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Nellie Carrigan

SPRINGFIELD
ARCHIVE BOARD
1977

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Feathers boy

I think it was in the
Spring of 1861. One evening
while we were eating sup-
per that a young halfbreed
indian came to our house
He was about 17 or 18 years
old and a nice looking boy
You talk english? He asked
my father. Father said
yes come to supper to him
He sat down to supper and
and asked father in eng-
lish if he could borrow
could our oxen and wagon
He wanted wanted to move
his family some where I can
not remember where
Father talked english a while
with the boy, and asked all
the questions he wanted

~~to~~ to, And then turned to
 mother and spoke to her
 in german ~~and~~, told her
 what he wanted and asked
 her what to do about it.
 Saying, If I give him the
 red oxen, they will run
 away with him and per-
 haps kill them all, If I
 give him the black oxen,
 They are so lazy, he will
 never get there. Mother
 remarked If you give
 him either yoke of oxen
 You may never see them
 again. Besides it is so
 muddy he will do better
 to stay where he is. The
 ground was just thawing
 out.

Father and he talked a while in English. They came to an agreement that he was to stay a few days longer in our woods where they were camped, ~~until~~ the roads got better and he would move him.

I do not know when ^{or how} they came there. Indians often camped in our woods.

The next morning my father called August and I to come with him to see our new neighbors. We reached the tent. His family (as he called it) consisted of a full blood Squa (his mother and I think 3 Indian children. His mother was a widow

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They looked so starved that my father sent my brother back home after a loaf of bread. My father and I staid until my brother returned. They were not 2 minutes eating it.

Father gave them a little flour some turnups and potatoes We were very hard up our selves we had not raised any thing yet. ~~Father moved~~ Father moved them as he had promised. He and the halfbreed boy became fast friends. He often came to see us, and mother used to call him fathers boy. Father would laugh over it and say he wished that

he owned that boy. Father moved him and his family several times after that. The last time he moved them was the summer of the outbreak. Father came ^{home} with a hanson^{ed} scarf. He held it up for mother to see and said, see what my boy gave me I did not want to take it but he threw it into the wagon and said you have done so much for me, I have done nothing and then walked away. We never saw him again. I have after wondered why he did not save our family. Perhaps he could not

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The second indian that came up to us when my parents were killed fired at my brother ^{twice} and missed him then he threw down his gun and ran after him when he got to him he kicked him in the side and nacked him down my brother was lame long afterwards He had just got back to where the indians were standing when he heard me scream

There was no drunken row where we were the first night and I think the indians were hunting cattle most of the

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night and the Squad
slept. It was a horrible
awakening for us the
next morning in an
Indian camp. I was
the first to wake up.
I did not know where
I was. The next moment
the whole horrible scene
came back to me. Had
the earth been able to
open and swallow me
I should have been hap-
py. My brother woke up
^{next} and looked around he
wondered and then he
happened to see me a-
wake. I was already cry-
ing. He hid his and cried
too. When my sister

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wake up she screamed and would not be comforted. One of the Squires took her and did everything she could to stop her but she wanted mother.

Tuesday Wednesday when I was looking around trying to find out where I was I saw 4 or 5 white children standing on the porch. The oldest was a boy I think 10 years old. The next a girl, and the rest I did not pay much attention to. They disappeared some time that day. I think I saw

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them once when we
moved but they were
not released when we
were I think that
their mother likely was
inside the building
and I did not see her
The little boy said
to me, The Indians
will repay you I think
~~they~~ must have escaped
I never went inside
the buildings that
were there, I had a bad
scare once while we were
stay ing at this place
The young squad went
vis iting the main
camp and left me with
the old squad. The big

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boy was at home He
got a big butcher knife
and sharpened it. He
told me as soon as
he had it sharp he
was going to cut my
throat He started af-
ter me with the
knife and I ran for
the mud lake I pre-
ferred drowning if
I had to die He threw
the knife away caught
me just before I ran
in and made me come
back ~~the~~ camp. One young
indian girl about 14 years
old took me to her tent
and kept me until the
young squagat home

The next time she went, she took one with her I think the girl told her about it

There was a large drove of hogs always around the white house on the hill. The ~~was~~ day when we left there a couple of indians went to work and shot them all and left them lying on the ground.

One evening when I was ~~not~~ not feeling well I was lying down in the tent. There were a lot of corn cobs in the tent. The big boy threw them at me

I felt cross ¹² any way I
screamed just as loud
as I could. The young squa
was outside the tent
and heard me. She came
in a hurry and caught
him. She took the big
ox whip and gave him
a terrible whipping. Then
she brought me a lot of
corn cobs and made throw
them at him. I got satis-
faction that night, but
it was taken out of me
again the next day.

The next day the young
squa went on a short call
and left me at home sick as
I was. I wanted to go and
see my brather. I stole out

out of the tent when they did not see me and hunted up my brother. I soon found them in company with the other two boys. They were glad to see me and we sat down for a comfortable talk. They were telling how they stole sugar from the Indians' rights. I told them it was not right to steal. Ludwig laughed at me and asked me if I thought it right for the Indians to murder & parents and steal all we had. I did not see my way quite clear, but sugar is sweet and temptation.

is hard to resist, I resolved to steal sugar that night.

While we were sitting there and talking we saw the big indian boy of our tent coming after me. He picked up a big stick before he got to me. I commenced to cry. The boys told me to stop crying. They would see to it that he did not hurt me. Each one of the boys picked up a stick. The big boy retreated. They followed him clear to his tent. There the old Squa came out. She and helped. They two were too much for these little boys. They were forced

to retreat ¹⁴ but they called
the old sqa all kinds
of names and made up
faces at her as they went
They wanted me to come
back. with them I was
too tired I went in to
the tent and laid down
The big boy had a pair of
new shoes on. He kicked
in the face and made
my nose bleed. When the
young sqa came home
I very sick and hardy able
to move

That night I hapened to
think of what the boys
said about stealing sugar
I thought I would try it
They had one sack of sugar

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one of salt and one of saleratus. In the dark I ^{crept} untied ^{upward} the sack with the saleratus in and took a handful and put it into my mouth imagin my surprise when I tasted it, I thought God had changed the taste of the sugar to piss here for stealing. I did not even know the taste of saleratus I never tried stealing sugar again. The next day she gave me away to the family where I was made a pet of me. I think she did not want to see me abused any longer I was hardly able to walk there

17 The Nicols family

I do not know whether this name is spelled right or not Mr Nicols was Mrs Lentz He and wife and two children a girl and a boy came to Mr Lentz the fall before the ant break. Staid a few weeks and then settled in Sacret Heart neighborhood Mrs Nicols and the boy were killed Mr Nicols escaped and Henrietta a girl of 11 years old was taken prisoner I suppose they were in the same party with Mr Kibman that were trying to escape

When we were turned over to wait for the soldiers Palinc^{aged 12} Krus (Mr Krus's sister) and Henrietta O'neals were missing.

Mrs Krus said she did not think the girls were killed but hidden. When the soldiers came she told them about it. They found them ^{a few days} after ward I remember well when they brought them. Henrietta found her father in St Peter. She was so pleased to see him she thought he was dead.

I read ¹⁹ Mrs De Camps
story over again Shesseys
they camped above Red Wood
If they were above R—
we must have been be
low Red wood We were
about a mile from
the crossing We came
from the east and the
main party came from
the west and we crossed
the river together. At the
Keynolds building the
teams halted as she
says I got in to our
wagon I was so wet and
tired I could not walk any
further. There was a well
traveled road running
east & west a quarter of a

This is all I can think
of. Our mail leaves here
Tuesday morning here and come
back from Hutchinson at
night The same on Thurs-
day and Saturday

I never had a letter from
Ludwic before Mr Emdes
boy wrote to me once
telling me where he
was he ^{asked} his father about
us and told Mr Emdes
to tell me to write to
him I neglected it.

(Recd. March, 8, 1895. - R. J. N.)

Yours R—

Minnie B Carrigan

I do not remember whether
H Krueger was released or killed
I wrote to Lud about and ^{asked} him
to tell

20

mile north of us where we
~~lived that week~~
When we left home we
went west to the reserva-
tion, and not south as
the story reads

Mrs DeCamp says the miss-
ion was burned on Thursday
so I was not at the mission
We were 2 or 3 miles south
of the Reynolds building

All