

dragoons, which had been sent by land under the command of Lieutenant A. J. Smith and a company of infantry under my command.

The services of Major Wharton and the dragoons were shortly after required at Fort Leavenworth and I was left to continue the construction of the post. I succeeded in erecting a blockhouse, when I was ordered to abandon the place, and employ some suitable person to take charge of the public property. I think Mr. English was the person so employed.

If any purchase of the reserve was made from the Otoes I think it must have been effected by Colonel Kearney, either at Fort Leavenworth, or on one of his expeditions to the mountains, certainly not at the time we located the post.

The Otoes made us but one visit, and that was during the time Major Wharton was in command; this was evidently made with a view to exhibit their strength, and the subjects treated of in the interviews with them pertained to matters of general interest.

My public papers of that date were all destroyed in the great fire which occurred at St. Louis in 1849. It is possible they might have furnished some evidence of a more definite character upon the subject. Very respectfully,

Your obedt. servt.,

W. E. PRINCE,

Captain First infantry.

Major-General Thos. S. Jesup,

Quartermaster General, U. S. A.,

Washington, D. C.

19.

Roster of the troops forming the first garrison of Camp Kearney on the Missouri river.

CO. A, FIRST U. S. INFANTRY.

First Lieutenant W. E. Prince.

Second Lieutenant E. C. McLean.

Bvt. Second Lieutenant A. B. Lincoln.

Three officers and forty men.

Remarks on returns.—Left Fort Leavenworth, May 15, 1846; arrived at Camp Kearney, Missouri river, May 22, and left for Fort Leavenworth, July 19, 1846.

CO. C, FIRST U. S. DRAGOONS.

Captain B. D. Moore.

First Lieutenant A. J. Smith.

Two officers and 24 men.

Remarks on returns.—Left Fort Leavenworth, May 15; arrived at Table creek, May 21st; left for Fort Leavenworth, May 30, 1846.

This command left Fort Leavenworth, June 26, 1846, as a part of the column under Colonel S. W. Kearney, en route to Santa Fe, arrived August 18, 1846; left September 26, as a part of an escort to General Kearney to California and arrived in California December 1, 1846.

20.

FORT KEARNEY, NEBRASKA.

Act of congress (29th Cong. First Sess.) Chap. 22, 9 Stat. at Large 13,

entitled An act * * for establishing military stations on the route to Oregon.

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Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars, out of moneys of the treasury not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same hereby is appropriated, to defray the expenses of each military station or defence which the president may deem necessary on the line of communication with Oregon, and a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars for making compensation to the Indian tribes which may own or possess the ground on which the said station may be erected, and for each station.

Approved, May 19, 1846.

21.

War Department, June 1, 1847.

With a view to carry into effect the provisions of Section 6, of the act of May 19, 1846, a requisition has been made upon the state of Missouri for one battalion (five companies) of mounted volunteers, to be employed in establishing the military stations, contemplated by said act, on the line of communication with Oregon. These stations for the present will be limited to two, the first near Grand Island where the road to California encounters the Platte river, and the second at or near Fort Laramie.

As soon as the necessary preliminary arrangements are made for the movement the battalion will be put in march for its destination and will be accompanied by an officer of the corps of engineers, and an assistant quartermaster of the regular army, who under the instructions of their respective chiefs, will be charged with the duties appertaining to their particular branches of the service, and who will receive from the officers and men of the battalion, under the direction of the commanding officer, every aid and assistance they may require in the performance of their appropriate functions.

The commanding officer of the battalion will be expected to fulfill all the requisitions made upon him by the engineer officer who will be charged with the location and construction of the posts. These requisitions will be mainly labor, and for surveys and reconnoissances, which must be supplied by regular details from the troops of the command. The details will, in every instance, be accompanied by one or more officers of the battalion, whose duty it will be to see that the work is executed in conformity with the directions of the engineer officer, agreeably to paragraph 863 of the regulations of 1841. The commanding officer will be responsible for the completion of the works, and will urge upon the troops that their duty is first to build and then to garrison them. He will not move his command from a post until the defenses are well advanced, so that it might be

left with safety in the care of a part of the force.

Two medical officers, one from the regular army, and the other from the volunteer service, will accompany the command. Besides the duty of attending to the sick, they will render such aid as may be required of them in the selection of healthful sites for the posts and afterwards be assigned to them by the commanding officer.

The assistant quartermaster will provide the necessary equipage and transportation for the command, as well as transportations for such materials and implements as may be procured by the engineer officer, and he will be furnished with funds to pay the troops their per diem, as working parties, under the law. He will have an eye to the timely preparation of hay for the horses and cattle of the command for winter use, and to this end, will be furnished by the commanding officer with the necessary details of troops. Besides the duties of quartermaster, he will be required to perform also the duties of commissary for the command. The act referred to appropriates a sum, not exceeding \$2,000, for the purchase, from the Indian tribes, of each of the sites to be selected for military posts. This money will be disbursed by the assistant quartermaster, under the direction of the commanding officer, who is authorized to enter into a treaty with the Indians for the purchase of the ground for these sites, which will be as extensive as the appropriation will procure.

The ordnance department will furnish the requisite ordnance and ordnance stores for the posts to be established, upon the requisition of the engineer officer.

These instructions will be communicated to the commanding officer of the troops, and to the several chiefs of staff departments for their information and government.

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Adjutant General,

Washington, D. C.

22.

Headquarters Fort Leavenworth, }
August 3, 1847. }

Sir:

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Four companies of the Oregon battalion have reached here, and the fifth is daily expected, but, as usual, much delay may be anticipated in the election of the field officer to command. The governor of Missouri has designated Independence and Weston in the state as the places where to hold the elections. The returns, no doubt, must be sent to his excellency from both places that he may determine the result. The election in Independence has been held; it is said that at Weston will be held today. I have no idea that the battalion can go farther than Grand Island this season. Indeed the prevailing opinion is that even there it will arrive too late to pro-