

# JACK PEATE

## First and Last of the Forsyth Scouts

At midday, in the middle August of 1868, after having spent the previous night carrying army dispatches, the young James Jared “Jack or J. J.” Peate was awakened from a deep sleep. He was told that General Phil Sheridan, was there, at the Schermerhorn’s home/store, along the east bank of the Elkhorn creek, about 4 or 5 miles south east of present day Lincoln, Kansas, and needed to speak to him.

Jack thought that some of his friends were pulling a joke on him. He got up and sure enough, General Sheridan was there to speak to him. Sheridan wanted to know if Peate could recruit some men from along the Saline River valley to respond to recent Indian depredations in the area. Peate assured Sheridan that he could gather at least some of the required 50 men. With this meeting, was the founding of the relationship that would result in the formation of the group of men that would go down in history, known as the Forsyth Scouts.

The Indian raid that led to the formation of the Scouts occurred August 12, 1868, along what is now known as Bacon Creek (a tributary and sometimes referred to as Spillman Creek), some distance farther north and west of Schermerhorn’s (between present day Denmark and Ash Grove, Kansas). It is further north and west than the main Spillman Creek, that would be made famous in the 1869 Spillman Creek Raid that killed a number of settlers, including Scout Thomas Alderdice’s family.

Below is a copy of the original article and a transcription, with footnotes. The original article was published in  
The Janesville Gazette,  
Janesville, Wisconsin  
Tuesday evening, August 18, 1868

# VERY LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM ELLSWORTH.

St. Louis, Aug. 18.—A letter dated Ellsworth, Kansas, of the 14th, says that on Monday, the 12th, some two hundred Indians appeared on Shellman's creek, about 10 miles northeast of Ellsworth. Arriving at the house of Mr. Shaw they caught and beat him unmercifully, and drove him away. The devils then caught Mrs. Shaw and her sister and violated their persons. Some three hundred or more of them continued to abuse these helpless women till long after they had become senseless, and then destroyed the property and left them for dead. They then proceeded to the residence of Mr. Smith, beat him in the same way, and violated the person of his wife, leaving her in a very critical condition. It is feared that the women subjected to these outrages will not recover.

They met and abused several other citizens by beating them. After destroying all within reach they left for the north. These poor women say that for a space of six hours they were subjected to ill treatment and they showed marks of the most cruel usage, made by being beaten in their attempts to defend themselves. A detachment of twenty soldiers were sent after the Indians from Fort Harker, accompanied by fifty or sixty settlers. On Wednesday night they sent for reinforcements and on Thursday a full company under command of Col. Bentline the latest reports was that Bentline had come on Indians who had some 10 or 15 women surrounded in a house and that he had driven the red skins away but whether killed any or not was not known. These are probably some who have been murdering and committing other outrages on Solomon Creek.

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St. Louis, Aug 18 - A letter dated Ellsworth, Kansas, of the 14th, says that on Monday, the 12th, some two hundred Indians appeared on Shellman's<sup>1</sup> creek, about 10<sup>2</sup> miles northeast of Ellsworth. Arriving at the house of Mr. Shaw<sup>3</sup> they caught and beat him unmercifully, and drove him away. The devils then caught Mrs. Shaw<sup>4</sup> and her sister<sup>5</sup> and violated their persons. Some three hundred or more of them continued to abuse these helpless women till long after they had become senseless, and then destroyed the property and left them for dead. They then proceeded to the residence of Mr. Smith<sup>6</sup>, beat him in the same way, and violated the person of his wife<sup>7</sup>, leaving her in a very critical condition. It is feared that the women subjected to these outrages will not recover.

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<sup>1</sup> Should read Spillman Creek, now Bacon Creek, a tributary to the main Spillman Creek.

<sup>2</sup> Actually closer to 30 miles.

<sup>3</sup> Simeon Henry Shaw, (1836 - 1907)

<sup>4</sup> Mary Jane Foster Shaw - Jelly (1846 - 1934)

<sup>5</sup> Miss Sarah Alice Shaw (1852 - 18\_\_)

<sup>6</sup> I believe this should say, David G. Bacon (1840 - 1\_\_)

<sup>7</sup> Mary Jane Cate Bacon - Lummer (1846 - 1937)

<sup>8</sup> Frederick W. Benteen, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, later with Custer

<sup>9</sup> The Bell-Bogardus Raid, between present day Beloit and Asherville, Kansas

Jack Peate started recruiting the future Scouts immediately. Those he is known to have recruited from the area were: Thomas Alderdice,<sup>10</sup> Thomas Boyle,<sup>11</sup> George B. Clark,<sup>12</sup> George W. Culver,<sup>13</sup> Andrew J. Eutsler,<sup>14</sup> Hutson L. Farley, Lewis A. Farley,<sup>15</sup> George Green,<sup>16</sup> John E. Green,<sup>17</sup> John Haley,<sup>18</sup> Franklin “Frank” Herington,<sup>19</sup> Edward E. Johnson,<sup>20</sup> John Lyden,<sup>21</sup> Howard Morton,<sup>22</sup> Darius Calvin “D. C.” Skinner,<sup>23</sup> Chalmers Smith,<sup>24</sup> William E. Stubbs,<sup>25</sup> Edward G. Tozier, Richard R. Tozier,<sup>26</sup> Henry H. Tucker,<sup>27</sup> Fletcher J. Vilott<sup>28</sup> and Eli Zigler<sup>29, 30</sup>.

Among the first hired were the father and son, Lewis A. and Hutson L. “Hutch” Farley, who Peate had earlier scouted with, Lewis Farley, being Peate’s primary mentor of Indian craft and the ways of the west.

Within a few days of starting to recruit the future Scouts, Peate took the first group to Fort Harker, to get them signed on with Quarter Master, Henry Inman. Upon his arrival at the fort on the evening of August 26, 1868, Peate was advised that the expedition was about to begin. He saddled up and started back to the Saline River valley, riding through the night, to get the rest of his recruits. Apparently a number of this second group, being veterans of the Civil War, know well of the Army’s habit of “hurry up and wait”, and didn’t want to spend their time waiting.

Along with himself, in this group were Thomas Boyle, John E. Green, Edward E. Johnson, Darius Calvin “D. C.” Skinner, William E. Stubbs, Edward G. Tozier and Richard R. Tozier. All had been registered on the quartermaster rolls by Peate, before he returned to gather them up.

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<sup>10</sup> I believe the Alderdice family was still living near Susanna’s Parents, the Ziglers, south of Beverly Kansas, having not yet moved to their home west of Lincoln, where they were living in May of 1869.

<sup>11</sup> The location of Tom Boyle’s abode at this time is unknown. In 1865 he was living in Salina, and by 1870, in Lincoln County, so he was in the area.

<sup>12</sup> George Clark and family were living in the Tescott, KS area.

<sup>13</sup> George Culver was living southeast of Tescott, KS.

<sup>14</sup> A. J. Eutsler may have been living near Tescott, probably a little south, or he may have been working at Fort Harker.

<sup>15</sup> The Farley’s lived in southwestern Lincoln County, south west of the future Sylvan Grove.

<sup>16</sup> George Green lived about 2 or 3 miles southeast of Lincoln, Kansas

<sup>17</sup> John Green, little is known of him. He had probably served in the Colorado Cavalry with the Colorado Boys, and may have died at Douglass, Kansas in 1896.

<sup>18</sup> John Haley lived in the Rocky Hill community, about 2 miles north of the Schermerhorn Ranch.

<sup>19</sup> Frank Herington and family lived in the Tescott area.

<sup>20</sup> Ed Johnson was from the old Colorado settlement in the Beverly area.

<sup>21</sup> John Lyden lived in southern Lincoln County, due north of Fort Harker, along what is now K-14 Highway.

<sup>22</sup> Howard Morton lived southwest of Tescott, Kansas.

<sup>23</sup> D. C. Skinner, lived south of Beverly, Kansas.

<sup>24</sup> Chalmers Smith lived with his parents and siblings in the Shady Bend area.

<sup>25</sup> William Stubbs, may have been from the area of the old Colorado settlement, he had serves with the Colorado Cavalry.

<sup>26</sup> The Toziers were from the Tescott area. In an earlier newsletter I referred to them as brothers. They were not. They were in fact double first cousins. Edward Tozier being the son of Jared Tozier and Sarah Rogers and Richard Tozier being the son of Charles Tozier and Susan Rogers.

<sup>27</sup> Henry Tucker was from the Tescott area.

<sup>28</sup> Fletcher Vilott was from the Beverly area.

<sup>29</sup> Eli Zigler is thought to have been living with his parents and siblings about a mile south of Beverly, Kansas.

<sup>30</sup> All towns mentioned above were not founded until later. They are given as reference to modern locations.

By the time Peate and the second group of Scouts arrived at Fort Harker, Col. Forsyth and the first group of Peate's recruits, along with some men, (Currie, Piatt, Whitney and others), Forsyth had recruited around the fort, had departed by way of the Kansas Pacific Railroad for Fort Hays, Kansas. After several delays, Peate and his group were finally put on a train to Fort Hays.

By the time Peate and company arrived at Fort Hays, Col. Forsyth and his command had already departed on the expedition, leaving Fort Hays and traveling in a north by northwesterly direction, going north almost to the Nebraska border, before heading southwesterly, to end up at Fort Wallace, Kansas.

Hoping to intercept and join Col. Forsyth at Fort Wallace, Peate and his company became entangled in government red tape (even back then!!) and did not arrive at Fort Wallace until after Forsyth and his command had arrived, re-supplied and departed on the trek that would bring them to the north bank of the Aricakree River on the evening of September 16, 1868.

While Forsyth and his command were on their way to what would become known as Beecher Island, Peate and his seven scouts were re-assigned to scout for Col. Louis Carpenter's 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. They were in the field, west of the present Kansas – Colorado border, somewhere near present day Bonny Lake State Park, Colorado.

On the morning of September 25, 1868, as they were about to break camp, Scout John Donovan, who (with Scout Allison J. Pliley) had escaped from the Island on the night of September 20-21, and eluded the Indians, rode into Carpenter's camp, with word of Forsyth's fight and the predicament of the other Scouts. He was accompanied by Malcolm Graham, Charles O. Davis, Charles Lefer and Wallace Bennett<sup>31</sup>. When Scouts Donovan and Pliley initially arrived at Fort Wallace, they found the fort nearly abandoned, as Col. Bankhead had taken every able bodied man with him to relieve Forsyth's command. One hospital steward and several patients were all the men at the fort. Donovan recruited Graham, Davis, Lefer and Bennett at the now extinct town of Pond Creek, where in February of 1869, Chief Forsyth Scout, Abner Sharp Grover would meet his demise.

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<sup>31</sup> Wallace Bennett had been hired as one of Forsyth's scouts, but was injured when thrown from a horse, before the command left Fort Wallace. He had been left in the hospital, but apparently recovered rapidly.

Carpenter said of the chance meeting on the plains with Donovan: *“In the morning a party of five men sent out from Fort Wallace to overtake Bt. Col. Bankhead’s expedition very fortunately stumbled by accident into my camp, one of these proved to be one of Col. Forsyth’s men, who had escaped from his camp. By his direction I was able to push forward with about thirty men, leaving the wagons to follow slowly but taking with me the ambulance and a surgeon, Dr. Fitzgerald. We passed over twenty miles to the northward, as rapidly as possible and at about 10 o’clock a.m. reached Col. Forsyth’s command, on the dry fork of the Republican, known generally as “Bob Tailed Deer Creek” of Arickaree Fork”.*

Peate and Donovan were leading Carpenter’s abbreviated command as they crested the hill (now marked as Peate Hill) to the south of Beecher Island and started the descent into the Arickaree valley, briefly causing much concern as the Scouts on the Island and those out hunting, at first thought the Indians were returning. Along with Carpenter’s command was trooper - buffalo soldier, Reuben Waller<sup>32</sup>, who helped hand out food to the famished Scouts, who were undoubtedly tired of rancid horse and mule meat. The normally detested hardtack, along with some salt pork, was a delectable treat that day.

Peate was the first Forsyth Scout hired, and the last known living Scout, but through no fault of his own, missed the very battle that he recruited for, but was able to lead the relief column in to feed and treat his many hungry and wounded friends, neighbors and comrades in arms. He was one of the best known Scouts, being very active in re-locating Beecher Island<sup>33</sup>, and attending and promoting the Beecher Island Reunions and looking after the welfare of the aging Scouts and their widows. Sometimes he was referred to as “The Ambassador of Beecher Island.”

Although James Peate and his wife, Laura Williams Page, had no children and thus no direct descendants, they both had siblings and they had many nieces and nephews and were both respected, upstanding members of their community, in which they took an active part.

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<sup>32</sup> Reuben Waller, (1840 – 1945), was the last known survivor of the relief column.

<sup>33</sup> Peate and Scouts Tucker and Smith went to Colorado on 1898, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle to locate the Island, none having been back since the battle.

James Jared "J. J. or Jack" Peate was born NOV-29-1848 in Warren, Warren County, Pennsylvania and died JUN-23-1932 in Beverly, Lincoln County, Kansas and is buried in Beverly City Cemetery, Beverly, Kansas.

He was the son of the Reverend John Peate and Mary Elizabeth Tilden. The Reverend Peate, a bricklayer by trade, was a native of Ireland, coming to the United States, by way of Quebec City. Mary Tilden was a native of Connecticut. Reverend Peate was a Methodist minister, and served in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio at different times. In 1864 Reverend Peate enlisted with the 164th Regiment, Ohio Infantry (National Guard) and served as their Chaplain. Some printed sources state that Reverend Peate performed the services for the first soldier buried in what is now Arlington National Cemetery, but this cannot be confirmed. Reverend Peate did conduct the first worship service in what would become Lincoln County, in the old Colorado Settlement.

James Peate apparently had a taste for adventure. At one time he ran away to join the army during the Civil War, only to be tracked down by his father and returned to his mother in Ohio. On April 30, 1866, Jack and a friend<sup>34</sup>, left Ohio and started for Kansas. After a journey by train and horseback, Jack arrived on May 18 to become the seventh permanent settler in what would become Lincoln County, Kansas. The first six being the Colorado Boys, (of the Colorado settlement, east and a little south of present day Beverly, Kansas) former members of the Colorado Cavalry. They were James J. Adams, Richard B. Clark, Isaac A. DeGraff, Edward E. Johnson, Darius Calvin Skinner and William E. Thompson. After the county was settled, Adams moved to Trinidad, Colorado, where he soon died and William Thompson was killed by Indians in the Black Hills, shortly after the Little Big Horn Battle. Jack lived with the Colorado Boys for a time and was closely associated with them.

Jack married Laura Williams Page, DEC-08-1872 in Lincoln County, Kansas. She was born MAY-\_\_-1853 in Roxbury, Suffolk County, Massachusetts and died JUN-26-1925 in Beverly, Lincoln County, Kansas and is buried in Beverly City Cemetery, Beverly, Kansas.

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<sup>34</sup> This friend is believed to have been William S. Gaskill (1840 – 1912).

Laura's parents, Charles Curtis Page and Mary Copeland, along with her brother, Walter, were also among the early settlers in the Saline Valley, settling between Shady Bend and Rocky Hill.

Jack and Laura farmed and ranched in the Shady Bend area, and Laura taught school and about 1897 they moved to Beverly, Kansas, where Jack operated a general store and creamery for a time and later owned or managed the Martin Lumberyard. Eventually he became associated with the Beverly State Bank, of which he was an officer for many years, until his death. The bank building still stands in Beverly and is now, (after a 2003 merger and a 2010 take-over), a branch of the Wilson State Bank. The original Beverly State Bank was what is now the Beverly Post Office.

The Peate's home in Beverly was the 2<sup>nd</sup> house west of Main Street, on the north side of old K-18 Highway (now 3<sup>rd</sup> St). The home is still standing. Behind the Peate home was the schoolyard of the old Beverly Grade School. The author's mother tells that Jack Peate would come over to the schoolyard at recess and tell stories. Wouldn't you have liked to have been able to sit in on some of them?

Among their siblings, nieces and nephews, Jack had two brothers, who died as infants and five sisters living to be adults, three of them marrying and having descendants. Among these descendants was Mary Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of his sister, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Peate and her husband, Arthur John Thomas, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mary Elizabeth Thomas (1877 – 1960) married Evan Everett Kernohan (1882 – 1954) OCT-09-1906 in Cleveland, Ohio. They moved to Beverly, Kansas and lived down the street, east of Jack the rest of his life. They had one daughter, Edith K. Kernohan – Hazlett. There are living descendants of this branch of the Peate family.

Jack's sisters, Katherine Ophelia "Kate" and Minnie Estella Peate, never married. They moved to Southern California in the early 1900's and lived there the rest of their lives.

His sister, Ansonetta J. "Nettie" Peate, married Frank Martin Kirk, the proprietor of a prosperous coal company. They had one daughter, Hazel Ruth Kirk – Carlisle, who had descendants, some of who are believed to still be in the Cleveland, Ohio, area.

Jack's sister, Imelda Kinnera Peate married Francis Libby Sellew. They lived in Arizona for some time as he was the Chief Engineer on the Laguna River Dam project. Later they lived in California. They had two sons, who have living descendants in California.

From Laura Page Peate's family was her only brother Walter C. Page. Walter and his wife had five children. Their daughter Elsie Page Sallada, lived with Jack Peate as a housekeeper after her aunt Laura Page Peate's death. Laura's nephew, Shirley C. "Shirl" Page operated a Dodge Chrysler Plymouth agency in Lincoln Kansas for years and was active in keeping alive the history of Jack Peate and the Forsyth Scouts. Shirl Page's son, Jim Page, also operated the auto dealership and was likewise active in promoting Jack Peate and the Forsyth Scouts. There are living descendants of this family.

Below are some Peate related articles. The first being Jack's list of deceased Scouts. Then there are a couple of old news articles.



# The Beverly State Bank

RA-666

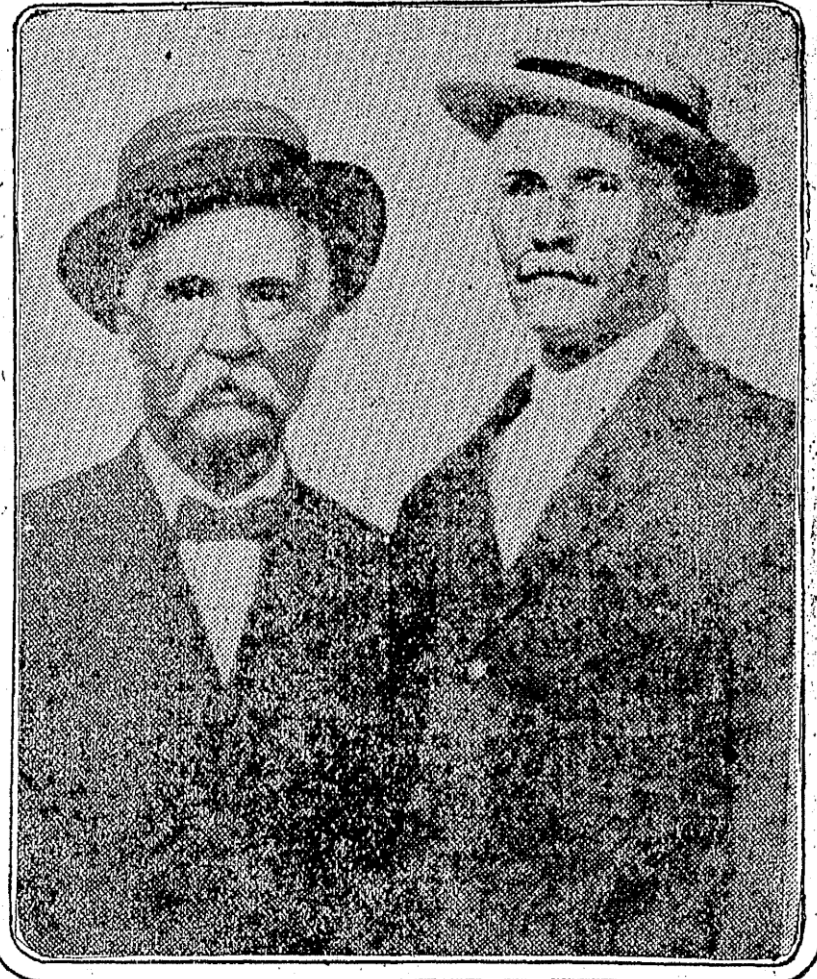
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$33,500.00

Beverly, Kansas

Forsythe Scouts who have died since the battle of Beechers Island  
September 17th 1868-

Ben. Geo. A. Forsythe	Sept 13th 1918-	Rockport, Mass.
✓ Hudson Farley	June 10th 1911-	Sedro Wooley, Wash.
✓ George Greene	Oct 2nd 1913-	Seattle, Wash.
✓ Geo Oaks	Feb 5th 1917-	Frescott, Ariz.
A. J. Fliley	Feb 22nd 1917-	Kansas City, Kansas.
Chalmers Smith	Mar 31st 1919-	Beverly, Kansas.
Fletcher Violott	Feb 15th 1912-	Mankato, Kans.
Eli Ziegler	Apr 4th 1916-	Salem, Ore.
Louis A. McLoughlin	June 19th 1915-	Veterans Home, Calif.
W. H. H. Mc Call	" 13, 1875-1883	Arizona-
✓ Richard Gantt	1880 or 1881- <sup>(Heffman)</sup>	Accidently killed by a friend-
✓ John Hurst	Apr 19th 1920-	Ogdensburg, N. Y.
Wallace Bennett	1874 or 1875-	Killed by Indians in Okla.
J. S. Stillwell	Feb 19th 1903-	Cody, Wyo.
John ( Jack) Donovan	1892-	Denver, Colo.
Barney B. Day	July 4th 1883-	Grand Lake, Colo.
Isaac Thayer	Oct 13th 1905-	Kansas City, Mo.
Frank Harrington	Jan 12th 1907-	Oklahoma-
Thomas Boyles	Mar 19th 1904-	Lincoln, Kansas.
Howard Morton	Feb 8th 1925-	Palo Alto, Calif.
✓ Thomas Alderdice	May 29th 1925-	Conway Springs, Kansas.
E. E. Johnson	June 6th 1899-	Beverly, Kansas.
Thomas Rannahan	Dec 28th 1926-	Boise, Idaho.
Sigmond Schlesinger	Apr 20th 1928-	Cleveland, Ohio.
C. C. Pratt	June 1910-	<i>Confusion North Dakota</i>
Thomas Murphey	Dec 4th 1929-	Corbin, Kansas.
E. R. Tozier		Wasco, Ore.
R. R. Tozier	May 6th 1902-	Tescott, Kansas.

## BATTLE SCARRED SCOUTS SURVIVE INDIAN ONSLAUGHT



JAMES J. PEATE AND SIGMUND SHLESINGER.

One of the most thrilling exploits in the history of the western plains is recalled by the presence in Cleveland of James J. Peate, president of the Beverly (Ks.) State bank and survivor of the heroic defense of what is now known as Beecher's island, in a fork of the Republican river, which divides Kansas from Nebraska.

It is recorded in army annals as the battle of the Arickaree, fought by fifty-one scouts against a veritable army of savages headed by Roman Nose, a Comanche chief.

The expedition started from Ft. Hays, Ks., early in September, 1868, and on the 17th of that month found itself surrounded by a swarm of Indians.

Without cover, except such as was afforded by their dead horses, the little band on the sand spit, commanded by Maj. George A. Forsyth, Ninth cavalry, and Lieut. Beecher, and accompanied by Surgeon Moores, for three days and nights stood off the enemy until relieved by a troop of the Tenth cavalry, under Capt. L. H. Carpenter, now brigadier general, retired, losing Lieut. Beecher and Dr. Moores by death.

Of the scouts but thirteen survive. Mr. Peate, one of them, is now on his way home, after visiting with another of the comrades, John Hurst of Ogdensburg, N. Y. Still another scout, Sigmund Shlesinger, retired business man of 2053 E. 88th-st., is entertaining Mr. Peate today.

## Survivors To Meet. Reunion of Men Who Were in the Arickaree Indian Fight.

### Secretary Adams of the Historical Society Is Taking the Names - Story of the Conflict.

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An effort is being made to get up a meeting of the survivors of what is known as the Arickaree Indian Fight, which occurred on a fork of the Republican river, September 17, 1868.

The following names of Kansas survivors are known: Thos. Alderdice, Milan; Thos Murphy, Corbin; H. H. Tucker, Minneapolis; Howard Morton, Tescott; Chalmers Smith, Beverly; Fletcher Vilott, Mankato; J. J. Peate, Beverly; Frank Herington, Oakdale, O. T.; Jack Stilwell, Anadarko, O. T.; Sam Schlesinger, Cleveland, O.

If the names of others are known, it is desired that they be sent to Secretary Adams of the State Historical society, Topeka.

Jack Stilwell is United States Commissioner at Anadarko. He is one of the men sent through the Indian lines to Fort Wallace for help. He was eighteen years old at the time. Stilwell is an old friend of Eugene Hagan of Topeka and comes here occasionally to visit him.

The Arickaree fight was one of the most desperate ever entered into between white men and Indians, and deserves a place at the head of the list of great battles on the frontier.

#### STORY OF THE FIGHT

In the latter part of August, 1868, General George A. Forsyth of the regular army received orders from General Sheridan to employ fifty scouts to be used against the hostile Indians who were committing depredations in the northwest.

There were plenty of idle scouts in the country at that time, and Forsyth had all he wanted in three or four days.

The only regular officer in the party besides Forsyth was Fred H. Beecher, a first lieutenant in the Third infantry. He was a nephew of Henry Ward Beecher. He was killed early in the Arickaree fight.

#### THEY FIND THE INDIANS

On the morning of August 29, 1868, the party of scouts left Fort Hays for the head waters of the Solomon River. They scouted several days without seeing any Indians, riding into Fort Wallace

on the night of September 5.

At Wallace, General Forsyth found a message from Governor Samuel T. Crawford of Kansas, urging him to push on into what was known as Bison Basin, to protect settlers. The scouts did not go to the Basin, however, for they struck an Indian trail leading toward the Republican and followed it.

It soon became evident that they were not far from a large war party, and as Forsyth had started out with the determination of getting up a fight, the scouts all began to feel that they would have a mixing with the Indians in a very short time.

Some of the scouts pointed out to the general the danger which would lie in the Indians massing several tribes against the little band, but the argument had no weight. Forsyth declared his intention of finding and attacking the Indians, regardless of the odds. That settled it, and the scouts didn't have to wait a great while for trouble.

On the afternoon of September 16, the scouts went into camp on the bank of the Arickaree. Up to that time they hadn't seen any Indians, but they knew by the trail that they were close to them. Every man felt that there would be a clash within twenty four hours. They slept very little that night for they expected the Indians every minute, but the dreary hours passed without a sound.

#### THE FIGHT OPENS

At daybreak next morning a thousand warriors seemed to rise out of the ground and start for the party with a yell which fairly made the earth tremble. They expected to surprise the party, but they didn't. The scouts were up and ready for them, and when several braves tumbled from their horses as a result of the excellent marksmanship of the little band, the advancing lines gave way and all was in confusion.

This gave the scouts an opportunity to make a dash for a small island in the middle of the river bed and intrench themselves by throwing up the sand. They had no time to spare, for the Indians soon rallied and renewed the attack.

The Indians were Sioux and Northern Cheyennes, and, therefore, well armed. They promptly killed all the horses belonging to the scouting party, and while the scouts were making breastworks out of the dead animals several of their number were wounded and one killed. General Forsyth was shot through the right thigh. He afterwards was shot in the arm and head.

#### SCOUTS PROVE GOOD SHOTS.

While the scouts were having a pretty rough time of it, the Indians were not enjoying a picnic by any means. The scouts were crack shots, and they kept up a galling fire on the redskins, and in the course of half an hour compelled them to retreat out of range.

Up to this time Roman Nose, the Cheyenne chief, had not taken any part in the fight. He sat on a horse on a hill out of rifle range, and appeared to be sulking.

About 10 o'clock in the forenoon a delegation of Sioux approached him, and, as was learned afterward, asked him why he was not in the fight. He replied that it wasn't his battle; that the Sioux were running it. They said that they wanted him to take charge. This pleased the old chief, and he donned the war bonnet.

#### DEATH OF ROMAN NOSE

The Scouts knew what it meant. Old Roman Nose was going to lead a charge. He gave some orders, and the Indians commenced to form. Half a dozen scouts had been detailed to defend the lower end of the island, and they saw by the movement of the Indians that they would receive the attack first. The order to charge was given, and the command, with Roman Nose at the head, started down the slope.

Roman Nose was a fine looking Indian, and it is said that he never appeared at so good an advantage as he did that day, but luck was against him.

He let out a thrilling war whoop as he reached the river. The yell was taken up by his followers, but it was cut short by a volley from the scouts. As the Indians dashed over the lower end of the island the scouts located there all fired at Roman Nose and he fell dead at their feet. The Indians were dismayed by the death of Roman Nose, and retreated.

When the Indians had retreated, it was found that Lieutenant Beecher, Surgeon Mooers and three scouts were dead; two scouts were mortally wounded; General Forsyth and eight scouts were severely wounded, and a dozen scouts were slightly wounded. The Indians lost heavily.

#### THE SCOUTS BESIEGED

Then came a siege. The Indians, knowing they could not whip the scouts, decided to starve them out or kill them one by one as they stuck their heads out. The scouts had plenty of ammunition, but were out of grub, and it was 100 miles to Ft. Wallace.

The fighting from that time on was done at long range and on the ambush plan. The scouts were completely surrounded, but by night they had built up a fortification which afforded them protection from the fire of the Indians. The scouts made the wounded as comfortable as possible under the circumstances and buried some horse meat in the sand for future use, and dug some waterholes. Then they settled down to watch and wait. No one dared to sleep.

#### A FLAG OF TRUCE

Just before dark the Indians tried to work the flag of truce racket. One of the scouts was selected to do the shooting. The Indian echo carried the flag reached a point about 200 yards from the island. The scout shot him through the heart. The Indians later admitted after the fight that it was a scheme to ascertain how many scouts had been killed and wounded.

#### SCOUTS PERILOUS JOURNEY

Late the first night General Forsyth sent Pierre Trudeau and Jack Stilwell through the Indian lines with dispatches to Colonel Bankhead at Ft. Wallace for help. They walked backward and barefooted, so as to fool the Indians with their tracks. They went slowly and cautiously, and succeeded in getting through the pickets. Daylight came before they had traveled a mile. All

day they lay in the water's edge with Indians passing by the shore within a few feet. When darkness came the scouts resumed their journey, walking backwards. They traveled about four miles, and the next day they again lay in the water with nothing to eat but horsemeat, which was not very palatable, it having been killed three days before, and the weather being extremely hot. The third night they traveled backward till nearly morning when it commenced to rain. Then they faced about and put in some good licks.

They were protected by the rain and fog that day, and made first rate time. By the following morning they felt comparatively safe, and traveled night and day. They killed enough game to live on.

The sixth day as they neared Fort Wallace, they met two scouts to whom they told their story. The fresh scouts flew to the fort and notified Colonel Bankhead who ordered troops to the rescue of General Forsyth.

#### BESIEGED SUFFER INTENSELY.

The suffering of the little band of fighters on the Arickaree after Trudeau and Stilwell left was intense, especially to the wounded. The September sun, which was unusually hot that year, almost cooked the men. The horse meat grew worse every hour, but the men had to eat it or starve.

The Indians kept up the fight, shooting at everything on the island that looked like a human being, and the scouts in turn made it warm for every Indian who left cover.

It was evident, however, that the main body of Indians, including women and children, began to move about the fourth day, leaving only a sufficient number of braves on guard to prevent the scouts from leaving the island.

No Indians were seen on the seventh and eighth days, and on the morning of the ninth day the troops arrived. The night after Trudeau and Stilwell left the island General Forsyth sent John Donovan and a scout named Pliley out in the same manner. They went through the lines in safety and met troops about halfway to Fort Wallace.

When the soldiers were seen coming over the hill, the scouts went wild with joy and almost forgot their troubles. About half the little band were killed or wounded in the fight.

General Forsyth wrote a complete and graphic account of the Arickaree fight for Harper's magazine for June, 1893. The facts in the story given here are from Forsyth's article, and from statements made by Stilwell when he was in Topeka a few months ago.

I'd better close for now.

Happy Trails,

Mike