

cabins burned and lives were yielded up. We can never answer why, but we can yet say, through proper monuments, where they chose to stand sentinel homes as outposts, and become sacrifices to our racial passion for moving on.

We gladly promised to produce and promote a plan of simple marking of these sacred sites.

“DODGE”, THE “PLAINS” AND “BUFFALO.”

The name “Dodge,” the area known as “the plains” and the subject of the “buffalo,” somewhat in confusion, are elucidated in the following correspondence:

Des Moines, August 20, 1914.

My Dear General,

In preparing a label for our group of buffalo we have mounted, I find my former assistant, Mr. T. Van Hyning, without noting his source, uses the following language:

“Colonel Dodge mentions a single herd estimated at four million, covering a territory not less than twenty-five miles wide and fifty miles long. It required five days for the herd to pass a given point.”

I also think I remember reading somewhere a reference to your observing the arrow of an Indian driven entirely through the body of a full-grown buffalo. Now, where, if any printed record of yours contains these references, are these statements to be found? If they were never printed, or if you cannot recall in what they occur, shall I attribute them to you?

Sincerely yours,

E. R. HARLAN.

Gen. Grenville M. Dodge,
Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 29, 1914.

Mr. E. R. Harlan,
Curator Historical Department,
Des Moines, Iowa.

My Dear Harlan,

I have yours of the 20th instant relating to buffalo hunts. The Col. Dodge you refer to is Richard I. Dodge who was in the army. I have seen the same thing that probably he did. I have seen a continuous herd of buffalo from Fort Kearney to what used to be

called the Junction; that was 200 or 300 miles that covered not only the Platte but the Republican Valley—no telling how many there were. I have known that after the building of the railroad that buffalo were so plentiful along both the Union Pacific and the Kansas Pacific railroads that they stopped the trains, and in traveling through a herd it took a great deal more than five days. In the summer this was the grazing ground.

The other question about the Indian putting an arrow through the buffalo,—many have seen that done with the bows and arrows they had in those days; they went with very great force. The Indian would ride alongside of the buffalo and fill him full of arrows and kill him, and if the arrow struck where it did not find any bone it would not be difficult to force it through him.

Col. R. I. Dodge wrote many books about matters on the plains. He was not my relative. He was from North Carolina. His identity and account, found in the writings of one of the greatest living Iowa men, is in the *American Natural History*, by William T. Hornaday, p. 102, Scribner, 1906:

“It is safe to say that no man ever saw in one day a greater panorama of animal life than that unrolled before Col. R. I. Dodge, in May, 1871, when he drove for twenty-five miles along the Arkansas River, through an unbroken herd of buffaloes. By my calculation, he actually saw on that memorable day nearly half a million head. It was the great southern herd, on its annual migration northward, and it must have contained a total of about three and one-half million animals. At that date, the northern herd contained about one and one-half millions. In those days, mighty hosts of buffaloes frequently stopped or derailed railway trains, and obstructed the progress of boats on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers.

“In 1869, the general herd was divided, by the completion of the Union Pacific Railway, into a ‘northern herd’ and a ‘southern herd.’ The latter was savagely attacked by hide hunters in the autumn of 1871, and by 1875, with the exception of three very small bunches, it had been annihilated.”

I don't think I wrote much about the buffalo, although I have hunted them with the Indians and have seen the “surrounds.”

I am, truly,

G. M. DODGE.

THE RIVER JEFFREON IS THE NORTH RIVER.

Touching the identity of the River Jeffreon in modern nomenclature, we publish the following correspondence:

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