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THE WOOLSEY EXPEDITION.

COL. WOOLSEY'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR.

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA, Aug. 28, 1864.

To His Excellency, John N. Goodwin, Governor of Arizona Territory.

[CONCLUDED.]

We followed Pinal creek down to its mouth, and then proceeded down Salt river to camp which we reached about sun down. We waited all the next day for our expected visitors, but they did not come, though their fires blazed continually on the hills north of the river. On the following day I determined to move camp to Pinal creek, and after detaching fifteen men to meet the pack train we started, reaching our old camp at sun down. The road from Grape Vine spring is, for about ten miles, S. E., to some springs and tanks, and then turning east for about five miles, where it reaches Pinal creek at our camping ground, which is about three miles from a round mountain peak which we called Cupola peak, (from camp N. 65° 30' E.)

The morning after our arrival a few squaws came into camp and inquired our intentions, and were told we were hungry and wanted wheat. The whole command was at the same time engaged in cutting and threshing wheat, and our horses and mules were feeding. The next day a few Indians came in with a flag of truce (a white rag tied to a cross), bringing an interpreter with them. We had a long talk, and numbers of them continued to visit us until the arrival of our pack train. Until then I had thought it best to be friendly with them, although it was evident that on one occasion they came with the intention of taking our scalps, but found that we were too well prepared for them. From the arrival of the pack train (on the eighth day,) but few Indians visited us. After allowing the pack animals one day's rest we again began our march—starting at 6 a. m. on the morning of July 4th. Following the creek to its head in the Pinal mountains, the highest peak of which was situated S. 29° E. about 30 miles distant from our camp at the wheat fields. We found gold at the head of the creek, but not in paying quantities, and some good looking quartz lodes. The water raises in this creek about two miles above our camp, and from that to the mountain we found water only in springs and tanks. We camped on the top of Pinal mountain, and from its highest peak the following observations were taken: Tonto peak, N. 60° 30' W.; Needles, N. 86° W.; Casa Blanca, near Pimo, S. 70° W., and Picacho, S. 7° W. We remained at this camp throughout the day after our arrival, our hunters keeping us well supplied with venison and turkey. Eighteen men left the party and returned home by way of Pimo.

I sent out a party to prospect for mineral on the south side of this mountain, but they returned without finding any. We moved camp to the foot of the mountain, on the east side, at some tanks, and the next day reached the San Carlos river, a distance of twenty-five miles. There is no water upon this trail for this distance, it being all the way down a dry arroyo, N. 60° E. We found an Indian corn field and bean patch upon the San Carlos. The corn was not yet fit to eat, but the beans were just right for snaps, and we made much of them. The next day we moved down the San Carlos to the Gila river, distant about ten miles, and thence by easy marches up the Gila to the new Fort Goodwin, distant about thirty miles. We camped on the Gila about three miles from the fort, which is situated on a stream called the Tulerosa, and immediately reported to Col. Rigg, 1st Infantry, California Volunteers, commanding. He issued rations to my command, and it was agreed between us that I should proceed up the country to the Black river, and prospect the district, also looking for Indians, and that I should return across by the heads of the Bonito and San Carlos to our old camp on Pinal creek, and there join Major Thomas J. Blakeney's command, and with it operate against the Apaches

in the vicinity of that creek and Signal mountain, on the north side of Salt river.

I left Fort Goodwin on the morning of the 15th day of July, and proceeded up the Gila river about 35 miles to a point near the Pueblo Viejo. Leaving the river here I struck across the mountain divide to a stream called the Bonito, striking it, as I supposed, about ten miles from its mouth. The Bonito is a small stream, 40 to 50 miles in length, heading in a range of lava hills, and running through a lava formation for its whole length, in a southerly direction, emptying into the Gila about 45 miles above Fort Goodwin. We travelled up it about 12 miles and then turned eastward to the Black river (or Rio Prieto), distant about eight miles.

The Black river is a good sized mountain stream, heading in a lava mountain about 20 miles south of the Mogollon mountains, and runs in a southerly direction about 60 miles, emptying into the Gila about 35 miles above Fort Goodwin. I think we struck the Black river 15 miles above its mouth. About 30 miles above the cañon opens out into a fine valley of several miles in length, containing at least 10,000 acres of fine tillable land, and surrounded by low rolling hills, covered with excellent grass. There were about 20 acres of Indian corn in the valley, but we saw no Indians. The day before we reached this valley a Jaqui squaw, about 10 years of age, came into our camp. She had been a captive among the Apaches, and had just made her escape. She came in with us, and is now at my Agua Fria ranch.

From the head of this valley I made an effort to pass the mountains to the eastward, but did not succeed in finding a point where I could pass with the pack train, and I was obliged to return to the river and continue up it 20 miles further to where the stream forks, one fork coming from the eastward and the other from the north-west. Upon examination here it was found the water raised in both streams as forks about one mile from camp. I reached this point on the 23d day of July, and as I had promised Colonel Rigg that I would join Major Blakeney at Pinal creek on the 30th, it was necessary to turn in that direction in order to keep the appointment. A portion of the command were not satisfied that this stream was the Black river, and were desirous of going further east to look for it. I therefore detached Mr. P. McCannon with 45 men in that direction, while with the remaining 24 men I started on my return to Pinal creek. Mr. McCannon rejoined me at Fort Goodwin in 19 days from his departure, and made a report to me, a copy of which accompanies this paper.

On the 24th day of July, with 24 men, I left our camp at the forks of the Black river and followed the western branch up to its head, distant about 8 miles.

I then turned in a southwesterly direction. We were obliged to camp the first night without water, but about 9 o'clock the next morning we found water in tanks at the foot of a high round mountain, the end of a range lying to the north-west, and covered with pine timber. Soon after stopping Mr. J. W. Beauchamp left camp to go to the top of this mountain and take a view of the surrounding country, and the bearings of different points towards which we expected to travel. Upon arriving near the top of the mountain he was waylaid by six Indians, shot through the chest with a rifle, lanced, stripped and left for dead. He lived some fifteen or twenty minutes, however, after we reached him, but died before we could get him to camp. We buried him at the foot of the mountain, which we named Beauchamp peak, in memory of the unfortunate victim of Indian cruelty and cowardice.

A deep and precipitous cañon heads upon the north-east side of this mountain or peak, and running round its northern side falls off to the south-west for several miles, then turning north-west passes round a range of high mountains, and running thence southward, is in fact the principal branch of the San Carlos river. We travelled along it some 20 miles over a level country, covered with grass and shaded by cedar trees, forming a most excellent stock range. Among these cedars we found an abundance of "bear sign," and one evening just before camping we had some excellent sport in killing a bear, our second, as we had killed one on the Gila about 15 miles above Fort Goodwin. Both of them were of the species known as the Cinnamon bear. About 20 miles from Beauchamp peak, in a southwesterly direction, we reached the foot of the mountains last spoken of, and the road over them for about 8 miles was very rough and rocky, the descent upon the western side being particularly difficult. On reaching the

foot of the mountain on the western side we found a small stream of good water, and a rancheria of Indians, who fled at our approach, some of them on horseback. We stopped here some three hours for noon, and upon leaving, the Indians halloed at us from the hills as long as we were in hearing, taking good care, however, to keep out of rifle range. We now travelled over a level mesa about 20 miles, in a southwesterly direction, until we reached the eastern branch of the San Carlos. We found no water in this branch, but the next was the one before spoken of as heading at Beauchamp peak, and in it was found running water in abundance. Still continuing our south-west course we crossed a level mesa for about 12 miles, varied only by crossing the deep cañons of the San Carlos. We succeeded in crossing five of these, but the sixth compelled us to follow it up to the dividing ridge between the waters of Salt river and San Carlos before we could pass it. We saw some Indians on this dividing ridge, who halloed at us from the cliffs. On arriving within about 10 miles of Pinal creek we were visited in camp by nine Indians, who came in without hesitation, and told us of the soldiers being at our old camp on Pinal creek. The Indians promised they would come over to the old camp and have a "talk," as they said the soldiers were eating up all their corn. We did not reach the old camp that night, and the next morning, on arriving within about a mile of it, we heard the discharge of musketry as though a battle were in progress, and saw the cavalry charging over the hills. I immediately ordered the train to close up and move cautiously down to the water, while I galloped over the point to see what was going on. I found that the soldiers were chasing three or four Indians that had appeared in sight. Of course the Indians I expected did not come in, neither did any Indians afterwards visit the camp, and no more were seen there except a few which Major Blakeney had seized as hostages for a boy that had delivered himself up to him, and had afterwards been kidnapped by the Indians. Two of these were afterwards hung by order of Major Blakeney, the boy not being returned. Major Blakeney and myself immediately commenced preparing to make the raid upon the Indians at Signal mountain, as had been agreed upon at Fort Goodwin, and would have been ready to start in one day, when an order came from Major Smith to break up camp and return to Fort Goodwin. I had gone to camp Rigg to hurry up supplies when this order reached Major Blakeney, and when he reached back to camp Rigg I found my men with him. I immediately started for Fort Goodwin to endeavor to get Colonel Rigg to still send an expedition to Signal mountain. The Colonel made an order for two companies to proceed to that place and operate against the Indians in conjunction with my command, and two days after left for Las Cruces, turning over the command of the Apache expedition to Major Joseph Smith, who found it impossible to fit out the expedition, owing to the excessive rains and the consequent failure of some provision trains to arrive at the Fort. The streams were also swollen, so that he feared it would be impossible to cross. The expedition was therefore abandoned, to my great mortification and chagrin. I remained six days at the Fort, and during that time Mr. McCannon returned from his expedition to the eastward in search of another Black river.

A portion of my command concluded to remain at Fort Goodwin, and obtained employment; two enlisted, and two remained in the hospital, and with the balance, numbering when I reached camp Rigg fifty-four men, I started for home. The river Gila was swollen by the rains, and difficult to cross, and we did not reach camp Rigg until the third day after leaving Fort Goodwin, a distance of forty miles. Leaving camp Rigg the next day we reached the old camp at Pinal creek in a day and a half, and then following our trail back by Grape Vine springs to Salt river, and up Tonto creek to near its head. Crossing the dividing ridge, a distance of about 10 miles, we struck the east fork of the San Francisco, about 10 miles below our former camp on that stream, then following down the Rio Verde or San Francisco.

While passing down the east fork we shot at an Indian but did not succeed in stopping him. About two hours after, as we were passing along a very rough and difficult trail on the side of a hill, and overlooked by a high cliff of rocks, some Indians attempted to annoy us by rolling rocks down the hill, and also shot a few arrows at us. None, however, reached us, nor did any of the rocks reach the pack train as they intended. A few shots from some of our long range guns soon scattered the rascals, and we

passed without injury. We camped on the San Francisco, and the next morning commenced the ascent of the mountain on this side of that river, following an old Indian trail, which proved a good one, although pretty steep in some places. On reaching the top we struck across the smooth mesa to the Agua Fria ranch, which we reached on the third day from the San Francisco river, the thirteenth from Fort Goodwin, and the eighty-seventh day from the day of starting upon the expedition.

The whole country through which we have passed is covered with excellent grass, water is plenty for all ordinary purposes. In many places beautiful little valleys invite the farmer and ranchero to follow the occupation of their choice. We never found gold in paying quantities, and yet I cannot help thinking that there is in that part of the Territory great mineral wealth. From the preceding pages your excellency will easily discover why we killed no Indians upon this expedition. With the exception of those at Pinal creek we were never able to get within shooting distance of them, and for those at Pinal I deemed the reason given for not fighting them as sufficient at the time, and still consider it so. Notwithstanding the failure to find and to kill Indians, I still think the expedition has been of great benefit. We have followed the trail of the Apache to his home in the mountains, and have learned where it is located. We have dispelled the idea of vast numbers that has ever attached to that tribe. A few hundred of poor miserable wretches compose the formidable foe so much dreaded by many. That they will be brought to terms speedily, or exterminated, I cannot doubt, when once the government shall know how small is the enemy by which so much annoyance has been caused.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
 K. S. WOOLSEY,
 Lieut. Col. Commanding Volunteers, from Walker and Weaver Mines.

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

From Agua Fria Ranch—	
To Fisher's Cienega, N 69° E,	15 miles.
Rio Verde, N 69° E,	10 "
Clear Creek, E,	6 "
— Creek, S S W,	8 "
Fossil Creek, S E,	8 "
Head of Fossil Cañon, E,	10 "
Top of mountain, E,	8 "
East Fork, E,	6 "
Green Valley, S,	5 "
5 miles from mouth of Tonto Creek, S 30° E,	25 "
Salt river, E,	6 "
Grape Vine Springs, E,	4 "
Cow Springs, S E,	10 "
Pinal Creek, E,	5 "
Pinal Mountain, S 29° E,	30 "
Rio San Carlos, N 60° E,	25 "
Mouth of San Carlos, S 10° W,	10 "
Ft. Goodwin, S 70° E,	30 "
Pueblo Viejo, S 70° E,	35 "
Bonito, N 75° E,	10 "
Up Bonito, N,	12 "
Negrita, or Black river, E,	8 "
Up Negrita to valley, N,	30 "
Forks of Negrita, N N E,	20 "
Head of West Fork, N W,	8 "
Beauchamp Peak, S W,	5 "
Foot of mountain, S W,	20 "
Over mountain, W,	8 "
East branch of San Carlos, S W,	20 "
Main branch of San Carlos, S W,	4 "
East branch of San Carlos, S W,	12 "
Divide south of Salt river, N N W,	15 "
Pinal Creek (old camp), W,	20 "
From head of Tonto Creek—	
To East Fork of Verde, N,	10 "
Mouth of East Fork, W,	15 "
Top of mountain, W,	6 "
Agua Fria, (East Fork),	15 "
Agua Fria Ranch,	12 "

MR. P. McCANNON'S REPORT.

Ft. Goodwin, August 12, 1864.

To Lieut. Col. King S. Woolsey, commanding Arizona Volunteers, Apache Expedition.

Sir: I have the honor to report to you of the movements of the party under my command as follows:

The next morning after you left us (July 25) we broke camp and travelled up the left fork of the Black river, in an easterly direction. We made but about 8 miles, owing to the heavy rain, and camped. The next day continued our march in the same direction until noon, when we were compelled again to camp by the heavy rain, having travelled about 8 miles. Our camp was

(CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE)