

try near to their settlements and within striking distance of the Pawnees—these two nations being the most restless and troublesome on this frontier—as it will be near to the Pottawattamies and Sioux—and as it will most probably be the starting point from the Missouri river for the Oregon emigrants, I think it will be a permanent one; and I am clearly of the opinion that it should be garrisoned by at least two companies of dragoons and two of infantry, and I now ask for the approval of the general-in-chief to this recommendation. The secretary of war, in 1838, as understood by us, was in favor of having upwards of a regiment at this point. Should a regiment of mounted riflemen be authorized by law, I would propose that four companies of it be established there.

There must necessarily be a large reserve around the post in the Indian country, and one on the opposite side of the Missouri river within the state, whence most of the building timber is to be procured. There are no settlements there at present, though no doubt there would soon be some groceries if permitted, and I have therefore to ask for an approval of the reserve in the state as recommended by Captain Boone and myself "marked by dotted lines on the map," sent to the acting-quartermaster-general with our report of April 25, 1838, which must now be in the quartermaster-general's office, but of which I have no copy.

Cannot an officer of the quartermaster department be ordered at once to report here, that he may make his requisition for the "necessary materials, tools, &c.," accompany the troops to Table creek and superintendent the erection of the buildings there?

I shall be prepared to remove the headquarters of my regiment to Fort Leavenworth on the receipt of your reply to this communication.

I cannot refrain from stating in this place, that in my opinion justice to the state of Missouri and its exposed frontier, with so many thousand Indians near to it, will not admit of a diminution of the military force now at Fort Leavenworth, viz: four companies of dragoons and one of infantry; now at Fort Scott which now consists of one company of dragoons and one of infantry. They ought to be increased at least one company of infantry at each post.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. W. KEARNEY,  
Colonel First dragoons.

Brigadier-General R. Jones,  
Adjutant-General U. S. army,  
Washington, D. C.

7.

Headquarters First Regt. Dragoons, }  
St. Louis, Mo., March 17, 1846. }

Sir: In my communication to you of yesterday, I stated that a reserve would

be required in the state of Missouri, directly opposite to the new post, to be established near the mouth of Table creek, whence most of the building timber must be procured, and that there were no settlements there at present. I have now to make a correction of this, as I have just learned that there are some squatters there, dealing in liquor with the Indians, and that all the timbered land in the state, near that point is claimed by squatters and whiskey dealers. A reserve nevertheless is necessary there on account of the timber required for building purposes and to control a ferry. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. W. KEARNEY,  
Colonel First dragoons.

Brigadier-General R. Jones,  
Adjutant-General U. S. army,  
Washington, D. C.

8.

Dear General: For the information of the general-in-chief I would state unofficially that I have just started Lieutenant Smith with thirty dragoons of Captain Moore's company, taking twenty public horses, for Table creek, the remainder of the horses of that company I keep here till they have stables where they can secure them, for as the dragoons will have so much work to perform in building their quarters the horses would necessarily be a great incumbrance.

I am hourly looking for a steamboat bringing from St. Louis flooring, stores, &c., for the new post, and, on her arrival, will embark the infantry companies and the remainder of Captain Moore's company, going in her myself, and taking Major Wharton (at his request) to put him in command of the new post. I expect on my arrival there to lay out the place for the buildings, and set all hands to work, and then return here by the last of the month; and as Table creek is not more than 120 miles from here, I shall expect to go there two or three times during the summer, taking each time a company of dragoons from here, who will assist in the work for the few weeks they may be on a visit there.

Our mails are very irregular; we have nothing from Washington later than the 22d ultimo.

Yours,

S. W. KEARNEY,  
May 12, 1846.

Fort Leavenworth.

Brigadier-General Jones.

9.

Headquarters Detachment U.S. Army, }  
Steamer "Amaranth" on the }  
Missouri river, May 16, 1846. }

Sir: Having embarked with two companies, one of dragoons and the other of infantry, to establish the newly designed post near the junction of Table creek and this river, I write to ask that I may be furnished with a sufficient number of blank post returns for the

current year. I shall also need a supply of enlistments, re-enlistments (blanks) of accounts current, recruiting accounts and of returns of the regimental recruiting service for the same period. As I am at present advised the nearest post-office to the proposed post is either Munsiker's ferry, or High Bridge creek, Atchison county, Missouri.

I avail myself of the present occasion to ask what shall be the name of the new post? Fort Nebraska or Fort Macomb had been suggested to my mind, the latter after the late General Macomb, seeing that the names of many general officers had become those of several of our military posts. Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. WHARTON,  
Major First dragoons,  
Commanding.

Brigadier-General R. Jones,  
Adjutant-General,  
Washington, D. C.

NOTE—By Adjutant-General Jones—

As it is probable that the prosecution of this new work will be postponed no attention need be paid to this letter immediately.

10.

Headquarters First Regt. Dragoons, }  
Ft. Leavenworth, May 28, 1846. }

Sir: I have to report, that in compliance with Special Orders No. 17 of March 5, 1846, I (in company with Brigadier-General Brooke) on the 15th instant, left here with Company C, First dragoons and Company A, First infantry, to establish a new military post on the right bank of the Missouri river and at the mouth of Table creek. On our arrival at that point the ground for the buildings was laid off; the plan of them decided upon; all necessary arrangements made, and orders given. I then left Major Wharton in command there and returned to this post, where I arrived on the afternoon of the 26th, and a few hours after received by Lieutenant Turner yours to me of the 13th and 14th with their enclosures (relating to an expedition to Santa Fe) which he had obtained from the postoffice in St. Louis.

To enable me to take as many of my own regiment on this expedition as circumstances will admit of, I immediately sent orders for Captain Moore at Table creek and Captain Eustis at Fort Scott, to march to this post, with from forty to forty-five men of their companies, leaving the balance of them, including all their mechanics, to continue on the works at which they are now employed. With the three companies now here, and the parts of the two which are coming, I am in hopes of getting about 230 efficient dragoons for the field besides leaving a small, though sufficient, number to take charge of this post for the present. The dragoons will be ready to