

Camp Atchison Historic Site- Griggs County, N.D.

August 16th, 1960
Dana Wright

This site is in the usual shabby condition, though the highway people have mowed the most of the grass along the grade.

There is quite a clump of chokecherry bushes growing in the angle of the old entrenchment, many of these bushes are dead and leave unsightly sticks projecting up, the whole growth is a collecting place for dead weeds and beer cans.

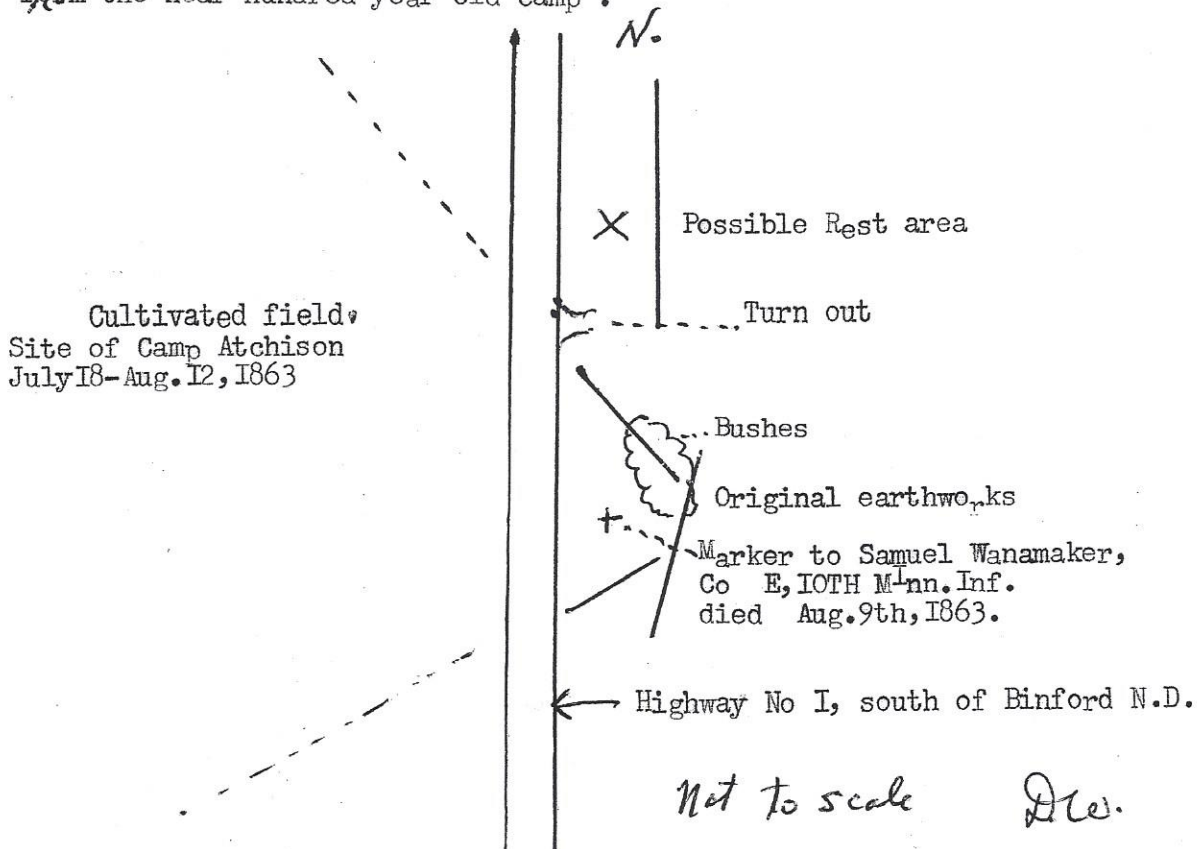
The old wooden WPA marker leans against the bushes, the supporting posts had decayed and let it fall.

The lone marker ^{to Wanamaker} stands in an open place between the road and the bushes.

The highway people had enough regard ^{for} the site to omit any "improvement" that would have altered the site as presented to the state by John Thune many years ago, it is small but would provide room for a good marker which I understand, the historical society is to provide. This site being on Highway No 1 would be seen by many travelers and it should be cleaned up and improved.

The American Legion of Binford have agreed to clean up the site and Fritz Helland a business man in Cooperstown and a former resident of the vicinity, said he would see to keeping it in condition if it is first put in better condition. He does considerable work on the Lake Jessie site.

It seems to me that this location would be a suitable one for a small rest area such as the highway people are providing in various places, our tract is too small for such use and it should not be made a camping place anyway, but there is a turnout just to the north where the roadside tables could be installed, it would be useful as a rest area as well as an opportunity to educate the public on the old camp site. The angle of the entrenchment is still well preserved, one of the very few left from the near hundred year old camp.



SOME HISTORIC SITES IN GRIGGS COUNTY

Dana Wright, 1961

Ed Lohnes mail station on east side of Red Willow Lake, 1867

Mail station at east point of Lake Jessie, 1867.

Nicollet and Fremont camped on high bluff
Southwest sect, T4 on Lake Jessie, 1839
where Gov Stevens camped July 10, 1853.

Capt Fisk camped south of Lake Jessie on
Rudy Helland farm, 1862 and 1863.

The Sibley trail of 1863 left the Fort Totten trail of 1867 on Sect 32-T46-59
a mile northwest of Camp Pope.

The trail, stated by Col McPhail in Aug 1863 down west side of Sheyenne river, was
later (1867) used for travel from Ft Ransom to Ft Totten, it left the Sibkey trail
on NW-T4-R.59

Camp Burt was on Sibley's return trail from Camp Atchison to Minnesota, ^{here} ~~is~~ is the
grave of Kristen Petterson who died in this camp.

Capt Fisk camped July 15, 1862 at the south end of Lake Johnson a mile south of Sheppard,
On July 17, 1863 Sibley passed by on the west side. On August 11th 1865, Colonel Carnahan
with the 3d Ill. Cav. camped on the west side and lost a man Geo. T Johnson by drowning.
A marker at the school house at south end of lake.

The grave of George E Brent is on a high hill southwest of Camp Atchison, he died of
accidental shooting ~~on~~ July 20, 1863, eight miles out from the camp, he had been wounded
at Camp Forbes north of Kenasal and was being returned to Camp Atchison, he died near the
west Griggs county line.

Samuel Wannamaker Co 10th Minn. Inf. died of sickness at Camp Atchison and was buried on a
small hill north of the camp a few hundred yards, marked at the camp.

All the early explorers mention the spring at the extreme northwest end of lake Jessie
where they secured water.

The course of the Nicollet -Fremont party is not known, they came up from the south and
continued on to the north from Lake Jessie, probably crossing the Sheyenne south of Hamar.

The Gov. Stevens party crossed Sheyenne from the southeast, passing two or three miles north
of Cooperstown to Lake Jessie, then west over the hills and between Lake Sibley and Binford
they camped near the county line, southwest of Mose, Capt Fisk followed the same general
course west from Lake Jessie.

Gov Stevens mentions landmarks on the Sheyenne, Butte Michaud and Horse Hill also Red
Willow lake.

There is an Indian mound on the hills northwest of Cooperstown, and several at Red Willow
lake, also on west side of Lake Jessie and on the top of Butte Michaud and one near the
Little Badlands on the Sheyenne.

Some ghost towns; Helena, at Revers. Montclair on SW 20-T45-R.60. Gallatin on the Sheyenne
NW-24-T45-R.58. Mardell - SW 13-T46-R.58. Romness, on I6-T/ T47-R.58. Ottawa, SW 24-T. T48-R.58.
Willow - I6-T- T48-R.60, along Totten trail.

GRIGGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dana Wright
May 15th, 1961

A meeting of the society was held in Cooperstown the evening of May 10th, 1961. About 30 people present, the meeting was presided over by Fritz Helland a local business man who organized the group and is keeping things moving. He was formerly from the Lake Jessie area and keeps an historical exhibit in a building near the Lake Jessie marker.

Matters considered by the group were the collecting of historical information and material and providing for its care.

The No 1 activity or project is the care and improvement of the Camp Atchison site near Binford. It is proposed to ^{ve}try to secure additional space so that a turnout and parking place could be provided. At present there is a turn out but very little room for parking. The site is on the east side of state highway No 1 and part of the remaining original earthworks of the camp run onto the highway right of way and might be destroyed.

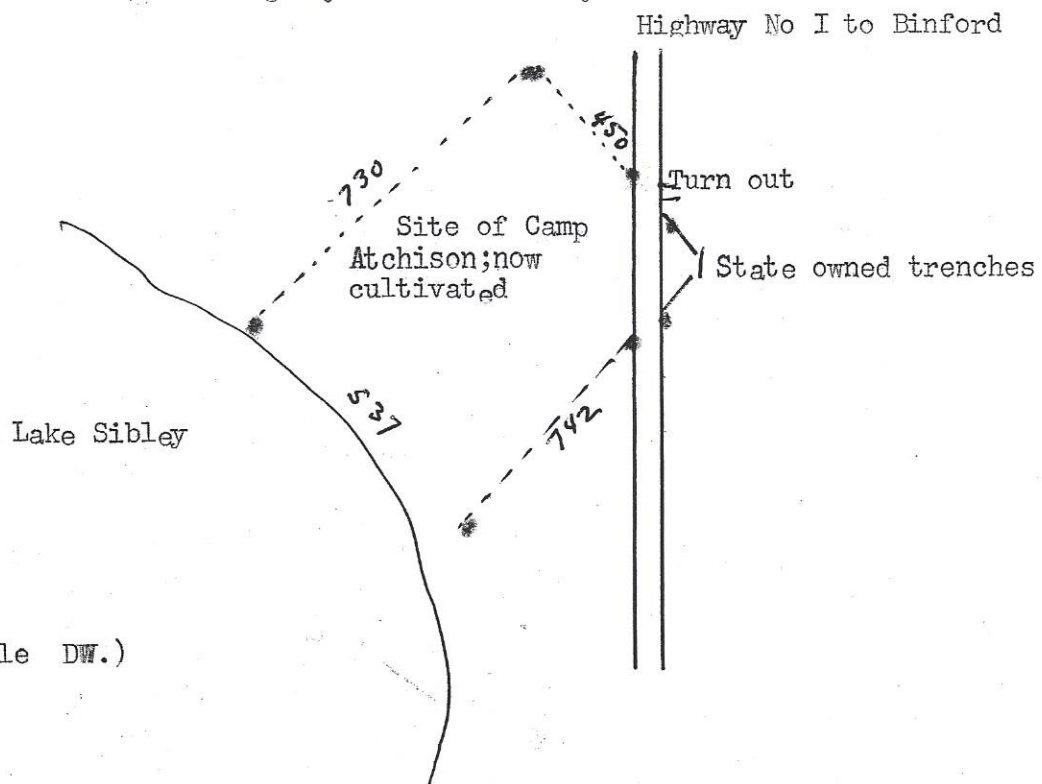
Parking should be provided off the highway for safety and convenience and the actual camp site should be kept unspoiled for its historic value, the headstone for Private Wannamaker is located here tho his body lies in a field some distance away.

The local group is still hoping that a suitable marker may be provided by the state historical society, the old wooden sign provided by WPA years ago has fallen over and lies propped against some bushes.

The county society is considering ways and means of marking some historic sites, such as the site of Sibleys Camp Pope; death of George Brent, Col Carnahans camp of 1865; the site of mail station (Lohnes') at Red Willow lake. There are many others which should be located and marked. Considerable information is available about these events and places.

The county group includes some substantial people and all are inclined to go as far as they can on their own. They would be glad to know if a marker is to be provided by the state historical society for Camp Atchison. They have plans some smaller markers on local projects such as the junction of the Fort Abercrombie trail with the one from Fort Ransom at a point west of Hannaford and the Fort Totten trail crossing of Red Willow creek.

It has been suggested that posts or markers be placed to outline the limits of old Camp Atchison, between the highway and lake Sibley.



(Not to scale DW.)

Griggs County Historical Society ,Cooperstown, N.D.

Dana Wright
May 9th, 1962

This organization has been in existence over a year and shows considerable vigor. The president is Fritz Helloand of Cooperstown, the able secretary is Mrs Pratt have recruited a membership of over forty, have well attended meetings and organize pilgrimages to interesting sites in their area.

They have set the date August 19th as a visit to the Fort Totten with stops Red Willow lake, Poplar Grove ,Devils Heart and Sully Hill. The return will be by Brenner's Crossing of the Sheyenne and the John Aarstad museum at McHenry.

The society has cleaned up the Camp Atchison area, erected flag pole and provided flag, and are having a county map made showing historic sites.

They are looking forward to observing the 100 th anniversary of the establishment of Camp Atchison, Sibleys base in July 1863.

Early explorations in Griggs county

Omitting the Indian and Metis hunters and the wandering unrecorded whites who were sometimes found in the border land between the land occupied by the whites and those used by the Indians, the earliest white travelers in this part of North Dakota were probably J. N. Nicollet and his engineer officer Lt. John C. Fremont. Their exploration of the country west of the Sheyenne from near Bear Den Hill and Devils Lake is illustrated in the map which they made following their trip in 1839. This indicates that they paused briefly at Lake Jessie on the 25-26th July, 1839. Their camp was on the bare knoll north of the old McCulloch building site, the legal description, the ^{Sec 14-}SW, 147-60. Lt. Fremont named the lake for the lady whom he later married: Jessie Benton, daughter of Senator Thomas Benton of St. Louis, Missouri. It is said that the Senator did not approve of the proposed match and had a hand in sending the young lieutenant in to the wilderness hoping the romance would cool off. The two young leaders of this exploring party noted several landmarks by name which are still in use. Butte Michaude, on the Sheyenne north-east of Cooperstown (center of Sec. 35-T. 148-R. 59), Nicolette says the elevation was 1586 above the sea and 120 feet above the surrounding prairie. The name is supposed to have been taken from some old Indian leader buried in the artificial mound on the summit. The name being French would indicate that it originated after the Indians had contact with the whites. Metis hunters told me many years ago that on an occasion when they had a hunting camp in the vicinity, one of their men named Michaude became separated from the camp in a fog and was absent long enough so that his friends became anxious for his safety, after he was relocated they called the butte Michaude or "the place where Michaude was lost."

On P. 155 of Upham's Glacial Lake (1887) Agassiz he says another angle of the moraine is marked by the conspicuous hill called Butte

Mashue, from the name of an Indian who was buried in the on its summit. This hill, situated in the east half of section 35-T. 148-R. 59, rises 150 feet or 175 feet above the general level east and north, or nearly 350 feet above the Sheyenne river, which is only a mile distant to the northeast."

On Nicolette's map the name is spelled Michaux, they made the elevation 1386. Their map also gives the location of Horse Butte and Lake, also on the Sheyenne, on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 24-T. 147-R. 58, named from an Indian tradition. Farther up the Sheyenne the Beaver lodge creek and Poplar groves are located. Both ~~or~~ are land mark~~s~~ from long ago, they are in Nelson county.

In the text of Nicolette's report, P. 138 he uses the name "Lake Jessie" with the French name (Lac des Bois or Wood Lake) he makes no further reference to Lake Jessie in the text.

The elevation in the text is given as 1586 for Butte Michaud possibly the 5 was originally # or 1386 feet elevation which would be nearer correct. He gives the water level of the Sheyenne at mouth of Beaver Lodge creek as 1328-the plateau 1486, this is some distance to the northwest up the Sheyenne mouth of 1st Bald hill creek (riverie aux Buttes Pelees)

47°-8'-47"; 94°-49'-30"

Lake Jessie (Lac des Bois) 47°-32'-32"; 98°-1'-45"

X at Beaver Lodge, level of plateau; 47°-46'-29"; 98°-13'-20".

9-14

P 41. The Crossing of the Sheyenne on section 24- T.150 ,R. 6I is a little south of Tolna. It is a little known place but has seen some interesting history. At this crossing a little stream empties into the Sheyenne from the southwest, that was probably the Beaver Lodge creek of the Nicollet map of 1839, It is designated the Bear Lodge creek on Wagners map of 1863 to illustrate the Sibley expedition. Gen. Powel Adams map of 1866 calls it the Beaver river. It is a small creek draining marshlands to the southwest. *note 10*

Nicollets party crossed the Sheyenne on their way to Devils Lake at the junction of the Beaver Lodge Creek and the river, this on July 27, 1839. It is also in line with the probable route of Capt. E.V. Summers and his little army of 138 men who came up from Iowa in the summer of 1845 to see what the Indians were doing (Note 9). Capt Burt of Sibleys expedition left Camp Atchison near Lake Jessie in July 1863 and made a trip to the south shore Devils Lake and return, the Wagner map shows that he crossed at the mouth of the Beaver Lodge creek.

Old Pierre Bottineau who spent his life on the plains and was guide for Gov Stevens, Fisk, Sibley and others, was with General Terry on the trip to Devils Lake to lay out Ft Totten, it is quite probable that he knew the old trails and crossings and led the ~~first~~ soldiers across, ~~then naturally~~ when there was further travel the people naturally followed the same trail.

This crossing at the mouth of the creek was a stopping place for the mail carriers who traveled between Ft Totten and Abercrombie, According to Ed Lohmes ^(Note 10) there was ¹⁰ little timber right at the crossing but there were groves nearby both up and down stream, the government established a log shelter here for the convenience of the mailmen, as well as at Lake Jessie and the Sibley Crossing in Barnes County. After mail routes were established the Government kept a half breed and wife at each place as well as a soldier from the garrison at Ft Totten.

5 Leaving Nelson county on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 33- I49-R 60

5-14

the trail passed about a mile east of Red Willow lake, which from its springs and scanty timber made another stopping place, On the east shore of the lake Ed Lohnes had a stopping place of his own ~~the government had~~ a log hut ~~with xxxxxxxxxx~~ to give shelter to mail carriers passing, this was about forty miles from Ft Totton and nearly twenty five from Iron Hearts. ~~Ed Lohnes (See interview Apr 21, 1929)~~

From Red Willow lake the trail led ~~was~~ slightly east of south to Lake Jessie,

6. Lake Jessie was one of the best known landmarks on the high Dakota prairies, visited by Nicolet and Fremont in 1839 and by many other travelers and explorers in the years following. Governor I. I. Stevens and party were there in 1853, camping on the high bluff at the east side where Nicolet had been 16 years earlier. Capt Fisk and his emigrant trains rested there in 1862 and 63. Sibley was headed for the same lake in 1863, but on account of his heavy wagon trains he kept to the south west and made his camp on a smaller lake two miles away, in order to avoid the rough ground around Lake Jessie.

The lake itself was named by Lt Fremont for Jessie Benton, the daughter of Senator Benton of Missouri, who later became his wife. *Note 12*
The water of the lake is brackish and in dry seasons has been known to be entirely dry, when it was the practice in pioneer days to salvage wood from the basin, as was done in Stump lake. There are fine springs at the northwest end of the lake on northwest quarter of Section 15, and Stevens and Fish mention sending wagons there to fill their water casks, the ground is very rough on that side of the lake, which prevented making camp there, the lake is fringed with timber around most of its *shore* border, which was one reason it was a popular camping place.

Wm Quinn, a teamster ^{from Sisseton}, making a trip to Ft Totton with a wagon train about 1868, tells of having the train corraled by the wagon master who saw an oak stump at the northeast side of the lake and thought it a hostile indian, it had been struck by lightning and burned out making it look different than on former occasions. (Quinn was the son of Peter Quinn, interpreter who was killed by the Sioux on the first day of the Indian uprising in Minn, 1862.)

The lake immediately south of Jessie and separated by a narrow ^{isthmus} ~~isthmus~~ was named Addie

(Capt Fisk attempted to name it Lydia for his wife. P 46 Vol. 2 N. D. Hist. Col.)

7
5-14 1863
One of the points of interest ~~and~~ connected with Sibley, ~~between~~ Lake
S
A
Jessie and the Sibley crossing, are three of his camp sites. Camp
Atchison was his base, a permanent camp, but southeast of there were
two camps used before he arrived at Atchison. One was camp Corning
on ~~SE~~ ^{SE} corner of sec 7-143-58, occupied July 16-17, 1863
and the other Camp Douglas Pope which was located on the northeast corner
of Section 5-145-59. occupied July 17-18 the last night before he reached
and established Atchison. The third Sibley camp on this section of the
trail was one he established Aug. 12 the first night after starting for
Minnesota after abandoning Camp Atchison. This was used the night of
I2-I3
Aug ~~12-13~~, 1863 and was called Camp Burt. It was here that Kristen Peterson
of Co. Co D. 1st Minn. Rangers died and was buried, Only a few years ago
the camp site and grave was accidently identified, and marked, a few miles
south ~~west~~ of Cooperstown. Another nearly forgotten grave is that of George
Johnson ^{note 13} of Co G. 3 Ill. Vol. Cav. who was drowned on August 11, 1865 in a
Lake on the north or east side of the trail when his regiment was on its
way to Devils Lake to support Sully who was crossing from Ft Rice.

This lake is the one that Fisk camped on in 1862 and is located on
secs 23-24- T 146-59 in Griggs county. On old maps it was indicated as
Johnsons lake, supposedly from some pioneer. The grave has never been
identified, but a search is being made for the camp site and a Govt
headstone can then be secured to mark the place. This after eighty years.

Not far from this portion of the old military trail is the ^{note} Bald
Hill creek which ^{it nearly} parallels. It was along this creek that old Joe Brown, ¹⁴
Minnesota, soldier, explorer and fur trader was trading with some of the
Cut Head Sioux in 1842. It is said that he traveled on snowshoes from there
to Madison Wis. to attend the legislature to which he had been elected.

The old trail wound through some rolling country from Lake Jessie
the the Sibley crossing, moranic hills, land locked lakes and sloughs,
makes a variety of scenery and extra labor for the teams and teamsters.

A little northwest of the center of Section 24 of T.150 ,R.6I there was a junction in the trail, the Abercrombie branch turned almost directly south to the Sheyenne, while the other branch took an easterly course along the ~~Sheyenne~~ tops of the bluffs to a point north of Butte Michaud when it left the river and strack cross country to Georgetown on the Red. Its course was along the highground between the Sheyenne and valley of the Red past Sharon and a little east of Finley, crossing the Pembina-Abercrombie trail a little northwest of Clifford in Traill county. It is probable that this was a trail in use when the Hudson Bay company had a store at Georgetown and drew trade from the Devils Lake region.

The Pembina-Abercrombie was called the "west plains trail", see ~~map on page 278 - Vol. 6. No 3 Minnesota History.~~

10

Statement of Ed Lohnes,
of Grarey, N.D. April 21st 1929

To Dana Wright & Henry Hale.

The Totton-Abercrombie trail led out from Totton, the trail went right at the foot of the Devils Heart on the north side, then to Iron Hearts which was a stopping place, after Iron Heart left, Tom Canavaugh took the place and kept a stopping place, he was married to a breed woman. From Irons Hearst the trail went almost south 12 miles over level prairie to the Sheyenne. There was no timber at the crossing but both above and below there were patches, especially below the whole side hill about half a mile from the trail was timbered. Nine miles from the Sheyenne was Red Willow lake, this lake was about half a mile to the west of the trail, which then went on the east side of Lake Jessie.

The government had log houses established for their mail carriers, at the Sheyenne crossing south of Iron Hears; one at Lake Jessie and one at the Sibley crossing. Mr Lohnes had a log house for his own use, at Red Willow lake, The government had a nd Indian scout with his wife at each of its stations and a soldier from Ft Abercrombie was stationed at Sibley crossing and one from Ft Totton was at the lake Jessie station and at the Sheyenne.

After running the mail themselves awhile the contract was sublet to civilians and Horaito Kelly of Ft Seward got the contract and he in turn let it out to Lohnes & others. The government log stations were all of one type a log affair with room in one end for four horses and a big room with fireplace in the other, for the Indian family and the soldier. At ~~the~~ the Sibley crossing John Sioux an Indian was stationed. This man got into an altercation with Canavaugh and got shot in a drunken fight and got a carbine ball through his stomach, he was taken to the fort and cared for and recovered but died from other causes a year or two later.

There was a German soldier stationed at the Lake Jessie post and he used to sing from a book which the Indian had, the german did not know the words he was singing but sang them without knowing the meaning.

Mr Lohnes had a station of his own at Sibley crossing and lived there about two years while contracting the mail, he got \$50.00 a month and was furnished with a rig for hauling the mail, in winter he used dogs and toboggan & three dogs the toboggan had a pin in the rear with a rope attached and the driver would hang to the rope and run behind, when there was no snow a team and light spring wagon was used. The mail would start from Totton and go to Red Willow lake -40 miles and stop over night then on to Sibley crossing and meet another driver from Ft Abercrombie, they would exchange mail there and stay overnight and then return to their stations again and repeat the trip. The mail was light and no passengers. A man named Wolgerman, a German, hauled the mail from Sibley crossing to Abercrombie.

Before Lohnes took the mail a discharged soldier from Totton was hauling mail and had a shipment of furs to take down fro an officer at the fort, this man was named Bossey (?) and skipped with the furs and Kelly had to make the loss good and get another mail carrier.

Frank Howard and a man named Crawford had built a house on the Maple river where Wolgerman crossed on the way to Abercrombie, this must have been near the present site of Watson. it was about a mile from the Maple no bridges anywhere except at Peter Vangs on the 3d crossing of the Sheyenne. This was where the road forked to go to Ft Ransom, there were big sand hills near Vangs. Northwest of the Sibley crossing a few miles were the old trenches where Sibley had camped, this was on what was after ward known as Ladburrys farm

Continuing the march on the morning of the 18th, July the column made about ten miles to the Northwest to a shallow lake on the ~~the~~ northeast quarter of section 29-T. 147-R. 60, on the east side of what is now Lake Sibley. The General gave it the name of Emily in honor of Captain Atchison's mother but the name was not retained. The camp however has always been Atchison, for captain Charles B. ⁽³⁾ assistant commissary and acting ordnance officer for the brigade. The general and staff rode down to the edge of the lake and his horse became mired and in floundering out the rider was unseated and bruised so that he was obliged to ride in an ambulance for days.

A camp site was selected and work of building sod protective walls was begun, these were about four feet high and surrounded the camp on three sides, the southwest end opened on the lake and was not fortified. Traverses were made at the two corners away from the lake, one of these on the east side of the present ~~site~~ highway Number one is intact after nearly a hundred years of weathering. The state owns this site thanks to the interest and generosity of John Thune who homesteaded nearby in the ~~early~~ 1882 ~~eighties~~ and was familiar with the site before it was disturbed by cultivation. The outline of the camp could still be easily traced up to the 1920s by the slight elevation where the old walls stood and the slightly different shade of soil. In those days maps and notes were made so that the shape of the old fort is preserved.

Several bits of abandoned equipment have been preserved from the camp; bullets, scraps of metal, a gun stock and smaller items, buttons, harness buckles, broken bottle glass. John Thune tells of finding a cavalry scabbard ^{by a neighbor.} on the camp site, the blade was rusted into the scabbard, John tried to buy it for a dollar, on contract as he had no dollar, before he could accumulate that much, the finder had worked the blade loose and could see the ⁱⁿ long shining blade and cancelled the contract. The weapon has disappeared and its final disposition unknown. To the north northwest of the camp there is a small knoll or elevation which affords a clear view ~~to the~~ in all directions, on this little hill was a small trench or outpost to shelter men on guard. On this hill was buried Samuel Wannamaker ⁽⁴⁾ Company E, 10th Minnesota Infantry, aged 42 who died of sickness on August 9th, 1863. The actual site of the grave is lost, but a government headstone stands on the Camp site.

There is a small slough on the east side of the highway ^{Opposite the Wannamaker hill} and long ago some shallow wells were ^{dug} noticeable, they have gradually become filled and are no longer noticeable.

To the south on the Thune hills another small earthwork overlooked the camp site and lake and on the highest point of this range is the grave of George E. Brent ⁽⁵⁾ who was buried there on July 22d, he had been accidentally shot at Camp Fores July 20th.

Camp Atchison on Lake Sibley, south of Binford was laid out by Colonel Crooks of the 6th Minn. Inf. under the direction of General Sibley. The army had marched about ten miles from Camp Pope on the morning of July 18th arriving at Lake Sibley by noon. Camp was laid out that afternoon. It was about shaped like a rectangle about 450 X 750 feet, lying between the present state highway No. one and Lake Sibley.

~~The camp was protected by a sod wall about four feet high with traverses at the two corners farthest from the lake.~~

No timber was available for fuel nearer than Lake Jessie, water in ~~the~~ lake was brackish but satisfactory for stock and by digging shallow wells water was obtained suitable for camp purposes, some water was hauled in wagons from the spring at the west end of Lake Jessie.

Mail was received occasionally by scouts from Fort Abercrombie ¹⁹¹¹ and also once at least by Pembina ^{July 30} soldiers ^{s se} were assessed 10c per letter and seemed glad to pay it. On July 19th mail was brought from Fort Abercrombie bringing the news that General Sibley's son Frank had died, that was the second death in his family since the start of the expedition on the 18th of June. This mail also brought some better news; that the battle of Gettysburg had been won and the city of Vicksburg captured. Attempts were made to forward mail from Camp Atchison to the Sibley column but the latter was overtaken only once. That was when it was west bound at Camp Clin on the James river. Other attempts were made but were not successful, however as Sibley's army was returning from the Missouri they camped the night of Aug 3-4 & 5 in eastern Kidder county, south of the present site of Pettibone, here scouts and mail carriers from the base camp arrived with mail and the first news since the brigade was divided on July 20th.

On the evening of the 19th, the brigade was inspected and a dress parade conducted, on this occasion orders were published to the command, concerning the division of forces and the movement of the main section, toward the Sioux camp. Considerable detailed plans had to be made and equipment examined and packed for the forward movement, this was done on the 19th so the Sibley section was on the march early in the morning of the 20th July.

Sibley in Griggs- 4

Camp Atchison was established as a base from which operations against the Sioux Indians could be conducted. Sibley had learned from the half breed Chippewa buffalo hunters that the Sioux bands had left the Devils Lake region and were hunting in the Missouri ~~covey~~ *Coteau* to the southwest. To reach them he knew that he would have to move faster than his column had been able to in its operations so far. In 21 marching days from Camp Pope in Minnesota, the starting point, the expedition had traveled approximately 288 miles at an average of 13.7 miles per day. They did not exceed 18 miles in any one day on that section of the journey. It was necessary that the sluggish movements be expedited.

It was decided to select the more efficient units and move out to the Sioux hunting grounds with reduced supplies and equipment. In his journal entry for July 20th General Sibley says: "Left Camp (Atchison) at half past 4 this morning, with 1430 infantry, 520 cavalry ^{pioneers} besides ~~cavalry~~ and scouts, about 100 men more." Sibley does not mention artillery but several pieces accompanied him and there is nothing said about a herd of cattle driven along to provide fresh meat, this herd was the property of a civilian contractor named George ⁶ Brackett, later a prominent business man in St Paul.

Sibley does not enumerate the units left at Camp Atchison, but we learn from other sources that Major ^{Michael} Cook of the 10th Minn. Inf. was left in command, with one section (two guns) mountain howitzers, with two whole companies ~~companies~~ from each infantry regiment and one of cavalry. Of the 7th regiment Co's C & I, Captains ³ Burt and Libby ⁹ were left and about 70 men from the other companies" This statement on the authority of Colonel Wm. R. Marshall of the 7th regiment. In one of his reports General Sibley said that he had left one third of his force at camp Atchison. As he had started with nearly 4000 men nearly 1300 must have been left at the camp. Many of these were inefficient; footsore weakened by hardship or accident, or debilitated by an assortment of mishaps. A considerable portion of Brackett's herd was left to supply the "staple at home's" A part of the sutlers liquor supply was stored in the camp and caused some trouble and it is said that Captain Burt dumped one cask during the time Sibley was absent.

The reduced army started after the Sioux camp at 4:30 AM, on Monday the 20th July in a westerly direction, passing around the north end of Lake Sibley, then to the south west and made Camp Forbes north of Kensal, N.D after a march of 20 miles. After camp was made that afternoon a sad accident occurred. A party of half breed hunters had made a call on the soldiers and exchanged greetings and information.

Sibley in Griggs-5

There was some commercial transactions between the hunters and the soldiers, speech making, and visiting. After these functions were over and camp made some to the soldiers returned the call, going to the hunters camp which was two or three miles ^{west} from Camp Forbes. ^{5/2 3}
¹⁰⁶⁻⁶
Some members of the regiment suggest that there ^{was} some liquor involved in the social part of the visit and that it raised the spirits of some of the visitors. ~~The result was that~~
(One, George E. Brent, captains clerk in Company D, 1st Minnesota Mounted Rangers, ^{under} Captain Oscar Taylor, Brent was 33 years of age, much older than most of the other men, and was said to have been of unusual ability and from a good family. There was a rumor that he had received information that he had fallen heir to a substantial inheritance and was feeling happy about his good fortune. He rode back after dark from his visit at the hunters camp and raced his horse around among the tents till he found his own, There ~~in~~ attempting to dismount, his carbine caught in the saddle girth and was discharged, sending a ball through his body. He was placed in an ambulance and ^{was} ~~stated~~ back to Camp Atchison but died about on the Griggs county line, The body was taken on and was placed in a home made box and buried ^{7/2:} on a high hill south of the camp and there it lies. No information is available as to his family or relatives ^{or} and what became of the fortune, the authorities have secured a simple government headstone and placed it on the little mound on the John Thune farm and here on Decoration days the American Legion and others interested, place a little flag and flowers on the lonely grave.

Going ahead a few weeks, we learn that another death occurred at the camp on August 9th, 1863, of sickness, he was an elderly man compared to many of his comrades, being 42 years old. ~~He was~~ Samuel Wannamaker ^{was} a private in Company E, 10th Minnesota infantry. The best information we have is that he was buried on a small hill north of the camp a few hundred yards away. The hill has been cultivated and the exact spot not identified, so the the government marker has been placed on the state land, a portion of the original camp where he died.

Several interesting incidents occurred around Camp Atchison while Sibley was absent on his march to the Missouri and return, Men went to Lake Jessie and hauled water from the Stevens spring at the northwest end of the lake, and took loads of wood back to their camp fires. They also met and visited with the members of the Fisk gold seekers expedition which arrived about the time Sibley died, but Fisk made his camp on the south shore of Lake Jessie before traveling on west to Idaho.

General Sibley did not lose much time in making plans for seeking out the Sioux camp. He had the information from the buffalo hunter^s as to the enemies' location and after consulting with the unit commanders he announced a change of direction to the southwest. Sorefooted men, lame animal^s and creaky wagons were to be left in the base camp while the selected units entered on an active campaign toward the Missouri river. About a third of the expedition were to be left at Camp Atchison under the command of Major Michael Cook of the 10th Minn. Inf. who, later in the Civil War was shot through the lungs at the battle of Nashville Tenn. and died December 27th, 1864.

Major Cook was cumbered with all the weaklings of the brigade and though he also had companies *C* and *G* of the *6th* Minn. Inf., *C* & *I* of the 7th Minn. Inf. one company of cavalry. There was also left one section (2 guns) of the artillery unit. One hundred thirty head of beef cattle from George Bracketts herd were left ~~at the~~ for use of the garrison. Surgeon Alfred M. Burnham was detailed to look after the health of the men left at Camp Atchison, he later has some trouble and was dismissed from the service. *Chaplain O. P. Light also remained.*

An unfortunate incident took place at Camp Atchison, soon after the arrival of the ~~cavalry unit~~ ^{*2d*} Lt. Albert R. Field of Company G, ^{*1st Minn. Mounted Ranger*} seriously wounded private Joseph Robinette of company K, by shooting the latter in the side. It is said that the private was in a spasm or fit and attempted to draw his sword the Lt. was probably unnecessarily frightened and shot too ^{*quick*} ~~quickly~~, he called for an investigation which ^{*s*} seems to have been given but no formal report is available as to the result. The man recovered quickly and continued in service being discharged with the regiment Dec 10, 1863. He had been in the battle of Birch Coulee Minn, ^{*in 1862*} ~~the year before~~ and was wounded in that affair. He reenlisted in Co M of the 2d Minn. Cav. Jan 4th, 1864 and was discharged for disability April 15th, 1864. That is the last available record, possibly his disability came from the wound given by Lt. Field. Robinette was a mixed blood Indian.

Lt Field also ^{*re*} entered service in the 2d Cavalry, being commissioned captain Nov. 30th, 1863, of Co. A. On February 14th, 1866, he and several of his men were frozen to death on a march from Fort Wadsworth to Fort Abercrombie. Their bodies were recovered in the spring.

A first look ^{at} the course of Sibley's army to the Lake Jessie ^{are,} it would seem that he would have ^{headed} there instead of inclining to the west to Lake Sibley. Colonel Marshall as well as Sibley mention in their diaries, that the ^{obstacle} ~~reason~~ was the range of hills to the south and west of Jessie which would have been an ~~obstacle~~ for the ^{to mount} artillery and the cumbersome wagon trains, also he probably had it in mind already to take a westerly course toward the Indian camp and by camping at Lake Sibley he was a few miles on the way. There was one ^{serious} camp essential lacking at Lake Sibley, that was wood, which was abundant at Lake Jessie. After the ^{camp} was established that shortage corrected by sending ^{army} wagons after fuel, as well as fresh water from the spring on the northwest side of the lake. It is interesting to note that Governor Stevens ~~in~~ in 1853 and Captain Fisk in 1862 & '63 had filled their casks there. The Fisk expedition was at Lake Jessie on the 20th July, the ^{Sibley} ~~2~~ day ^{started} on toward the Missouri, he had only 53 men and 20 wagons and small howitzer, they continued on to the west on the 21st on a course ^{north} of Sibley's, passing near the present site ^s of New Rockford and Velva, N.D. The Fisk camp ^{of} ~~on~~ July 20th 1863, ^{was} on the Rudy Helland farm between Lake Jessie and what he called ^a ~~the~~ Lydia for his wife, now known as Lake Addie. The ^{Nicolette} ~~Nicolette~~ and Fremont expedition of 1839 and Governor Stevens of 1853, had camped a half mile northeast of the Fisk camp. General Sibley named the lake ^{at} Camp Atchison, ^{for} ~~Emily~~ Captain Atchison's mother but the name faded out.

In closing the campaign, it was General Sibley's plan to cover a wide area in returning to Ft Snelling, ~~in~~ Minn. He intended to send flanking parties out from main body to make a display of forces to any Indians who might linger in the country. One of these parties diverged to the south or right of the main trail, the point of separation being near Camp Burt, or to be exact, on section 3-T. 114- R. 59. This was about three miles east of Hannford. ^{Here on} ~~the~~ the morning of ^{August} 13th, Colonel Samuel McPhail of the 1st Minn, Mounted Rangers was detached with five companies of cavalry and a cannon to scout down the Sheyenne river past Bear Den Hill, where Fort Ransom was located in 1867, thence back to Minnesota. The trail he laid out was later the Ft Ransom Fort Totten trail.

The Infantry from Sibley's column was given brief leave at their homes in Minnesota before being sent south to take part in the Civil War. The Minnesota Rangers were disbanded and reorganized into the 2D Minn. and served with General Sully in 1864, west of the Missouri.

The buffalo were nearly gone, the Indians, subdued and sullen, were herded onto reservations and no longer a danger to the Minnesota settlements which were quick to expand and sweep over the western prairies. The Sibley expedition was now history.

Units in the Sibley expedition of 1863.

Dana Wright
Jan. 25th, 1961

On June 16th, 1863 the expedition left Camp Pope, Minnesota for the campaign against the Sioux Indians. The camp was named for Major General John Pope, commanding the Military District of the Northwest. It was located on the Minnesota river a few miles up the river from Fort Ridgley. The staff consisted of

Henry Hastings Sibley, Brigadier General of Volunteers in command

R.C. Olin, captain, acting adjutant general.

Edward Corning, captain, quartermaster.

William H. Forbes, captain of commissary.

William H. Kimball, captain, assistant quartermaster, in charge of pontoon train.

Douglas Pope, captain; aide de camp.

Charles B. Atchison, captain, assistant commissary and acting ordnance officer,

J. F. Holt, 2d Lt. volunteer aid (from ^{British} British army)

Stephen R. Riggs, chaplain - interpreter.

Transportation.

225 wagons for commissary stores, each drawn by six mules.

20 wagons for ordnance.

11 wagons for pontoons,

2 wagons for artillery.

19 wagons for supplies for 38 companies.

8 wagons for regimental headquarters.

2 for general headquarters, in addition there were several ambulances and some private transportation for sutlers, beef contractors, and surgeons. ~~A herd~~ A cattle herd of several hundred head were driven along by the contractor, George Brackett, to supply fresh meat.

The military units were;

Sixth	regiment Minnesota infantry, under	Colonel Crooks;	860, men.
Seventh	----- ^{Colonel} Marshall		740 men.
Tenth	-----	Colonel Baker	578 men
Artillery, 8 guns	-----	Captain Jones	118 men
Indian scouts	-----	Major Brown	75 men.
Minnesota Mounted rangers (cavalry)		Colonel McPhail	806 men.

Total number of men nearly 4000.

Soldiers pay of \$13.00 per month, was paid when convenient to the army paymasters; sometimes it would be months between these visits. The paper money issued by the government was heavily discounted so there was little to spent at the sutlers; who had to have cash on the barrel or no deal.

The liquor carried along was probably to be sold to the officers who were more likely to have money for such things.

On the march from Camp Pope the Atchison on the morning of July 1th there was a heavy shower and the men were soaked, on arrival at camp Sibley issued an order that the men could ^{each} purchase a 10c drink of whiskey from the sutlers.

The Infantry units rotated in taking the head of the column on the march and the leading column had an advantage in some ways, ^{they} escape some of the dust that enveloped the rest of the column and would get first choice of camp ground on arrival at the days stopping place, the column was near five miles in length and the rear elements would not arrive till hours after the head of the columns had gone into camp.

Each camp was named for one of the officers in the expedition starting with General John Pope who was honored at the first camp made in Minnesota and on through the list of Field and staff officers, doctors and most of the Captains, before the expedition disbanded at Fort Snelling in the fall of 1863.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Basic Civil War ration; food for one man for one Day

Dana Wright.
Feb. 22d, 1961

3/4 lbs pork or bacon, or 1 & 1/4 lb fresh or salt beef.

1 lb & 2 oz Flour or bread, or 12 oz hard bread.

and for every 100 rations there was also issued 8 qts dried peas or beans, or 10 lbs rice.

Also 10 lbs ~~sugar~~ coffee; 15 lbs sugar; 4 qts vinegar; ~~X~~ 7-1/2 lbs candles; 4 lbs soap and 2 qts salt.

In active field work, the rations frequently could not be delivered and the men went without or begged, bought or plundered what they could, the shortages were rarely replaced.

The ration was sufficient when men were in camp and had equipment to bake or cook; in the field it was often wasted.

Clothing in Civil War days was often of shoddy quality, contractors could not secure enough of good supplies to meet the sudden enormous demands made by the government.

Also transportation was slow and overloaded and supplies could not be delivered when and where needed, again the men went short, the newly raised units in the armies of the Northwest were far from source of supply and were frequently short of the most necessary supplies.

When General Sibley set out to attack the Indian ~~tribes~~ ^{forces} in the fall of 1862 at times his men only had 4 rounds each. The men was mostly farm raised or frontier men, and could take care of themselves, the officers were ~~mostly~~ as little trained as the men and did not know how about managing or training military units, ^{or procuring supplies}

Arms: By 1863 Sibley's men were fairly/well equipped, they carried long muzzle loading Springfield muskets of ⁵⁸ ~~50~~ plus calibre, the bullets were attached to a paper cartridge containing the powder charge, the soldier was supposed to bite off the bullet and hold it in his teeth while the powder was poured into the muzzle of the piece, then the paper and bullet was rammed home with a steel rod carried under the barrel of the gun. Then a copper ~~bullet~~ ^{Cap} was placed on the nipple and the gun was ready to be fired. The bullets were of the Minie patent, with a partly hollow base which expanded when the powder was fired, causing the lead to spread and catch the rifling and caused the bullet to rotate and go straighter.

Part of the equipment was a triangular steel bayonet ⁺ carried in a scabbard, and which could be attached to the muzzle of the piece, the cartridges were carried in a leather pouch with the caps, these were fastened with the bayonet to a leather waist belt. A common head gear was a French "kepi" or cap, with a visor, the top was a flat metal disc. Later it became more practical to use a western hat.

Officers wore high leather ^h boots reaching above the knee, the enlisted men wore shoes and in the field they tied a string around the cuff of the pants to keep dirt out. All men carried a canvas covered canteen on a sling over the shoulder.

They were equipped with the poncho or rubber blanket and a shelter half. Most men carried a quart tin cup and some sort of a tin plate or small fry pan with necessary eating tools.

All officers and cavalry men were armed with swords, heavy useless things, that were frequently lost or broken, these were suspended by a sling on the left side and attached to a belt, rumor says that the men would drive the blades of weapons into the ground and attach their horses so they could graze with out straying: in emergencies they could mow a little grass or slash branches off brush and even be used as a spit to roast small game, but that was not approved as the heat would draw the temper out of the blade.

Infantry men armed with bayonets, have been known to use the shank as a candle holder, the sharp pint could be driven into the ground or into soft wood. it also would hold meat, if any on hand, or stir hard bread frying in bacon fat. Leaky canteens would be split and provide two shallow dishes or fry pans, in these bannocks could be baked or coffee beans cracked for use, they were light and convenient, but had no handles attached. Matches were a small sulphur headed stick that burned with a suttering blue flame and choking odor.

Rarely some man carried a strait edged razor along and if there should be a combination of water, soap and leisure, whiskers would be mowed off, but that was a rare event in the field or on a move. Officers seemed to be proud of the bushy covering of their faces and few pictures in Civil War days show any smooth faced men, unless they were young boys. Sibley ^{face} seems to have been only partly adorned with whiskers, he wore a moustache and small goatee, possibly more when on the long trip to the Missouri.

Few tents were in use in the summer of 1863, ^{Some} ~~a few~~ for the headquarters and ranking officers, also the cooks, hospitals and supply tents. The men set up their shelter tents, two men to a tent, or lay out in the open. There is mention by some of the men, of overcoats, if they were equipped with such, they were carried in the company wagons with the ponchos and surplus equipment.

Luxuries were rare and expensive; a list furnished by Enoch Eastman, a teamster with Sibley gives the following prices: (at the sutlers wagon):

Whiskey per Pint, \$1.00-	brandy per bottle (1/2 Pint)	\$2.00, (sold only on office order.)
Cheese per lb. .35c	chewing tobacco	\$.1.60.
Nuts " .40	Smoking "	.40c
Raisons or figs, .40	Dried beef	.310 .30
Oysters per can 1.00	Herring 3 for	5c.
Sardines 1/4 box .50	Pickles per bottle	\$ 1.00
	Private sale	\$12.00 Per month in greenbacks.