



Chas. B. Richards

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ORGANIZATION AND SERVICE OF THE FRONTIER GUARDS.

By CHARLES B. RICHARDS.

After the return of the expedition which went to the relief of the settlers and buried the dead at Spirit Lake, Governor Grimes sent me a commission as Commissary General, authorizing me to represent him in all matters pertaining to the protection of the Northwestern frontier of Iowa. He also sent me five hundred muskets with ammunition to be distributed and used as I deemed best, and directed me to report to him. The muskets were stored in Fort Dodge, and I gave guns and ammunition to such settlers as desired them. After the massacre at Spirit Lake and Springfield in the spring of 1857, the only settlers left were at Algona in Kossuth county and the Irish colony in Palo Alto county. During the summer of 1857, Howe, Palmer, Wheelock, Rodney Smith and their friends, who had taken up claims before the massacre but had not moved in, with Prescott, a retired clergyman and his colony, and some others, settled on and about Spirit Lake and Okoboji.

The stories told of the massacre of the previous winter, the suffering and brutal treatment of women taken captive, made it almost impossible to keep any women in the country. Settlements were scattered and there were no troops to call. Fort Dodge, the nearest point where relief could be obtained, was ninety miles distant. Every rumor of an Indian seen in the country and the knowledge that the Little Sioux river and the lakes were a favorite hunting ground, frightened the settlers. At a meeting held at Spirit Lake, resolutions were adopted

authorizing a petition¹ to be prepared and signed, asking the State to furnish for their protection a company of mounted men, and if such protection could not be obtained, to abandon for the winter the settlements of Dickinson, Emmet, Clay, Buena Vista and O'Brien counties. Jared Palmer brought this memorial to me at Fort Dodge and I accompanied him to Des Moines where the Legislature had just convened. We laid the matter before Governor Grimes, the then retiring Governor, and Governor Lowe who was just inaugurated. The day after Governor Lowe was inaugurated he issued to me a commission as Commissary General and Acting Pay Master General with rank of Colonel, which commission I still have, all

¹Spirit Lake, Jan. 9th, 1858.

To the Hon. The General Assembly of the State of Iowa.

The undersigned citizens residing in the vicinity of Spirit Lake would respectfully present for the consideration of your Honorable body the situation of the people on the frontiers in the northwestern part of the State.

We are exposed to the attack of Indians under circumstances affording little hope of relief. The settlements are sparse and widely scattered with but little communication with each other. A hostile invasion has already been made and depredations committed in the vicinity where the outrages were commenced last winter and with a result to encourage renewed attempts. At any hour this may be repeated in points utterly unprotected and but poorly supplied with means of defense. Some of the surrounding settlements have already been abandoned for the winter and all are much weakened in numbers by persons who have left. Many of the settlers remaining cannot leave without abandoning their all and cannot collect in sufficient numbers to withstand an attack, and depending, as nearly all the remaining settlers do, upon their own exertions for sustenance must either endure great suffering or remain exposed to danger. If we apply to the general government, relief, if obtained, would be too late. Help for us to be efficient must be prompt. A small body of soldiers placed near the Little Sioux River in the vicinity of the state line would afford protection to all the settlements on the Little Sioux about Spirit Lake, and on the west fork of the Des Moines River and their vicinity. If those troops were mounted, the protection would be much more efficient. We would therefore respectfully pray that a law be passed authorizing volunteer troops, for the term of three months, to be stationed in the northwestern part of the state. Your petitioners also pray for such other means of protection as our circumstances demand.

Orlando C. Howe
William P. Gaylord
Jareb Palmer
Wm. D. Carsley
Joseph Miller
W. H. Packard
Dan Calwell
T. S. Ruff
C. L. Richardson
Rosafie Kingman
W. B. Brown
Charles F. Hill
Joseph M. Post
George Detrick
W. Lamont
Lawrence Ferber
Levi Daugherty

George Rogers
E. E. Longfellow
James P. Peters
E. Thurston
Thomas Minor
Jas. D. Hawkins
George S. Post
R. N. Wheelock
Wm. Donaldson
Roderick A. Smith

LADIES' NAMES.

Agnes J.(?) Kingman
Malissa A. Peters(?)
Mrs. M. W. Howe
Elizabeth Thurston
Mrs. H. Massey

other papers connected with the matter having been lost by fire².

C. C. Carpenter, afterwards Governor of Iowa, was the representative of all the counties interested. If I remember correctly there were nineteen counties in his district, every one of which I had visited with him during the canvass, before the election of Governor Lowe. The Governor at once called the attention of the Legislature to the necessity of immediate action and a bill³ was passed authorizing the Governor to accept and put in service a company of mounted men to be known as the Frontier Guards⁴. A company organized

Gen. Richards,

²Executive Chambers, Iowa,
Des Moines, Feb. 13th, 1858.

The act providing for the protection of the Frontier is just published, a copy of which here enclosed. I do not wish the Company raised mustered into service unless there is a real necessity for it and then only the numbers necessary to effect the end proposed. I think 30 mounted men perhaps under the circumstances enough, but if in your judgment and that of Major Williams 40 had better be equipped, let it be done. Again, before the company is mustered into service you should have authentic and reliable evidence that the Frontier settlers are in danger of an attack from the Indians. The danger that seemed to exist a month or two ago may now be removed. Should there be reasonable doubt on this point I would like for you or Major Williams or some other trusty person to be sent out to ascertain if possible the real state of things, existing there. But you may have information sufficiently reliable to act at once. Should the danger be regarded as imminent—the company should be mustered into service as soon as they can get ready after the election of officers, without waiting for their commissions. As my commissary you will supply the arms and equipments contemplated by the act. I apprehend you will be able to procure all that will be requisite in your place. Draw on me for the same. You will please keep me advised of whatever facts deemed important for me to know.

Respectfully,

(Signed) R. P. LOWE.

I herewith return you your old commission as well as a new one constituting you a member of my staff, etc.

³Chapter 10, Acts of the Seventh General Assembly, in substance, provides that:

The Governor, when he deems it necessary to protect the frontier, shall raise and equip a company of from thirty to one hundred mounted men, with a captain, first lieutenant, second lieutenant, surgeon, four sergeants and four corporals; the company to be raised near Spirit Lake, with J. Palmer, agent, who with the captain and lieutenants of the company are to be a board of survey for passing upon all horses tendered by the men volunteering; the captain to transmit to the Governor monthly returns showing names, ages and services of the volunteers; the officers to constitute a board charged under, and the Governor to remove officers guilty of violations of, the articles of war of the U. S. army; the Governor to ask protection of the general Government and demand indemnity for any expenditures made to carry out this act and be authorized to correct any error or oversight necessary to carry out the spirit of this law; the payment of the company to be bi-monthly; the company to be subject to call but payment to be only for services and to be disbanded after the general Government has taken measures to protect the frontier.

J. Palmer, Esq.

Executive Chamber Iowa
Des Moines Feb 13th 1858

The enclosed law [preceding paragraph] was published this morning in the Citizen and will be published in the Journal next Monday. You will of course proceed immediately to perform the duties required of you

in Hamilton and Webster counties, offered services and were accepted by the Governor⁵. This company elected H. B. Martin, Captain, W. L. Church, First Lieutenant and David S. Jewett, Second Lieutenant. The company reported to Governor Lowe that they were ready to go to the frontier as soon as they were provided with the necessary outfit and ammunition, which the law authorized the Governor to furnish. The Governor ordered Captain Martin to report to me at Fort Dodge and authorized me to obtain the necessary things, as provided by the law; also notified Captain Martin to receive all orders from me and report to him through me. I had all the women in town making tents and bought all the supplies obtainable and in three days was able to give Captain Martin

by said act, and report to me. I regret the delay at the legislature in this matter. If the intelligence from Spirit Lake still indicates imminent danger in the opinion of General Richards and Major Williams, I will have my Commissary General muster the company into service as soon as they can get ready after the election of officers, or rather order it to be done, that they may repair to the scene of the danger without waiting for commissions, which I can send to them at any time. I believe I said verbally to raise 40 mounted men but in view of the fact that the winter will have nearly passed before the Company can get out there, and the alleged scarcity of provender to subsist the horses upon at the S. Lake, my order now is that 30 mounted men should be the extent of your enlistment, unless in the opinion of Messrs. Richards and Williams the necessity of the case demands 40 men. You will not elect a surgeon according to section second of the act for this General provision is controlled by the special provision contained in section 16.

Respectfully,

(Signed) R. P. LOWE.

⁴See illustration on opposite page.

⁵Executive Chamber, Iowa,
Des Moines, Feb. 17th, 1858,

Col. Chas. B. Richards,

J. Palmer, the recruiting agent appointed by the law to raise a company to protect the frontier, has made his report now just received, informing me that he has raised a company of 38 men, some in Boonesborough, some at Homer and Webster City, Hamilton county, and that they had elected their officers, to whom commissions have this day been forwarded, although I am not satisfied that the company has been raised, as the act directed, as near as practicable to the scene of danger, which I think would have been at your place. Still the condition of the settlers on the frontier may admit of no delay and I have thought best under the circumstances to recognize the company, but they must be mustered into service at your place, as soon as you and Major Williams have reliable information of the necessity of that thing. When you have, you are directed to order Capt. H. B. Martin of Webster City to muster his company at Fort Dodge into service. Furnish them with the necessary arms and equipments. I wrote you a few days ago that I thought 30 men would be sufficient and I still think so, but as the company of 40 men will have been recruited before my orders on this point could reach you or Mr. Palmer, I have concluded to let that number be enlisted. Let me hear from you soon.

Respectfully

(Signed) R. P. LOWE.

Executive Chambers Iowa
Des Moines Feb 17th 1858

J. Palmer, Esq.

I regret that you did not recruit the company as near the scene of danger as practicable. The object of the law was to save as much expense as possible to the State. However I have sent the commissions

To the Undersigned Officers now Commanding
 Officers & Privates of the Iowa Frontier Guards do
 hereby Acknowledge the receipt from the State of Iowa
 of the Sums of Money respectively Set opposite our
 Names which appear below and are attached by a
 Commissioned Officer of said Company in full
 for pay for Serving the number of Days Certified
 to in the annexed Certificate of the Captain
 of said Company being full pay for the Service
 of each Man whose Name is hereto attached from
 the 2^d day of March to the time of Discharge

	William J. Somers
Henry B. Martin	Peter J. Kelly
John J. Bush	Le Le Estes
David C. Serrett	W Knapp
James Hall	Robt J. Tenney
William G. Grayson	Levin Grant
W J. DeRose	John H. Lyon
Ezra H. Mico	Thomas Bonbrin
Chas. W. Stratton	son Oross
Thos. Mulvaney	William C. Pitton
Andrew McPherson	Jacob Kapp
Franklin B. Mason	H. C. Willock
Samuel M. Suter	A. Kainzman
Richard Spton	W D Corley
G. L. Long	William Tomalson
A. S. Leonard	F. B. Blake
Wm. B. Harlan	H. M. Whalock
Michael Sweeney	D. H. Schuneman
W. H. Bates	G. W. Clark
A. Bellville	Wm. Barkman
John W. Davis	Eber Palm
Geo. J. Skinner	E. W. Ragers
Wm. W. Funk	Guernsey Smith

his marching orders. I reported this to the Governor whose approval was at once given⁶.

Having been over the ground and conferred with the settlers I ordered him to station ten men under the Second Lieutenant in Emmet county, on the Des Moines river, and twenty men under Lieutenant Church on the Little Sioux at Bell's place, where now, I think, Peterson is located. The main body under Captain Martin was to be stationed at Spirit Lake. I ordered each commanding officer to send out scouting parties whenever the weather would permit, and if any Indians were found in the State, to examine them, and if they were hunting parties from the agencies, to order them out of the State. Under no circumstances was an Indian to be killed, but if any were recognized as being connected with the Inkpadutah Band present at the massacre they were to be held and the matter reported to me at once for orders in accordance with my instructions from Governor Lowe.

Several were taken and ordered from the State, having satisfied Captain Martin that they were peaceable and belonged

to the officers elected, but must insist upon the company being mustered into service at Fort Dodge so as to comply with the intention of the law. If I shall afterward become satisfied that the company could not have been raised in Webster county near Fort Dodge, I will allow the time occupied in going to that place. Under the act, I must have reliable information of the necessity of calling out the company, and as I am so far removed from the sources of intelligence on the subject, I have concluded to leave the time of mustering the men into service upon the judgment of the commissary, Col. Richards, and Major Williams. If they have any information authorizing the mustering of the company into service an order will issue from Col. Richards to Capt. Martin to that effect.

Respectfully,

(Signed) RALPH P. LOWE.

Gen. Richards
Ft. Dodge

⁶Executive Chamber Iowa
Des Moines March 4th 1858

Sir: I have yours of the 28th ultimo, also a letter from Palmer and Howe at Lake City, setting forth the same facts mentioned in yours. Your plans and orders met my approval in every respect. Many days would be occupied in getting equipage from St. Louis and I therefore do not deem it practicable to attempt anything of the kind for this Company. If we have an early Spring, as is now indicated, it will not be necessary for the company to remain in service a great while. If you think a large number of men really necessary for the protection of the northwest, take proper steps to muster the necessary number into service with such dispatch as you may deem proper.

Your Obedient Servant

(Signed) RALPH P. LOWE.

Fort Dodge April 6th 1858

Hon. Ralph P. Lowe
Dear Sir

Yours of the 29th was duly received containing list of names for Military Company on Little Sioux River. I will get the necessary information as regards the men who propose to organize. I have some 200 muskets on hand which are of no particular use in any event & might

to the agency. Two Indians⁷ were captured whom some of the settlers thought they recognized as of the band which committed the murders at the Lakes. Captain Martin kept them prisoners and sent a messenger to Fort Dodge giving me the facts, but expressed his opinion that their identification was doubtful. I referred the matter to Governor Lowe who ordered me to have Captain Martin send them to me at Fort Dodge and to hold them as prisoners until their identity could be established. I transmitted this order to Captain Martin and he detailed a guard and started the two prisoners for Fort Dodge. The first stopping place was on the Des Moines river at Miles Mahan's. The prisoners were bound with ropes, their feet tied so that they could only take short steps. In the evening they signified to the guards that they wanted to go out before lying down and accompanied by the guards they were allowed to do so. Near by was a bluff and some timber. They at once gave a bound over the edge. The

as well be used for military companies to learn the manual as any thing else; I have been obtaining all the information possible as to the necessity of keeping Captain Martin & company in service and there are so many conflicting stories and rumors that I can hardly determine what is best. I have received a monthly report from Capt. Martin in accordance with the orders I herewith enclose. I think it would be well for some man to go to the lakes & see how matters do really stand. The men will hardly pay expenses unless kept out more than two months but the State should not be kept at an expense which is not actually necessary.

I received spurs, powder flask and also Treasurer's warrant for \$34.41 and will forward receipts as soon as our county treasurer can pay the warrants. I will write as soon as I learn in regard to the company on Sioux River. In my judgment a company at that place well drilled would be all that is required to protect all the settlements southwest of Spirit Lake and the emigrants will soon fill up Dickinson county in the course of two months so as to render them strong enough to take care of themselves. I am very sorry the bill for paying the expenses of last Spring's expedition failed to pass. It is very bad for this country. If they had payed the expenses it would have done to let the men wait but many men paid out considerable sums of money on the faith of the State and many have obtained means to live on the strength of their claim and no claim was put in for any more than they furnished and the price was no more in any instance than the articles would bring in cash at the time they were delivered and we lived on half rations all the time. I paid out considerable money and expected as Gov. Grimes had commissioned Major Williams to do every thing necessary to protect the northwestern frontier and as there was an actual invasion of the State and as it was highly probable that citizens of the state were besieged and needed assistance and as we all went under the call of a duly commissioned officer, to have it refunded. I think the State, if she has any regard for her honor should pay back what was paid out by those who furnished money and provision for the expedition. I paid \$110. in cash for a horse for the use of the expedition and ruined him and spent considerable money but I can give mine to the state but there are those who are seriously injured by the acts of the Legislature.

Yours very truly,

CHAS. B. RICHARDS.

STATEMENT OF HIRAM WILTFONG

I have lived on the frontier above Ft. Dodge in Iowa since June 1854 excepting part of the year 1857. I have seen the band called Inka-

guards fired at them, but as it was very dark, they were unable to find them. Thus escaped the only prisoners taken. I think Governor Lowe, Captain Martin and I were all pleased that the matter ended as it did, for the settlers, especially women, were very anxious to hang them. I was certain they never would return after they saw there was a well armed and well mounted force to guard the frontier, and when they were told by Captain Martin that under no circumstances would any Indian be allowed in the State.

The company was kept in service making frequent scouts to the north and west as far as they could go and return in a day. I made a trip every two months, going first to Des Moines for the money, accompanied with one man detailed by Captain Martin, and with my pony loaded with gold coin, my blankets and pistols. From Fort Dodge there were three places where I could stop for the night; one on the north line of Humboldt county with Mr. Evans; one at Shippy's in Palo Alto county, and one at Miles Mahan's, where I left the Des Moines river to cross the prairie thirty-five miles to Spirit Lake. From there I traveled forty-five miles without seeing a house, to pay Lieutenant Church and his detachment; then to Fort Dodge, sixty-five miles, for forty-five miles of which there was no house. In the winter with only a blind snow-covered trail, this was not a pleasant task. It required nearly a month in stormy weather and in the spring when the streams were high, as there was not a bridge in the north-western part of the State. To the plan of disbanding the company in the spring the settlers objected and I was directed

padutah's band several times and have seen Inkapadutah himself while I was living on the Des Moines River in Kossuth county.

I have to day seen two Indians held as prisoners at Spirit Lake by Capt. of the Frontier Guards and recognize them as those I have seen with that band.

The younger one was near my house in Kossuth County in June, 1856. I saw the older one about the last of November 1856 at the house of Joel Howe at Spirit Lakes. This was the Mr. Howe who with his family were massacred the next March after I saw the Indian there; and I believe both of the prisoners to be part of the Inkapadutah's band.

Dated Spirit Lake, February 25th 1859

(Signed) HIRAM M. WILTFONG

And sworn to before Jareb Palmer Clerk of the District Court for Dickinson County Iowa.

to keep the company in service until July,⁸ when by order of Governor Lowe I made the trip to all the counties. Many immigrants came in during the spring, understanding that

⁸Executive Chamber, Iowa
Des Moines, 24th April, 1858

Gen'l C. B. Richards
Fort Dodge, Iowa

My Dear Sir: Dr. Farner(?) presented at this Department on yesterday your letter of the 13th instant, and petitions from the Northwestern Counties, asking for the continuance of the Frontier Guards in the service. I confess myself embarrassed by this action. While Governor Lowe often expressed his desire to disband the Company on the 1st of May, he gave no positive instructions as to my action upon the subject during his absence. I have concluded from the tenor of his letters that he had transmitted orders to you to disband the Company but your letter of the date above mentioned forces a different inference. Therefore while I believe that if the Governor were here he would disband the Guards, I will not, with your letter before me, assume the responsibility of doing in his name. I have written him at both New York and Washington upon the subject and urged immediate instructions. The guards will remain in service until you hear further from this Department. I will not advise, however, preparations for remaining at Spirit Lake a great while. You see that the State has incurred a considerable expense already and that the continued service of the Guards must materially augment that amount. It is true these matters should not be considered when the lives of the settlers are in danger, but good policy dictates that this expense should be curtailed the moment the danger ceases. The Governor will not neglect the pioneers on our frontiers, while doing justice to every other portion of the State.

The roll enclosed in Captain Martin's report was forwarded to the Governor at Keokuk. It is impossible without it to ascertain the amount due the men in the service. I have written to the family to forward it to me without delay. Aside from this it would be useless for me to draw an order on the Auditor before the 1st of May, as he would refuse to audit it before that date. I will forward warrants as you request as soon as possible.

The bills you enclose will be acted upon the first time I visit the Auditor's Office.

Respectfully
THOS. F. WITHROW,
Private Secretary.

Executive Chamber, Iowa
Des Moines 7th May 1858

My Dear Sir

I have yours of the 30th ultimo. The Treasurer of State is now absent, but is expected daily. When he returns if the gold can be obtained from the Treasury we will forward to you an amount sufficient to cover the pay of the company. The law is not very clear in its provision upon this point. While defining the duties of the officer who pays the members of the Company, it does not dictate who that officer shall be. After consulting with the Auditor, I have concluded that that duty would more properly rest upon me as Quarter-Master General than any other officer, and will therefore make an approximate estimate of the amount necessary to pay off the Company. The Auditor will draw his warrant for this amount, and charge the same to you on the books of his office. After paying the men as directed by law, you will return your vouchers to this office, with any balance remaining in your hands, which will be properly placed to your credit on the Auditor's books.

If I were situated as you are I should take the responsibility of disbanding the Company, unless satisfied that there is really danger of an Indian invasion. The Governor has entrusted the disposition of the Company to you, as officer acquainted with the actual condition of the frontier and I am satisfied would approve the disbanding of the Company at the earliest moment you deem it advisable. I can take no step in the matter for the reason that my instructions authorize me only to provide some method of paying the company.

Very respectfully
THOS. F. WITHROW
Private Secretary.

Gen'l Chas. B. Richards
Fort Dodge,

the troops would be retained until the settlements were strong enough to protect themselves. I reported to the Governor that in my judgment it would be safe to withdraw the troops during the summer, but recommended that they should not be discharged, as it might be advisable to again call them into active service in the winter. The Governor directed me to order Captain Martin to report to me at Fort Dodge with his command. He did so promptly and I paid the men and discharged them with orders to be ready for service whenever called on by the Governor. This ended the service for 1857 and 1858.

In the fall there were several bands of Indians seen on the Little Sioux and some on the head waters of the Des Moines. At a meeting of the settlers of Dickinson, Emmet, Clay, Buena Vista, Palo Alto and O'Brien counties, a petition for the recall of the guards was signed by both men and women and sent to Governor Lowe. He directed me to investigate as to the necessity of ordering the Frontier Guards again into service. I at once did so, and satisfied myself that unless protection was afforded, most of the settlers would leave, and I so reported to the Governor. He at once ordered Captain Martin and company to report to me at Fort Dodge for orders. Having stored the outfit of the previous winter, I purchased the necessary ammunition and supplies, and when Captain Martin reported with his command, ordered him to proceed to Spirit Lake and distribute his force where it could best protect the frontier of Iowa, to keep scouts out as he had done the previous winter, to capture every Indian found in the State and to report monthly to me at Fort Dodge. He was energetic and if an Indian was found he was taken and given to understand that he must not again come into the State.

I made the trip every two months and paid the company as during the previous winter. The fact that the Governor of Iowa was protecting the frontier became known and many immigrants settled in these counties during the next spring and summer. The general Government, although urged by Senator Grimes and others, utterly failed to make any move or do anything for the protection of the frontier settlements

of Iowa.⁹ As the spring opened up and the new settlers came into these counties the necessity of keeping the Frontier Guards in service was agitated in the newspapers. The election was to be held in the fall and the opposition press was trying to make political capital in the southern part of the State against Governor Lowe for keeping the Frontier Guards in service at great expense to the State.

In June the Governor ordered me to report whether in my judgment it would be safe to withdraw the Frontier Guards. After consulting with the settlers at the Lakes, I advised the Governor that it would be safe to withdraw them for the summer, as many new settlers were coming in, who, supplied with arms and ammunition, would be able to protect themselves. I received an order from the Governor to order Captain Martin and company to report to me at Fort Dodge. I went to Des Moines to draw the money to pay them. Captain Martin at once complied with the order and by direction of the Governor I paid off the company and discharged them from future service. Thus ended the efforts of the State to protect the settlements until they were strong enough to protect themselves. There is no question but that the wise action of Governor Grimes and Governor Lowe, backed up by the Legislature in providing the Frontier Guards and the energetic patrolling of the entire frontier of the State in the winters and springs of 1857 and 1858, and 1858 and 1859 kept Dickinson, Emmet, Clay, Buena Vista, and O'Brien counties

Hon. Sam'l R. Curtis
M. C.

⁹Executive Chamber
Des Moines March 15th 1858

I am at a loss to know whether to address the Commissioner on Indian Relations, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War or the President of the United States upon the subject of our Indian troubles. You will perceive from the law passed this winter, herewith enclosed, that the State in order to protect the settlers near Spirit Lake and the Little Sue River has again been compelled to arm and equip a company which has been done as the law dictates, and a company of 31 Dragoons are now at Spirit Lake. A letter received from there today informs me that Inkpadutah with his band is camped within 18 miles of that place, are very hostile and putting at defiance our troops. It was expected that an engagement would take place in a few days after the date of that letter. I need not say that the company was mustered into service after the most reliable information of the necessity of such a step. Just before the act in question was passed by the Legislature a skirmish had taken place between the Indians and the settlers. Since then they have burnt some houses and run off some cattle. I submit whether the proper department at Washington ought not to intervene and protect the frontier settlers from their depredations. Our state authority interposed because the danger was too imminent to wait until protection could be obtained from

from being abandoned. The course taken by Captain Martin and Lieutenant Church in strictly obeying orders and arresting and driving out of the State all Indians and giving them to understand that they would not be allowed to come into the State under any circumstances, kept them from their usual visits to the Little Sioux and the Lakes until the settlements were strong enough to protect themselves and thus saved the settlements in Iowa from a repetition of the Spirit Lake massacre. It turned the predatory bands of Indians from their former hunting grounds in Iowa, but culminated in the massacre at New Ulm, Minnesota. I doubt whether one hundred mounted men were ever kept in service for the same length of time at so little expense to the State.

While the Spirit Lake expedition of 1857 was one of the severest trials of endurance that any body of men was ever subjected to, I had worse experiences in my trips to pay the Frontier Guards than I had in that march with one hundred men to the relief of Spirit Lake, a full account of which was published in the ANNALS. In that march we were ready to assist one another, but in my trips of more than two hundred miles in the severe winters of 1857 and 1858, and 1858 and 1859, carrying gold in my saddlebags on my pony, I had but one companion, a stranger detailed by Captain Martin to accompany me.

I have a very distinct recollection of one trip I made in March after paying the detachment stationed at Spirit Lake under Captain Martin. He detailed a new man to accompany me to the camps of Lieutenant Church on the Little Sioux in Buena Vista county. We left Spirit Lake as early as we could see the trail, a bright March day. We had some dif-

the general Government. Will you not confer very soon with the proper department on this subject and ascertain what will and can be done to relieve the State from the burden of maintaining a military force upon the frontier to protect it from Indian invasions, a thing which I think will be recognized at once as the bounden duty of the general government to do. Inkpadutah's band, I understand, is composed of outlaws who have united to make their forage and exist by plunder. If we could keep up a military force of 50 men for one or two years, the settlements would in all probability become strong enough to protect themselves.

I will, in a few days, make out the expenses of last winter's campaign against the Indians for the purpose of having the same liquidated and paid. We will adjourn in one week. Let me hear from you at Keokuk.

Respectfully

(Signed) RALPH P. LOWE.

feulty in crossing the Ocheyedan, the waters from the melting snow the two previous days having swollen the small streams. We traveled as rapidly as the trail would permit, and arrived at the Little Sioux river opposite Gillett's grove in Clay county at four o'clock in the afternoon. The ice was broken up and the river was high and rapid. Large cakes of ice were floating. It was thirty-five miles back to the Lakes to the nearest house on that side of the river and twelve miles to the camp of Lieutenant Church, the only stopping place within fifty miles. This river was between me and Lieutenant Church's camp. It was growing cold. We had no food or blankets. After following up along the river for more than a mile, I determined that my only chance was to swim the river. I ordered my attendant to follow me and fastening the saddlebags, which contained the gold to pay Lieutenant Church's detachment, firmly to my saddle, forced my pony into the stream. The current was rapid and we were carried down stream nearly one-half mile and instead of landing in the bottoms, as was intended, I was carried down to where the bluff was high and steep. My companion who had a larger horse than I and was not weighted with heavy gold and pistols, landed in the bottoms. I managed to get my pony near the shore where I was able to get hold of some overhanging bushes and pull myself on shore, relieving my pony. He managed to follow me up the bluff so steep that I had to go on my hands and knees. We had twelve miles to go to reach Lieutenant Church's camp. The trail was indistinct, and we must find the camp or remain in the open prairie with our frozen clothes. We ran our horses as fast as we could, as it was growing dark, and we finally saw a light. Lieutenant Church had ordered a large bonfire on the high ground near his camp. We found men out looking for us and we were taken in. I was helped from my pony, my clothes so frozen I could not dismount. The men made a blazing fire, wrapped me in warm blankets and prepared a hot supper. I was able to put on some clothes loaned by Lieutenant Church, pay off the men and plan for an early start in the morning, sixty miles across the country, forty-five miles without a tree or house.

We started as soon as it was light enough to see the trail and traveled as fast as our horses would go on a long day's ride. We stopped near a small lake to feed our horses and eat our lunch. My pony broke through the ice and in dismounting I was wet to the knees. For the rest of the day I was obliged to dismount frequently, run to get warm and then mount and ride as fast as prudent on a long day's trip until I was so cold I had to walk again. In this way we reached Fury's cabin at the head of the Lizard. About five o'clock, I asked Mrs. Fury if she could give me a cup of coffee and something to eat. I took off my wet clothes and got into bed while they dried. When she called me to eat I was for the first and last time so completely tired out I could not get up. Although I had intended to go to Fort Dodge, fifteen miles distant, I lay and slept until daylight the next morning. Then I started and reached Fort Dodge at 11:00 A. M. I stopped for breakfast at Richard Furlong's and such a breakfast! Ham and eggs! the first eggs I had seen in six months.

I had several trips nearly as bad and some more exciting than this in paying off the company.

The general Government as shown by documents forwarded to the Governor¹⁰ reimbursed the State for all money expended. The political excitement of 1860 prevented any further thoughts of Indians, as the rapid immigration had made all

¹⁰Office Northern Superintendency.
St. Paul, Dec. 21, 1858.

Sir,—

The accompanying claim, made by citizens of the State of Iowa through the Governor of the State is for supplies furnished to the expeditions therein named, formed by citizens in that State against Inkpadutah and his band in the spring of 1857 and amount in aggregate to \$3,800.91. A claim made for services on behalf of the volunteers engaged amounts to \$3404.00.

Upon examination of these claims, I find the fact well established that expeditions were formed against Inkpadutah from Fort Dodge, and vicinity immediately on receiving intelligence of the massacre at Spirit Lake. That the expeditions were in active service against Inkpadutah and his band and pursued them until so prevented by the snow and extreme cold that they could not overtake them. The statement filed as the report of Major Williams gives the detailed account of the expeditions.

The vouchers and accounts accompanying for supplies furnished appear to be regular and the evidence and proofs complete and my opinion is that they should be allowed. I would however make exceptions in this recommendation to the following claims; viz: claim marked 57 in the schedule as account of Charles R. Bissel is for services and expenses as surgeon to the expedition amounting to \$199; he charges for attendance on James Thomas and wife \$150, an additional charge which is not, in my opinion, a proper item to be allowed under this appropriation, con-

the settlements strong enough to protect themselves. The lessons the Indians had learned kept them away and there was no further trouble or excitement until the New Ulm massacre, when a regiment was stationed on the frontier by the general Government. Unfortunately the letters and orders received from Governor Grimes and Governor Lowe were destroyed by fire in the burning of my house. The letters and orders from Governor Grimes and perhaps a dozen from Governor Lowe were in their own handwriting, but most of them in the handwriting of the late Hon. Thomas F. Withrow, then private secretary of Governor Lowe.

sequently only \$199 is recommended of this claim as a proper allowance.

The claim of Smith E. Stevens is not certified to by any person connected with the expedition and is too indefinite and is not included in the recommendation.

The claim of C. B. Richards marked 65 on the schedule, includes two claims, one for necessary expenses etc., amounts to \$201.25; another for services in collecting bills etc. for making out report etc., for which he charges in general terms \$250.00, Total, \$451.25.

The first claim I would recommend, the latter claim I think too general and would particularly refer it to you for consideration. I have accordingly not recommended it, wanting evidence to sustain the same.

The claim of Major Williams for \$175 is for the equipment of men for protection of the frontier previous to commission of depredations: thus it appears to me to bring this amount outside of the Act of Congress, which is for expenses incurred by expeditions against Inkpadutah.

Therefore I would recommend the allowance of the claims set forth in the schedule attached to this claim furnished by Mr. Withrow, Attorney for State of Iowa of all the claims for supplies filed, with the following deductions:

On claim 57, Charles R. Bissel	\$150.00
Smith E. Stevens	45.00
65, C. B. Richards	250.00
William Williams	175.00
	<hr/>
	\$620.00

This makes the amount allowed for supplies.....\$3,180.91

So far as the claim for service of volunteers engaged in expedition is concerned, this I suppose should be considered as a claim on the part of the State for these parties. The allowance I have recommended for services in all other cases of volunteers is \$1.00 a day for each day's service and \$2.00 for the officers in command of companies. This would reduce the claim for services from the amounts charged which is \$2.00 per day for men and \$3.00 to \$4.00 for all officers.

The amount recommended for allowance therefore, is \$1329 for men and \$290. for officers, adding for G. B. Sherman, commissary, \$38. for services \$2.00 per day, makes total service \$1657, the same rates allowed in the cases of St. Peters, Travers des Louis, Mankato and other volunteers.

The evidence sustaining this claim is conclusive and satisfactory. The individual claims for services should have been filed as required in all other cases; should you however concede the application of the Governor, as sufficient and approve my recommendations, the total amount allowed will be \$4,837.91

Respectfully, your obedient servant
W. I. CULLEN,
Supt. Ind. Affairs

Department of the Interior.
Office of Indian Affairs.
May 27, 1859.

Sir,—

I have the honor herewith to transmit the applications filed with Superintendent W. I. Cullen under the following clause in the act to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department approved June 14, 1858; viz:

"For defraying the expenses of the several expeditions against Inkpatah's band, and in the search, ransom and recovery of the female captives, taken by said band in eighteen hundred and fifty seven, the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary. the amount to be ascertained and paid on satisfactory proof, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior." together with his general report, and special reports, expressive of his opinion on each individual claim.

The number of applications filed is 306, amounting in the aggregate to \$46,235.62. The Governor of Iowa withdrew however in January last, application 161, filed by the State of Iowa for \$7,903.84; so that the amount total of the applications is reduced to \$38,331.78.

Superintendent Cullen recommends the allowance of claims amounting to \$25,114.91.

These claims have been investigated by this office and though some of the items allowed may appear extravagant, and others not be substantiated so fully as to pass a rigid examination; yet in consideration of the explanations made in Supt. Cullen's report, whose position, proximity to the scenes of action, intimate knowledge with all the circumstances involved fully enabled him to arrive at just conclusions so as to render his decisions reliable; and in consideration of further explanations made by Senator Rice in his letter herewith enclosed I think that by the adoption of the recommendation of Supt. Cullen we may nearest approach the point attainable under the circumstances, which will do justice to all concerned. I would therefore respectfully recommend that 75 per cent, viz: \$18,836.18 of the amount allowed by Supt. Cullen, be paid and that the balance, viz: \$1,163.82 be retained to pay the incidental expenses of the investigation.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. B. GREENWOOD,
Commissioner.

Hon. Jacob Thompson,
Secretary of the Interior.

Assorted Cargo—The steamer Pizzaro lately left St. Louis for the mouth of Kansas river with the following cargo for that point, viz.: 20 spinning wheels, twenty looms and their appendages, 300 axes and one hundred ploughs, and last though not least, \$10,000 in specie. This pretty little outfit is said to be for the Iowa and other Indians.—Davenport, I. T.—*Iowa Sun*, Nov. 13, 1839.

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