

low where the state line of Missouri (as lately run by the state commissioners) strikes the Missouri river. Accompanying this report, is a sketch of the country opposite to Table creek and of the state line, for a few miles before reaching the Missouri river.

If this site is approved of by the secretary of war, the undersigned recommend, that a reserve for military purposes be made of the land, in the state opposite to it, and as marked by dotted lines on the map.

The undersigned, from a careful examination of the country, are prepared to state, that there is no place, on the Missouri river, between the mouth of Platte and Table creek, that will answer for a military post, except the one which they recommend; they are strongly in favor of the post being below the Platte for many reasons; amongst which may be mentioned, that troops from such a point being nearer, can more readily afford protection, when needed, to the frontier inhabitants of the state; that the Pawnees of the Platte, the most warlike and powerful nation in that section, can much more easily be reached by a route below, than by one above that river; and that as with the exception of about fifty miles next to Wisconsin territory, there is a mass of Indians settled along the whole of the northern and western boundary of the state of Missouri; this site which has been selected being by land about 120 miles from Fort Leavenworth, is, at least, sufficiently remote.

In fulfillment of part of the duty devolved upon the undersigned, they have most respectfully but strongly to urge, for the more effectual protection of this portion of the frontier country, that the post of Fort Leavenworth be strengthened as early as practicable, to the extent at least, of what was, last summer contemplated by the present secretary of war, so as to include six companies of dragoons and four of infantry; and they consider four companies of dragoons and four of infantry an amply sufficient garrison for Table creek.

The undersigned examined the country above the Platte, as far as Bellevue, a distance of about ten miles, and were pleased with a site one-half a mile below that place.

Near Mr. Fonfon's house (an Indian trader) is a table land, about 400 yards from the river, which possesses many requisites for a military post.

The undersigned cannot omit this opportunity of most strongly urging upon the honorable secretary of war, the immediate making of the military road, from Fort Leavenworth to at least the top of the hill south of the Kansas river, as marked out by the survey of last fall, a distance of about twenty-four miles; their duties have frequently led them over that route, and they have invariably found it worse than any other part of the frontier, and at times, when de-

siring to be expeditious, they have found it almost impassable. With much respect, Your most Obedt. Servts.,

(Signed) S. W. KEARNEY,  
Col. First dragoons Comsr.  
NATHAN BOONE,  
Captain First Dragoons.

Major T. Cross,

A. Qr. Mr. Genl., U. S. Army,  
Washington, D. C.

3.

Adjutant General's Office, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6, 1846. Special Orders, No. 17:

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2. A new military post will be established on the Missouri river, near the mouth of Table creek, as soon as the season for operations will permit. The site will be selected by Colonel Kearney, of the First dragoons.

By command of Major General Scott.  
R. JONES, Adj't. Genl.

4.

A. G. O., WASHINGTON, March 6, 1846.

General: The secretary of war having decided to establish a new post on the Missouri river, near the mouth of Table creek, I respectfully enclose herewith "Special Orders" No. 17, directing the same, with my letter of instructions of this date to Colonel Kearney, First dragoons, on whom it devolves to make the selection of the site, and to give the necessary instructions for establishing the post.

Colonel Kearney will confer with you on the subject, and as the work is to be built mainly by the troops, it may be necessary to order a company to the Little Platte as early as the season will permit.

This company should be drawn from Fort Leavenworth.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
R. JONES,  
Adjutant-General.  
Brigadier-General G. M. Brooke,  
Commanding Third Department,  
St. Louis, Mo.

5.

A. G. O., WASHINGTON, March 6, 1846.

Colonel: You will see by "Special Orders" No. 17, of this date, herewith sent, the selection of the site of the new post to be established on the Missouri river, near the mouth of Table creek, devolves on you, which duty the general-in-chief directs you will enter upon without unnecessary delay. From your intimate knowledge of the country, and approximate stations, when with the headquarters of your regiment, the general-in-chief deems it proper to charge you with the instructions necessary for the immediate establishment of the post, the character and description of the proper defences, quarters, barracks, &c., and it is left for you to determine, on consulting with Brevet Brigadier-General Brooke, whether the garrison shall

consist of dragoons or infantry, or of one, or two companies.

The quarters and defences, with respect to quality and durability, must depend in some degree upon the length of time it may be necessary to maintain this new position; and from your personal acquaintance with our Indian relations in that quarter, &c., your opinion will have considerable weight in determining whether the work should be regarded as temporary, or one of a more permanent character.

It is expected that the greatest economy will be observed in procuring the materials for the new work, as well as in its construction, which, as far as practicable, will be accomplished by the labor of the troops.

The quartermaster's department, will, on proper requisitions furnish the necessary materials, tools, etc.

You will see that a sufficient area be reserved around the post for all military purposes, and a sufficient quantity of land be laid aside to supply fuel for the garrison.

You will please to confer with Brigadier-General Brooke, the commander of the department, upon the subject of your instructions, before your departure from St. Louis.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
R. JONES,  
Adjutant-General.  
Colonel S. W. Kearney,  
First dragoons,  
St. Louis, Mo.

6.

Headquarters First Regt. dragoons, St. LOUIS, Mo., March 16, 1846.

Sir: I have this day received yours of the 6th instant, enclosing Special Order No. 17, of that date, the second paragraph of which directs the establishment of a new military post on the Missouri river, near the mouth of Table creek—the site to be selected by myself—the letter enters upon the detail of it.

In September, 1836, Captain Boone and myself were, by instructions from the war department, appointed commissioners to carry out the objects of the law of July 2, 1836, and on April 25, 1838, after having made a reconnaissance of the country near the mouth of the Nebraska or Platte river, we reported to the acting quartermaster-general (as then instructed) in favor of establishing a military post near the mouth of Table creek—my opinion of the advantages of that site remains unchanged. I enclose herewith a copy of that report.

In your letter to me you state, "It is left for you (me) to determine, on consulting with Brigadier-General Brooke, whether the garrison shall consist of dragoons or infantry, or of one or two companies;" and in reference to this I would remark that as the post is to be established near the northwest corner of the state of Missouri—in the Otoe coun-