

Copy of the diary of James Benton Atkinson, who served as a Scout
for the Minnesota Brigade in the 1864 campaign against the Sioux.
Original in the possession of James Atkinson, Litchfield, Minnesota.

Thursday June 2, 1864

Corraled the teams and God knows what next. Had skirmish till night.
Two were killed, twelve wounded.

Friday June 3rd.

Our company being on picket guard. One part was attacked and two men
killed, Holagen and LaPlant, and the other two ran to camp. One of the
men had eight arrows in him. The Indians got two horses and equipment,
and the other returned to camp wounded.

Monday June 5th.

Left Ft. Ridgley and marched two miles above camp. Left there and
marched twelve miles to a camp named Legen.

Tuesday June 7th.

Left Camp Legen at six in the morning and camped two miles above camp.
The name of this camp was Camp Reynolds.

Wednesday June 8th.

Left Camp Reynolds at six O'clock and marched to camp at Wood Lake,
wood and water good.

Thursday June 9th.

Layed over today at Wood Lake.

Friday June 10th.

Left Wood Lake at six O'clock and marched to Camp Bacon. Flent of
water and wood.

Saturday June 11th.

Left Camp Bacon and marched fifteen miles to Camp McPhail.

Sunday June 12th.

Laid over at Camp McHail.

Monday June 13th.

Started at six O'clock and arrived at Camp McFarren. Wood and water.

Tuesday June 14th/

Started at six A. M. and arrived at Camp Sibley. Prairie country. Up the Inkpha river, passed an old church.

Wednesday June 15th.

Arrived at Camp Borgen and travels over a prairie country. Wood and water scarce up the Inkpha river and I should think that trapping would be good up the river. Camped at two small lakes.

Thursday June 16th.

Camped at Camp Wallah. The country around it is nice prairie with a lot of lakes called the Sioux Woods Lakes, and it is a good trapping ground and the lakes empty into the Sioux river. Some timber along the river, but not much. The lakes abound in fish. Killed two buffalo the first seen.

Friday June 17th.

Broke camp at five O'clock. Covered as scout, went west one mile and southwest three more, and crossed the Sioux river. two large lakes in sight called Campesca. We camped at the lake country. Water good but no timber. Some buffalo and antelope. The scouts say the trapping is good in the "Canta" Camp named Camp Wagon Church.

Saturday June 18th.

Broke camp at five-thirty A.M. and moved to Camp Rice, about sixteen miles up the Chatarse to a pretty lake called "Lake Where the Green-legs Hatch". Lakes all along the route but had water till we got to camp. The country broken. I saw some buffalo.

Sunday June 19th.

Laid over today. The country all around is rolling and hilly. Twelve Indian tepees where we camped, they are suppose to be Skunk Lake Indians, nothing new, it rained and thundered very hard last night. we buried a young Indian, the son of Paul the Scout.

Monday June 20th.

We left Camp at five O'clock in the morning, marched eighteen miles to Camp Rose. This Camp Rose was at the house of Lt. Avoild on the run at the foot of the bluffs at the valley of the James River. All could see the timber on the James River at ten O'clock. Water good but no timber, buffalo plenty but no antelope, grass good along the run.

Tuesday June 21st.

Broke camp at five A.M., had some difficulty to cross the run with the train, marched twenty-five miles to James River, or "Oncota" and camped, wood on the river both up and down, large lake in sight up river. Was detailed to take six men and carry dispatches to Sully. Drew lots for men. Camped at Camp Brown.

Wednesday June 22nd.

Started at eight O'clock and marched South. Went to Foxen River eighteen miles, had difficulty to find water, found it seven and one-half miles down the stream, found an old Indian Encampment and a ? and where one was buried, general direction a little south or southwest. Day very hot. Traveled ten miles over night. passed a small lake.

Thursday June 23rd.

Left camp at daylight and traveled some fourteen miles to Snake River. Discovered Indian signs along the runs. Passed a lake, a large one four miles from Snake River, and passed two other medium sized lakes. The country generally level and no timber found. Fresh Indian trail, made about twenty miles. Saw some wild mud-hens and antelope.

Friday June 24th.

Broke camp at three-thirty A.M., marched four miles to water. Marched till six-fifteen P.M., dismounted scouts and looked for Indians, but often exchanging signals, found to be scouts all camped for the night, traveled south of S.W., the country level with some nob and little grass, the water bitter, no wood. Had an exciting ride until we came up with the scouts. Traveled some forty-five miles this day.

Saturday June 25th.

Broke camp at four-thirty A.M., and trailed east and north over a rolling country with no water. Camped for breakfast after riding some sixteen miles. The Scouts of Sullies returning with us, twelve in number, a hard looking set. Traveled some forty miles over prairie. Camped in sight of Camp "Or Port Burk". The country full of small bands of Indians.

Sunday June 26th.

Broke camp and traveled some fifty miles. The Indians looking every way and altering our course, several times being badly scared, and several times they saw Indians. Watched all night, but was not ambushed. I believe the Guides are lost and badly scared. All day and wanted to turn back. Had considerable excitement all day. A poor lazy set of Devils.

Monday June 27th.

Started at eight A.M., and traveled eight miles for water. Found good water and a great deal of trouble. Could get no one to move but started out with eight others, and had my first shot at a buffalo. Shot him too far back and he run up at my horse and he did not like close quarters (the horse), but one of the Indians killed one.

Tuesday June 28th.

Broke camp at six-thirty and started back. After some four hours march, met twenty lodges of Indians. They came out to meet us striped for fight, but found we were friendly. Were very glad to shake hands, went to their camp and they made a big feast. They had been badly scared by our troops and day before.

Wednesday June 29th.

Broke camp at two-thirty O'clock, found Indian trail at six O'clock, one day march behind them. Marched to where they camped and had breakfast. Some eight miles from where we started. Traveled over sixty miles and arrived at camp at eight-thirty. Poor country, rolling prairie and little water.

Thursday June 30th.

Started at five O'clock and marched twenty-five miles and met Sully's command at camp number eighteen on the outlet of Swan Lake. The country near the Mosurri, hilly and not worth much. Found water about fourteen miles from Camp Sulley. Men report a Captain of Engineers killed by the Indians and they killed the three Indians and cut off their heads and stuck them up on stakes the day before.

Friday July 1st.

Laid over today and went to the Mosurri river with Capt. Clark and Stan Campbell. Eight steam boats laid there with supplies, one of which is to go back. Sent out mail by boat, first chance since we left camp at Wood Lake. Sent letter home. The country very hilly, high nobes and big ravines. The river in good stage of water.

Saturday July 2nd.

Laid over at camp number eighteen. The teams at river loading supplies, come to breakfast with the Captains mess today, all quiet as yet. A fine day.

Sunday July 3rd.

Broke camp at eleven O'clock, made two and one-half miles to camp number nineteen. Grass good, dry, hot but no Indians. Camped on high hill. Water and wood.

Monday July 4th.

Broke camp at eight O'clock, marched twenty miles to camp number twenty over the same ground that we marched to join Sully's command.

Tuesday July 5th.

Broke camp at three O'clock, marched twenty-two miles, no Indians. Country rolling prairie, no timber or wood, water bitter. Poor country, no buffalo but plenty antelope. Camped at twelve A.M.

Wednesday July 6th.

Broke camp at four O'clock, marched eight miles. Beaver Creek twenty miles. Only water once on the roads. The ground poor, tender in Beaver Creek but not good. Large hills along the creek.

Thursday July 7th.

Broke camp and marched eight miles over hilly country and was stopped by Sully's orders. Wood and water.

Friday July 8th.

Started at five O'clock and marched sixteen miles to the Missouri river and camped on the bank. Country a succession of hills. As soon as camped got word that Clark had died this morning on boat. Antelope very plentiful and elk and deer along the river. Saw beaver signs, plenty.

Saturday July 9th.

Laid over today for first Brigade to cross the river, they did not all get over. Had a of masons and they crossed the river to bury Brother Clark, and he was buried as a mason. Returned at dusk almost two miles from here. Two veins of iron ore in the bluff, one four and the other thirty inches wide. Word from Fort Berthold and report 500 Indians there to trade.

Sunday July 10th.

Laid over across the river. Went hunting but killed nothing. Found coal and lots of iron ore, was back in the hills some six miles. Saw a deer but game not plentiful today.

Monday July 11th.

Broke camp and crossed the river this morning and camped on the west side. Dug well and have good water. Plenty of wood. Several cattle and horses killed crossing the river. Went back to hunt the deserters. Stayed over night on the other side, too late to cross the river again.

Tuesday July 12th.

Laid over today and nothing new in camp. Had quiet a hunt for the deserters but did not find them. Got scattered considerable, but came home all right and stayed in camp for balance of day.

Wednesday July 13th.

Laid over at Fort Rice today, had an excitement in the morning. The boys that went for hay fell in with 200 Buffalo and killed 15. One of our boys killed one, I helped bring it into camp.

Thursday July 14th.

Laid over and went hunting with Major Corey and several others, killed one Buffalo and one antelope and had a hard day of it. Very hot and water scarce. Crossed the cannon river and wounded one Elk, water in Cannon good to drink. No Indians but a report says Sullys scouts done in, don't believe it.

Friday July 15th.

Laid over in camp and didn't do anything.

Saturday July 16th.

Laid over in camp and didn't do anything.

Sunday July 17th.

Laid over and went out four miles to graze the horses.

Monday July 18th.

Laid over and left extra baggage and cartons.

Tuesday July 19th.

Started today for the Yellowstone River and Idaho, killed a Buffalo and had a pleasant days march - 15 miles. Found a paper with Ben Valores name on a stick. Saw lots of Buffalo, camped on the Cannonball river, saw one Indian. Our Brigade all in order.

Wednesday July 20th.

Broke camp at five O'clock and marched very slow. The country hilly and full of deep ravines. Marched by the water, dry and hot.

Thursday July 21st.

Broke camp at four O'clock. Marched nineteen miles through a rough country. Killed an Elk at camp. Good water and wood. No Indians today but the scouts say they will find them soon.

Friday July 22nd.

Broke camp at three O'clock and marched twenty miles. Water good. Camped on the Cannonball. Expected to meet Indians all day but saw nothing. Crossed the Cannonball river and camped. Dispatch from Fort Rice says the Indians have attacked the steamboats and drove them back.

Saturday July 23rd.

Broke camp at three O'clock and traveled over hilly country, plenty of water. Crossed the Cannonball river again. Day very hot and expected to meet the Indians but no sight of them. Scouts say we will find them in three days.

Sunday July 24th.

Left camp at sunrise, directly south west and changed to north and to south west before night. Traveled twenty-one miles to Fort Nina. The country rough, no timber or water. Camped on the Hart River and will leave our wagons. Saw no Indians, kept no scouts out ahead of the division.

Monday July 25th.

Laid over in camp and got ready for a fight with the Indians, took seven days rations on pack mules, two of which was cooked. The boys all in good spirits and ready for a fight. Left Gus Jory sick in camp. Had 79 rounds of cartridges and hope to use them well if I live. No Indians but will see them soon. Good luck to all.

Tuesday July 26th.

Left camp at one O'clock and in a half hour after, the Nebraska scouts came in and reported Indians. There were some twenty-five or thirty. Some fifteen men stayed and the rest returned to the column. Brohents Battalion was ordered forward but the Indians had left. They were scared having lost a spyglass and saber and a lot of other things. The scouts behaved badly. Went to Broekents Battalion and camped.

Wednesday July 27th.

Broke camp at three O'clock and marched thirty-five miles. Day hot as thunder. Saw no Indians. Think we may have run by them, would not be surprised if they attacked our supplies and train left behind. Camped on the Knife river, no Indians.

Thursday July 28th.

Broke camp at three O'clock and marched until nine A.M. About eleven O'clock discovered a large encampment of Indians on a knoll about four miles from them. The command came up in order of Broekents, I am with the scouts. Indians opened fire at half past twelve O'clock and fired first shot. The firing continued for some two hours. Knocked down one horse and one Indian but did not kill him. Retired from engagement.

Friday July 29th.

Broke camp at daylight and marched six miles to bluffs, found them impassable to travel and returned to battle ground and had a skirmish with the Indians and destroyed their property, burnt buffalo robes, tents and destroyed all that came in the way. Was sick today. Moved four miles.

Saturday July 30th.

Broke camp at three O'clock. A party went back and brought the boys that were shot and buried them. Marched about twenty miles, camped-had no trouble with the Indians but they kept up a howling around all night. One of the Iowa 6th was shot by their own pickets. The Indians are around but kept out of the way. 100 seen just before night.

Sunday July 31st.

Broke camp at four O'clock and marched eight miles where we had corraled the teams on the Heart river. Saw a large bunch of Indians. Rained hard in the evening. The teams were giving out also the horses. Kate almost gave out, also the men had a hard time all around.

Monday August 1st.

Laid in camp and rested and moved old camp over to the wagons and teams and then went out on the hill and caught a nice two year old poney, a stud. He rides well and fast and is a beauty. Can have \$175.00 for him but won't sell as I am afraid my mare will give out. Had an Indian alarm and all hands called up under arms, but false.

Tuesday August 2nd.

Laid over today in camp on Heart river. Are getting ready to start tomorrow for Yellowstone. Saw two Indians while grazing horses, viewing over camp. No attack.

Wednesday August 3rd.

Broke camp at five O'clock and marched twenty miles. The guides caught five ponies. Saw two Indians as we were coming into camp. One of the ponies was a .S. horse. Not much water. Camped on Heart river, water good and some wood. Going to rain and did rain some. The Half-breeds got seven ponies today.

Thursday August 4th.

Broke camp at four O'clock and had considerable fun with the Half-breeds. Ponies they caught yesterday sure fast, some \$150.00 changed hands. Traveled some twenty miles and camped on Heart river, wood and water. The country rolling and not much grass. Guess this is not good, it is drying up.

Friday August 5th.

Broke camp at five A.M. and traveled till five P.M., making twenty-five miles and struck one of the most hilly countries ever seen. It is all knobs and peaks, no water but what is standing in pools from rain. no wood and the Devile own country. Grass poor.

Saturday August 6th.

Broke camp at five A.M., and traveled to the little Missouri, through the bluffiest country ever traveled. Had to make road all day and will be all we can do to get the train up the water in the river, just runs and sand bottom and water clean and good. Some timber on the bottoms. Cottonwood and Ash. It is the most barren country ever seen. The hills are clay and wash with every rain. The scenery very fine.

Sunday August 7th.

Hunted road through the bluffs and had a scrimmage with the Indians, the rear guard and Idaho being engaged and at evening the Indians made a dash at the pickets and drive part of them in. The cannon opened fire on them and drove them back directly. Had continued alarms all night and laid on our arms.

Monday August 8th.

Broke camp about five O'clock and advanced about two miles when the Indians attacked our front. The scouts broke and run. A black foot Indian guide was shot through and badly wounded. Shot the first shot at an Indian today. Killed two or three ponies. Never was so tired in my life, had a hard days fight, the second Brigade done almost all the fighting.

Tuesday August 9th.

The Indians all ready for a fight this morning and firing commenced before we broke camp and continued for some time. The Indians gave way and left us. We found a large encampment the Indians had left the day before. The rear was attack and Co. O had some time, shooting one Half-breed that had tricked them.

Wednesday August 10th.

Had an alarm last night and all hands under arms, no one hurt but a Sentinel shot him-self. Had a hard days march, part over rolling prairie and balance over the Devils hills and gullies. Camped on Brine Creek. Saw a few Indians in the morning, saw signs of Elk and grizzly bear plenty. Feel bully, Prairie chicken for breakfast.

Thursday August 11th.

Broke camp at five O'clock. Had no feed for stock for four days and they are giving out. Saw as many as six oxen and two horses in one place give out. Work for rear guard, eight shot. Of all God forsaken countries this is the worst. No grass at all and everything burnt up. If we have two days more of such travel we will all have to go on foot. Prairie chicken for breakfast. Two oxen and two horses gave out.

Friday August 12th.

Broke camp about eleven O'clock and command hunting the steam boat and firing cannon to find her, succeeded about four O'clock after a horrid march of twelve miles over hills, gullies and camped on the bottom. Little or no grass but the timber full of Elk and deer, the boys killed several. The teams and horses almost gave out. Things look blue. (Men and officers Lot).

Saturday August 13th.

Laid over today to rest and cross river. Sullies command crossed today, drowned a lot of mules and two men. At eleven O'clock got the order to march, got up and started putting baggage on the steam boats and crossed it by morning. The river is full of fish, Catfish, and Walleyes Pike and other.

Sunday August 14th.

Crossed the Yellowstone river at daylight. Encamped on the bank. Kate pulled me over, took her up and will give her another try. Drowned ten or twelve mules in crossing. Two of them shot. Men drowned in crossing to their wagons. Wagons and stuff along the river for some miles, grass very scarce. Glad to leave.

Monday August 15th.

Laid over, went hunting with the Col. and Major Rose. Killed nothing. Little or no grass and things look black for our teams. Had plenty of Elk meat in camp, the Captain having killed one last night and the Major Rose. Killed four. Thirty-five miles to Camp Union.

Tuesday August 16th.

Broke camp and moved some 12 or 15 miles and stopped. Grass poor, stopped on account of the steam boat being stuck. Sent teams back to lighten her. Hunted and caught lots of Elk and deer. Little or no grass.

Wednesday August 17th.

Marched five or eight miles and camped. Grass pretty good and splendid water. Laid over for the trains to come up which they did, having lightened up the boats. Laid over the balance of the day. Nothing new.

Thursday August 18th.

Broke camp and crossed the river to Fort Union. Our Brigade had no excitement, crossed alright. Fort Union is a good wood stockade with two stone ? and a well set-watch, six miles above the mouth of the Yellowstone river. Was very sick after crossing the river. The Sioux Indians had killed six of the crows a few days before.

Friday August 19th.

The command laid over and went down six miles to hunt camp, found good grass and the boys report Elk plenty. Stayed all night with the company and I had my horse well filled with grass which is a rarity. Killed some chickens. No Indians today. The boys caught a nice pony.

Saturday August 20th.

Laid over and loaded supplies. Part of the command went six miles below to graze horses. Got lots of men sick. Seen the post, not a bad institution, belonged to the American Fur Co., and built some thirty-two years ago, (1822). No Indians.

Sunday August 21st.

Broke camp and at five O'clock started home. I hope we will have Good Luck to get there. Camped at six miles, grass good. Some thirty or forty deserted out of the two Brigades and took one or two horses each. Lots of the mule drivers left for Idaho.

Monday August 22nd.

Broke camp and finally started home. Traveled seventeen miles, grass pretty good, scouts killed a buffalo, have plenty of meat. Grass good in the Missouri bottoms. Passed two Indians burned on forks stuck in ground and the poles painted. Had good grass and water, camped on Missouri bottoms.

Tuesday August 23rd.

Broke camp and traveled four miles to Big Muddy. Find grass first rate, and laid over the rest of the day to feed stock. No game, some fish in the river.

Wednesday August 24th.

Started at four O'clock and traveled twenty-five miles or more. Had great time with Buffalo being more than a dozen killed. I wounded one and he was shot as soon as he got up the hill. Major Rose killed two and the Col. one with their pistol. The boys had a great time cooking Buffalo meat and it was cooked in all kind of shape.

Thursday August 25th.

Broke camp at five O'clock and made some twenty-two miles over rolling country and along the Missouri river. Grass good and camped on deer. River near the mouth. The scouts picked some cherries and they made some nice sauce.

Friday August 26th.

Started before sunrise, marched twenty-two miles, camped on the Missouri river. Killed a Spoon fish some six feet long and wounded another. Grass first rate. Nothing new. Saw one Indian, passed a large trail where the Indians we fought had crossed. Suppose to be making for Devils Lake.

Saturday August 27th.

Broke camp early, marched till two P.M., and camped. Had first rate grass and good water. The country more level. Killed a Spoon fish some 5 1/2 or 6 feet long and gave him to the scouts and they ate him, tried some, wounded another large. No excitement. The country looks better, more grass and water.

Sunday August 28th.

Broke camp at four O'clock, marched some thirty miles and camped on a creek six miles above Fort Berthold. The country rolling, grass good, not much water. A number of Indians came into camp from the Fort, they are good looking Indians, much fairer than any I have seen. Some of them have light hair and very fair skin.

Monday August 29th.

Laid over today and went to the Fort (Berthold) and the Indian Village. They are the Red Mandan Indian and Big Billies. They have large lodges, some twenty-five to fifty can live in a lodge. They have some 7,000 acres of corn planted and are the cleanest and neatest I have ever seen. Their lodges are clean inside and appear to be industrious.

Tuesday August 30th.

Broke camp, marched four miles below the Fort and camped. Went to the Fort to trade but could not. Lots of trading amongst the boys, traded for anything that was Indian. The Indians thick in camp. The boys traded our horses for ponies but the Indians generally got the best trade. Water and wood good.

Wednesday August 31st.

Broke camp and marched to the big bend of the Missouri, thirty some miles from Fort Berthold, a hard days march and camped on the river, grass good. Suppose we are on a Indian raid, went up to the fort by slipping the guard. The Indians and traders were on a big drunk, left George McLeod there drunk without a horse.

Thursday September 1, 1864

Broke camp at three O'clock and started in the direction of Devils lake, marched twenty-three miles and run into thousands of Buffalo, they run into camp and some twenty killed there. I killed four on the run with my pony. Never saw so many Buffalo in my life. Killed one calf, skinned him and brought the hind quarters into camp.

Friday September 2nd.

Broke camp at daylight and marched for the big Butte (Dog Den), Camped in sight. Buffalo around us all day, thick but not allowed to shoot, because we suspect that we are in the vicinity of the Indians, and expect a fight. Some of the Buffalo ran into the train and broke their legs-necks.

Saturday September 3rd.

Broke camp and marched some twenty-six miles. Buffalo thick and killed several, had considerable fun. The country pretty good, grass good and good water, no timber. Buffalo run into camp and some fifty were killed. In all they were estimated to be some thirty to fifty thousand in sight at one time, never saw so many. I killed four and one calf.

Sunday September 4th.

Laid over today and the boys went out and killed a number of Buffalo. Plenty around all day, had a good shoot. The lakes were saltish and one so that the horses would not drink and salt lakes all around and the water blackish.

Monday September 5th.

Broke camp and started for Fort Rice. Marched some twenty miles and camped on Paint Root Creek. Had two runs with the Buffalo, killed two bulls and two wounded. I went some six miles from camp and never saw such a sight, suppose I saw some 50 to 100 thousand at one time, talk of starving the Indians, it is done nonsense.

Tuesday September 6th.

Broke camp and started, it command raining continued all day, very hard part of the time. The day being thick and foggy, the buffalo would get scared and several droves run into. The column and quite a number were killed, it was a great sight to hear the guns crack. One calf caught by running into mule train. Had mostly rations.

Wednesday September 7th.

Broke camp and marched to Aple River, sixteen miles. Forty to fifty head of horses and mules were left yesterday and killed by the rain. Horses were dead at the Picket poles. The country rolling and a big flat where Sibley chased the Indians across the Missouri river. Camped in sight of Fort Rice, water and wood good. Fort Rice some eleven miles off.

Thursday September 8th.

Broke camp this morning on receipt of the news that Fisk and party were some 200 miles up in the Badlands and camped opposite Fort Rice. Got our mail, I got eight letters and papers and found all the boys that we left here well, but rescued news brought in by the half-breeds that the whole band of Indians escaped.

Friday September 9th.

Eighteen of our company detailed to go to the relief of Fisk's party and started over the river today.

Saturday September 10th.

Laid over today, the boys went to Fisk's relief, I went to Fort Rice.

Sunday September 11th.

Laid over, some 3000 Indians camped three miles above and one of the scouts killed.

Monday September 12th.

Laid over.

Tuesday September 13th.

Laid over and got our pay. Expect to start in the morning.

Wednesday September 14th.

Laid over, did not march as the 8th regiment did not get their pay. Expect to start in the morning, wrote to Kate.

Thursday September 15th.

Broke camp and started for Fort Wadworth at Twelve noon.

Friday September 16th.

Nothing to report.

Saturday September 17th.

Marched sixteen miles today.

Sunday September 18th.

Broke camp and marched to Long Lake. Killed one Buffalo, water bad.

Monday September 19th.

Broke camp and went hunting with Ed. Thomas and McLauren. Killed nothing. (too bad).

Tuesday September 20th.

Broke camp and marched twenty-five miles, water bad, grass short, killed one buffalo and Murphy got hurt by a buffalo.

Wednesday September 21st.

Broke camp before daylight and marched to James river. Plenty of wood and water and grass all good. Ducks and pigeons plenty along the river. No Buffalo today. Looks like rain.

Thursday September 22nd.

Broke camp at five O'clock and marched down the James river. All day, hunted the Caterrae. Camped on the river on the Bluff, nothing strange. Very windy and signs of rain. Grass and water good. Plenty of wood on the river. Country looks good, soil rich. Traveled thirty-one miles.

Friday September 23rd.

Broke camp and started to find Catterae. Where we arrived at sun down, no fort in sight. The country we traveled over, good grass, no water and wood, camped in a Coule, wood and water splendid. The country looked more like Minnesota. (Killed a Buffalo).

Saturday September 24th.

Lost a day some where.

Sunday September 25th.

Laid over at the head of the Catason, and sent out scouts to the Fort. The scout came in that was lost after being out two and one-half days.

Monday September 26th.

Fort found and marched in today and camped one mile from it.