Regiment, Col. Loring, and

Wheeler 49 5/22 X X X

Robinson 5/20 For Charles

Love 49 For Childs

Bush 49 X X

Caldwell 49 5/28 the F is rather a hard-look
place

Hachmy - Page 49

Gilbo X X

- Swain letters 6/14 →

Trowbridge 5/14 See →

Gray 5/24 - p. Fk, said to be 350 - delay, on this part is built of mud & logs & looks as if a g. rain would wash it away

John. Joseph 5/22 →

Dr Lord 6/7 →

Wagner, Wm 6/7 →

Parker, Chas 5/30 Fort Henry is a poor looking pl. Now all made of sod they are now built a frame for the troops here are prep. to start of winter - they are fine looking sort of men, esp the officers

Mulvan, John T. 5/18 letter of Ft. Childs, 300

m. in the fort +

Atkins 5/29 St Co's reached Fk at 9. This F looks a few bldg built of sod cut & laid up like stone work. Some amount of same. wood scarce has to be brought from 61

Hunter 5/16 Fort Charles

Brown 5/24 x Bldg v - another stone

Brown 5 9 x x x

298

> Knop 50/32 X X

> Howe 50/35 Capt & Dr May & Lt Chilton Com 1st Dragons -
Battle w/ Panacas fall before on Little Blue?
Skirmish w/ Panacas on island 2 mi f- The Post -
road lined w/ white wagons - old Jefferson, negro
w/ Serpie, sent to Panacas to come - f talk -
Some refuse to come in - Chaymas doing good!

Is

E
Camp

> Barnett 50/9 5/4 - n by allowed to encamp within 1 m of the
grass by removal of public animals, we passed on a couple of
m + one f the day, turn out animals, with horse & air thin

> Fount 50/ Panel FK - wrote to by day!

Is

> Keller 50/9 Provs... spray late, no grass... Panacas
scarce and cholera last yr. - dirty houses

> Pign 50/8 Rear FK thru heavy sand... 5/4... all
bldgs but 2 are adobe... soldiers in mud huts, officers in
frame bldg... flour at \$4.50 hundred

f bldg
pines

> Street 50/ Curdie X X

> Can 50/40 meet Major Sterling Price, go across the plains.
looking for a blacksmith

> Evans 50/ 5/28... for ho. of road... flour \$30, per hundred,
eggs \$8, day

pines

> Wool 6/3/ Mrs FK... fat stands in open plain... In of his
a bucket of earth, a other of planks, & for the whole I could
it a nuisance - just like some of the men sta there

f bldg
with pine
NS

> Hilger 50/ (NS) Boys wait across to send letters

> Sawyer 50/ - send letters - Banquets are mere
mud houses, there a 2 or 3 repasa from his.

bldg

> NO Cagwin 5/23/ - an FK, at head of twenty mile island
in the Platte R. we made a tarry here of an hour or
more waity back to find we had left, etc

E/GI

> Hagelstein 5/27/ panel thru FK (after Charlston) where I
mailed a letter to St Louis to my wife

> Little 50/ Sir - Platte opp to G.I. a few miles below
the head of the island. Locates a sickly one... wet marshes
magnificent by the bushel, altho ve uninteresting (1st!)

Loc
5/25/27
→

> Scheller 50 5/26/ F Kemey, NEAR the fort, a block w/ 10 soldiers
we waited a day to dry out clothing & food

> Thomason 50/ Fort Caney is a beautiful situation the house
w/ exception of 2 or 3 is adobe houses every thing looks very
clean & neat we camped ab. 1 m to left road... opp of where
we camp to night the river is at least one mile wide...
& no idea how many wgs past the fort

bldg
app

← Stone 50 / This fort built mostly of turf cut into squares pieces of abt 2 feet & piled up like brick. the roof of them has, the fire being made but a few hours, a cov part of logs & poles & the sodded w/ turf. there is 3 pretty good frame house of officers. the rest of the bldg look like piles of mud. (removing cholera & small pox unproved).

Bldg

← Carr 50 / - - plenty of premature Es (See) - - they v offered as much as \$400 for flour at Ft. but the officer said he could not spare any, as the prov. to had not an, ... Over 2000 lbs of p. Ft. left us, & most of them had not 100 lb flour to a wgt. they are more pushing a hope of reaching Sh, but the grain is very short, doubtful they'll live to get there.

Es
Provs

← Wilson 5/24 / 6 m above near FC - 25 to Plum C 24 m - to Frog Pond 17 m - to Cottonwood Grove 25 - Camp C 25 - - Buffalo pond 25 - SF PR 25 - Ground SF P 10'C

To
CC

← Young 50 / 5/18 p. Ft. King

Loc

← McBride 50 / 5/16 - sit. head G1 - 300 - S of roadometer. a

Bldg

most of bldg cotner thick frame sods laid up like brick. they make warm & dry but dark habitations. - sev frame bldg in course of cotner. - no walls, pilasters or ramparts as the bldg - most like a tp. - 200 soldiers here & many other hands & retainers in the service of the fort. they had to draw all their lumber & bldg mats of the frontier except timber - G1 - not yet off of st greenery in the garden - found a few lbs of jumbled pork. - Ft. Montaneros pass

Provs

← Montgomery 50 / 5/31 am night 6/1 we lay by the am, & a rain. went to the fort, 2 of prime bldg of wood, others of unburnt brick & frame sod. But few soldiers sta here, by head B seen here last winter opposed & vbr 15,000 in sight at one time 6/2 Remant at fort all the day, train of Es were pass at 6/3 left c, to rain, cplot drenchd Gargas 5/11 / .. departat letters

B

58

← Tompkins / ~~5/11~~

Bldg

← Walcott 50 / 5/30 - 4 g. frame bldg in prison of area - turf built - isolated, dreary-looking spot - com say 5,000 lbs are ahead of us - ox teams vbrn passy of 4 or 5 days only

Loc

← Ch Smith 50 / 5/11 ... sev plain-looking bldg, mostly of unburnt brick & turf, & some turfs, tho the bldg has a wood. 150 soldiers sta here ... but 900 lbs vbr reported as vsp. the spring. 100 m

Bldg

Soldiers

← McClellan 5/3 / - - Wood 1 m } Ft, hopes to see some signs of civ. the fort is built - a level frame, material used in chiefly unburnt turf & wood. - close to head G1, gun of 2 lbs reporting & some shynous - po. registers, 300 lbs - det to lay over here, show & put on clean shirts. on blank seen to grow faster. Tho the grain - frames. - 2 byards quietly grazed w/ cattle of fort & they are causing sm 9. 48

Es

X

E
 2) Dans 50 / Com order in E to p. with one of the officers,
 when clerk reg 20. names, his for resten & distribute
Frank 50 →
 107-
 110
 Wynn - Mr 5/21 5/26
 - Mrs 5/29

6
 provs
Moore /
 Shepard 5/19 - protest on letters - mail lvs - 21st of
 the state. To an dried peach & loaf sugar for a few
 more - india article. viz: flour - 175# - 2, 200-ugs
 p. FK. Exp. us. - G. more prog. & know they r = price
 cd. & gr. is improve

Loc
Bartholomew 50 5/31 Pa F Carney - Took work -
 Platte river - San team - other side. - 320 - L
 Stg. - fine lucky place.

XXV
 301
 Campree. J 5/27 F Carney
Daughey 50's # Is or FK X + X
 Buffalo & antelope hunt.

Fresh 5/31 F Carney. left letter. This is a
 new E man when Fur chills was, + 1 hand B.1, 425
 in 5/

Mason 5/25 lvs new F Carney 26 Saltooth lay
 over. Saw the troops Dille

Spencer G. J. Carney
Greenlee ? 50 / See St J + X

Woodward 5/16 / See 49
Gayland 5/20 / Fur Henry

/6/1

Reuben Knox ~~40~~. . I write in my wg sitg on the old trunk you packed so snugly for me but ch we shall v to lv behind us as we must lighten r load ev pos way. . V thro wn away r 2 largr and flat irons and many other articls and shall ~~v~~ lv the two lrgr wgs here as we get no offer for them, but about 1/6 otheir cost. . Shall put 8 mules to the other wagons, 9 in nu, and ride abo t a dozen others. . At best amny v to walk over half the way, and sm fm choice more. . Those who take hold freely to assist in getg out of dffics and walk of portion of each day appear much m robust than ~~the~~ others too lazy to do either. . Mr W rep of a perfect drone, too lazy to rk but not to eat. . Nv new o/ a set of men w such appets, but hope the provs l hold out. . There is nothing to be had here if needd About 30,000 h passed already this side oth rv, nad prob 1/4 as many on NS. While resting here yesterday prob 1000 wgs passed and ve likely as many will pass today as there is one ctinual stream ever in sight. .

252

/medical conditions . . smallpox. . Rx for hair tonic

. . we v to ford over herein order to get wood as there is not a tre on this side fo 20 mi t at I know of, and but here and there a scatrg one on the other side

~~108~~
106

Wyman Great Platte, 300 mi fm St. Josephn, May 29, . . Weekly Mo Stsmn 6/12/50. . av. 25 mi p day, a most extraord dr f oxen. . fine health gen, tho many long sour faces, taking the retrograde march

ditto, Ft. K 5/21, Observer, Mo. Rep. 6/15/50. . ~~v/learned fm pm that up to this date 5,000 wgs v p this place~~. . wgs 2754, av 4½ men, total 76 ladies. . a nu of persons, set fire tothe prairie "to seei burn", nv dreamg oth injury they r inflictg pn those cmg behind them. . Gr deal of retribution in stre in calif

108

ditto, FK, May 26, Weekly Mo Stsmn 6/12/50. . tothe 24th 3462 wgs avg 4½. . if a man doeshis duty on this trip, he is kept asbusy as a whig ed nd has l time towrite

ditto, FK 5/29, ditto 6/21. . learn fm thePM that todate 5,000 wgs. . ev form of trans imag. . some afoot w pack on their backs,; some w carts; sm w drays, one horse hitched bf another;. . p 2 fellow yest. . outfit l old whit e cos. . ~~na~~ packed, and furnishing subsistence . Most conve outfit I had yet seen

> Route 51-54 Passed Fort K this am & after a short drive encamped. Soldiers consider life very monotonous

> ~~Unit 50-53~~

> Lower 51/54 major motor one side in ambulances -
Capt Wharton, 6th Inf. Comm.

> Sexton, LF 125 ^{5/29} There are 2 or 3 fine bldgs, one for the captain, another for the teacher & doctor, and one for the imperial officers. The soldiers barracks are turf, sod & all, most miserable looking place. Fort Charles, ... or near Ft Fury 8 miles up

Bldg

to Cross

> Clara, Ino H 52/18+ ^{5/26} sea of verdure ... opp. of old farm house ... good land wasted ... 63 shops. Do it yourself - mail - some crossing just above - Largo Violini

Bldg

Es Cross

> Shore 52

> Dalton 52 beam sit. dry plain on bottom land ... 1 m of river ... bottom 5 or 6 in wide ... saw heap - dry & good bldgs, & several others of sod ... well of 8-10' of mud equal cold water ... price after tax 75 soldiers ^{5/31}

Loc

Bldg

> Richardson 52 ... but few & has here ... most story hse & built of stone ^{5/28} ... for 1,000 £ of lady & daughter

> Richardson, C 52 ^{5/27} quite a settlement, some quite a military appearance ... six good looking frame houses, one most a hse of wood (?) & platform of mud outside ... pool a excellent well of water etc seemed the most like civ of anything we had seen on the road ... no of wgs to 5/27 is 2450, stock 24 thousand + 25, persons 9075

well

Cross

^{5/28} ... just above, 80 may passing ... 61 40 m long & looks quite romantic

> Farris B 52 / Comd Capt Wharton, a gent & highly intell offc - we rec'd 4 letters of him & his acc lady - his relatives

> Farris Mrs 52 - no ladies: they live not much better than pigs - speak Becheln & German of more - we seemed favour approach to total - several notes of promising battlements, etc; the fortress looked like a ... letter written to Ft K

> Dunway 52 / 2 respice bldgs - 8 m W teams crossing to ^{NS} - we could try it, a health awa face of wood & water are better



> Baker 52 / for Plathamouth - for Fort Casey 6 June 5/29

> Hampton 52 / 6/4 60 soldiers to 6/1 4931 wgs 50889 cattle 14621 men 3120 women 4092 children - C 4 m 5 G

> Hickman P 52 ...

> Gage 52 to fort Kearsney ch was - eight miles before reaching is post about 1 m beyond the fort & one for night - there is 4 wood bldgs beside the turf hut ... soldiers in sight ... 5/14 left Ft K 6 AM roads the worst kind wgs cut down to hubs, hardest kind of wheeling

roads

used here

← G.C. Smith 5/1/51 am 10 am, concluded to lay out & visit the Fort. fine supper here. Great & rich. closed ^{the} scene by dancing a cotillion w/ the soldiers - The First

✓

← Barley, Mary S. 6/5 - all pass thru Ft. We left letters here, it is a military post, quite a stirring place. To the govt building? The residents of the officers is ver. fine some small framed bldgs others built of sods a turf laid up like bricks w/ windows & doors - Bs shops where a proper paid st. for pd of horse nails... we went into the register office looked over the names of those who had passed by us, some 20,000 men, 9000 women. we saw a gr many new made Cos. we in camp & in beyond the fort to spend the night

chance

← Laburnum 5/25/51 - res. of this pl to civ world awake in us a gr. feely happiness. F costs 5 francs less, 2 / one of Com officers, rest of soldiers, all built in a style of landwry respect purps. Beside these bldgs is a ch of the service of the Lord this prep of soldiers, civ T. & prg Fr

with

← Cartwright 52/ - P's exact tribute to Ft. - or Ft. put P's recy barrels of flour & pork, that they were ab. starved. Cross PR just west Ft

Review

← Cole 52/ - came to len of reservation; troops, stop here or go down through. this meant 3-4 m. further side thru darkness & rain, so we right thru we hiked up my idrove into F where we ex kmely to G CO, whose name I then was McArthur. He furnished us a lg room w/ tables, pen ink, paper - "envelope paper" where we wrote four letters home

(X)

← Green 52/ - Fort Henry

← Fryze 52/ - x x x

← Hickman 52 5/24. came to Ft quit at 12 o'c. stopped & got some of the best water I've drunk since I left home. Came out a half a mile & stopped to noon. After noon there some time the Capt sent us a message to be with 30 mins or be cancelled. we chose the former. The Ft air 1 m a. or a. - April 5; there is but half a doz less there. The most of the soldiers was out after the Paumotu. They w/ be empty depicts a Es; the traps were used out w/ artillery to subdue them. Cross PR 14 above

← Crampton 51 5/22 p. F Camp - head Ct, 50 x 5. there a 2 stores at the fort + a No. of 8 dwellly less

← Craw 52 register - 12000 pm - date (?)

← Snodgrass 52 5/19 up to Ft & had some refang done. 1700 tons - 30,000 head stock had passed by us, & they a lrg pon feed behind them.

7. Clare, John of Va 52 →

X John 51 / 5/10 - a collage of small w. cells
even no. of ... FK ? (no)

② Crane 52 →

Angell and / ... boy "B. = FK" dropped 3 hours

Gulping 57 and (rem)

FK was seen p. a all was made ready / July
The wide P etc

Wrens 52 / 6/2 - Sun - Elm C. near
opp FK Es a cross of over / ss and chole

Shrimp 6/1

213 Brooks 51 / violare baskets at FK

② 29-709 Barry 52 / lot of Trains at FK - near death (?)

Spinner 52 / opp Fur Kennedy - 16 w -
C on B. creek

50 FK

- Lower 57: 247 / w/ Col. Sumner to FK - Camp June 4, Capt Wharton, Sixth Inf. Com. - draw frogs + provs to last to FK - 5 Pan scouts
- : 290 take Cheyenne prisoner to FK + Marmaduke to FK - recruits to 7th Inf
- : 294 met Beauvais' - Bonnet's trailers for their 4 men FK
- 58: 303 Sumner any freighters - camp at Eight-mile Point below FK - Col. May, CO - Dr. Sumner said never so much malaria + fever + ague
- 58: 350 - return trip - NOV 19 - draw rations for 7 days, + ordered more at Big Bluff - Danville + others had their own dr. at hospital

- 57: Conway 6/ - may mil post at time of report, but since Govt has caused coil additions + improvements
- Wickham 59/49 5/17 Pass FK 3 PM, they v a Barracks here w/ good kitchen + office, the Soldiers put up lots of Hay + v a veg. garden. We are allowed stop near the Fort - Camp 4 m out
- Bradway 53/ - 5/25 dep. letters. Comit of Ft. Capt Horton a very gentlemanly fellow... 63000 cattle + p.
- Barker 58/ 10/2 Hiked up v railed into the F + met sev. Cos. some of Am. 10 + Flamer.
- Barley 57/ (NS) 7/4 Cannon firing - Uncle Fred, first Sec. Co. w/ drove 2 who ahead - overtake of Capt +
- Kemp 54/ - sent word over about the Is; The Capt ordered out a dozen men after them - C. 3 m went. Same band here. w FK, defeated by P.
- more 58/ 6/8 today we came thru FK, it is not much of a place, mud + adobe houses const. The fortification. I purchased a drop at Kearney City, paid 20c a gal
- Hay 57/ - Letters of Camp near FK, IT - mainly illegible Dressed men - upon arrival FK the surgeon would not allow him to be brought into the fort - left abandoned w/ meagrely provisions - resolution to purchase Dr. C. of returning!
- Patterson 58/ (NS) opp F Kearney, two of a Co, took their provisions + undertook to ford the river, ch was die... one man nearly drowned
- Grabin 53/ p. 1st Carney

- Chelton 59/ - sev hrs. mic pane bldg - 12 mtd brass cannons
- Myrtle 57/ - paid P 150 m w employees (FK?) - mkt own cut in bank - no sweat
- 30 ← Govt 57 - 8/9

Ann U.S. 54 Carney costs of 2 g bldg - built of frame the rest are a ls shop store - stable ch in back of out - a few gen carriage + a sentinal

43-100
79

Todd 55
Cyrus 52

~~T~~ ~~T~~
~~X~~ ~~T~~

32

Sydney 56 5/25

Bird 55 / , went down to see the fort to knights
it is low on the plain & abt 1 mi PR at present
claims fifty soldiers & 15 cannons. We stop at the
store & post office mailed a letter & proc. sev little
luxuries such as tobacco, soap & soap 5/24 called
ag. Fk Carney saw the sold - drill also saw
a B camp.

Carpenter 57

West 53

5/17

Allen 53 (NS) - saw many wgs & drove of
cattle over S. side P on the St Joe road, & saw
 likewise Fk, as we do, as we know of no other bridge
 the high up - the St Joe road

Horne 53 6/3

~~X~~ ~~X~~ ~~X~~

29-83

Stewart 53 5/31

P KK. 13,000 people -

3000 wgs, 90,000 head of stock. at 10 c. value 900

~ 1 SE 58

X2-274

Wickham 53

~~X~~ ~~X~~ ~~X~~

Homer 53

Gove 1858 (NYHerald Corries)

Fort Kearney, like most oth forts ϕ in the W, has no fortificas, but is merely a sta f troops. It stands on a slight eleva a few mi west fm the banks of PR. The f csists of 5 unpainted wooden hss, 2 or 3 stories hi, and about 2 doz long, low mud bldgs. The hss r built ar a large open square or pg, while the mud bldgs extend in any nd every direc out fm the roads that run along the sides of this square. Trees vbn set out along the borders oth pg, nd th y are the only bushes that cbsee in any direc scep a few stragglg ones on the banks oth P, sev miles dist. Intermixed bet these immature trees on the sides oth square r 16 blockhs guns, 2 field pieces, 2 mt howitzers, and 1 prairie piece. These cst the artillery defndces oth post ag the Is. On the west s ot pg stands the hs oth co. It is a lg, ill shaped, unpainted wooden struc, 2 stores hi, with ~~pizasa~~ $\frac{1}{2}$ iaxxas extendg across its entire front on both flloors. Wthn, however, the bldg is much m respec, bg commodious, cfortable, well finished and neatly furnished.

Direc oppo the co's hs, on the other side oth square, is the soldiers' barracks, 70 ' by 30', and 2 stories hi. The barracks has never bn finished; it is now in bad order; in c accom v wll 84 men; The other wooden bldgs r the oqs, the hospital and the sutlers s. These deformed strucs do not present a very invitg app to the eye, but they r charmg palaces when cpared to the hideous spec o 24 long, winding, broken-backed, falling down mud houses. Such infamous bldgs r a disgrace to any fort, territory, army, govt or nation. They are far inferior to I wigwams. They c only be rivalled by the mud hovels of the Irish or dirty Asiatics. Yet it is in such bldgs that the govt stores are stored, or rather are placed to rot and be ruined. The govt stores that er cdemned in 1856-57, on acct of no protec bg furnished thej by these mud piles, ajtd to nearly \$35,000. But why on earth were such bldgs put up? Because they are cheap? No, for since 1851 the U s govt has paid out \$50,000 in their csturc. One of these adobe houses, ch was built some 10 yrs ago by vols, cost the US \$30,000. These mud piles r all sizes, the lrgst one bg 140 ' long, 40' wide and 12 ' high. They r built by piling sods up the top of each other, a foot or more thick for the sides; timbers are then laid across the top, boards placed over the timbers, and sods, prob a foot deep, on top of that. The first heavy rain makes fine work with this worse than clay house. Their utter uselssn is so app that one c hardly imagine why they were ever used. Theri dem ralized app it is impos to describe, so I l leve them to wash and rot down at their leisure

There r now at K 100 soldiers of diff cos, and about 100 other persons, men, women and childrn, alltodl

Capt. J. P. McCown, the comm oth post, was despatched there last winter; he went up w his co during very severe weather. O_n crossg a strm of wtr near the fort the ice broke, his carriage was overt, he was thrown out, the wheels ran over his arm, dislocating it and severely injurg the muscles. . He arr at K on 5th March, and since that time has had timber drawn, built a saw mill, sawed lumber and built a fine bakery; also, cut drawn, sawed lumber ~~xxxxxxx~~ for and built a fine bakery; also, cut, dra sawed lumber for andframed a new comm store. The cost to the govt o that bakery, not includg the soldiers wages, was about \$200. Capt McCown is down on mud houses, and intends to v g substantial wooden bldgs erect4d in their place

As FK is sit some thousands of feet above the level oth sea extremly high winds freq prexail there. The flat-staff in the centre of hpg like masts in a ship, is secured by ropes fm being blown away. There r such severe storms of wind and snow in the winters that men have been

Wright, L. H. ... EG 25 - EKF 55/16 ...
PP no - ... habitation
Saville 58 5/26 X X X
9/17

233

~~Gove 58 X X X X~~

~~Clare C. W. 58 X X~~

Anderson 59 Dolytown ... 2 - W, 300 people - 4000 y
above road 1 story hse. It was - when written
very of civ X X X

LSE 58 This is a nice place - 4 wooden
houses & a few mud huts of the garrison -

(return) very much improved

Anderson 58 Soil walls in thick interior lined
w/ coarse canvas - camp, but not impervious to snakes,
ch cool thru peg. Divorce a to beds. (preference to bed linen)

~~Anderson 58 X X X~~

550

~~Daugherty P Is on FK~~

550 Every year the P Is d pass the on their way to B f their summer hunt.
There were so many that a whole day would pass and still they be
tramping to camp /details of B hunt by Is

Wash 61 | 5/24. This we came thru F Keany; a miserable place, built of mud & filled w/ soldiers, walk of there to Keany City about 2 m west camp on the suburbs.

Butterfield 61 / 5/25 - we left some of us went over to the fort, Ch consisted of barracks + a few wooden bldgs. To me there is not long by we were there the Comm who was ev. a rebel had ordered the guns spiked, but the men were more loyal & I allow him to operate the guns. 2 mi beyond on K. Hill - some stores, a GS shop, & sev. houses. - coal trade of F's - all bldg of adobe & frame work, even the roofs were cov. w/ tiny supp of poles; some of them had stood since 1849 or so.

XX
15
v 4

Hewitt 62 | Experience of crossing river of NS + description of fort. - Keany City, 2 m above the fort

Ayer 60/ - our mail at FK. - - - I am a hero, crossing the river to get our mail, nearly drowned

Cutting 63/ 5/26 or more we reached the F but many fort could we see, three by Govt stable, some fine looking bldg w/ shade trees in front of them. Flag poles over old bldgs + a few old huts made up the place. PO a low soul h's, + a sign. "No camping allowed 5 m E or 2 m W of this Post" is posted on a Sutter's Store beside the road. C. of down near K. City a small settlement 2 m. West of the Station. - saw to 14 Govt mules & a drove of 6 mules, esp 3 125 Cov., 1 FL, ... While going FK Tobey rode into the centre of the place & among the barracks. While crossing the p. he was halted by a soldier & told he must go to the g'n of Army the p. HE demurred, was taken by the Lieut. Col. & after an explain. we let off. - - - B. line - B. orchard (?)

Hewitt 62 | (NS) - Opp FK - some crossing NS to SD. - Larry - camp 1 day of message to cross NS to go. - all I recall, arrived to P. 5 m. of Col. K who asked P.I. a few yrs ago by so soundly thrashing them they r a wholesale rep of palaces. - I am the man sign. of

112
XXX

Smedley 62 | (NS) - Opp FK, 188. - no letter. - fairly done up of team & by way, w/ waterproof sheet in bed, catch being short distance. last adobe hut w/ FK

Dixon 64 / (NS) - Conductor see / the train

Carney 66

Arnold 63

Hedgco 60 5/15 - Saw C/O out side w/ a fine navy looking lady who was also a g. horsewoman; was told it was the former Capt May & his wife (wif. was Hero)

> Byrge 66 / 71 ~~xxx~~ ~~l/x~~

> Lowrey 60 / 5/4 yth several whiskey stops along ranches...
at Elk turn north... cross Platte R here... there are
10 channels... raise road to double track... 2 hrs to
Cross 2 m. west... air load, dry w/ beds. with latter

> Roberts 64 / Feb N to S to get mail... nothing of our
pains except a view of the town... fort is nothing but a
mud post w/ barracks + parade g... few conf. looking houses +
a few more lines of turf ch grass a dilap. uppermost...
8 channels, all with some distance below... 1 m above
at p. in Kearney City or Adobe town, 200... 5/11

> Goebel 62 / (NS) - we heard the night + morning gun... - Oight
of flog yesterday... rain too hi to cross, so no action

> Byrge 66 / Kearney City or Doty town is built mostly of sun-
baked brick... p. than K

> Ludlow 62 / Sp. sub Colo soldier, pull out his beard, -
or his nose

> Wants 62 / 6/11 - hosp. recd + sent. by Capt Thompson + his
est. lady

> Mullin 64 / of fort there is no longer any vestige, pickets +
blocks v. by some disop... few scat. bldgs of superior
class - 3/4 m of PR, 2 m in sandbluffs... mth grass
in the neighborhood, supplies must be brought... can \$1.50
bushel, whiskey \$10 g... gr. quans c. meats, fruit + v. veg.

(20) Kearney City or Adobe town, 10-12 stores,
> Kearney Herald w/ advs of ranches - at KC, a
offer to reg. train to resist Es; wear two hrs halt -
Sun 5/15 E to W at rate of 80 wgs + 160 people per day
(exclusive of freighter's train) - Fr. train do not require
surveillance nec. of Es - departure listed K.C. paper

> Holladay 65 / - acct shortage of grass, feed com to horses
Blend of the "Phil. Kearney massacre" (?) -
acc civ. trains stopped + org into lines - Major-General
of Bullwhackers; auth. dep. on pluck + skill a fugelist,
a "get the drop" - Doty town 5 m W - 300 pop.
Whiskey-strike

> Hendson 65 / 6/10 - disop... v. reported quarters of
soldiers; they v. set out trees, + made it quite a pretty
place, away out here in the wilderness, but there is no
stockade, a place of defense, w/ mtld cannon - while I
rode thru Elk, wgs kept road 1/2 m N. - Capt. L.
soldier, w/ sad exprem, give us drink

> K. City or Doty town, 2 m west. Elk; b. houses + quarters of
officers sta at F - repudiated... - march

> Elk Today w/ a doubt the most imp. pt in all this vast
ct n. of ark, + bet mo R + R mts - off w/ Govt train

X

X

35

37

117

121

Frank Young

27

Arnold 63. . /w 11th Ohio Cav/. . r 4 cos / under orders to proceed to FL . . As we er getg into dangerous ct, Jim Bridger. . was eng to escort us. Fk was surr by a 10 mi sq mil res on ch no merchants er perm to est supply stores cept licensed post traders, nd trvs had to camp outside the res in order to save the grass f the cav horss nd rk stock blongg to th f. Con seq a l tp had bn est on either side FK. . Dog Town, a tough pioneer settlement, was loc east oth fort about 12 mi; and Doby Town was loc to the w a l over 2 mi, just outside the reserve, ch did not extend as f westw as it did ea stw. .

After a short stay at FK we moved over to DT, setld down a a l rest ne repairs, and proceeded to spend the money the paymaster had temp left w us. Owg to the scarcity of timber the whole t was made of "dobies.". It was wholly supp by immig tr. . . DT was a frontier settlement, - the ou post of civ, if its brand o cduct cdb called civ. There er no streets, nd people built their hss wherev pref or caprice distated. The tnspeople er mmosty frontiersmen who settled there f the sole purp o tradg with, or preyg pon, those who tvd the OT. The pop csistd chiefly o men; about 2 doz perm inhabs, mostly gamblers and sloon keepers, some loafers who had no employm but hung around town to rob the passg immigs, na d few women of l-known rep. When immigs put their herds out to graze, these fellows d sneak them away at night and run them // off a few mis around a bend in the rv, reportg that the Is had taken them. To the immigs the story seemed highly prob, as a nu of indigent Ps hung around FK to get their scanty allowances. . In a even short time a suitable reward was ofrd, the vagrant d g out and br in the tock, deliver it to the owner, and get fm the latr a liberal reward in cash and gratitude. .

To induce the trvs to gamble was easy, nd to induce them to drink was easier still. The saloon men paid no license. A man cd run a sln at any g water hole . an upturned dry-goods box nd a few qurts of whiskey d start one in bus. . there was none to hinder the whiskey seller, and when bus ceased to be g at one place, he cd move on. .

. . mostley throng at DT sta. . glarg sun nd parchg winds had sunbur everyone until they all lkd l tough customers. . the men all wore whiskers ch cbined w dust and trvl stain made them / look much oldern they er.

Ev mg fm the various camps around DT issued forth the women nd childr prac all barefooted, w baskets in ch to pick up B chips. . as B disp, the bed-grounds of work-oxen and domestic cattle er salvaged. . the immigs f the most pt slept in their cvd wgs or under them. The soldiers used Sibley army tents, nd the ofcrs had wall tents

. . much leisure to visit v immig and freighter camps. Most oth immigs seemed to be f refugees fm the border states . many Northerners in symp w th South er escapg the draft. . they er c Butternuts. . all sorts of coarse songs and roug gibes ab Mos fm Pike ct, Hoosiers fm Posey ct, and Arkansawyers fm Iazard ct. . they bore the stigma o bg the most backward and ig people on the trail. . Eastbound incl disap miners from Colo; freighters ret empty to Mo R; disap emigrants ret home to "States." Mule skinnors, many of them Mexicnas, scouts in buckskin suits and broad-brimmed hats, bushy-whiskered hunters waiting for the fur season to open, nd men of royla blood lookg f adv

DT had a sod grocery store where one cd buy tobac, gunp, flour, sugar, and coffee. Bakg powder was an unk article. Bread was made excl of sour dough and soda, the dough bg kept fm meal to meal. There er no cand ~~veg~~ vgs, no condensed milk. Coffee was nec black. The only cand gs I had ev seen at that date er oysters and sardines. The only read-ty eat gs tb found in the groc store er ginger snaps, crackers nd sardines. Beer was not used, as it was too heavy to haul that long dist

← Hewitt 62. . C ab 1 m fm the rv /June 24, NS/, oppos FK, dist 3½ mi. .
 June 25: The rv bg ve high fording or ferryg is ve diffic this season
 oth yr. It is about 3 mi wide, runs in sev channels, w a rapid current.
 Hired conveyance to cross at the moderate ch or \$3., to go to the PO at
 the Fort, in hopes that we shd hear something from home, a/s/ /, . .
 the diffics attnedg the voyage, w its results, r deemed a m fitting subj
 for a note, . appended below.*

Started on an exped across the rv to FK, w eager expecta o receivg letrs
 fm home and Uncle. Reached the ranch on the r at 12 AM., and was obligd
 to wait the arr oth stage, ch did not appear until 3 oc PM. The crossing
 we found to be 4 mi above. Here the rv is nearly 3 mi wide, nd run in
 3 channels, 2 of ch we forded by stage. The third, nearly 1 ¾ mi wide,
 is shallow, wi an occ deep channel, and a ve rapid curr. This we crossed
 in a mis cbina of sticks and lumber, miscalled a boat -- a rickety, leaky
 thing at that, ch we er obligd to boil ctin in order to keep it afloat,
 nd ou of ch we had occ to get, to drag it over sand bars, w a soorchg
 sun overhead. This was not tb understood as a pleasure ~~exped~~ / excur. .
 On the ss we proc passage down to the Fort, 4 mis, in the mail wagon.
 On reachg thepo, w feelings rung high w anticpa, we found nothing to
 repay us for our pains, nd the exertion we had undergone. This was a
 severe blow and a bitr disap. We had trvd 12 weary miles, crossed in
 fact 3 rivers, tramped through a jungle - a fit home for snakes, lizards,
 and ll manr of reptiles; nothing cd now be done but to retrace r steps
 as quickly as r physical cidition d allow. Donwheardn made up no small
 share of r feelgs on r return trip. Another turn of bailing, dragg, &c,
 brought us on th other shore; anoth r tramp thru the jungle, and wading th
 other two branches - the water up to r armpits - found us clear oth rv.
 Reached home at 11 pm, wet, ~~r~~ tired and exhausted fm r exertions.

This is r exper crossg P r; the meanest of rivers - broad, shallow, fishle
 ss, snakeful, quicksand bars and muddy water - the stage rumbles over the
 bottom like on a bed of rock; yet haste must b made to effect a crossg,
 else you disap beneath its turbid waters, and your doom is certain. .
 Kearney City, two miles above the Fort, a place of about a dozen houses,
 is fam c "dobey town," bg almost entirely cstruc of adobes, or sun-
 dried bricks. The Fort is a wooden struc; that nd the bldgs att r o
 csid xtent. A nu o soldiers er walkg around w app but 1 to do; a nu o
 cannon stood in the enc rusty fm disuse. It is the Western Stage Co.'s
 station; here also congreg the worshipers of Bacchus and Dealers of cards.

← ~~At~~ Teeter 62. . RMs to Omaha to Rms Oct-Nov. . knowg full well that my
 team db unable to haul my whole load over (2,000 lbs), I hired a man to
 haul half of it across for me. The rv at this pt is nearly 1 m in width
 nd fm one to 2½ feet deep . . if team stops, your dead. . rest on islands
 wade next to catl wit whip. . river full of slush ice. . in it f 2 hrs..
 almost chilled to death, and not vg a change of garments hd to all wet
 to dry on me. . strg to tell, I took no cold, nor suffered any inconven
 whatev fm this exposure

FK - after

Millington 62 May 26 Started ve early nd after tvg 11 or 12 mi we c to small v o about a dozen hss, a sort of a tp. Pa sold old Red(cow) here for \$14. Pretty soon we came to Ft. Kearny. There r two cos of Kas Home Guards, or Soldiers sta here and they say 7 regiments v gone on to S Sweet Wgter River. The teleg crosses the rv here to the South s, ch is the side we r on. Stopd f dinr about 3 q of a mi fm the Ft. Sent sm letrs back to Keosauqua fm there. Weather ve pleasant. Aftern passed a gr many B carcasses

C. Richardson 52 May 27. .arr FK aft it is quite a setlment and assum quite a mil app there r sev g lookg frame hss . . but most oth hss r built of wood nd plastrd w mud outside here we fnn an excl well of wtr ch seemed the most like icciv of anything we had seen on the road. . the nu of wgs that ha p herd up to the 25th of May is 180/ ?150, stock 24,000 persons 7,000

5/26

J Evans 50. . On coming in sight of F Kearney (which is six m off) we c in a flat near the range of sand hills. No less than 2,000 persons r c within sight. Waggs nd tents all lookg so white and neat are scatred over the plain everywhere; we c easily see them at a dist of 5 mi.

May 27 We lay by today. This mg ab 2 hrs bf d, while e er all asleep there arose a terr hurricane, cposed o a witherg ~~hail~~ col wind, rain and hail. F the first time since we started I luckily slept in one of r loaded waggs. When the wind struck the end oth wagg it drove it along sev yards until the tongue got turned and stopped it, at ch time it came near turng over. Many waggs er turned cpletely over, nd many m dv capsized if the men had not placed themss on the wheels. The noise oth wind was like the loud roar of ctinued thunder. Near all ~~the~~ r mules pulled up their stakes, nd turng their backs to the wind they yielded to its force, and were driven among the sandhills. . at last the wind abated nd welcome daylight appeared. Of all those white tents that spekeled the vast plains the evenng before I co ld count only 3 standg. .These storms r c "Nor-westers" by the dryland sailors. What is most remark ab these storms on the pl ins is their chillg effect pn all animal creation. the ~~hail~~ wind that whistles around the ~~N~~ North pple cnd chill a man quickr. A cold bitr frost can freeze a man, but a NW can chill a man to death wo freezing him

May 28 16 mi, up Platt R. . Six brought us to FK, whose princ hss r built of sod. To give some idea oth market here I \$ will just st that the price of flour is \$30. ~~per~~ per hundred lbs nd the price of eggs \$8. per dozen. We p a man today sitting by the side oth road shaking with the ague. He had strated to Calif on foot and hadgot thus far. He had a milk cow along pon ch he packedhis blankets, etc. He had unpacked his cow while he was bus eng in shakg w the ague, the cow was sstretched out pon the gr chewg her cud to prep milk f his supper. The man looked ve discons, nd the cow l a l ashamed at bg seen tvg in c w such a genune fool. .

Tompkins 50. . no fortifica but a rude garrison for the fragemt s of 3 cos of soldiers one oth cos are the remains of an old co of mts men a kind of dragoons their habitations csist of a kind of sod brick or sods cut inth shape of bricks and heaped up after the form of a wall. of such materials are the bodies otheir bldgs cstruc nd indeed the roof is made oth same material placed on poles and brush. The floor is of the solid earth. The qs oth offer r a l m aristocratic bg a fine two story frame bldg. The object o this garr is said to overawe the Is of this region of the U S. Terrs and thus protect the E The land in the vic oth f is o a ve poor qual indeed yet they succ in raisg some culinary vegs f csumption among themss

71 Birge: 66... On the 18th June, when fully 10 mi fm FK, the flag o that post became visible in the distance, as we looked up the level v. , Ben and Paul. . ret . . w the info that 2 mi in each direc fm the F ext the Govt reserv, and that a notice had bn posted on the wayside, forbidding the driv o teams across that property. On reaching these sacred precincts, we rode through on horseback and disc that there was really no fort at F K. There was a small plaza or park, bordrd by ctuwd trees, in the center o ch stood the flagstaff fm ch floated the nation's colors; near by er mounted 2 or 3 small brass cannon; around the plaza er built the barracks nd oqs, with oth bldgs used app by officers. A solxier was pacg / back and forth bf the ope door oth mag, and another was performg a sim duty in f oth gh, fm ch came the notes of a fam melody sung by the recreatsn within, who er makg the best of their confinement. The only semb oa fortifica was an adobe wall facing the bluffs. The fort was garr by two cos o the 5th U. S. Vol.s .FK is the oldest white settlement in the interi r of Nebr, and was named after a gen who served in the Mexican ar. A sta 2 mi west fm the Govt post was dignified by the name of KC and embraced half a dozen small adobe strucs, each of ch was said to be a whsieky dive; its am pop o men and womn was app of a worthless type. The spot was us refrred to as Dobytown.

We learned fm the provost, that by order of the War Dept, no trs er allowed to move westward w less than 20 wgs and 30 armed men. As yet we had seen / no Is, and tvrs fm the West made the same observa, but std gr nos of Is er rep tb in the vic o Laramie, where they were bg fed and petted by Govt agent as prelim to an effort to make a treaty. .

a stage sta ranchman a few mi s fm K . . gave us his views on the situation. . a comman expr among those no l einf was that one white man was enough f 10 Is. In front oth l ranch where we then stood, he had rec bn witness to the fact that six Is armed only w bows and arrows had driven 10 cavalrymen, armed w carbines and revolvers, back into the ranch, where they er supp by a grr nu of troops. We asked if any of the soldiers had bn wounded. Yes re rep one of them intercep an arrow which fort did not enter a vital part, but it did penetrate certain muscles in his back, wh made it painful for him to sit. . the ac oth troops was reported in such glowg term that th/ this soldier reced a medal for his bravery // not a fair report/

We c away fm the tr, bto the west oth post and in sight oth mis huts o Dobytown. There was but l feed for the stock yet we had to remain. It w either Dobytown or at the post itself, that a party of tvrs who er parkd nr us sec a box ctaing botls labelled "Hostetter's Bitters." These socalled stomach bitters were a widely adv ccoc purportg tb a val tonic nd a nv fai remedy for dyspepsia, nd all the other ills th the stomach. . is ever heir to. If the extraord box said tvbn pres by Zerus to Pandora is worthy of mention as a mag of innum pent-up ills, ch a girl unwit / turned loose among men, then surely the eminent Dr. H- shdv a hi place in the classic lore oth future, as the fabricator o a bottled-up cpound ch en uncorked, ha wonderful potentialties, not in curg ills but in raisg the / devil genly. . . the men . . soon er raving drunk. . its base is a poor grade of raw whiskey. . vg bcme absol delirious fm their potations of the infallible specific, the revlrs ret to th dens of Dobytown and began a season of Saturnalia ch had not ended when we moved from that camp

As we trvd on we learned that the wonderful demand for this nervine was in some measure due to the cven form in ch it was sold; and that these bitrs er the el freq used in barter s/ w the Is, and f ch they er ready to ex their most val poss. Some men wonder / why the Red Man is at times so insane in his brutality. . .

June 18. . Dan and I strolled toward the fort, and fm the dist watched the movements of / mtd men at that post. Soon we observed a long mule trail

53

← Ketcham. . 6/11. . Our camp was within a mi of FK. We drove up to the fort to report rrs. Mr. Gray wrote on a piece of paper the ~~number~~ number of animals he had, the nu and names of the persons, and sent it in to the officers. He says if a co does so they r m likely to v assist from this fort if they get into diffic.

The plc csists of 3 quite large wooden bldgs, one long, low one built of unburnt bricks. The stables r also of unburnt bruck with thatched roofs. There is a piece of gr near the bldgs endd with a rail fence, or what was a rail fence once. It is now nearly torn down. Thak ing the whole affair together, it is most mis. Evthg looks as though it were gg to destruction as fast as pos. Sev oth soldiers were out where we saw them. They looked well and well-dressed. . Mr Gray said everthg around there looked as tho the commdg offcr liked str drink btrn anything else. We saw no mounted guns, nor in realitty anything that looked like a fort except thd rrs of those we saw about.

← Hines 53. . June 3 Pass FK about 4 oc. Cpd ab 2 mi beyond. People r forbidden to cp within three mis oth Fort. No wood, and nothing but rain water standg in puddles on the prairie

June 4 - the men went to the F in the mg to shoe the hrss nd mules Govt has a bs shp ther f the acc o Es, but at present there is no smith. There are four large ? and 2 small ones built of wood. The barracks r made of mud. There is a store where they seel about the same as in Ks. There r 60 soldiers here. They v no fortifics nd it was prob built m f the acc of Es and to awe the Is, than f a defense. The serg invited us ot his hs where er pleasantly entert. The Capt inf Pa that there had passed here 85,000 head of cattle and 8,000 men who wer crosg the pls this yr, also that most oth E was gg to Oregon. . .

rMrs. Ferris. . Ft. Kearny, Sept 10, 1852 (letter). . the fort was soon announced in sight. It assumed various fantastic shapes, and once soon /? spec as to its identity. It looked like a rock, a mound of earth, a tower, a clump of branchless trees, or a huddle of bldgs, at times, as fancy sugg. . Pierce rode with us and amused me w stories of their mode of livg at these forts -- said there were no ladies, and that they lived not much better than pigs. We spec whether the officers d notice us e oug to invite us to dinr. . our lively cpan ccludd that these bachelor votaries of Mars d leave me out of ~~the~~ the list of their invitations

We seemed forever approachg the ~~the~~ estab; a dead level plain, w no intervening object, causg the dist to appear much less than it really was. My lofty ideas of a fort were doomed to sadly disappointed. I had a confused notion of massive granite walls and frowning ~~the~~ battlements, surmounted with cannon ~~the~~ ready to belch forth their thunder; and surr w bastions and parapets, with grim visaged men. . pacg to ~~the~~ and fro w guns. . As we rode up I cnd help the cvic that we had mistaken a tp for this fortress -- but it was Fort ~~the~~ Kearney and nothing else

The princ bldg was two-stories dwellg w a stoop in front -- in fact, it app on the outside like a neat and cfortable famr-house. In the vic was a low, mud bldg, ch might easily be mistaken f an ice-house, but was, in reality, the mag. Then there were lor ranges of bldgs f barracks, store houses, stables, etc.. . Capt Wharton introduced himself. . invita to cm directly into dinner, in a way ch precl all pos of a refusl. I was whool taken aback. At the entr we er met by Mrs. Wharton. . and we were ushered into a prettily furnished parlor. I was cpletely bewildered, and hardly knew what I ~~said~~ said or did. I had nv drmd there was anythg civ about the fort -- I had only thought of officers livg in a very rude, boisterous sort of way -- but here we were in the very midst of refinemtn . . . they seemed aboslutely grateful for our coming. . evethg is neat & ordergly about them. There is a l cult veg and flower garden; and adj to it, an immense field of corn - nd evthg wears the app oth estab of a wealthy farmer