

The McCook Tribune.

Tuesday Evening Edition

THIRTIETH YEAR.

McCOOK, RED WILLOW COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 4, 1911.

NUMBER 11.

Early S. W. Nebraska History

Battle Between United States Troops and Kiowa and Comanche Indians on Republican River—Report of Captain Sturgis of Encounter of August 6, 1860.

For several years prior to the beginning of the Civil War, bands of Kiowa and Comanche Indians had been ranging over the great plains, slaughtering cattle, stealing horses, burning ranches and killing settlers and travelers. In the summer of 1860 the government, determined to put an end to these atrocities, sent a detachment of troops under the command of Captain Sturgis in pursuit of the savages. The campaign, which necessitated a march from south to north across the state of Kansas, terminated on the 6th day of August, 1860, in an engagement that occurred at a place which has not yet been, if it ever can be, more definitely located than at some place "near the Republican fork" north of Beaver creek. The following is taken from the official report of the encounter, which is dated at Fort Kearney, N. T., August 12, 1860.

"On the 28th ultimo we marched from the Arkansas river towards the north, leaving our tents and heavy baggage behind, under a proper guard and, by a series of rapid marches (several of them made at night), we succeeded in arriving so close upon the rear of the enemy, at Solomon's fork, on the morning of the 31st, as to get possession of their camp which they had abandoned, during the previous night. Here we found large quantities of buffalo meat and hides, and a considerable number of lodge poles, all of which had been left on account of the rapidity of their flight, and which was distributed among our friendly Indians or destroyed.

"As we had marched fifty miles within the last twenty-four hours, and as there was little hope of coming up with them by an open daylight chase, we remained in camp during the day, and marched again in a violent storm as soon as it was dark, striking directly for the north, by the compass.

"During the next day five of our Indian scouts fell in with a large party of the enemy, and two of them were killed, and the others wounded, one fatally, and has since died; three of the enemy were also killed, and several wounded.

"On the morning of the 3rd instant, and just before day break, they made an attack upon our camp, in what numbers it would be difficult to say—some think they numbered fifty or sixty, others are of the opinion that they did not exceed twenty, which I think is the more probable number, for, like the coyote or prairie wolf, half a dozen of them can make as much noise as one would expect to hear from a hundred throats. However, they did us little injury, and withdrew before it was light enough to pursue them. It is presumed that two of them, at least, were badly wounded, as they went off howling piteously.

"As soon as there was sufficient light to enable us to follow the trail, we marched again, when Captain McIntosh was sent, at his own request, with sixteen men to reconnoiter a ravine at a short distance on the right of the column. As this ravine appeared to lead in the direction of the trail, the column moved on, and on reaching the high ground about one mile from camp, beheld this gallant officer and his handful of brave men furiously driving before them some fifty or sixty stalwart warriors. At this time a messenger arrived from the captain, informing me that he (Captain McIntosh) thought from indications, he had seen, that a large force was ahead in waiting for us, and that he intended keeping up the chase. Lieutenant Fish was then detached with the advance guard (fifty-six men) to the support of Captain McIntosh, and the whole command followed at a good pace. Thus the pursuit was kept up for eighteen miles, when I determined to abandon it and resume the trail, knowing that sooner or later it would lead to their principal stronghold. In this affair two of the enemy were killed, one of whom, judging from the grandness of his decorations, was probably a chief, or at least an important personage among his people.

"Soon after leaving camp on Whelan's (Beaver) creek, on the morning of the 6th, a party of the ene-

my, amounting probably to thirty or forty, again appeared in our front—distant perhaps a mile. To overtake this party, Lieutenant Fish was detached with twenty men on picked horses, with orders to catch them if possible, and not to spare the horses. Lieutenant Ingraham, with the advanced guard, followed in rear of Lieutenant Fish, with orders to keep in sight of that officer, and hasten to his support if necessary. This pursuit, though conducted with great energy on the part of those zealous young officers, was nevertheless unsuccessful, and after keeping it up over hills and ravines for eight miles, they found themselves no nearer the enemy than when they started. This last effort demonstrated beyond a doubt that our horses after marching a thousand miles over a country for the most part a desert, cannot compete with the fresh and fat horses of the Indians.

"About 11 o'clock a. m., we crossed a boggy branch of the stream along which we had been marching, and halted in order to see the wagons safely over. The difficulty of the crossing, taken in connection with the increasing density of the timber on the creek, and the presence of a good many Indians still hovering in our front, rendered it necessary to adopt precautionary measures against a surprise. Accordingly the troops were required to 'stand to horse' while Lieutenant Ingraham, with the advanced guard, was directed to reconnoiter the timber in the vicinity of the crossing, and Lieutenant Stockton was directed to deploy his company (B) to the front, as skirmishers. Shortly after this arrangement was made, I received word by one of the guides that several of our own Indians had become entangled with the enemy. Lieutenant Stockton was then ordered to move forward rapidly, and, if such were the case, to afford them protection. The number of hostile Indians in our front was now evidently increasing, and Captain Beall was sent with his company (A) to join Lieutenant Stockton and take command of the squadron. A few moments more, however, left no doubt of our being in the vicinity of the entire force of the enemy, and the remainder of the command was therefore at once moved forward at a gallop. In our front lay a level plain—say a mile in width—intersected by numerous ravines, and contained between a low ridge of hills on the north and a heavily-wooded stream on the south. As we advanced, the enemy poured in from every conceivable hiding place, until the plain and hill sides contained probably from 600 to 800 warriors, apparently determined to make a bold stand. Captain McIntosh who commanded the squadron on the left, was now directed to move diagonally up the hill side, and take the enemy in flank, while Captain Carr's squadron moved on the center with a view to charge or fight on foot, as circumstances might render necessary.

"In this order the command moved up at a round gallop, and in good order; but unfortunately the enemy now began to give way; and though our horses were put to the top of their speed, yet on account of the freshness of the Indian horses, and the jaded condition of our own, the distance between us gradually increased, thus rendering their own arms to a great extent useless, while our long-rangs arms told with great effect upon them. The whole scene became one of flight and pursuit for fifteen miles, when they scattered on the north side of the Republican fork, rendering further pursuit impossible. So we returned to the wagons, and encamped a little after nightfall.

"In this affair (and the skirmishes which preceded it) twenty-nine of the enemy were killed. How many were wounded it is impossible to say with any degree of accuracy, probably a great many."

Six companies of troops participated in this pursuit and fight, and a number of Indian scouts accompanied the detachment. The casualties to the government forces were three friendly Indians killed, two soldiers seriously and one slightly wounded, and one missing. Further investigation may disclose, more definitely, the place where this battle was fought. There seems little question, however, but that it occurred either in Furnas or Red Willow county.

WATER PLANT DEAL IS CLOSED

The Deed and Bonds Were Duly Exchanged Between City and Company, Last Saturday Evening.

THE PLANT DULY TURNED OVER TO THE CITY

The First Proposition of the Company to the City Obtains and Transfer Is Made on That Basis—Sprinkling Hours Temporarily to be Restricted to 7 to 8 a. m. and 6 to 8 p. m.

"City council met in adjourned session, Friday night. Present: Mayor James McAdams; Councilmen Middleton, Stansberry, Brown and Woods. City Clerk Frank Travers, City Attorney F. L. Wolff. Ordinance No. 200 for purchase of water works was adopted, all four councilmen voting aye. Adjournment taken to 10:30 a. m., Saturday, when all were present, as above except Woods, absent. Deputy City Engineer McKay was present. Water company refused to sell unless city purchased water tax due from consumers for 2nd quarter of 1911. This, and afternoon, session occupied with negotiations and counter-propositions, no proposition being made satisfactory to both parties.

"Saturday, 8:00 p. m., at adjourned session, present: Mayor James McAdams, Councilmen Middleton, Stansberry and Brown, City Clerk Frank Travers, City Engineer Deere and Deputy McKay, City Attorney Wolff and partner C. D. Ritchie. Water

company accepted city's original proposition as stated in ordinance No. 200, having decided to retain second quarter tax and collect same itself.

"Deed from Water Co. to city consideration, \$65,000.00 and release of \$30,000 mortgage, delivered to city with two insurance policies. Six coupons were clipped from each of water bonds 1 to 13 for \$5,000.00, a total of \$65,000.00. Clerk was ordered to cancel these coupons and preserve same. On seventh coupon of each bond, \$12.50 was indorsed by water company. The 13 bonds were then delivered to A. B. Minor, president of water company and secretary of Lincoln Land Co. A bill included in settlement, purchasing bill in transit, etc., allowed. Ordinance No. 301 was passed restricting sprinkling except from 7 to 8 a. m. and 6 to 8 p. m., until proper fire pressure and domestic supply obtained, and providing for fine allowing lawn sprinklers to run during fire. Adjourned.

Burlington Crop Report.

That the wheat crop is much better than was indicated in the reports a week ago, and that corn is in excellent condition, were the important essentials of the weekly crop bulletin issued at Burlington headquarters in Lincoln Thursday.

The week prospects are uniformly good in the eastern half of the state while the whole state crop is not suffering so much from the dry weather as was feared a week ago. Harvesting has been begun in a number of sections through the state.

Corn prospects have not been as good at this season in five years as they are now and it has been a decade since at this stage of the growth the fields were as free from weeds.

There will be a full wheat crop on the Omaha division, probably 75 per cent on the Lincoln division, 70 per cent on the Wymore and about 28 per cent on the McCook division, according to present indications.—Lincoln Star.

Box Elder Precinct.

The Republican primary election for Box Elder precinct will be held on Wednesday, July 12th, 1911, at the home of T. M. Campbell, Box Elder, at three o'clock, for the purpose of selecting delegates and nominating precinct ticket.

WILL SEXSON, Committeeman.

Small Reduction in Valuation.

Red Willow county shows a small reduction in total assessed valuation for 1911 over 1910. The figures for 1910 are \$3,349,173. The 1911 figures are 3,292,230, or a reduction of \$49,943.

Issue One Day Earlier.

On account of Tuesday being July 4th, Tuesday's edition of The Tribune went to press Monday evening, to enable the force and publisher to appropriately celebrate our country's natal day.

At Cambridge.

The patrons of the Cambridge water plant consumed four million, two hundred and thirty-one thousand gallons of water for the quarter April 1st to July 1st. This is more than twice that of any previous quarter since the plant was installed. R. H. Perry was the heaviest user, his meter registering 128,000 gallons. At 15c per 1000 gallons the plant made the town a revenue of \$631 for the quarter.—Cambridge Clarion.

SAVE YOUR DOLLARS
and buy your dry goods during Clapp's "Fifth Off Sale" this week.

G. M. Burnett, the chiropodist, removes corns and bunions without pain. Office at National hotel.

McConnell fills prescriptions.

Some Later Fire Developments

RANDALL IS AFTER ALLEGED FIRE BUGS

Cans of coal oil, jugs of gasoline and old sacks soaked with the two liquids, taken from a pair of houses in McCook which were partially destroyed by fire a few days ago, have furnished a case for investigation by State Fire Commissioner Randall. He came back from there strongly convinced that the fire was incendiary. All evidence secured was left in the hands of the county attorney for proceedings to be undertaken later.

The houses are the property of Laura Hughes, and it is reported that they were used as sporting places up to a short time ago, when they were closed under the new Albert law. They were heavily insured, together with the furniture and other contents. Firemen found a large kerosene can nearly empty, and a two-gallon jug which had contained gasoline, in one of the houses. In the other, a jug of gasoline tightly corked and wrapped with sacks saturated in

kerosene, was found in the middle of a room. Members of the fire department declared that flames floated on top of the water that was poured into the houses.

By making inquiries, it has been learned where the oil was purchased, and by whom.—Lincoln Star.

Investigation by Mr. Randall developed that instead of the insurance on the two buildings and contents being \$3,700, as first reported, the total is quite \$6,500—and possibly \$9,000, sums out of all proportions to the real value of those properties, which are practically worthless—save for the immoral purposes used,—which the Albert law has made too hazardous for owners or lessors. So the incentive for incendiaryism is not lacking.

Incidentally, while in the city, Mr. Randall ordered some cleaning up to be done, instantly, in the business section. Mr. Randall stated, however, that he found few cities in the state in as clean condition as McCook.

MOVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.

Dr. W. F. Jones has joined the wife and son at Hill City, S. D.

C. E. Eldred is the orator of the day at Hagler, Dundly county, today.

W. A. Mitchell is up from Hastings to celebrate the fourth with the family.

J. R. VanHorn returned, Friday night, from his long absence from the city.

Mrs. Will Deere returned home Sunday on No. 13 from a visit to Superior.

Leo Ryan went in to Omaha Sunday morning on No. 2, to secure a position in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Sutton and Miss Velma arrived home Friday night from their visit east.

Dr. Morris, district supt., held quarterly conference in the Methodist church, Thursday evening, last.

Herman Brown arrived home Friday morning, on train 2, from his Pacific coast trip of a few weeks.

Matt Colling, one of the oldtimers from route one, Indianla, had business in the county capital, Saturday.

H. H. Humphries of The Tribune force is visiting in Ainsworth, Nebraska, his old home up in Brown county.

F. L. Barnes is shipping his threshing outfit to Bladen, this state, to do some harvesting for farmers in that neighborhood.

A. E. Petty came up from Lincoln Saturday night, joining the family here until over the 4th. Many friends were pleased to greet him.

E. E. Magee came up from Aurora for the 4th. He and his son Bruce will leave tomorrow night on their Pacific coast trip of a few weeks.

Mrs. C. H. Nash and the children departed on Sunday morning, for Steele City, Nebraska, to be absent several weeks visiting the homefolks.

Postmaster Cone arrived home on Friday morning, from his absence of a couple weeks in the east, during which time he visited in Buffalo, Washington, New York and other points.

R. J. Kirkpatrick and family of Beatrice were in the city last Thursday on their way to the great ranch up in Chase county. They rode in a big Peerless touring car and the rest of the party rode in a big Apperson touring car.

H. C. Clapp departed Sunday morning on train 2, for New York City. Mrs. Clapp will meet him in Chicago and accompany him on east. They will be absent four or five weeks making fall and winter purchases—expecting to spend a week in Chicago on the way home.

McConnell for drugs.

LOST—Between E. Benjamin's residence and St. Patrick's church July 2, a gold necklace, with amethyst set and pearl pendant. Suitable reward for return to Mrs. E. Benjamin, or The Tribune office.

A large delegation of members of Eureka chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, went up to Benkelman, last Friday afternoon, and assisted in the constituting of the chapter in that town, Mrs. Z. L. Kay of our city being the grand officer for the occasion. All agree the Benkelman bunch are the finest ever.

NOTICE.

To the patrons of the McCook Water Works Co.:

Water tax, second quarter, is now due and payable at the company's office. We are informed that some of our former patrons make a claim against us for the amount collected during the time the court's injunction was in effect in excess of the charges fixed by Ord. 136. Our attorney has advised us that such claims are erroneous and we have not allowed any credits on that account. We wish now to close out the business of the company as rapidly as possible and wish to settle all legal claims without unnecessary delay. We are willing to enter into a test suit entering appearance for immediate hearing and try the question involved in any one or more cases, the result in the one case will then determine the rights of all parties. Call at the office, give us a statement of your claim and we will furnish every facility for speedy settlement.

J. E. KELLEY, Secy.

Extended to Other Classifications.

The postoffice department has amended its law concerning indemnity on matter other than first class. Indemnity to the extent of \$25 or the actual value of article will be paid for losses of registered mail of the third and fourth classes mailed on and after July 1, 1911. Heretofore only first class registered mail was protected by the department with indemnity to the extent of \$50 for a single piece. Other classes of mail while given the same service and protection en route, if lost in the mails, owners were not indemnified.

Photographic Satisfaction

follows the use of our photo supplies. Our goods are always fresh and reliable and insure you the results desired. You will not find a better or more complete assortment. Our stock includes all the worthy modern requisites and our prices are invariably the lowest that reliable goods can be sold for. Come in and get photo wise to date. There are scores of new things this spring that will interest you.

L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.

Real Estate Filings.

The following real estate filings have been made in the county clerk's office since our last report: Jennings, Hughes & Co., certificate of partnership in plumbing business.

Perry Barker et ux to J. K. and Rose Kerr, wd., to e 1/2 sec 11 and 1/2 sw 1/4 of 12-1-26 5900 00

FRANCIS MARION MYERS.

Francis Marion Myers, father of Switchman L. W. Myers, died at the son's home on 2nd street east, Sunday, July 2nd. Deceased was about 59 years of age. Up to the time of going to press, arrangements have not been perfected for burial. Dropsy was the cause of death.

ONLY FOUR DAYS
this week in which you can buy Dry Goods at 20 to 50 percent discount at Clapp's.