

War Dept. Letters Rec'd.

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. September 18, 1856. Joseph B. Brown, asst. surgeon
Details the circumstances attending the loss and death of Capt.
Francis L. Bowman, 9th Infy.
503 13'AC0) Oct. 29, 1856.

Fort Simcoe September 15, 1856

Sir:

In obedience to instructions from the commanding officer of the post I have prepared the following narration of the loss of Captain F.L. Bowman.

On the afternoon of the 4th inst. I was directed by Major R.S. Garnett commanding the post to conduct Capt. Bowman, who was in a state of lunacy, to the Dalles. We started on the morning of the 5th about 4 a.m. accompanied by two men of Co. G who were detailed as escort. The Capt. had to be lifted upon his horse as he was suffering considerable from the effects of a severe sprain of the right ankle which he received the night before in pursuing a man ^{whom} ~~when~~ he fancied to be guilty of riotous conduct toward him. Upon leaving camp he immediately pushed through the oak timber instead of taking the proper trail. I followed him directing the escort to proceed on in advance upon the trail. After some difficulty we succeeded in effecting a passage through the oaks and soon found the road. The captain took the lead at a fast gallop for a quarter of a mile when he leaped from his horse saying that he was tired. After waiting for a few moments he mounted again. He would not receive any assistance in mounting from us as he said that his ankle was well now. He proceeded in this way alternately putting his horse to a gallop and then suddenly dismounting for a few moments, till we reached the Topinish. There he rested some twenty minutes when we proceeded again, after mounting the captain turned directly back and was returning to camp when I recalled him to the proper direction. He had already diverged from the trail many times but always returned immediately when I called him. He went up the steep hill without dismounting, sometimes urging his horse to a trot.

Of course when I reached the top of the hill he was considerably in advance of me. It was now getting light enough to see the trail quiet distinctly and I found that the escort which I had supposed to be in advance had not passed. I accordingly pushed on rapidly and overtook the captain after going about half a mile. I endeavored to induce him to wait for the men but ~~soon~~ without avail, his whole mind being absorbed by the idea of reaching the Dalles without delay. I finally succeeded in persuading him to go slowly for the purpose of favoring his horse which was much heated. We proceeded for several miles at a moderate pace the captain occasionally urging his horse to gallop, but always at my remonstrance checking him and begging my pardon for forgetting his promise. He had been hitherto silent and indisposed to converse, but he now told me that he had arranged everything properly, that he had made a signal to his wife, who was now expecting him. He said he had been praying for two hours, and advised me to pray so that I might be able to let my wife know that I was coming. He now commenced to tell me the circumstances of his conversion and call to preach the Gospel to the Indians. He said that he was the Messiah and had received his instructions from Heaven which he had visited in person; he gave me a description of what he saw. He now appeared remarkably well. His eye was gleaming with brilliancy and his countenance was lighted up with an expression so much that he scarcely seemed like the same individual that we had known. He sat erect in his saddle and ~~exulted~~ declaimed or preached at the top of his voice of the glories he had witnessed and of the results ~~of~~ to be accomplished by his mission. Part of his conversation was exceedingly humorous and he laughed very heartily at some of the funny conceits which crossed his fancy. As we were crossing the Top of the Skow mountain he began to urge his horse again from a trot to a gallop. I told him that we were going fast enough to reach the Dalles before dusk and that greater speed would

surely break down our horses. He replied that I did not know; that he must get there by 12 o'clock at noon for the purpose of taking the boat to Portland in order to see and compare notes with the bishop there. But he finally consented to go slow and at last consented to stop; saying he was very tired. I told him ~~xxxx~~ we would stop and rest at the first water which was only about a mile in distance. Accordingly when we reached the little stream just before entering the long woods which extend near the naked knob ~~sf~~ on the Show (or Skow or Snow) mountain to Hamiltons valley I told him that we would rest here and dismounted. He said let us rest for three or four hours. He rode on some thirty yards and dismounted proceeding at a fast walk at once towards the ravine on the right. I caught his horse, dropped the picket rope and loosened the girth so that he might graze and then started after the Captain whom I supposed had gone after a drink of water, or to obey a call of nature. It was certainly not five minutes from the time he went into the ravine until I reached the spot where he had disappeared, but when I reached the creek he was not to be seen. I called to him but received no answer, I continued calling more loudly when still receiving no reply and knowing that he could not possibly be beyond the reach of my voice, I began to feel some alarm that some accident had befallen him. I searched the jungle in the ravine up and down continually calling his name. At last ~~xx~~ thinking that he might have crossed the ravine and gone up the other side I looked for him in that direction. I mounted my horse and crossed the hill on the other side. I rode down the ravine for a mile or more on that side and finally returned and searched the jungle again on foot still fearing that some fit or convulsion had seized him and that he was unable to answer my calls. It was about eleven o'clock a.m. when he left me. I continued the search till nearly 2 p.m. when the men being still behind I left a note directing them to remain there till I

returned. I then rode down the ravine on this side for a mile and then crossed over to the trail, leading to the Dalles on which I almost immediately recognized the print of the heel of the Captain's India rubber overshoes. I followed this trail as rapidly as possible for about three miles when I lost it, he having apparently wandered from the road into the woods. I spent some time looking for the trail and calling for him. I went down to the creek near which it was afterwards found that he had slept that night, ~~xxxx~~ and called along it. Here again he must have been within hearing of my voice. Receiving no answer and seeing no indication of ~~xxxxxx~~ his trail I returned to the road and proceeded towards the Prairie hoping to see him as he emerged from the woods. Then within about a mile of the Prairie I met the expressman Mr. Price who said that the Capt. could not come into the Prairie unless he had left the road on the east. I judged it still advisable therefore to return again to the place where the Capt's track was last seen. With Mr. Price's assistance it was with some difficulty discovered that he had left the trail on the east and we succeeded in trailing him some distance into the woods. As it was becoming to dark to prosecute the search any farther with advantage I returned to the place where the men had been directed to remain. We arrived there about 7 1/2 p.m. and found the men waiting. I directed them to return to Ft. Simcoe in the morning with a note relating the escape of Capt. Bowman to Maj. Garnett. After resting about an hour, taking Mr. Price with me I proceeded to the Dalles for the purpose of procuring assistance from there as soon as possible. ~~xxx~~ The night was intensely dark and our horses fatigued so that our progress was slow but we reached the Dalles at about 8 a.m. A party was immediately sent out from there by Lt. Dissell. One also under Lt. Douglass left Fort Simcoe on the same evening. The party from the Dalles were conducted by Mr. Price to the place where ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the trail was last seen, and by the aid of some Indians they followed it to nearly the

the edge of the woods where they entirely lost it. One of the Capt's overshoes was found where he had slept the first night. The party from the Simcoe had already joined the other party and they together continued the search till their provisions were exhausted when the party from the Dalles under Mr. Lear returned, arriving on Wednesday. Lt. Douglass with his party struck across the Prairie from the Klickitat to the Columbia river above the Dalles and down the river to Fort Dalles arriving on Thursday. On that day another expedition consisting of twenty-six Indians was ~~one~~ organized by Mr. Gibson and on Friday they proceeded to the ground to renew the search. On Friday evening a trail was discovered by one of the Indians on the south side of the Klickitat and on the west of the Dalles road. This was taken up on Saturday morning and eventually ~~led~~ led to the spot where the skeleton of Capt. Cowman lay. The flesh had been entirely eaten off by wolves, tracks of which with signs of the dragging of ~~the~~ the body were very distinct. None of the captains' clothing was discovered although the backtrail was followed quite to the Klickitat. No tracks except those of wolves were discovered near the place where the skeleton was found. It was recognized as the remains of Capt. Cowman by known peculiarities of the teeth; from the cotton remaining in his ears; from the moustache that remained upon his lip, from portions of his hair found, and from the general correspondence of the skeleton ^{his} to ~~the~~ size of the figure. I thought that he had been dead from the condition of his remains, at least three days when he was found and should therefore think that he died not from starvation or exhaustion but from congestion of the brain or apoplexy.

The motives which led to his resolution to escape from me must ever remain a matter of conjecture. His anxiety to reach the Dalles in the shortest possible time, which was his absorbing idea, may have induced him to think that there was little premeditation about it

but that some sudden unaccountable delusion may have induced him to flee as soon as he found that I was not in sight. He had shown no disposition to escape from me before, but appeared to ~~only~~ rely greatly upon my guidance and assistance and therefore I am inclined to believe that his flight was only an instinct, indicating the hopeless character of his insanity.

Very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

Joseph B. Brown

Asst. Surgeon, USA

Lt. Henry Fouglass,

Post adjutant.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

Office Or. Mr. Gen'l. 107722. Office of the Secretary War Department
11342. 67739 OGO 1887 File DEut Feby 2498

503 B. Fort Simcoe WT September 19 56 R.S. Garnett Maj. 9 Infy
Comdy. post. G.O.H. June 1, 57 ~~Announced~~ Announces the death of Capt.
Francis L. Bowman 9th Infantry (3 enclosures) Hdqrs. D. Columbia,
River District, Fort Vancouver, W.T. Sept. 23 1856 Respy. forwarded G.
Wright Col. 9 Infy. comdy. Rec(AGO) October 29, 1856

Fort Simcoe W.T.

Sept. 19, 1856

Sir:

The Comful (sic) office desires ..his of announcing (sic)
for the information of the War Department the death under circumstances
singularly distressing of Captain Francis L. Bowman of the Ninth
Regiment of Infantry. From the best data before me (or us) I should
judge that the unfortunate event occurred near about the 10th of
September and within about twenty miles of Fort Dalles, O.T.

The accompanying narrative of Asst. Surgeon Brown (?) prepared by
my direction will convey to you all the information in my possession in
relation to the circumstances of death. It appears to have been one of
those instances of fatality or accident which no human wisdom could foresee.

Lieut (?) Douglass (sic) 9th Infy. the subaltern officer of the late
Capt. Bowman's company and his personal friend has taken charge of
Capt. Bowman's effects and will forward them without delay to his family
at Fort Dalles. I learn that their purpose is to return to the eastern
states (Wilkesbarre, Pa) in October. I am sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servt.

R.S. Garnett

Major 9 Infy. Comdy. of Post.

To the Adjutant General of the Army
Washington City, D.C.

22GA Greenville Ill. Sept. 26, 56

W.A. Allen Engrs. after(sic) (Inquires after ?) Lieut. J.R. Allen

ABBL Oct. 3, 1856 Adt. Genl. Rec. AGO Oct 3, 1856

Greenville, Bond County, Illinois

Sep. 24, 1856

Hon Sir:

Not having received any news from Lieut. J.R. Allen (9th Infy. Washington Territory) for some six months, am becoming very anxious to know something about him either dead or alive & if you are informed of the same by communicating the same to me you will oblige your humble servant

W.A. Allen, Greenville, Ills.

Hon. Secty. of War.

Washington.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

Adjutant Generals Office

Washington, October 6, 1856

Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 24th ultimo to the Secretary of War which has been ~~xxxxx~~ forwarded to this office, you are informed that when last heard from July 31, 1856, Second Lieutenant Jesse K. Allen 9th Infantry was serving in the Yakima country, Washington Territory. He was reported well.

I am sir etc.

H(?) Williams, asst. Adt. Genl.

W.A. Allen, esq.

Greenville, Mend County, Illinois.

October 15, 1856

I trust it will not be deemed officious in me to beg to call respectfully the attention of the President and Secretary of War to certain evils which I conceive to exist in the present mode of administering the duties of the third auditor's office. I am impelled to this step by the unusual annoyances to which I have been subjected during the incumbency of the present third auditor and to ~~xxx~~ which I know that many other officers of the army have also been subjected. The matter of which I wish to complain is I conceive, his arbitrary rules of auditing the transportation accounts of officers of the army traveling under orders. I will illustrate the difficulty by citing my own cases. In '49 I traveled from Baton Rouge La to Washington City with General Taylor in pursuance of an order from him "by the western route" that is by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and the Cumberland road. In the fall of '54 I traveled from Fort Snelling (M or W. T) to New York and again in '55 I travelled from St. Louis to Fort Monroe Va., In each of these cases the auditor claims that the estimated distances are too great. It is known to all persons connected with the practical working of our ~~government~~ quartermaster's Department that at all the principal offices throughout the country they keep tables of the distances between most of the military posts of the country and other points usually travelled by officers of the army. These tables are taken from those published by the post office Dept. of the govt. and transportation accounts paid under them having once been audited and settled at the Dept. they are very justly deemed by the quartermasters to be approved and correct. But correct or not, they are the best light by which the disbursing officer can go, and on paying by him, he is ... in good faith to consult the best interests of the government. Now upon my own part I have for several

years past --and I know it was so in the cases above cited--been in the habit whenever I travelled under orders, of simply presenting my order upon termination of my journey to the quartermaster, and of requesting him to have my account made out. I have never estimated nor charged any particular distance myself, but have always accepted whatever distance the quartermaster has named. Had he seen fit in the cases above to say that the "official distance" as the auditor terms it between Fort Snelling and New York City was only one thousand miles 1000 instead of some thirteen or fourteen hundred I should have accepted it at once--considering that by long experience these officers had better means of knowing what the true distance was than I had. I contend, therefore, that I adopted the best and only means in my power, and endeavored in good faith to secure the government against any error or overcharge. Still the auditor claims that an error was made, and very properly that the government ought to be indemnified. But by whom? It seems to me that every principle of justice would require that the Govt/^{be} ought to be reimbursed by the person through whose negligence the error occurred, and I further think that that negligence is directly traceable to the third auditor's office. It seems to me that there has been strange inefficiency somewhere. When we learn that in the practicable working of a government for upwards of half a century there is yet no system, no understanding or concert of action between the disbursing and the accounting officers of its treasury. If inaccuracies in public accounts arise from this course, it is but first reasonable that they should be charged to that office, which has the power and means of preventing their occurrence but which yet fails to do it.

But if I understand the third auditor correctly in a conversation which I ~~had~~ had with him last winter on the subject, these accounts are disallowed because the distances named are not now the "official distances," of present "shortest mail route." I do not

not know that he claims that they were not the correct "official distances" at the time at which they/ journeys were performed. It is unnecessary to say anything against the fallacy of such a ~~principle~~ ~~principle~~ principal as this. "With such a rule there would be no finality of government for by the continual increase of railroads "the shortest routes" are almost daily ~~being~~ ~~becoming~~ becoming shorter and there could therefore be no settlement of an account which would be perpetually correct. As an indication of the difficulties into which the principal would lead, the case of Col. Wright 9th Infy may be mentioned. I learn that he ~~has~~ has had a transportation account disallowed by the present auditor which was paid by Capt. Day, I think, some ~~time~~ ten or fifteen years ago on the ground that the distance charged is "not the shortest ~~mail~~ mail route."

If there is not something wrong in this system of auditing accounts, there is at least, it seems to me, something very unusual about it. I have been fifteen years in service, and at no period of the time have I known of such general complaining in the army against the action of any of the accounting officers of the treasury as I have on all sides against the present Third Auditor. If any new rules for military accounts have been instilled, it is but just that the disbursing ~~different~~ officers, and indeed all officers of the army should know of it.

I beg to say in conclusion that I do not submit this communication with any hope or expectation of relieving my self of the disallowances against me but with the trust that the President and Hon. Secretary of War will deem the subject to be of sufficient importance to order to be established in the 3d Auditor's Office, and to be made known, such uniform rules for the settlement of transportation accounts of officers of the army as will effectually secure them from annoyances, and the government inconveniences which it seems that no

precaution on their part can now avert.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully, Sir,

Your Obt. Servt.

R. Garnett)Sic)

Major 9 Infantry

To the adjutant general of the Army,
Washington City, D.C.

316 G Fort Simcoe, Washington Ty. Oct. 15, 1856.

Referred to Qr Gen. for his views on the within. Jeffn. Davis, Secretary
of War, Rec. AGO December 1, 1856.

Nov. 1, 1856

Sir:

Mr. Thomas P. Chiffelle of Vancouver, W.T. has been nominated and recommended by the post Council of administration for the appointment of Post Sutler by the Hon Secretary of War as prescribed in par. 379 regulations of the Army.

This nomination and recommendation have been approved by me and I have now the honor to submit his name for the action of the Secretary of War.

I am sir

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

R.S. Garnett

Major 9 Infy.

Comdy. post

To the Adjutant General
of the Army
Washington City, D.C.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

Executive Office Ter. Washy.

Olympia Nov. 21st, 1856

Hon. Jeff. Davis,

Secretary of War, Washington City, D.C.

Sir:

As a part of the history of Indian relations in this Territory the past two years I enclose a copy of a letter which learning that Genl. Wool has just arrived at Vancouver I addressed him on the 22nd day of May, 1855, the second day after my arrival at Walla Walla last year, and some six days before going into the council which resulted in treaties of Cession from the Nez Perces, Yakimas, Cayuses, Walla Wallas and Umatillas.

Genl. Wool however returned to San Francisco where my letter reached him and I passed on to the sources of the Missouri. I have never received any answer to the letter.

I had previously in a letter to you dwelt upon the importance of the ~~xx~~ occupation of the Walla Walla

I am sir, very respectfully

Your most obedient (sic)

Isaac I. Stevens

Gov. & Supt.

Proceedings of the Post Council of Administration, which
assembled at Fort Dalles O.T. pursuant to the following order

Headquarters Fort Dalles O.T.

December 14th 1856

Order

No. 99

The post council of administration to consist of Bvt. Major
P. Lugenbeel, Captain F.T. Dent, First Lieut I. Van Vost 9th infantry
will assemble at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning for the purpose of
nominating a post sutler and ~~forwardingxxxxxxx~~ transacting
such other business as may be presented.

By order of Colonel Wright.

Signed P.T. Owen

2nd Lieut. 9th Infy. adjutant

Fort Dalles O.T. 11 a.m. Dec. 15, 1856. The Council met pursuant
to the above order, all the members present, and proceeded to the
business before it.

The colonel comdy. having submitted the application of the
following persons.

J.F. Noble

Samuel H. Green

T.P. Chiffelle

and B.H. Morse for the appointment of sutler at ~~the~~ ^{this} post. The
council after deliberations nominated Samuel H. Green as sutler for Fort
Dalles, O.T. Signed Jas Van Vost. Signed P. Lugenbeel

1st lieut 9th infy.
recorder

~~Major~~ Capt. & Bvt. Major 9th I.
President of Council

Head quarters Fort Dalles, O.T.. December 15, 1856. The
foregoing proceedings are approved. Signed G. Wright. Col. 9th infy.

comdy. Hd. qrs. Fort Dalles O.T. June 21, 1857 Official P.A. Owen
sic 2nd lt. adjutant

Briggs' Claim, near Port Townsend, W.T.

January 5th, 1857

Sir:

In conformity with the wishes of the lieutenant colonel commanding the District that I should suggest a name, I respectfully recommend that the new post, about to be erected upon the reserve recently located upon the Bay of Port Townsend, in Washington Territory, be called Fort Vose, as a compliment to Isiah H. Vose, deceased, late the Colonel of the Fourth Infantry who entered the service in 1812, served with distinction and zealously devoted himself to his duties. While preparing his regiment for the campaigns it subsequently passed through in Texas and Mexico. He expired literally in harness and in the presence of his regiment--the troops being yet on parade where he had left them, and fell to rise no more before entering his quarters.

I am sir, very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

G.O. Haller

Capt. 4th Infy. Bvt. Major

Cozdy. post

Col. S. Cooper

Adjutant General USA, Washington D.C.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd.

New York City Mar 17, 1857. R.S. Garnett, major 9th infy.

In relation to the detail of Capt. Woodruff's company 9th infy. as escort to the N.W. Boundary commission.

New York, Mar. 17, 57

Colonel:

When I left my post (Fort Simcoe W.T. in November last) Captain Woodruff of the 9th Infantry requested us to say to you respectfully that ~~h0000000~~ in case his escort should be detailed from your office for the officers appointed on the commission to adjust the North Western boundary, he would be gratified to this detail of it could be done consistently with the interest of the service. I beg to apologize to you and to Capt. Woodruff for my remission in not having communicated this fact to you sooner.

I have the honor to be very

Respectfully sir

Your obt. servt.

R.S. Garnett, Maj. 9th Infy.

Col. S. Cooper

Adjt. Genl. of the Army.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

236W 1857 Fort Dalles, O.T. May 3, 1857 G. Wright, Colonel 9 Infantry
In reference to the new army regulations not recognizing a regimental fund.

Head Quarters 9th Infantry

Fort Dalles O.T. May 3d 1857

Colonel:

As the new regulations do not recognize a Regimental Fund I forward the amount of it for the last four months direct to you.

The regulations allow a certain number of men for a regimental Band but deprives us of all means of furnishing instruments, music etc. As colonel of a regiment I much regret the change in the disposition of the Regimental and Post funds--The old system worked admirably--The company fund arising from the savings from the ration was ample to meet all their necessary wants. The regiment and post funds, judiciously expended, proved beneficial to the Regiment--much more so it is believed than the new system will--the more the fund is divided and subdivided, the less real benefit will be derived from it.

For the support of a band and other Regimental expenses, voluntary contributions from the officers cannot be relied upon; when a majority of them are serving at posts distant from Head Quarters and with only a remote prospect of joining.

Most of the regiments have ~~been~~ band instructor, to whom extra pay is guaranteed, and in every my regiment, in order to purchase instruments, music etc. we had to anticipate the usual benefit of awhich was supposed to be permanent, we are now left without the means of liquidation.

A good band is an ornament to a Regiment; the dull routine of a soldier's life is made cheerful by it, and I beg most earnestly that the subject may be considered by the proper authorities.

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obt. servt.

Col. S. Cooper, Adj Gen. U.S.A. Washington City G. Wright, Col 9 Infy.
D.C.

Fort Simcoe W.T.
May 29, 1857

Sir:

The council of administration which met under my orders at this post in October last nominated Mr. L.P. ^{Chiffelle} ~~Chiffelle~~ for the appointment of Suttler of the post. This nomination was forwarded by me to your office for the action of the Secretary of War and I learn that the warrant was duly issued in favor of Mr. Chiffelle.

Mr. Chiffelle, however, has failed to comply with the conditions of his appointment and has not yet appeared here with a supply of sutler's stores. Nor is it known what he proposes to make any attempt to do so. His appointment has therefore been considered null by the Council of Administration.

It has again assembled under my order and on this occasion has nominated Messrs Green, Death and Allen of San Francisco for appointment of Sutler of the post.

I have now to request that the appointment of this firm may be confirmed by the Secretary of War and a warrant issued in their behalf as early as convenient.

I am sir, very respectfully
your obdt. servt.

R.S. Garnett

Maj 9 Infy.

Comdy. post

Adt. General USA
Washington City
D.C.