

**JUST PERSONAL MENTION.**

Judge Harry S. Dungan of Hastings went up to Trenton Monday morning, to hold court for Hitchcock county for Judge Orr. Report says Stayner accompanied him. Judge Dungan spent Sunday in the city, guest of his brother W. H. Dungan.

Harry J. Cox has returned to New York City to look after his estate case, which is expected to come up in July, for decision. This case involves priceless lands on Coney Island and if won by Mr. Cox will bring him a fabulous return for his persistent work to secure justice.

Dr. and Mrs. William F. Burris, departed Monday morning on 13, for Denver and the mountains on an outing. The doctor's sermon, Sunday morning, in the Methodist church, was greatly appreciated by many. The doctor takes some pride in being old-fashioned in his theology. He is sound and earnest, too. The doctor and wife attended the Cambridge meeting of the Epworth League, last week, in Cambridge. He is a member of the Board of Control. Being old-time Missouri friends of Rev. and Mrs. L. E. Lewis of our city, they came up here and spent a few days visiting them.

**MASSACRE OF THE NELSON BUCK SURVEYING PARTY.**

**As Told In the Official Correspondence and Newspaper Accounts of the Time.**

In the issue of The Tribune for Tuesday, June 6th, was printed the substance of a letter from Mr. H. B. McGregor, of Pontiac, Illinois, who, so far as is known, is the only survivor of the Nelson Buck surveying party, the members of which, with the exception of Mr. McGregor and one other, were killed by the Indians in the summer of 1869. The real story of the massacre will probably never be told, but enough has been discovered to leave no doubt that the bones of at least ten of the twelve men who started on the expedition were left to bleach upon the plains of southwestern Nebraska somewhere within the boundaries of what is now Red Willow county.

The archives of the surveyor general's office of Nebraska contain several letters from Nelson Buck. In one dated December 27, 1867, addressed to Surveyor General P. W. Hitchcock, the writer made application for a contract to do surveying in this state. He says he had, at that time, been in the business of surveying in Illinois for thirty-four years, and that he believed he was qualified to do such work. An interesting assertion in this letter is that he had letters of recommendation from Judge Treat, Abraham Lincoln, Jno. T. Stuart, and "many others among the most prominent of our great men." No copy of the surveyor general's answer is available, but the following extract from Mr. Buck's reply, dated February 11, 1868, gives an intimation of what he may have said, and in the light of what afterwards occurred, seems almost prophetic:

"As to the trouble with the Indians, I expected to encounter all this. I am no more prepared to be killed than others are, but I think I am just as unlikely to suffer from their depredations as others, and am able to employ such force as will be likely to protect a party of surveyors as others are. In fact that part will not deter me from taking my chance. It is not the profit alone that would induce me to make the attempt, but the desire to be employed where I can see the west, so then so far as the fear of Indians are concerned, that has little or no weight in this matter.

"If I can procure a contract for U. S. surveys I shall go prepared to perform all the requirements of the laws in such cases.

"Permit me to speak as though I was personally present. I can procure all the necessary recommendations as a competent surveyor. I can, if I have not now, procure all the necessary outfits and instruments. I can procure all the necessary assistants, and arms for defense against Indians and I can perform the work as well as any other man, as my long practice in surveying, I can say without fear of successful contradiction has given me a knowledge of all the various plans that must be carried out and I am anxious to be engaged in this business.

Before any contract was executed, there was a change of administration, and the next letter in the series, which is dated May 29, 1869, is addressed to Gen. R. R. Livingston. In this letter Mr. Buck announces his intention of leaving Illinois for Nebraska within a few days. In the issue of the Nebraska Herald, published at Plattsmouth, for June 24, 1869, it is reported, "that Nelson Buck, Esq., of Pontiac, Illinois, a brother of John F. Buck, of this county, has a contract under Surveyor General Livingston for establishing standard lines in the western part of the state." On July 21st, 1869, Mr. Buck wrote Gen. Livingston from Fort Kearney, as follows:

"I regret that I did not procure arms, etc., while there (at Plattsmouth). I made application through Capt. Pollock to Gen. Auger, for leave to draw such as were needed, but did not get them.

"I will write today to Lieut. McClay for 6 Spencer rifles or needle breech loaders with 200 rounds each. Please write to Lieut. McClay or Gen. Auger, your consent for me to draw such (or others which may be had) at Fort McPherson. Some and indeed several of my company feel discouraged at hearing of Indians, out and through our district of country and want arms so that if we must fight Indians, all can take part in the matter.

"We have lain here three days, hoping for game arms, although I knew the matter was rather doubtful, on account of irregularity in the present application. Still as we were here, we had hoped that the Gen. would issue the necessary orders."

So far as is known, this is the last word from Mr. Buck or from any member of his party, and also

except H. B. McGregor and John Nettleton, who left the party after it had gone into the field, ever saw any of its members, either dead or alive, again.

In the issue of The Nebraska Herald for October 14, 1869, it was reported that none of the lines or corners that were to have been established by Mr. Buck under his contract could be found. This fact, coupled with the fact, that although his trail had been discovered, and an empty water keg found near one of his camps, no trace of the party had been seen, and that Gen. Duncan, who was out on a scouting expedition had found two surveyor's tripods in an Indian camp that had then been recently raided by him, led to the surmise that the members of the party had been massacred.

Lieut. Jacob Almy reported the capture on September 26th, 1869, by a detachment of cavalry under the command of Gen. Duncan, of a squaw who told of an encounter between a party of white men and a band of Indians under Pawnee Killer and Whistler, that occurred while the Indians were crossing the Republican river between Frenchman's Fork and Red Willow creek, to move over to the Beaver. She said that four young Indians, in advance of the main body of the savages, were attacked by the whites, and that three of the Indians and one white man were killed. The Indians pursued the aggressors in the direction of the Leaver, took their horses and rations, destroyed two wagons, and killed five of the whites, the rest of them escaping.

The story told by the squaw is corroborated by the account of an investigation made by an employe of the government who was in charge of the agency to which the Sioux returned after their summer's campaign through the Republican valley. His report, dated Whetstone Agency, New Fort Randall, D. T., Jan. 8, 1870, reads in part, as follows:

"As intimated in my last letter to you in reference to the killing of a party of surveyors under charge of Mr. Buck, last summer, by Indians, I have now to state that I have made diligent inquiry among the Indians located here, including 'Spotted Tail,' 'Swift Bear,' 'Pawnee Killer,' and others and send you the substance of information gained up to the present time. 'Pawnee Killer' arrived at this agency in September last. His party all had more or less United States currency, which they paid over very freely while here. 'Spotted Tail' informs me that one of his party related to him that they attacked near Beaver creek, a party of about twelve surveyors in August last, and succeeded in killing six of the party. The balance retreated and entrenched themselves. The Indians subsequently attacked and were re-

(Concluded in Thursday's edition.)

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**At the McCook Chautauqua Wednesday Afternoon and Night**



**SIGNOR FERRANTE, THE GREAT ITALIAN BANDMASTER.**

FERRANTE'S Royal Italian Guards Band has come into the Chautauqua field. It has been induced to leave the summer gardens and richly furnished amusement parks of the city for a ten weeks' tour of a great Chautauqua System. The coming of this famous band to this Chautauqua week is unquestionably the greatest event in music the community has known. Ferrante himself is one of the greatest band directors that Italy has produced. He organized his first band when only a very young man. He has been a bandmaster ever since. He came to this country with his Royal Italian Guards less than two years ago. The band had made a great stir in Europe, where it is well known, and it is fast becoming a favorite in this country. It has never until this summer crossed the Missouri river. Band Day will be one of the big days of Chautauqua week.



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