

Head Quarters Southern Army

Fort Leland March 31, 1856

His Excellency, Geo L. Curry

Gov. Ore. Territory, Salem, O.T.

My dear sir:

I have the honor to make the following report of the troops under my command.

On the 22nd ulto. I gave orders to Major Pence (or Bence) to move with his command to Illinois Valley to secure that part of the country, and if possible to find Old John's band of Indians. Bence immediately reported to the head quarters of the Southern Battalion and gave the necessary orders for a march. This movement on the 23d inst. (?? His movement) As they were about startling news came into camp of John's band being on the trail to Crescent City and that they had that day killed three men and that they were then attacking the home of Mr. Hay. Capt. O'Neal's company hastened to the assistance of Mr. Hay and in getting there had to run through the whole of the enemy's line, some 200 strong. As soon as Bence came upon the Indians retreated from the house and took to the mountains. Major Bence then with his command commenced getting the families in that section of country in a condition to protect themselves. In the mean time the enemy were endeavoring to kill all the mules and horses they could find on their retreat. Major Bence pursued the Indians some five miles fighting all the way. Three of his men were killed and some 10 or 12 Indians killed. Night coming on the men drove off the Indians still retreating towards the mountains.

On the 22nd ulto I ordered a detachment consisting of 100 men of the Northern Battalion under the command of Major Latshaw (?) to gather on Cow Creek. On the 23rd they fell in with from 75 to

80 Indians six miles below Fort Smith . The fight here commenced, the men pursing (or pushing) forward and the enemy retreating. Some thirty Indians were collected on a hill to the right of the battle ground at this time and one of the spys looking through a glass discovered a white man among the Indians on the hill. Lst. Lieut Combs of the Benton Co. Company was ordered to take 30 men and charge the enemy on the hill, ~~later~~ which he did gallantly killing one Indian and capturing a mule, saddle blankets and a pair of boots. The volunteers drove the enemy right and left beating them in all directions. The enemy lost four killed, certain, and had many wounded. Four mules and two horses were captured, One white man killed of Sheffield's company, and one of the spy company wounded . Great credit is due to these brave volunteers who have driven the Indians from the trail and are still in pursuit of them.

Capt. Laben Brouys (?) comment that a fight with some 75 Indians six miles south of Cammas Valley. (sic) The enemy came into the valley it appears to sweep the settlements. Upon ~~hearing~~ hearing it Capt. Brouys with 35 men started in pursuit and came up with the enemy in the mountains leading to the meadows from the north. As soon as Capt. (Maybe Byouy) came up with the Indians he immediately divided his command and charged them right and left and completely routed ~~them~~ and defeated them, killing three Indians which they found on the ground, one with a Navy sized pistol still tightly grasped in his fist, though dead. The command followed the Indians about a mile until the men were completely exhausted for want of water. They were then ordered to return to camp. The company, both officers and men behaved in such a manner as to ~~entitle~~ entitle them to the highest praise of every citizen of our country. Allow men to mention the obligations we are under to Maj. Pence and the men under him.

Major Latham and the brave boys from the north as well as Capt. Buoss (Looks like Buoss this time) and Lt. Moore, both of whom have been in the service all winter.

I have ordered 60 men from Capt. Buoss' ~~company~~ company to follow the Indians and if possible to fall in with Col. Kelsey and Major Latham at the Big Bend of Cow Creek. Col. ~~Kelk~~ Kelsey bids fair to be a very active officer and ~~my~~ my confidence is unlimited in Lt. Col. Chapman all of whom are very of success.

With my respects, I am sir,

Your most obdt. servt.

John K. Lamerick,

Brig. Gen. O.T.

John R. Hale, aid-de-camp.

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