



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Ash Hollow State Historical Park
Box A
Lewellen, Nebraska 69147-0400

July 18, 1983

Merrill Mattes
5800 W. Plymouth Drive
Littleton, Colorado 80123

Dear Merrill:

In reply to your letter of July 15, 1983: The material which I sent you was just a typescript by Evelyn Pattison. She made up much of it to fill in the gaps in what she knew to be fact. It was not a church history. The only reason the church program was copied was to show the church that they departed from in Sparta, Illinois. The only pages that actually came from Nathan's diary were 111, 112 and 113.

The Harney letters will probably not be written up for some time. Many of them are of no importance as they only refer to orders received & etc. Some mention things about the journey. There are about 400 pages in total and it would be difficult to copy everything. I will attempt to sort this out and see if I can find some material which I think you would want to have; but the simplest thing would be to order the reel of microfilm if you have a reader. You should request the following film.

Record Group 393
Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920
Department of The West
Sioux Expedition, 1855-1856
Letters Sent, Volume 269 and 270

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Dennis Shimmin
Dennis Shimmin, Superintendent
Ash Hollow State Historical Park

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Enc. Sup. G. 269-270*

DS/vlk
Encl.



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Ash Hollow State Historical Park
Box A
Lewellen, Nebraska 69147-0400

August 16, 1983

Merrill Mattes
5800 West Plymouth Drive
Littleton, Colorado 80123

Dear Merrill:

There are 490 letters and circulars in the Harney Letters. The first one is dated April 5, 1855 and the last one July 27, 1856. Very little is said about the general travel conditions up the Platte Valley.

I have chosen seventeen pages that I think you would be interested in. The bank charged me 15¢ per page to copy them or a total of \$2.55.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Dennis Shimmin

Dennis Shimmin, Superintendent
Ash Hollow State Historical Park

DS/vlk
Encl.

*9/1/83
Sent acc v check*

10
Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Fort Leavenworth K.T.
May 7, 1855

31
Cady

Major A.
6th Infantry
Comdg Battalion
Fort Leavenworth, K.T.

9
28

Major:

I am directed by General Harney to inform you that you will get your command in readiness to start on the prairies as soon as the grass will permit, which in all probability will be about the 10th instant. Captain Howe's battery will be united to your command until you reach Fort Kearney, from which point it will proceed to Fort Laramie with the detachment of Infantry destined to reinforce that post.

I am,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant

STEWART VAN VLIET
Capt. Assist. Qr. Master

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Fort Leavenworth, K.T.
May 7, 1855

32
Howe

Capt. A.P.
4th Artillery
Fort Leavenworth, K.T.

Captain:

I am directed by General Harney to inform you that you will get your battery in readiness to take the field with as little delay as possible, and report to Major A.Cady 6th Infantry who will take up his line of march for Fort Kearney about the 10th instant. From Fort Kearney you will proceed to Fort Laramie in company with a detachment of the 6th Infantry destined for the same post.

I am, Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,

STEWART VAN VLIET
Capt. Assist. Qr. Master

12

Measures must be taken to capture as well as to defeat the enemy, and to do that the mounted force originally assigned to the Expedition added to the six companies of the 2nd Dragoons before alluded to would not be too great an allowance of Cavalry.

According to present appearances, the season will have been far spent before this mounted force can be collected and organized; so far indeed, that here is reason to believe that winter will have set in before it can penetrate far into the Sioux country. Had a portion of the time that was lost in congress in passing the bill for an increased military force been spared to the Expedition, it would doubtless have been ready to enter the field in season for a vigorous campaign; but that in my judgement, is out of the question this year. A winter campaign near the base of the Rocky Mountains would doubtless be attended with no little risk and suffering to the troops. Partial operations from convenient points, having in view the breaking up of a particular band might and probably would succeed, but anything like a general hostile operation during the winter season, between the latitudes of 42° and 45° and in a country elevated 4000 feet above the level of the sea, could scarcely be expected, and I presume is not.

I venture these suggestions in no spirit of captiousness for I have had the most satisfactory proofs, on all sides of a willingness to aid me to the utmost extent that the means of the government will allow. I make them merely to show that under the most favorable circumstances, but little can reasonably be expected from the Expedition this year.

I am, Colonel;
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

W.S. HARNEY
Bvt. Brig. Gen.

(Telegraphic Dispatch)
Saint Louis, Mo., June 2, 1855

62
Cooke

Col. P. St. Geo.
Comdg Fort Leavenworth

You will proceed with as much dispatch as possible with the four

33

41

of Infantry, my Aid-de-Camp, if the Secretary of War shall authorize the same; please reply by telegraph giving the Secretary's decision in the premisis.

Lieut. Heth has lately been appointed Regimental Quarter Master to the 6th Infantry, but the Colonel of the regiment is willing that he shall accept of the position I have offered him on condition that he be allowed to return to his regimental staff position if his services shall be required. The long experience of Lieut. Heth in the service of the plains renders him peculiarly fitted to fill the post I have offered him, which post, he has announced his readiness to accept. I hope I may be allowed to retain him.

I am, Colonel,
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

W.S. HARNEY
Bvt. Brig. Gen.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Saint Louis, Mo., June 2, 1855

60
Cooke

Lieut. Col. P. St. Geo.
Comdg 2nd Dragoons
Fort Leavenworth, K.T.

Colonel:

I have this day telegraphed you, by order of General Harney, to move with your entire command (the battery included if it be ready) to overtake the trains freighted with government stores for Forts Kearney and Laramie should they have left before the communication reaches you; and then to escort them as far at least, as Ash Hollow, on the North Platte; also to take with you should you deem it necessary, three companies of the 6th Infantry from Fort Kearney.

The object of this movement is to ensure the safe arrival at Fort Laramie of the government stores intended for the supply of that post. There are reports here of a large assemblage of Indians at Ash Hollow; and although these reports are probably exaggerated and possibly groundless, still the General wishes to be on the safe side. He therefore directs that

28

37

you will take every precaution which the means placed at your disposal will permit, to get the supply trains above referred to, safely through to Fort Laramie, even though you should be compelled to accompany them all the way. You will probably be enabled to learn at or before arriving at Ash Hollow, whether it will be necessary for you to go beyond that point.

It is presumed that the 6th Infantry have all left Fort Leavenworth some time since, although no reports to that effect have been received. In that event the company and recruits destined for Fort Laramie, are expected to be with the trains, and will sufficiently protect them until you can overtake them. With regard to the battery, if it can possibly be put in condition for field service, it will proceed with you as far as you go, and then continue on with the train to Fort Laramie. If however it should be found impracticable to put it in a serviceable condition, the company must remain behind until other arrangements for it can be made.

The General desires that you avoid an engagement with the Indians, if possible. If they attempt to obstruct your progress, you will be obliged, of course, to give them battle, in which event you will doubtless give a good account of them; but as the protection of the road is the primary and principal object of your expedition, the General requires that all of your movements be made conformable to that single object.

The want of anything like positive and reliable information relative to the state of affairs on the plains renders it necessary for the General to leave a great deal to your discretion, and not to cramp you with detailed instructions, many of which might prove inexpedient, or impracticable of execution.

As it is expected by the General that the Dragoon force will for some time to come, be habitually patrolling the Oregon route, you are authorized to make such a distribution of it as in your judgment circumstances may require, merely avoiding the breaking up of companies.

The necessary transportation for your baggage and sufficient subsistence stores to last your command from one post to another, will be furnished on requisition upon the post Quarter Master at Fort Leavenworth.

I am, Colonel
Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

P.S. Since writing the above, it has been ascertained that no + telegraph can be sent to Fort Leavenworth for two days, at least, on account of late storms which have broken down the wires.

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

+ Sent off on the 4th

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Saint Louis, Mo., June 2, 1855

61
Assistant Adjutant General
Lieut. Col. S. Thomas
Head Quarters of the Army
New York

Colonel:

I deem it proper that I should give a summary of the preliminary [sic] steps that have been taken with the view to carrying out the instructions I have received from the War Department in relation to the Expedition placed under my command.

Two companies of the 6th Infantry, under Brevet Major S. Woods, are now in position at Fort Riley, and the two companies of the 2nd Infantry under the command of Brevet Lieut. Colonel W.R. Montgomery, are in waiting at Fort Leavenworth for the other four companies of the same regiment which have been ordered to be in Alton, Ill, by the 10th proximo, to take passage for Fort Pierre. They will be received by boats, two of which have been purchased, and the remainder employed to transport them and all the public stores necessary for 1500 men for one year. The two public boats are intended for the service of the Upper Missouri Post.

The three companies of the 6th Infantry, commanded by Maj. A. Cady and destined to reinforce the garrison of Fort Kearney, are presumed to be en route for that post, copies of the order for which movement, have already

32
49

36

been furnished your office. The company of the 6th Infantry destined for Fort Laramie and the recruits for the companies now occupying the same post, have been directed to escort the advance of the trains freighted with supplies for the troops on the North Platte.

I have sent Lieut. Balch of the Ordnance, to inspect the prairie battery manned by Light Company "G" 4th Artillery; and have instructed him to make all necessary repairs for putting it in condition for field service if practicable. Should it prove irreparable I propose to incorporate the company, temporarily, with the mounted force of my command, as I shall be in great want of that species of troops.

When the companies of the 2nd Infantry and the public stores for the Upper Missouri shall have left this place, all that will remain needful to me in order to commence active operations, will be the mounted force assigned to the Expedition. There are now four companies of the 2nd Dragoons available. Should the six companies of the same regiment, lately ordered to Fort Riley, be placed under my command, I could enter the field with, probably, about 700 mounted troops; but as this force, even with the aid of such infantry troops as I could command, would be small for the vast extent of country to be covered in order to operate with any prospect of a solid success, and as I am enjoined to undertake no "partial operation," I cannot too strongly urge the necessity of organizing the companies of "Cavalry" destined for the expedition with all convenient dispatch; especially if it be expected that I shall commence active hostilities this season. With the 2nd Dragoons, the battery, and such infantry support as I should be enabled to take into the field, I should have no hesitation to encounter, all the hostile Sioux combined, and should do so with the confident anticipation of a victory in the technical sense of the term; but a victory, in our acceptation of the term, is no victory at all, in the eyes of the Indians, unless we destroy more of them than they do of us. This is a fact well known to those at all experienced in Indian warfare. Savages must be crushed before they can be completely conquered.

18
Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Saint Louis, Mo., May 7, 1855

29
Ogden

Maj. E.A.
Asst. Qr. Master
Saint Louis

51
I am instructed by Bvt. Brig. General Harney to authorize you to proceed to Pittsburg and thence to Cincinnati to such other points on the western rivers or you may find it necessary to visit in the execution of your general instructions to purchase Steamers for the Missouri.

After this official business is completed you will, unless otherwise directed by competent authority, return to this City.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

30
Hoffman

Bvt. Lt. Col. Wm.
Major 6th Infantry
Comdg Ft. Laramie, K.T.

Colonel:

48
I am directed by General Harney to inform you that a train of twenty-five wagons is about to start from this point to Fort Pierre, via Fort Laramie. When it reaches your post he directs that you furnish it with a suitable escort to Fort Pierre. You will exercise your own judgement as to the strength of the escort, care being taken that it be placed under experienced officers, so as to avoid as far as possible all danger of loss from Indians.

I am,
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

STEWART van Vliet
Capt. Assistant Qr. Mst. &
A.A.G.

70

recruits etc. to join Colonel Cooke's command on the Oregon route. You will therefore proceed with Major Howe until he overtakes Col. Cooke, to whom you will report for duty until an opportunity offers of going to Fort Laramie with a proper escort, when you will repair to that post and report for duty to the commander thereof.

I am, Sir;
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

O. F. WINSHIP
A. A. G.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Saint Louis, Mo., June 21, 1855.

105
Cooke

Col. P. St. Geo.
Comdg 2nd Dragoons
Oregon Route

68

Colonel:

75

I am instructed by the General Commanding the Expedition, to say that you will regard Fort Kearney as habitually the most eastern point on the Oregon route to which your command will move, in its operations for the protection of the several emigrant trails which leave the frontier settlements and intersect each other, in the vicinity of the above named post.

He directs me to say, however, that circumstances may arise when it would be necessary to send a fraction of your force down the Table Creek, or Old Fort Kearney road, toward the Pawnee villages; or, better perhaps, down the left bank of the Platte, where you could have the petty tribes of Omahas, Otboes and poncas, more under control. These latter tribes are all reported to have committed more or less of depredations within a year or two past upon emigrants ascending the Northern bank of the Platte and the Elk Horn. But the necessity for any such of course be left to your judgment, founded upon information acquired on the spot.

The most advantageous point, in the opinion of the General, for that portion of your command which may be temporarily at rest, is Ash Hollow. The government as well as the emigrant trains are much exposed at this place;

Army Head
Quarters

more so indeed, than at any other point, between the frontiers and Fort Laramie. It is also nearly opposite the centre of the Brulé and Wazazie bands of Sioux Indians, which are the most deeply implicated in hostilities against the Whites of all the Sioux Nations. The General therefore directs that Ash Hollow be made the rendezvous and point of rest of your returning detachments, escorts, etc.

Should there be a continuance of the depredations already reported to have taken place between Fort Laramie and the South pass, it may be necessary to send a squadron or a Company at least, in that direction because the Garrison of Fort Laramie must necessarily be sufficiently occupied in the labors prescribed to it of building quarters and stables for the accommodation of the troops destined to winter at that post and in procuring hay for the public animals.

With regard to the medical staff of your command, the General directs me to say that you are authorized to detach from Forts ^Aearney and Laramie, one of the medical officers stationed at those posts, whenever you may deem it necessary for the health and safety of your troops. Asst. Surgeon Getty is ordered to accompany Major Howe until he overtakes your command, when he is to report to you for duty until an opportunity offers for his reaching Fort Laramie; arrived at which post, Asst. Surgeon Crowell will report to you for duty and continue under your direction until further orders from these Head Quarters.

I am Colonel
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Saint Louis, Mo., June 25, 1855.

106
Howe

Captain A.P.
4th Artillery
Fort Leavenworth, K.T.

Captain:

Your letter of the 17th instant asking to have Lieut. R.C. Drum

62
76

I enclose these documents to your office in the hope that so soon as Dr. Hammond's charge, shall be forwarded to you (as they will be direct, to save time) the General in chief may deem it expedient to order a court martial, as I cannot do so without manifest detriment to the service in which I am now engaged.

I have arrested Dr. Simons because I cannot consistently with my views of my duty, allow him to continue the only medical officer at a post which is reported to have suffered so much from the want of his professional aid.

I am, Colonel;
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

W.S. HARNEY
Bvt. Brig. Gen.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Camp near Fort Kearny
August 23, 1855

152
Simons

Asst. Surgeon J.
Medical Staff
Fort Riley, K.T.

Sir:

I am directed by the General Commanding the Sioux Expedition (Bvt. Brig. General W.S. Harney), to order you to consider yourself under arrest, the reasons for which, will appear in the charges that will be preferred against you.

Army Hd.
Qrs.

I am, Sir; Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Camp near Fort Kearny
August 23rd, 1855

153
Assistant Adjutant General
Lt. Col. S. Thomas
Hd. Qrs. of the Army
N. York

Colonel:

103

I have the honor to report, for the information of the General-in-chief, that I arrived at this place en route for the Sioux country, on the 20th instant; not however without considerable delays arising from heavy roads and swollen streams, caused by continuous and heavy rains.

I shall leave tomorrow in the direction of Fort Laramie, with about six hundred troops; viz- Light Company "G" 4th Artillery, Companies "E and K", 2nd Dragoons, A, E, H, I, and K, 6th Infantry, and Company "E", 10th Infantry; also a detachment of Ordnance men. Detachments of sick, convalescents, etc, from the above named companies are left to guard the post of Fort Kearny under the command of Captain Hendrickson, 6th Infantry.

The information I have yet been able to obtain regarding the hostile Sioux bands is too indefinite for me to determine now, precisely the movements I shall make, but they will be duly reported to you when definitively settled upon.

Lieut. Warren, Topographical Engineers, his Assistant Mr. Carrey, and an escort of six men of the country, arrived here last night direct from Fort Pierre; in a journey of fifteen days, and within a measured distance of three hundred miles. The attempt was a bold and unauthorized one, but justified, I think, by the results, that might reasonably have been expected and, indeed, have actually been realized from it. In fact, Lieut. Warren and Mr. Carrey are, in my judgment, entitled to the highest credit for their zeal and disinterestedness, in this hazardous undertaking. This party was frequently on Indian trails, from one to three days old, and Lieut. Warren is of the opinion, from the most reliable information he could gain, that the Brule's are now in the "Sand Buttes," on and South East of the Eau Qui Court.

I have this day received communications, (by Express from Fort Leavenworth), from Fort Pierre, which represent the state of affairs at that post in fully as favorable a light as I could have expected. The reports of

Captain Simpson and Lieut. Warren relative to the country passed over by them, and to the Sioux Indians in general, will be forwarded as soon as copies can be made out.

I have also sent an express to Fort Pierre requiring five companies of the garrison of the same to meet me on the White Earth river, with a view to striking a decisive blow against any one of the hostile bands of Sioux which it may be found possible and expedient to attack.

I am, Colonel;
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

W.S. HARNEY
Bvt. Brig. Gen.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Camp above Fort Kearny,
August 24, 1855

154
Hoffman

Lt. Col. Wm.
Major 6th Infantry
Comdg Fort Laramie, N.T.

88

Colonel:

106

I am directed by the General Commanding the expedition, to say that you will prevent the Indian Agent on the Platte from making any payments of Indian Annuities within his Agency until the General arrives, or gives you further instructions in the premises.

I am, Colonel;
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Camp No. 5 (on the Platte)
August 27, 1855

155
Hoffman Bvt.

Lt. Col. Wm.
Major 6th Infantry
Comdg Fort Laramie

106

Colonel:

112

of guns and ammunition until the settlement of the present difficulties in this country.

To suppress this trade it may be necessary to establish a post at the Big timbers a most eligible position for troops, and one not only calculated to have a good effect in controlling the Cheyennes and Arrapahoés, but the Platte Sioux Also.

I am, Colonel;
Very respectfully,
Your obedt. Svnt.

W.S. HARNEY
Bvr. Brig. Gen.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Camp near Fort Laramie, N.T.
September 26th, 1855

196
Assistant Adjutant General
Lieut. Col. S. Thomas
Head Quarters of the Army
New York

136
141
Colonel:

I have the honor to report, for the information of the General-in-Chief, that previous to leaving my Camp on the Blue Water on the 9th instant, I caused a small field work to be thrown up near the mouth of Ash Hollow, and left, as a garrison to the same, Captain Wharton and his Company (I), of the 6th Infantry; leaving also, at the same post, a portion of the prisoners and property captured in the engagement of the 3rd instant, on the Blue Water.

My object in establishing that post was to afford a point of support for the public and emigrant trains, and the monthly mail passing between Forts Kearny and Laramie; and also to have the means of furnishing escorts to the same.

On the 7th instant, I detached Captain Heth's Company (E), 10th Infantry to escort two large trains which left Ash Hollow in advance of me, and moved on the opposite (right) bank of the North Platte. I preferring the left bank as offering greater facilities for subsisting my animals. I arrived opposite to the mouth of Laramie Crèek, about a mile and a half

below Fort Laramie, on the evening of the 15th instant and encamped, on the following morning between the Platte and the Laramie, a short distance below the Fort with the infantry, sending the mounted troops some miles above for grazing.

On my arrival at this place I learned that there was a camp of some 300 lodges of Ogalalas and Brule's about 35 miles above the Fort, on the Laramie Creek, where they have been assembled by the Indian Agent Major Twiss, who assured me that they were not hostile and begged only for their lives and property. After an Interview with the Agent I sent through him for (the Chief man of there Bands) the "man who is afraid of his horses" the principal chief of the Ogalalas, and the "Big Partisen" the principal chief of the Brules and a few others of the most influential men, and made known to them my wishes - I told them that the only conditions on which they could expect peace were, the prompt delivery of the murderers of the Mail party in Nov. last the restoration of all stolen animals, and a pledge on their part to keep the road through their Country open and Safe for travel - These Conditions were readily acceded to by them, parties have been sent from their bands, for the purpose of carrying these requirements into effect. - I also told them that they must remain South of the Platte and take no part in the affairs that might happen North of that river - I am not prepared to say that I have any great confidence in these promises, but I consider it but just, to give them as opprotunity to prove their desire for peace, by their acts. - besides this will allow me to move towards Fort Pierre, thru, the hostile Sioux Country, in accordance with my original intentions - I felt warranted in granting these conditions, from the fact that I had already inflicted a severe chastisement upon them in killing some 100 of their people, and taking over 70 of them prisoners in the action of the 3rd Instant on the Blue Water. Should the Indians fail to comply with these conditions the delay will at least allow me to muture my plans and bring more troops into the field next Spring.

It is proper that I should State here that I have had since my arrival at this place the most cordial, and effective cooperations of Major Twiss the Agent I have before alluded to. He has been unremitting in his efforts to make the Indians of his agency understand precisely the

139
object of my visit.

In this Connection, I cannot but express my regret that no positive instructions have been given me as to the course I should pursue with these Indians in the event of their making propositions for peace. From the Circumstances of the Case, I had no reason to expect that those who were hostile could be precisely recognized from those who were not; but I deem it important that I should be advised how the former shall be treated after having been properly chastised, and evinced a disposition to Sue for terms.

Major L.P. Graham, 2nd Dragoons has been detached with a Squadron of his regiment to relieve Captain Wharton and his Company of the 6th Infantry at Fort Grattan, which last officer is directed to return with his Command to Fort Kearney, and Major Graham to return to this post (after breaking up Fort Grattan) and bring with him the public Stores, escorting on his return such trains, etc., as may require his protection.

Lieutenant Colonel Cooke will leave tomorrow for Fort Riley, where the better part of the 2nd Dragoons, which he temporarily commands, are expected to be assembled by the time of his arrival at that post, I deem Colonel Cooke's presence at Fort Riley as necessary, not only to the Superintendance of regimental affairs, but of these of the post. Lieut. Colonel Andrews Deputy pay master General also leaves tomorrow for Fort Leavenworth, Saint Louis, and if he deems it necessary for Washington, with a view to making the best arrangements for the payment of the Troops of the Expedition, Colonel Andrews has been most efficiently engaged in the discharge of his appropriate duties, but he requires at least one Assistant on the Oregon Route to insure the prompt payment of the posts on the same. I would suggest that the Paymaster at Fort Leavenworth be placed under Colonel Andrews, and I would further add that in my judgment, the best interests of the service require that Fort Leavenworth be placed within the military district which I now command. The reasons for such a change are, that Fort Leavenworth is the principal depot and initial point for the troops and

supplies of the Expedition.

I intend to leave the 29th instant for the Country of the Brules and Miniconjous, and if I do not succeed in finding them I shall march to Fort Pierre and then make an other effort in a different direction, should the Season not be too far advanced.

I am, Colonel
Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant

W.S. HARNEY
Bvt. Brig. Gen.

Head Quarters Sioux Expedition
Camp near Fort Laramie, N.T.
September 23th, 1855

197
Hoffman

Bvt. Lieut. Col. Wm
Major 6th Infantry
Commanding Fort Laramie

134

Sir:

142

I am directed by the Commanding General to inform you that you can permit the Ogalalas and Brules bands of Sioux to establish a camp in the vicinity of Fort Laramie should they comply with their promises to deliver the murderers of the Mail party and restore stolen property, and besides evincing by their conduct, that they are sincere in their desire to be on friendly terms, with the Whites. Should they however show a hostile disposition you will take such measures towards them as you may deem necessary in the premises, at the same time taking due care not to expose small parties to their attack. If the murderers of the Mail party be delivered into your hands you will keep them in confinement until you can send them to the frontiers, when you will dispatch them to Fort Leavenworth, and turn them over to the Commanding Officer of that post. Should any of their friends desire to accompany them you can permit from ten to twenty to do so.

During the Winter you will take such measures as you may deem necessary to keep yourself well informed as to the position of the Indians, their conduct, and their intentions, and should any thing of importance transpire you will immediately communicate it to the General.

141

The General also directs that Major Graham, on his return from Fort Grattan, turn over to you all the lodges and other captured property that he may have brought from that post.

The General likewise directs that you can sell a limited amount of provisions, to the hunters and traders, in the vicinity of the post, should they in consequence of the unsettled state of the Country, be unable to obtain their supplies from the usual channel.

I am
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

O.F. WINSHIP
A.A.G.

Head Quarters Sioux Expedition
Camp on the Raw Hide. N.T.
September 30th 1855

198
Adjutant General

Col. S. Cooper
U.S. Army
Washington, D.C.

133
150
Colonel:

I have to acknowledge the receipt since the 31st ultimo of General orders "No. 13" Special Orders "No. 142". (thru the Department of the West.) and a letter dated August 18th 1855.

I am Colonel, Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

W.S. HARNEY
Bvt. Brig. Gen.

Head Quarters, Sioux Expedition
Camp in the Mauvaisses Terres
October 10th 1855

199
Assistant Adjutant Gen.

Col. S. Thomas
Hd. Qrs. Army
New York

137
143
Colonel: