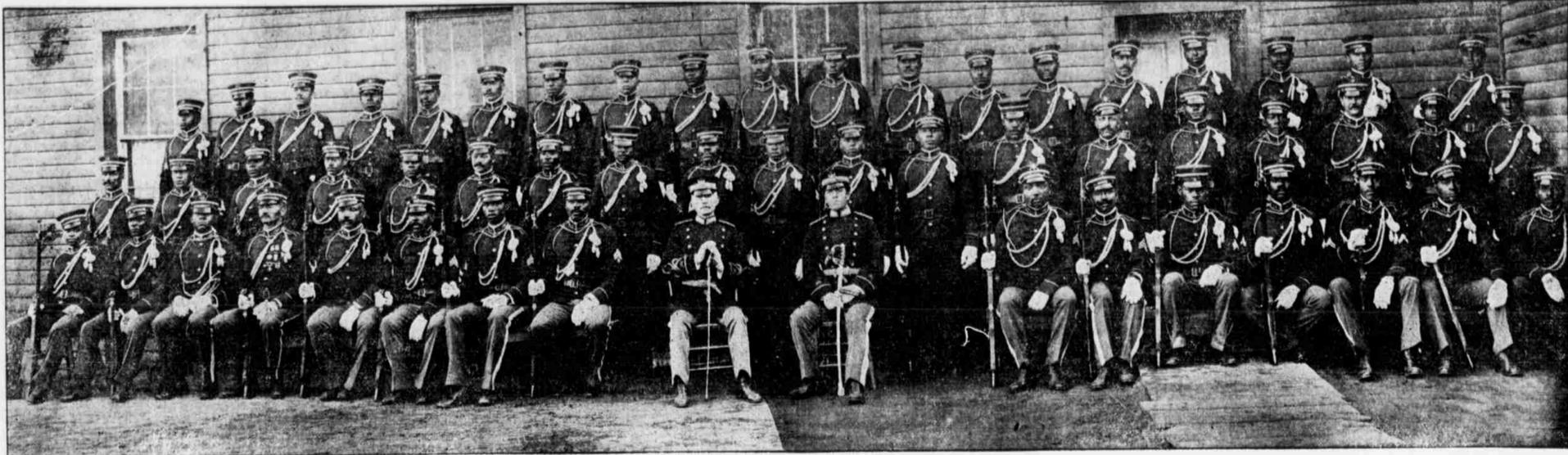


# Fort Niobrara and Its Natural Advantages for a Great Army Post

Splendid Place for Locating Central Depot for the Training of Soldiers and the Holding of Army Maneuvers on a Scale of Actual Warfare



COMPANY K, TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY, UNITED STATES ARMY—CHAMPIONS OF THE REGIMENT IN DRILL AND ATHLETICS

**I**N VIEW of the fact that the president in his annual message expresses his belief that many of the smaller army posts should be abandoned and some of the larger posts be made into brigade and division posts, where the troops can get more actual field training, it is interesting to look over the Fort Niobrara reservation as a place suitable for army maneuvers and a permanent brigade or division post.

The present post is located about five miles east of Valentine, Neb., near the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. If a new post be built it will, without doubt, be placed much nearer the railroad. The original reservation embraced an area of sixty-four square miles, and by executive order of 1904 25.60 acres were added to this already immense tract. This post was intended for cavalry, and quarters and stables were built for the accommodation of eight troops. The construction work was begun over twenty-five years ago, and since the year 1880 Fort Niobrara has been continuously occupied by troops. Of late years, owing to the bad condition of the cavalry stables, it has been occupied by infantry. The Twenty-fifth infantry (colored) came to the post in August, 1905, direct from the Philippines.

The country for miles around is open and the climate is excellent. Malaria is unheard of in this part of the country. The reservation abounds in springs of the purest water, and many small streams flow through the canyons that would furnish water for several large commands. The water used by the present garrison is furnished by a spring just east of the post, and the supply is abundant enough for several large commands. As a result of hard service in the tropics many of the officers and men of the present garrison were greatly run down when they arrived, but their appearance now would be evidence enough that this is the most healthy spot in the United States for troops to serve.

North of the Fort Niobrara reservation, separated by only four miles, lies the great Rosebud Indian reservation of South Dakota. The four miles that separate these reservations are open country with scarcely a ranch and few fences. The Indian reservation abounds in small streams of pure spring water and along the beautiful Keya Paha creek is an abundance of wood. The grazing is the best and from the few ranches sufficient oats and hay can be purchased for commands of any size. The prices paid for these supplies would be

lower than the same supplies could be bought at any other place in the country.

**Objection to the Location.**

The Fort Niobrara reservation, the most healthful and the most favorably located of any of the larger military reservations, has been slated for abandonment for several years by the military authorities. It is disliked by many on account of its distance from any city, but if a vote should be taken from all the officers who have had the good fortune to be stationed at Fort Niobrara, it is believed that the general opinion would be that this post is a most delightful place in which to serve for many reasons. The life differs from that of the modern post to a great extent. There is a large yard in the rear of each set of officers' quarters, in which they have gardens or keep chickens, cows or horses. These luxuries cannot be had in the modern room, where there is not sufficient room. In addition to these the outdoor life is seldom equaled. Grouse, prairie chicken, ducks and quail abound, while the fisher enjoys catching black bass and trout. The officers and men enjoy these outdoor sports and a spirit of contentment prevails, outside the fact that the quarters are very old and in bad condition.

The government maintains troops at Fort Niobrara as economically as at any other post in the army and officers' expenses are greatly reduced.

**Some Manifest Advantages.**

The surrounding country could easily raise vegetables enough to supply any size of a garrison and the corn and oats now raised are abundant enough for all the mounted troops that could be put on the reservation and the quality of these products is as good as can be purchased anywhere. The grazing land available is a great factor in considering this reservation, either as a permanent post or for maneuvers.

In rebuilding it might be designed, preferably, for field artillery or for all arms, cavalry, artillery and infantry. The extensive reservation presents many target ranges for field guns. There are many locations where guns could be fired at objects from one to six miles without any danger to private citizens or their property. This is one of the few reservations where the artillery could have long range target practice without any chance of doing damage to private individuals.

It is probable that the present congress will authorize the organization of some field artillery regiments, owing to the success these organizations had in the late war in the Orient. Not a better place can be found to organize and train one of these new regiments than at Fort Niobrara. Better ranges, better climate and better country in general, does not exist in the United States. Opportunities are offered here that would make our artillery arm the equal, if not the superior, to any in the world.

As a maneuver ground Fort Niobrara is without exception. In the first place the government would not be at any expense for renting ground. The government owns the whole place. There is not a fence on the reservation to cut and the few excepted pieces of land would not interfere with any maneuvers. In fact, the government could buy all the excepted pieces of land east of the Niobrara river for a few hundred dollars, thus doing away with the slightest possibility of damaging private property.

**Plenty of Open Country.**

Then, consider the immense tract of government land adjoining the Niobrara reservation. The Rosebud reservation, within thirty-five miles of Fort Niobrara, is open

country with very few ranches. These ranches are located just at the proper places where troops would want to purchase forage for their animals. Every ten miles can be found streams of pure spring water sufficient for large commands.

After considering the many ideal places for camps, the many springs of water sufficient for large commands, the next important factor in selecting a maneuver ground is the climate during the fall months when maneuvers must be held. So very little rain falls after July in northwestern Nebraska that no maneuver would be hindered thereby, and, owing to the peculiar quality of the soil, there would never be any mud to make travel difficult. All troops present during the maneuvers at Fort Riley in 1903 can see the necessity of selecting a maneuver ground where such mud was as found there would not be possible.

If the post should be rebuilt near its present site capitalists are prepared to build and operate an electric railroad between Valentine and the post. This road would be equipped to handle passengers, freight, mail and express. The electric plant would be further equipped to light the post. Authority has been granted by congress to dam the Niobrara river to obtain water power to operate this electric plant.

Nine large army posts within 50 miles of Fort Niobrara that could send to take part in the annual maneuvers three infantry regiments, three cavalry regiments and

about six batteries of field artillery. These with several militia regiments would certainly make interesting maneuvers.

**Health of the Twenty-fifth.**

The Twenty-fifth regiment of infantry now stationed at Fort Niobrara, is one of the best regiments in the service. It has been at this post for over three years. Not a more healthy body of men can be found anywhere in the world. During the summer months the afternoon is taken up with base ball, while in the fall months association football is enjoyed by every soldier. The early summer morning is utilized in various kinds of athletic exercises. In the fall a competition is held to see which company is entitled to be called the athletic champions. Company "K" was the winner of this last October. A series of base ball games is played during the summer by company teams and this year Company "C" was declared the winner. The men also take great pride in drill. The competitive drill held in October was won by Company "K."

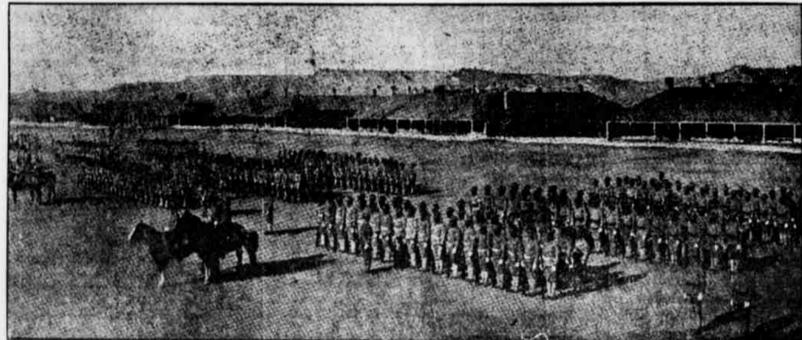
During the summer the troops get a great deal of field training. Forty different maneuvers are prescribed each year and these maneuvers always terminate in an eight-day practice march. Each of these forty maneuvers involve a march of from ten to twenty-five miles, while the practice march must be longer than 100 miles. The route taken the last two years has been east and north, so that the second or third day's march would be on the banks of the Keya Paha. The march would then be up

or down the Keya Paha, and on the sixth day the troops would start for home. Every ten miles up or down the Keya Paha are small streams of pure water.

The men enjoy these marches. There are no stragglers. After getting in camp every one is allowed to hunt or fish, so that aside from the regular ration they have plenty of fish, prairie chicken or grouse. The quartermaster on these trips has no trouble in hiring camp ground. It is all government property. The water never needs to be boiled or filtered. There is plenty of grazing for the stock, and hay can be purchased from ranches for the stock at night.

**Nothing Doing in Cold Weather.**

During the months of January, February, March and part of April, when it is generally too cold for outdoor exercise, no place is provided for the amusement of the troops. The gymnasium has been one of the features greatly missed at this post. In addition, there is no amusement room in any of the company quarters, except the new barracks occupied by Company K. A large gymnasium should be built when the new post is constructed, so that the troops can enjoy the indoor games of basket ball or have bowling alleys. With a good gymnasium and the canteen, where the men could enjoy themselves during the winter months, there is not a better place in the country in which to serve. Fort Niobrara has fewer depertions than at most posts and it is believed that the men are a contented lot.



PARADE GROUND AT FORT NIOBRARA—TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY ON DRESS PARADE.



FORT NIOBRARA FROM THE BLUFFS NORTH OF THE POST.

## Curious and Romantic Capers of Cupid

**A Real Romance.**

**I**N the face of the record it only appears that on Wednesday, December 14, in the rectory of the Church of St. Francis Xavier, New York city, Rev. Father Hearn united in matrimony Dr. Henry Ellyas Rae and Mary Bella Elwood. But friends to whom announcement of this marriage came declared that if it was not the best romance anyone had heard in a long time then there was no more romance any more. They told this story:

Mary Bella Elwood, in Cleveland, Ohio, sixteen years ago, was a daughter of a prominent family. Her father, Dr. Elwood, was a young doctor who had accomplished in that year she met Dr. Rae. It was love at first sight, followed by a fashionable marriage.

Hardly had ink on the announcement cards dried when there came a rumor of an estrangement and afterward a bare mention of a decree of divorce. Dr. Rae left Cleveland. Mrs. Rae again took her maiden name.

"Five years after these events Miss Elwood found she would have to make her own way in life. Her father failed in business. She packed her trunk, came to New York city and became a saleswoman in a department store. Two or three years later she accepted a better position, and this year saw her for five years manager of a large department in a wholesale house downtown, practically independent and business clear through.

Meanwhile Dr. Rae had lived in the west and prospered, and about four years ago came to New York city and established an office in Twenty-first street. He was known to patients and friends as a bachelor devoted to his profession.

Miss Elwood lives in West Fourteenth street, and one evening, little more than a month ago, she started to walk between Fifth and Sixth avenues. In a crowd of shoppers and housewives she bumped against a man. He stepped back and lifted his hat. She raised her eyes to find herself gazing into the eyes of Dr. Rae for the first time in fifteen years.

**After a Long Wait.**

A romantic wedding, which for many years had been delayed, owing to a woman's promise, took place at Bowery, near Trisk, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, England, the other day. For nearly a quarter of a century the bride had acted as a housekeeper to a maiden lady who possessed considerable means. Many years ago the housekeeper met a gardener and was wooed by him with success. But the housekeeper had promised her mistress to stay with her until she died, and so the love story became one of

patient waiting. Three or four weeks ago the mistress died in her ninetieth year, leaving to her faithful housekeeper her house, plate and furniture, as well as £1,000 in money. Many messages of congratulations reached the bride and groom from friends who knew the story of their courtship.

**Woman Lawyer a Bride.**

Since the passage in 1893 of the act allowing women to practice as barristers the number of French Portias has become quite considerable.

At the time of the debate over the bill in the Chamber of Deputies one of the many arguments advanced to kill the measure was that it would lead to further demands on the part of "free" women, such as the abolition of marriage. "Let woman stick to her proper sphere," said the antagonistic deputies, "and be content with the role of wife and mother."

As an emphatic answer to this, Paris society has just been largely attending the marriage of Miss Josephine Martin, the youngest and prettiest female lawyer in France. She has only just received her degree; in fact, her doctor of laws came almost as a wedding present. She is married to M. Viella, a well known engineer, and it is understood "at her marriage will in no way interfere with her practice of the profession of law.

**Tyranny of Circumstances.**

Tyranny of circumstances forced R. J. Bayer of Rochester, N. Y., and pretty Miss Jeannette Peltrie of Cleveland, O., to become husband and wife at Colorado Springs.

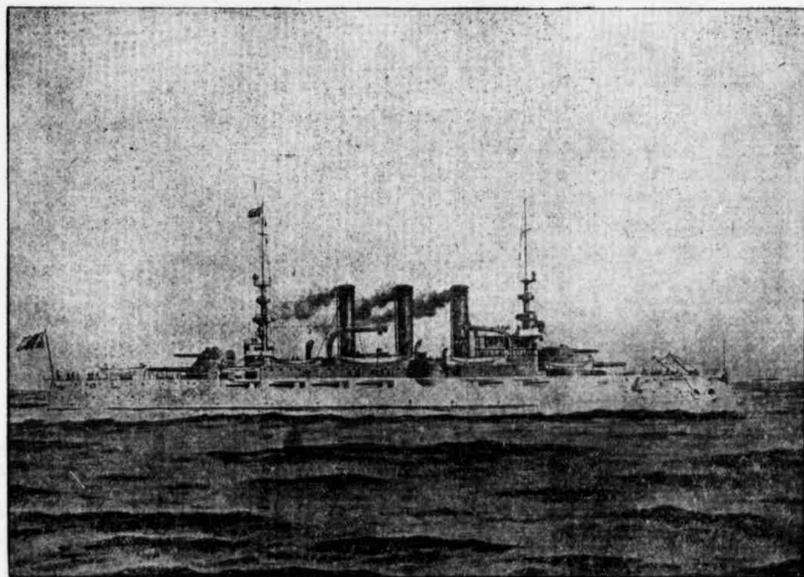
They were among scores of wearied tourists who clamored for hotel accommodations in that city. Not only were rooms not available, but cots in offices and corridors were at a premium. Finally Bayer and Miss Peltrie, who had for some hours been agreeable traveling companions, found a single unoccupied room at the Spaulding. Under stress of emergency the friendship of a few hours blossomed into a more cordial appreciation and an hour later they met the emergency with a marriage certificate and were awarded the one remaining room in the city. They had married in order to have a roof above their heads.

**Union of Ancients.**

The marriage of David Onatol, aged 75 years, and Mrs. Margaret Hartshorn, aged 76 years, at Ponca City, Okla., last week, was in some respects one of the most notable weddings in the territory. There were thirty-five descendants of the contracting parties in attendance, including sons, daughters, grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## One of the World's Biggest War Vessels

Magnificent Fighting Ship Now Being Completed at Seattle



THE U. S. BATTLESHIP NEBRASKA AS IT WILL APPEAR WHEN COMPLETED.

The Nebraska is building at the works of Moran Bros., Seattle, Wash., and will probably be ready for commission about June 1, 1907. The vessel is now in the dry dock at the Bremerton navy yard, but will soon be taken to Seattle for its guns.

Displacement, 15,000 tons; speed, 19 knots, with 19,000 I. H. P. Complement, 36 officers, 712 men, 60 marines; total, 808. Pay roll per month, about \$30,000. Armor, 3,532 tons, costing \$1,455,184. Ordnance, 831 tons, costing \$1,125,200. Ammunition 622 tons, costing \$468,430. Total cost, ready for sea, over \$7,000,000.

### BATTERY.

Caliber (Ins.)	No.	Weight of Guns and Mounts (Tons)	Weight of Shells (Lbs.)	Weight of Charge S. 2. (Lbs.)	Weight of Bursting (Lbs.)	Muzzle Velocity (Ft. per second)
12	4	354	241.6	870	38	2600
8	8	105	105	100	8	2700
12	4	196.8	196.8	40	4	2800
8	12	22.8	13	4.5	1.5	2700
1 85	12	8.3	8.3	.9	.125	2200

## Quaint Features of Current Life

**Dandy Darning Ball.**

**H**ERE is a little tale from Pennsylvania, unaccompanied by photographs or affidavits. Twenty-two years ago Miss Ann H. Miller of Mill Grove, near West Newton, being about to mend some stockings, looked about for something to serve as a darning ball. Finding nothing better suited to her purpose, she selected a nice round potato. Afterward the potato was put away and forgotten. The other day the potato was found. During its more than two decades of darkness it had become petrified and weighed nearly a pound. It is a better darning ball than it was in 1883.

**Reared His Own Monument.**

A hard-working and frugal Pennsylvanian devoted his entire fortune, which amounted to about \$30,000 and which had been accumulated in a life of industry, to the construction of a monument over his own grave. It was his ambition that his memorial should be the most ambitious in the cemetery in which his mortality was deposited. It is eighty-six feet high and weighs 100 tons. The foundation of the structure was laid in his lifetime, under his personal direction. He had no kindred. There was nobody to fight his disposition to perpetuate his own memory.

**A Bovine Wiswag.**

We quote this interesting contribution to science from the McMinnville (Ore.) News Reporter: Am Shadden, living northwest of town, has a cow, we are told, that can "wiggle her horns." But this accomplishment of his cow is not the result of inventive genius. It appears to be natural. It was discovered last summer in flytime. As the cow would switch her tail violently her horns would flap quite perceptibly. Scientists have diagnosed her case and have come to the conclusion that there is an understanding of the nerves of the cow's spine, permitting the two extremities to act in unison and to wigwag sympathetically.

**Hot Stars.**

J. B. Corey, uncle of the steel trust president, being annoyed by the zeal of reporters for news of the family scandal, sent the following signed statement to Pittsburgh papers: "I thought I had escaped the annoyance of the reporters after you had published my offer of \$100,000 to furnish copies of letters I had between Mr. Schwab, Andrew Carnegie, W. E. Corey and myself. But last evening the reporters started in on me again, keeping me up until 11:30 p. m. The one great and all-important news item which they were on the hunt for was where Mrs. W. E. Corey was stopping. I assured

them I did not know of the lady's whereabouts no more than I did of the man in the moon. But I think they can find her at Mrs. Busy Body's, on the corner of Newsmongers' lane and Tattlers' alley, between Rev. Mr. Whispers and Mrs. Tell Tale. Please give the reporters this very important news and save a 74-year-old man from being awakened out of his bed at midnight."

**Tribute to a Good Wife.**

In a Toledo, O., court recently was heard a remarkable plea against granting a divorce. The defendant husband, accused of habitual drunkenness, admitted the allegations and said:

"I make this admission with shame and humility, but it is too true. My conduct along this line has been most reprehensible and I deserve the condemnation of all good men."

"I believe my wife is incapable of untruth and incapable of lending her sanction to the unjust blackening of the name of her children by the unjust condemnation of her husband, the father of her children, no matter how much she may want a divorce. My greatest desire in these proceedings is that not the slightest reproach or censure shall fall on her, for God knows she does not deserve it. If this divorce be granted, and I pray that it be not done, I still have left the one consolation that my children are in the keeping of a mother, for she is indeed, and in truth, a mother, in its broadest and most comprehensive sense."

"It has always been my pride to look upon my wife as the embodiment of purity and truth, good will and motherhood, and all other attributes to be found in God's noblest work—a good woman."

**Troubles of a Bee Fancier.**

A German beekeeper undertook to carry some of his choicest bees to a bee show. He took a train at Hanover with his bees in a basket at his feet. The bees escaped from the basket and crawled up his trousers legs. His actions soon aroused suspicions in the hearts of two women who occupied the same compartment with him. They pulled the bell cord and stopped the train. When the bee fancier explained the situation he was placed in an empty compartment to have it out with the bees all by himself. Here he removed his trousers and began shaking them out of the window to free them of the swarm. Unfortunately they caught a telegraph pole and were swept away, bees, money and all. At the next station the irate station master brought forth the reluctant bee fancier in a cage and he passed out water in a secure decent manner to walk back along the line in search of his bees and his trousers.