

## Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)

DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1874-1881, 1884

[1874] May 1<sup>st</sup>. Went to the "New" Fort, Toronto, with the intention of enlisting in the North West Mounted Police, three Troops of which were then in process of organising for the purpose of augmenting the three Troops which had, in the Fall of 1873, already proceeded, via the "Dawson" Route as far West as lower "Stone" Fort Garry on the Red River. Colonel George Arthur French, the Commissioner of the Force, and my father had served together in the Royal Artillery of the British Imperial Army, and the Colonel at once informed my father, in down town Toronto of my action and whereabouts. Father lost no time in coming post haste to interview the Colonel, with the view of preventing my enlistment, but after a rather stormy argument between us he arranged with the Colonel to take me on as Trumpeter for a period of not more than six months. And so I am now a member of the N.W.M.P. at the age of fifteen years.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. The men assembled here have been organised into three Troops, named respectively "D" "E" and "F" Troops. "Military Train" uniforms, but with scarlet "Norfolk" tunics, have been issued to us, and Horse, Foot and Artillery drills have been carried out incessantly during the past month. As I am already a good horseman I am dismissed from the equitation course after a very brief try out. We have been occupied during the past day or two in packing up our arms, uniforms, and accoutrements and loading the same on the railway cars awaiting us at the Grand Trunk Railway Station.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. We ("D" "E" and "F" Troops N.W.M.P.) left Toronto by the Grand Trunk Railway, bound for the Far West, or, as Sir William Butler named it "The Great Lone Land", Leaving at 11 A.M. to day our Force comprised 217 Officers and men, and 244 horses, on 2 special trains. At Sarnia 9 Railway cars containing farming implements, etc. and at Detroit 2 cars, with 34 horses were attached to our trains. Tremendous excitement as our trains pull out of the Grand Trunk Station in Toronto. Dense cheering crowds of people, Bands playing, relatives (my own amongst them) weeping, Flags waving, as we say good-bye. At the last minute before leaving my dear Mother presses into my hands a blank diary and a key winding watch, and chain. In order to avoid any "International" incident we are all in mufti, and our arms, accoutrements and uniforms packed away in the freight cars attached to our trains, to remain there until we finish that part of our journey to the West laying in the U.S.A.

Each man is allowed the sum of \$1.00 per day for subsistence while we are passing through U.S. Territory.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Arrive in Chicago 5 P.M. Heavy rains. Mud! All horses to stock yards. Frank James, brother of the notorious Jesse James, sitting on the verandah surrounding the small frame "hotel" adjacent to the stock yards, his feet cocked up on the verandah railing. Population of Chicago: 630,000. Our \$1.00 per diem allowance is not quite sufficient here where each meal costs 50 cents.

June 8<sup>th</sup>. Left Chicago. Still raining heavily.

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June 10<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at St. Paul, Minn. 4 A.M. Torrential rains. Deep mud and slush everywhere. We are billeted with resident families of Scandinavian nationality. Plenty of saur kraut.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. Left St. Paul P.M. Long tramp to station leading our horses through deep mud. Our men stealing dogs at every station passed through but losing them at the next.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Fargo, North Dakota, thus completing our Railway journey from Toronto. (The latter part of the journey by Northern Pacific Railway). Fatigue parties unloading horses and stores of every description from railway cars. Horses turned out on prairie to graze.

June 13<sup>th</sup>. By dint of working in four hour shifts, plus the vocal assistance of the terrible Sergeants, all through last night and to-day, waggons, harness, saddles, etc. are all assembled, and at 4 P.M. my Troop ("D") pulls out on the first leg of our prairie travel, with everything in order. Several awkward teams caused a lot of trouble at the start. We marched seven miles North over rolling prairie, and camped on the bank of the Red River. "E" and "F" Troops arrived in camp about midnight. The greater part of our heavy goods are to be later sent down river to Dufferin Manitoba by steamboat.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. (Sunday). Tumbled out of bed at 6 A.M. Watered and fed the horses, and turned them out on the prairie to graze. I was on horse guard (or "Bashi Bazouk, as Sergt. Major Joe Francis calls it). Our Sunday dinner consists of one soda biscuit, chunk of fat bacon, and the seventeenth part of a small loaf of bread. No sugar in the tea.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Sounded Reveille at 4 A.M. Marched at 5 A.M. 8 miles, and halt for dinner of Biscuit and bread only. Helmets issued. Started again at 2 P.M. I had a lovely ride of 16 miles on a bareback horse with a back bone as sharp (so it seemed) as a cross cut saw, at the same time leading a string of several other horses. Was not at all displeased when I saw Fred Brown, the Troop cook halt his waggon and prepare to cook supper.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 4 A.M. Marched at 6. 29 miles and camp at 12 midnight.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 3 A.M. Marched at 5. Left several exhausted horses by the way. Passed through Grand Forks, N.D. about 4 P.M., where we found Sergeant Weir of "A" Troop, and 4 half breed guides. About 10 miles further on a detachment of N.W.M.P., joined us with 25 fresh horses sent to us from Dufferin camp by Colonel Macleod. Several of our own exhausted horses died. Marched about 31 miles, and camped about 10 P.M.

June 19<sup>th</sup>. (FRI.) Reveille at 4 A.M. Marched at 6. Passed the Yankee military Post of Fort Pembina. Crossed the International boundary into Canada, and arrived at camp Dufferin At 4 P.M. Here "A" "B" and "C" Troops which came to the West last Fall via the Dawson Route, are camped under command of Colonel Macleod. Very

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pretty camp, surrounded by beautiful, park like country. Here met several old comrades, including Dick and Sam Steele, Jim Harding, and others.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. Reveille at 6 A.M. Watered and fed horses 6:30. Breakfast at 8 of 3 soda biscuits and chunk of fat bacon. Stables 11:30.A.M. Dinner at 1 P.M. of half of a small pancake, some fat bacon and "23" (tea).

At 8 P.M. furious storm, with terrific thunder and incessant lightning. Rain literally in sheets. Horses frantic with fright. All, except a few, broke away and stampeded. The hoof beats of the frenzied horses could be heard above the rolls of thunder as they tore madly through the camp, flattening loaded waggons and tents in a few moments with their flying hooves. At first I could not find my boots under the flattened tent, so out in my bare feet and sounded "Assembly". After a short time found my riding boots and put them on, but had them on but a few minutes when I was forced to take them off again when they became filled by the floods of falling rain. All hands drenched to the skin. All was now confusion. The continuous rolls of thunder made conversation impossible, and the stentorian voices of Sergeants Major unheeded, as they shouted orders, which nobody paid any attention to. All tents were flattened by the wind. Sub Const. "Bill" Latimer and several other men seriously injured. My tent was not only flattened but carried away altogether by the furious wind, while the pouring rain soaked our blankets, and everything else we owned. During a lull in the storm we managed to erect a tent for the sick and injured men. Also put up a tent for ourselves, and, in an endeavour to snatch a few winks of sleep rolled into water soaked blankets, but the wind increasing in violence forced all hands up to hold the tent down until daylight, when the wind abated and the storm passed on. Daylight showed a scene of confusion and destruction. Found that of 300 horses only about 50 were left in camp. The remainder were "over the hills, and far away".

Colonel French reports to Ottawa as follows:

"One of the most dreadful storms every witnessed in this country. There was one incessant sheet of lightning from 10 P.M. until 6 A.M. 250 horses broke away and escaped about midnight. Fearful sight. 6 men seriously hurt in attempting to stop the horses. Many days lost in recovering horses, and much injury done. Loss eventually reduced to one horse, and this one was supposed to have drowned in the Pembina River."

After daylight broke, and the wind and storm had subsided, I managed to find my waterproof kit bag, and got some dry clothes to put on. Then saddled and mounted a horse which had been tied to a fence post, and could not get away with the others, which had stampeded, and started out with Major Walsh to hunt horses. We, and a party of men who had joined us, went 18 miles into U.S. Territory, passed Fort Pembina, where U.S. Troops are stationed, and, riding hard all day, managed to recover about 80 head. Captain Walker, reported that he had traveled 80 miles into U.S. Territory, and brought in about 35 horses. Other parties brought in a great many more, so that when a final count was made only one horse, as before stated, was missing out of the 250 which had stampeded. Fatigue, hunger, and want of sleep had such an effect on my nerves that when I returned to camp about midnight I was found to be fast asleep in the saddle, and had to be lifted off and put to bed. Not much Fenimore Cooper romance about this, but rather strenuous for a slip of a boy as I am.

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June 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille 6 A.M. Stables 6:30. Breakfast at 8 of bread, fat bacon and tea. Dinner at 1 P.M. of biscuits and beef tea. Supper of bread, fat bacon and "23".

June 28<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille 6 A.M. Was on "Bashi-bazook (Horse Guard) all day and evening. Parade at 7 P.M. for inspection of arms and clothing. I was not present on parade, as I was on horse guard.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Snider Carbines issued to day.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille 6 A.M. Breakfast at 8 of dry bread and tea. I am orderly Trumpeter with the Main Guard. Dinner of bread, meat, soup and rice. Gorgeous! Supper of "wet and dry."

July 1<sup>st</sup>. (Wed) Reveille at 5 A.M. Stables 5:30. Breakfast of "wet and dry."

July 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Breakfast at 8 of "wet and dry." General muster parade of horses 9:30 A.M. On parade until 12:45 P.M. During the parade (I am not on it) noticed a man in "B" Troop, very much under the "weather", holding a – yes, a real buckskin coloured mustang. As buckskin mustangs were a picturesque adjunct of the Fenimore Cooper brand of life in the wild and wooly West, and the man holding this one was in evident need of additional spirituous support, I, acting the good Samaritan, "loaned" him enough money to replenish his supply at the nearest grog shop, and offered to hold the mustang until his return. But by the time the man returned I had already lead the mustang over the lines of my own Troop ("D") where he was mustered in, and assigned to me by Major Walsh, my O.C. I was afterwards told that the remarks of the "B" Troop man, when he returned and found both myself and mustang gone were to the effect that "That boy Bagley is a natural born d---d horse thief, and the vigilantes will get him some day."

July 3<sup>rd</sup> (Fri). Reveille at 5 A.M. Breakfast of "wet and dry." English cavalry cloaks (blue, with scarlet linings) Adams revolvers with belts and pouches, and white summer jackets issued to day, Also gold lace chevrons to the Non Coms, and distinctive arm badges to artizans. In a speech to the men during General Parade P.M. Colonel French pointed out that hardships, starvation, thirst and possible death awaited us in the West, and if any man feared for the future he was at perfect liberty to leave the Force immediately, and no attempt would be made to stop or arrest him. Fifteen men deserted during the past two nights. Supper of "wet and dry".

July 4<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Stables 5:30. Breakfast at 8 of dry bread only. As all the cooks are drunk there is no tea. Parade 8:45 A.M. Cavalry saddle valises issued. Was on fatigue, sorting harness etc. Am Trumpeter with the main guard to night. Staff Constable (S/Sergeant) "Tommie" Lake reduced to rank of junior Constable (Sergt.) in his Troop for Drunkeness.

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July 5<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Breakfast at 8 of "wet and dry". Church parade 11:30 A.M.

July 6<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Stables 5:30. Breakfast at 8 of "wet and dry".

Rumours in camp to the effect that a few days ago Sioux Indians perpetrated the massacre of the inhabitants of the village of St. Joe U.S.A. not far from our camp, and carried off a white woman alive. Pursuant to an offer (so it was said), by Colonel French to the O.C. American Troops of the services of our Force in rounding up the SIOUX marauders the whole Force paraded to day, in marching order, and marched to a point on the International boundary not far from where the massacre took place. "C" Troop, with the two 9 pounder guns occupied the middle of the column as we marched off. Everyone (allegedly) overjoyed at the prospect of having some real active service when least expected, but warlike spirits dashed when despatch received from the O.C.U.S. Troops declining Colonel French's offer with thanks. Military evolutions, with "D" Troop thrown forward in skirmishing order, were performed while on our return to camp across the prairie. Reached camp about 9 P.M., and although we had nothing to eat since morning, found only the familiar "wet and dry" for supper.

July 8<sup>th</sup> (Wed). The whole Force (6 Troops) moved out of camp, about 5 P.M. on the first leg of our trek towards the setting sun, across the Northern part of that wilderness known as the Great American Desert, or, as Palliser calls it, "Great Central Desert". Marched about 2 miles and camped at the "Little Lake". Had trouble with several baulky teams.

July 9<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) All surplus clothing, kit bags, and blankets etc. turned into store, and sent back to Dufferin. We are left only one pr. of blankets, and the clothes we are wearing. Insp. Richer in arrest for insubordination. 5 miles and halt at Oak Point. (Marais River.)

July 10<sup>th</sup>. (Fri) Inspector Richer deserted. He is supposed to be on his way to Ottawa, and breathing threats of what his political friends there will do to Colonel French for putting him (Richer) in arrest.

Made a short march of about 8 miles, and camped 2 miles North of Boundary Line (St. Armand's), at 6:30 P.M. Had to go to Pembina River, about 2 miles within U.S. Territory, for water. Cutting down hills, and road making on the way. Our guides already displaying ignorance regarding the country.

July 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat). Marched at 9:30. 18 miles. We had nothing to eat or drink from 6 A.M. until 9 P.M. Camped at a partly dried up swamp, near "Grants". Got a few buckets of water by digging in mud. Commissioner bought some firewood to be taken along to-morrow.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille at 3 A.M. Marched, without breakfast, at 5:15 A.M. 9 miles and halt at 8:15 A.M. Breakfast 11:00 A.M. of three biscuits. Good water. Very heavy thunder and hail storm P.M. Very large hail stones. Beautiful weather afterwards.

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Grasshoppers so numerous that they darken the sun. Tents covered by them. Every step we take through the grass disturbs thousands of them.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Marched 5 A.M. Dinner 11 A.M. On the trail again 1 P.M. Carts breaking down. Road very bad. Camped near Calf Mountain. 17 miles.

July 14<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille 4 A.M. Marched at 7. Cloudy, damp morning. After a short march halted at Pembina River. Had swim in river. Very steep banks. Ox-en hitched in front of horse teams to haul waggons up banks. Good water. Fish in river. Started again at 4 P.M. Camped 9 P.M. Half breeds, with ox cart brigade arrived in camp after midnight. Levallee, and 5 halfbreeds, 12 ponies and 6 carts containing presents for Indians joined us. 16 miles.

July 15<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 4 A.M. Marched at 7. Eight biscuits issued to each man for the day. I ate 5 dry for breakfast. Some men ate their whole days ration at breakfast time. Myself, and other members driving ox carts.(3 each.) Commissioner exasperated by dilatoriness and stubbornness of halfbreed ox cart drivers. Night camp on While Earth (or Badger) Creek. To day my 3 oxen stamped and spilled sacks of sugar over prairie. Col. Macleod stopped them and helped me reload.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Marched 7 A.M. Reached Turtle Mountain Depot (Boundary Commission) and camped 8 P.M. Ox carts breaking down. No wood, water or grass.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Marched 7 A.M. 28 miles and camped on Turtle head Creek 9 P.M. Good water. No grass. Weather very hot. Country has a desert like appearance. As no tents were pitched the majority of us slept under waggons.

July 18<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Marched 4 A.M. Hot Wind. Column several miles long. Prairie fire started through carelessness. 28 miles and camp at 1<sup>st</sup>. crossing Souris River.

July 19<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) In camp all day. Good wood, water and grass. Bathing, washing clothes, etc. order of day. Very enjoyable.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Still in camp. Action of S.Const. Lucas in abandoning a played out horse left in his charge investigated by Comr. Lucas pleads that horse could not move, and that he (Lucas) was attacked by 5 Sioux Indians Whom he beat off, and during fight the Sioux shot the missing horse. His statement is not believed.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. (Tues.) Started 5:30 A.M. 26 miles, and camp on North Antler Creek. Weather very hot. 9 played out horses left in charge of Non Com and 5 men with an ox cart.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Wed.) Marched 6 A.M. 22 miles and camp at 2<sup>nd</sup>. Crossing Souris River. No wood or water all day.

Orders issued that in future every Officer and man must walk and ride alternate hours. Sergt.S---h disobeying the order was spotted riding in cook wagon by the Comr.

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and being threatened with arrest said "I joined a mounted Force, not a foot one, and as I am not feeling very well to day I must ride on something". He was left amongst the pots and pans.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Thurs.) A lot of horses, oxen and cattle missing this morning. Much time lost in recovering them. Marched at 5:15 A.M. 15 miles and camp at the "Hill of the murdered Scout". Diarrhoea very prevalent amongst all hands. Frightfully hot weather. No wood or water on the way. Some of our men carried away the blood be spattered (?) stone alleged by our halfbreeds to have been used by a Cree Indian to kill a Balckfoot scout many years ago.

July 24<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Marched at 4 A.M. ("A" Troop at 3:30.) 16 miles, and reached St. Peter's Springs, which we found, in spite of its sanctified name, a mere mud hole. Dug holes, and got some fairly good water. Very hot weather. Made about 11 miles in afternoon and camped on the Souris River, near La Roche Percee. My feet blistered and bleeding through walking in riding boots. Captain James Walker carried me pick a back for some distance into camp.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Camped on Souris River near La Roche Percee. Fine camp. Plenty of wood, water and grass. Inspector Shurtliff, Dr. Nevitt, and Mr. Chapman arrived in camp from Fort Ellice. Dr. Nevitt brought mail. Nothing for me. Dinner of two dough nuts, and some peas and onions. All hands bathing, and washing clothes, and enjoying the rest. Sub Const. "Bill" Latimer playing a fife, and Trumpeter Frank Parks a drum (tent pegs on tin dish) entertained us.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) In camp near La Roche Percee. A few days ago, while on our way here, Sub Const. Jean Claustre and myself, each with three Red River carts and oxen, found ourselves separated from the rest of the Brigade, by some miles, and very hungry. His loads consisted of flour only and mine solely of sugar. Happening to come on a small pool of stagnant water, and nothing wherewith to made a fire, we made a splendid (?) meal of flour paste and sugar.

Reveille 5:30 A.M. Breakfast at 8 of one dough nut, a 2 inch square of bread, and tea. A quarter of a loaf of bread issued to each man this evening. This is to do us for supper to night, and all day to-morrow. Church parade A.M. Officers read service for the different denominations. Men apparently much interested in the church service and but afterwards indulged in ribald songs and talk. Coal deposits here. General Custer's, (?) and other names etched on rock.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 5:30 A.M. Breakfast at 8 of small piece of bread, and tea. Supper of "23". Fatigue parties assembling stores for Edmonton, etc.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) A number of Officers and men, myself among them to the pierced rock (La Roche Percee), and inscribed our names thereon. Good dinner of dried applies, rice, soup, meat, and bread. Wrote a letter home.

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July 29<sup>th</sup>. (Wed), Rev. 5:30 A.M. Breakfast of "wet & dry" Insp. W.D. Jarvis and S/Insp. Severe Gagnon, with "A" Troop of a dozen Non Coms & men left us en route to Fort Edmonton via Fort Ellice, etc. They took 62 oxen, 55 horses, 55 carts, 24 waggons, and 50 cows and calves, also 12 halfbreed drivers and guides. Insp. Shurtliff, Mr. Nicolle, the Qmr., and some sick men to be left at Fort Ellice also went along. We marched at 6 P.M. and reached "Wood End". Supper after midnight.

July 30<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs). Rev, 5:30 A.M. Breakfast of "wet & dry" Dinner of dried corn, peas and pork. As there appears to be few signs of vegetation in the country ahead of us fire wood enough for about a week to come is loaded on waggons, and cooked rations sufficient for several days is prepared by cooks.

July 31<sup>st</sup>. (Fri). Rev. at 3:30 A.M. Breakfast at 4:30. On the march at 5:30 A.M. Road making parties very busy. 26 miles. Long River consists mostly of small pools of water and a lot of mud. Loud guffaws from some of our cultured "Old Country" men when a senior Officer, erstwhile Major in the Canadian Militia shouts swampward: "Are there any water down there in the "Crik"

August 1<sup>st</sup> (Sat), Reveille at 3 A.M. Breakfast at 4. Marched at 5:45. 14 miles, then dinner of fat bacon and bread. Rocket fired for lost man starts small stampede. Camped at swamp. Passed the lonely grave of a halfbreed who died here on the 18<sup>th</sup>. of May of this year.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Sun.) Rev. at 6 A.M. Breakfast at 8. Church parade 11:30. Plenty of ducks seen, and Officers servants very busy with the lone shot gun issued to each Troop. In camp all day. Guides displaying ignorance of country. Diarrhoea very prevalent amongst both Officers and men.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Mon.) Marched 5:30. 16 miles A.M. 10 miles P.M. Grass poor. No wood, and Troops that did not load sufficient wood at "Wood End" feeling pinch. Had sad experience to day when my No. 2 ox went over the edge of a corduroy bridge, and as he was suspended in mid air his load dumped into mud and water. When ropes fore and aft cut he followed his load into the "crik".

August 4<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Very heavy thunderstorm about 1 A.M. Tents blown down. Some horses stampeded. Very hot to day. Left the straight Westerly course we have following, and struck about N.W. towards the Dirt (or cactus), Hills. Colonel Macleod, with 6 carts, to Wood Mountain for pemmican and dried meat. Artist Julien and Sub Const. Archie Hare missing. Lost? Gun and rocket fired for their benefit. Made about 20 miles.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Julien and Hare turned up in camp to day, frightened but safe and unharmed by their night on prairie. "B" Troop 4 hours late in reaching camp. Cause: Horses playing out. Found some dismantled log shacks in brush covered coulee. Old camp of hunters from Q'Appelle. Got some firewood from there.



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August 6<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Marched at 6 A.M. About 11 miles and halt at coulee 11 A.M. In afternoon some, but not all, reached summit of Dirt Hills. Steep climb took severe toll of animals, especially gun horses. Column scattered all over the Hills. At least 10 miles distance between advanced parties and rear Guard. Column split up into a dozen small camps. Prairie fire seen in distance.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) In camp on Dirt Hills all day to rest horses, and allow scattered parties to assemble. Weather very hot. Commissioner's Thermometer 91 degrees. (Chisholm)

August 8<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Marched at 5:30 A.M. Descended West slope of Dirt Hills, and part of Force reached Old Wives Lake about 11 P.M. Part of column not in even at that time. Large Lake, but water very salty (Alkaline.) Much Diarrhoea. Clouds of feathered game of all kinds. Colonel French shot a large pelican. Officers servants very busy with their (Troop) shot guns.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille at 6 A.M. Church parade at 10:30. After church parade bathing, and washing horses the order of the day. Nice, hard sandy bottom in the Lake. Indian legend connects this Lake (or the name of it) with heroic action of Cree "Old Wives". many years ago in sacrificing their own lives in saving lives of all other members of a camp surprised by a war party of Blackfeet.

August 10<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 6 A.M. In camp all morning. Made about 6 miles in afternoon, and camped on the shore of the Lake. Colonel Macleod, with carts containing pemmican and baled dried meat rejoined us P.M. from Wood Mountain. Poor grass and bad water. Plenty of cactus here.

August 11<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille at 4 A.M. Marched at 6. Made about 23 miles and camp for night on Old Wives Creek – or a tributary thereof. About 50 lodges of Sioux Indians camped here. Very little grass. Ground cracks everywhere. Caused by heat.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) After a fatigue party had cut a road we marched at 9:30, and made about 6 miles and camped on creek. Feed a little better. A Sioux scout came into our camp this morning and reported that when this band of Sioux were in the Cypress Hills recently the Blackfeet, incited by Yankee whisky traders, attacked them, but were beaten off by the Sioux, who killed several Blackfeet. Colonel French sent an invitation to the Sioux Chief for a Pow Wow.

August 13<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) The Sioux Chief, and a large number of warriors arrived in our camp, for Pow Wow about 10 A.M. Generous presents of tobacco, flints and steels, cloth, etc. made to them. They seem to be surprised to see that we had big (9.pr.) guns. During the Pow Wow Col. French, in order to impress them with the wide power of Queen Victoria said "The Great White Mother has Red Children white children and black children". Whereupon one of the back row braves remarked in a loud stage aside "Well, it seems to me that the Great White Mother must be a woman of very easy virtue" – or words to that effect. Another amusing incident during the Pow Wow occurred when, after

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a long speech by the Chief in the figurative, picturesque Council Lodge language, which our Interpreter found hard to render into ordinary English, the Colonel asked him "Well Paul. What did the Chief say in that long speech?" he replied "Oh, he say he d---d glad my dear Kurnell".

August 14<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Still camped on Old Wives Creek. Many of our men visited the Sioux camp, and did some trading with them. Got a couple of pairs of buffalo hide soled moccasins from the Sioux. Indian visitors gave us an exhibition of their skill with bow and arrow. Also the "Scalp" and other dances. Colonel, Macleod, with 16 carts, to Wood Mountain for oats.

August 15<sup>th</sup>. (Sat), Still in camp on Old Wives Creek, Ouillette, a halfbreed, with 11 carts and 1 waggon passed. Waggon and carts searched for liquor. None found. Our horses shod at portable forge, and waggons and carts repaired.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.). A man named Morrow (or Moreau) of Dan'l Boone like appearance and garb, came into camp with one of Colonel Macleod's guides, and although he is suspected of being a spy of the "Whoop Up" lot Col. French engaged him as a scout. Still in camp.

August 17<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.), Still in camp on Old Wives Creek. Colonel Macleod, and a man named Herchmer arrived in camp from Wood Mountain.

August 18<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.), Colonel Macleod's 16 carts, loaded with 60,000 lbs. of oats arrived in camp about noon from Wood Mountain.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. (Wed), Made about 14 miles, and camped on Old Wives (or WI-Wa (?) ) Creek. "Cripple Camp" formed. Constable (Sergt.) James Sutherland in charge, with seven Constables (five of them sick), one halfbreed twenty-six horses, and twelve waggons.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 4 A.M. Marched at 6:30. No wood, grass, or water at noon camp, - except in a pool in which, apparently, large numbers of buffalo had wallowed, and so contaminated it that even after repeated boilings and skimmings it remains as black as ink. All ranks gathering buffalo chips and storing same in gunny sacks. Small stampede of horses of "B" and "D" Troops. None lost. Camped for night at Old Wives Creek. Good water. Much amusement caused every night by Captain Jack French (Irish) shouting to his batman "Did you fayedmy horse yet Hardy?" And on Hardy replying "Yes Sir, I fed Him". "Well fayed him again, the way you'll be sure of it".

August 21<sup>st</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 3 A.M. Marched at 5:30. About 10 miles and halt in the midst of acres of very tall cactus. Father Lestanc, a Catholic priest, and party of halfbreeds here on their way from Cypress Hills to Edmonton. Pere Lestanc paid courtesy visit to the Commissioner. 15 miles after dinner, and camp at swamp. Poor water and grass.

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Sat.) Raining all last night. Buffalo chips wet. So no meals. But carts containing the bales of dried meat are unguarded, so we fill our pockets with the brittle dried meat, and carry on. Colonel Macleod, and Capt. J. Walker, with 27 carts, and as many men left for White Mud River for oats. (From Boundary Commission Depot there.) No fires. No supper.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Sun.) We are camped at "Flapjack Hill" on a branch of Old Wives Creek. Church parade at 10:30 A.M.

August 24<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 3 A.M. Marched at 6. Fine morning. Not quite so hot as it has been. Plenty of buffalo chips. It is the duty of everyone to gather as many as possible in gunny sacks for use of cooks in making fires. Cypress Hills in sight. Made a good march of over 20 miles, and reach Swift Current Creek. Pitched camp by Moonlight. The steep banks of this small stream will have to be cut down before we can cross.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Large fatigue parties cutting down steep banks of creek so that the column, especially the field guns could cross. Captain Jack (Irish) French raises a laugh when he, observing the Commissioner wielding a pick with great vigor, turns to some who were not at that moment working, and heatedly remarked "An' is it standin' there ye are an' look at the Commissioner workin'?" Marched at 7:30 A.M. About 15 miles, and camped in a valley in the Cypress Hills. Poor water and grass. Water hard for the horses to reach.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Remain in camp to day. Morrin, one of our guides, shot an antelope.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Remain in camp Cypress Hills. Rain early A.M. A scout sent out to meet Colonel Macleod if possible and show him the place where we made the crossing of Swift Current Creek. Dug some wells, but water not very good.

August 28<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Still encamped Cypress Hills. A little rain early A.M., but weather very hot. As these Cypress Hills are the stamping and fighting ground of Gros Ventres, Sioux, Crees, Assiniboines, Bloods, Piegans Blackfeet and Sarcees it is considered "enemy" Territory, extra precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the Force, by increasing the Guard by adding 30 more men to it, and by placing sentries in the lines of each Troop, and a cordon of sentries surrounding the camp. Horses are to be kept within the lines each night, and not to be turned out to graze until daylight. Extra ball ammunition is issued, and orders given that every man must sleep in his ordinary clothes, and keep carbine and revolver ready for immediate use if necessary. Some amusement caused when one sentry calls out, in a stentorian voice "All's Well, and 99 the countersign".

August 29<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Fatigue parties, with carts, started out early A.M. to get wood from distant hills, and did not return until 11 P.M. Loud argument, and near blows between men of "D" and "E" Troops, each charging the other with having stolen frying

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

pans. A weeks rations, minus baking powder and salt, issued. Rockets fired the past few nights as signals for Macleods party. Struck camp P.M. Travelled about 5 miles and camped.

Advance Guard all dismounted, and in extended order across hills. I was detailed for duty as Trumpeter with Advance Guard. Very exhausting duty.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Awoke about daybreak by cry of "Stampede" and on getting up found nearly all the horses gone. They had only just been turned out to feed. Our half breeds suggested a snake in the grass was the cause, but it is more than likely that it was the proximity, and smell of Indians, who, although out of sight of us, have been watching us all the way through the Cypress Hill. The horses were all recovered in about 2 hours time. Church parade 10:30 A.M. Two of our halfbreed scouts shot a buffalo. Meat brought into camp and much enjoyed by all.

August 31<sup>st</sup>. (Mon.) Colonel Macleod and Captain Walker, with escort and brigade of carts containing oats, arrived in camp A.M. Joyful re union of Troops. Cheers. Muster parade 12 noon. Struck tents, and marched about 2:30 p.m. Very strong wind. Made about 10 miles, and camped at a lake. Cold night.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille at 5 a.m. Marched at 7. Cold rain all day. Made about 15 miles, and camped 4 p.m. at good wood and water. (We might have made a dry camp had we gone any further to day.) Remains of a large Indian camp of perhaps 400 lodges here.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 3 a.m. Marched about 5. Six buffalo sighted. Great excitement. The first we (except the scouts) have seen. Major Walsh started off in a buckboard after them. Colonel French on his thorough bred mare, passed everyone, and shot a couple. Buffalo steaks for dinner and supper. Gorgeous. Some of the men could not wait for the meat to be cooked, but ate it raw. Halfbreeds cutting slices to carry along. There being no grass or water we made about 20 miles without halting.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 5 a.m. March at 7. Immense numbers of buffalo in sight. About 18 miles without grass or water. A Troop of Lancers formed. They are to be a support for dismounted Advance Guard.

September 4<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 3 a.m. Marched at 5. Fine morning. Crossed Stony Mountain. Halt in a deep coulee. A lot of trouble getting waggons and field guns up and down sides of many coulees. Road making parties busy. Had to tie waggon wheels to lock them going down some of the coulees. Antelope plentiful. Made about 20 miles and camped at 10:30 p.m. A small band of Sioux Indians came into camp this evening. They camped with us, and danced after supper. Colonel French made them presents of tea, meat, ammunition etc. I had a good feed of chokecherries.

September 5<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 3 a.m. Marched at 5. The Sioux Indians, before they leave us express wonder and admiration at sight of the Lancer Troop. Road making parties again very busy. An ox and 2 carts fell over the side of the coulee but were

## Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)

recovered with small damage done. Our guides express ignorance of the country, and although the Commissioner hasn't much confidence in "Dan'l Boone" Morrow, he allows him to take over the duties of guide to us. About 18 miles, and halt 10:30 p.m. at very little water or grass.

September 6<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille at 6 a.m. Church parade at 10:30 a.m. Marched about 3 p.m. Passed through 7 persons coulee, and camped on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River. Good water and wood. Grass poor. Several buffalo killed as we passed down the coulee. None of our guides know this place.

September 7<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 3 a.m. Marched at 5. After about 4 or 5 miles stopped where there was fairly good grass. 10 buffalo killed. Camped about 5 miles from River. Had to keep that distance out from river bank to avoid deep coulees. After 22 miles camped where there was neither wood or water. Dug a hole, and got some liquid mud for tea. No grass for animals.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille at 3 a.m. Marched at 6. Very cold rain, and high wind. Marched about 20 miles to day. Camped about 2 miles from river. No wood. Buffalo chips soaking wet. No fires; consequently no supper. And so to bed wet, hungry and cold.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Rain ceased about 10 a.m., but still cold. Fiver horses died from hunger and cold. Seven others left in charge of Sergeant T. H. ("Tommy" Lake and party of men, to be brought on later. The "Trois Buttes", or Sweet Grass Hills, in sight. Each Officer and man, by order, gives one of his two blankets to cover the horses. Vety. Surgn. Poett suggests that we be turned out of tents, and horses put therein, but Comr. baulks at this. We "double up" together.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Breakfast of buffalo meat alone. The Commissioner and his guides seem to be very hazy as to where we are. No one seems to know. Scouts sent out in every direction. Looking for Old Bow Fort. Everyone glum, and low spirited. Future prospects gloomy. Cold wind and rain. Threat of snow. Six buffalo killed. Major Walsh, with "B" Troop, consisting of 70 men and 58 horses, crosses to North side of River, with orders to proceed to Edmonton. The Commissioner at last decides to move. We march about 9 miles and camp in a coulee near river.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Moved another 5 or 6 miles up river, and halted in a coulee where there was a little grass. Horses in very bad shape. Staff Constable Frank Norman lightens the gloom somewhat by organising "Sing Songs" in the evenings. He varies the words of the national to something appropriate to our present condition by "Confound their politics. Frustrate their knavish tricks. And get us out of this d---d fix", etc.

September 12<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Conference of senior Officers to consider our present condition. Our scouts at last find Bow Fort at the forks of the Bow and Belly Rivers. The "Fort" consists of three roofless log shacks. A whisky keg found on the near by beach bears the legend "Kelly Bourbon". The depression seems to have affected Sub

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Const T--- very seriously, and he presents himself before the Comr. and demands his immediate discharge saying "I joined this Force to fight for Queen and country, but so far have fought only hunger, thirst and "cooties". He was sent to the Dr. for mental examination.

September 13<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Another tentative move of about 2 miles to day, and camped on Belly River. Anxiety for the safety of Captain Denny who is out West and North scouting. We have now complete 941 ½ miles of prairie travel. (Chisholm).

September 14<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Marched at 4 p.m., turning South towards the Sweet Grass Hills. Captain Denny relieves our anxiety by turning up safe. While out scouting he met a large war party of Assiniboines who stood him off. 9 horses died during the past day and night. Oxen also playing out. Captain Denny reports no wood, grass, or water on North side of river towards Edmonton, so Major Walsh is ordered to re-cross river and follow the main column one day in rear. Marched about 9 miles South, and camped at a place that looked "moist". Dug a hole, but could get nothing but mud. Men spread eagled around the hole during the night, trying to get a little moisture by pressing their lips against the mud. Everyone in comparatively good spirits thinking "We are on our way home".

September 15<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille at 5 a.m. Marched at 7. Six miles, and halt at a lake, which our halfbreeds, with a great deal of firing of guns, christened "Commissioners Lake". Started again at 1 p.m. 8 miles and camp. Very little water in buffalo wallows, and poor (if any) grass. Supper of "wet and dry".

September 16<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 5 a.m. Marched at 7. Three miles and watered(?) at buffalo wallow. Made another 4 miles, and dinner of antelope meat, bread and tea – of a sort. Then another 7 miles, and camped at 7:30 p.m. Dug a hole, but could get only about a quart of black, muddy water. No tea for supper. Our animals are in terrible shape. Sub Const. T---, who demanded his discharge a few days ago, appears to have recovered his normal mental health after Dr. Kittson had pointed out to him that allowing him to leave us here, where we are surrounded by hundreds of miles of bald headed prairie in every direction, with not a vestige of wood or water, would mean his certain death either from starvation, or at the hands of hostile savages.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 4 a.m. No breakfast. Marched at 5. 8 miles, and halt. Dug a hole, and got enough water (liquid mud) to make tea. Fairly good grass. Very cold morning. Horses dropping in their tracks from cold and starvation. We had hot soup at 2:30 p.m. Halted, and camped at a small swamp about dusk. Formed corrals with waggons, and put blanketed horses therein about 11 p.m. Miserable day.

September 18<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 6 A.M. Frosty Morning. Snow! Marched at 8. Six miles, and halt on Milk River Ridge. Rocky Mountains visible far to the West. From our elevated view point on the Ridge the prairie, as far as the eye can reach, in every direction, appears to be literally black with countless numbers of buffalo. Thrilling sight! Two miles and then had dinner at Milk River. Marched again at 3:30 P.M., and camped

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in a valley of the "Trois Buttes". Splendid water, and good grass. Rock caves, and curious rock formations. Indian paintings and etchings on rocks in caves. Seem to be very old. Outcroppings of coal used by farriers in portable forges. I, and others carved our names in the sandstone walls of cave. All oxen, being too weak to come along to-day were left at Milk River to recover.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) In camp Trois Buttes. Fine morning. Men and horses regaining health and strength. Splendid Camp. But we are a tough looking mob of Soldiers of the Queen. The sentry on the Commissioners tent in rags, and with gunny sacks wrapped around his feet. Muster parade, and inspection of horses and saddles. The system our Veterinary Officer has of prescribing carbolic acid for all the ills of our animals causes some of the halfbreeds to raise a laugh now and then by shouting in unison "Fetch along de carbolique, der's going to be a stampede".

September 20<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.), Sergt. Smythe came into camp this morning, from "B" Troop, (Major Walsh), and reported at S/Constable Thornton left "B" Troop last Thursday on a hunting trip, and has not been seen or heard of since. Major Walsh, with "B" Troop arrived in camp at 11 A.M. He lost six horses (dead) since he left us at the Belly River. Scout Morrow, sent out to look for Thornton, returned without him, and reported that he (Morrow) while scouting saw a loose pony on the prairie, and, his own pony being played out, he "adopted" the stray. Supposedly in retaliation for Morrow's undoubted theft S/Inspr. Allen's troop horse was stolen – presumably by Indians. Sergt. Frank Spicer causes much commotion by tearing through camp on the back of a bawling buffalo calf, scattering cook fires and pots and kettles right and left the while he (Spicer) was sawing at the calf's throat with his sheath knife, until, weakened by the loss of blood the brave little beast was brought to earth. The cheers of the spectators failed to drown the vitriolic remarks of the cooks. This evening an overgrown lout named McHamish threatened to kill me after I had smacked him on the mouth with my small fist for stealing my drinking "cup". But that red headed Irishman "The Leaping Goat" McKibben seized him by the throat, and promised to knock his head off if he did "lave the boy alone". The drinking "cup" (?), the cause of all this warlike enthusiasm was an empty baking powder tin picked up at the Dufferin camp, and since carefully treasured by me.

September 21<sup>st</sup>. (Mon), S/Const. THORNTON made his appearance in camp this morning. His story is that after leaving "B" Troop to go hunting he lost his sense of direction, and has since then walked at least 50 miles, with nothing but a little water in a buffalo wallow to sustain him. He is certainly in a very weak state. His horse played out completely, and he was forced to leave both horse and saddle on the prairie. Fortunately the Trois Buttes, which he knew we were making for, were an outstanding land mark plainly seen for many miles on the prairie, so, by steadily walking in their direction he finally reached our camp.

"B" "D" "E" and "F" Troops marched out of the valley at 5 P.M. and after a couple of miles together "B" and "F" turned West and "D" and "E" East. "C" Troop remained in the valley, and will very likely will later join "B" and "F" on their march Westward. Regretful farewells. The present objective of "D" and "E" (I am Trumpeter of "D") is Fort Pelly, Swan River, etc..

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We marched about 8 miles, and camped in a coulee where there is good water and grass.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Tues.) This is my sixteenth birthday. Sounded Reveille at 6 a.m. Breakfast at 8 of buffalo meat, bread and tea. Fine morning. Colonels French and Macleod, and party of 8 men with ox carts, left en route to Fort Benton, Montana, U.S.A. to get supplies and ponies. My buckskin mustang went with them. They also took a medically unfit Sub Const. to be discharged in Benton. Dinner at 12 noon of antelope meat, soup and tea. No bread or biscuit. I sounded "Boot and Saddle" at 1:30 p.m., but we did not get started until 4 p.m. Weather very hot. Marched 10 miles by moon light. Captain Carvell is in command of both "D" and "E" Troops.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 6 a.m. Breakfast 7:30. Fine morning. Started at 8:30 a.m. Six miles and halt. Started again at 5 p.m. Five miles and camped.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast of antelope meat, bread and tea. Marched at 9 a.m. Marched about 12 miles and halt for dinner of antelope meat, soup, bread and coffee. Started again at 5:30 p.m., and made about 11 miles, partly by moonlight. No water, and grass poor. Hot, dusty day. We are making easy marches as we will have to wait at Wild Horse Lake for Commissioner's return from Benton. At a crossing of Milk River saw arrow pierced and scalped body of a halfbreed.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 3 a.m. Cold, windy morning. Tents blown down during the night. Started off without breakfast. 8 miles and halt, but as there was no water had nothing to eat. Started again. Five miles and halt at 2 p.m. for combined breakfast and dinner at Milk River. Off again at 3 p.m. and went into camp at Wild Horse Lake. We remain here until the Commissioner returns from Fort Benton. Splendid water and grass. Ducks, geese, etc. in thousands.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 5:30 a.m. Morning "stables" at 9. Washed and cleaned horses. No wood, and buffalo chips scarce. Have not seen a single buffalo since we left the Sweet Grass Hills. (Trois Buttes).

September 27<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) In camp at Wild Horse Lake. Boiling and washing clothes the order of the day. Ruthless destruction of life, of those pesky little "companions", the attentions of which no one has, so far escaped. Breakfast at 8 of "wet and dry". Dinner at 1 p.m. of buffalo meat, bread and tea. Supper of "wet and dry".

September 28<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 6:30 a.m. Sub Const. "Bill" Latimer and myself out hunting for antelope all day. As our clothes were still spread out to dry, after the "boiling" process our costume consisted of sacking around our feet and waists, and anything but clean helmets on our heads. Very warm day.

September 29<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Bill Latimer and myself, when out hunting yesterday sighted but one lone antelope, and he was too far away to get a fair shot at him. The country about here seems to be god forsaken, sage brush and cactus infested region. Saw



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many marine shells on hillocks, and one very large, black stone, polished to the 'nth degree by countless buffalo rubbing against it.

Neal Knight and Scouten returned to camp early this morning after being out all last night hunting for buffalo. Colonel French arrived in camp about 7 p.m. from Fort Benton, having parted when a few miles out, from Colonel Macleod, who went West to join "B" "C" and "F" on their way to Fort Whoop Up and the Old Man River. Colonel French was accompanied by some tough looking, Montana broad cloth garbed Yankees, and a few fine looking Blackfeet Indians. So nice looking, indeed were they that some of our men mistook them for squaws until one of the bucks, but an indescribable gesture proved that he was of the male persuasion. Colonel French brought a supply, purchased in Benton, of socks, moccasins, brogans, dried (canned) potatoes in tins similar to 5 gallon coal oil cans; also 2 teams of horses, and a few cayuses. The foot wear brought from Benton was a God send for us as many of the men were marching either barefoot, or with gunny sacking wrapped around their feet. My buckskin mustang in very poor condition after the trip to Benton.

September 30<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 6:30 a.m. Muster parade of men and horses at 9. Struck tents, and marched East at 11 a.m. About 15 miles, and camped. A little water and grass. I was on Advance Guard all day. Dinner (?) at 6 p.m.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 6 a.m. A few dried (canned) potatoes for breakfast were much enjoyed by all hands. Started at 7:30. About 9 miles, and halt for dinner on West branch of Mild River. In the afternoon made about 15 miles, and camped for the night on East branch of Milk River. Very poor grass. Oats and oatmeal issued for horses. The horses got very little of the latter inasmuch as when each man received it from the Q.M.Sergt. he grabbed as much as he could in his fist, and carried it to his tent, where it was deposited in a bag kept for the purpose, the accumulated "contributions" afterwards furnishing a big feed of porridge for all hands.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Fri.) Started, without breakfast about 6 a.m. 22 miles without water. Very hard on animals. Found some good water and grass about 6 p.m., and camped. Hot, dust day.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Sat.) Started at 7 a.m. 16 miles, and then found water by accident. A short march p.m. and camped at poor water and grass.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Captain Walker, who had been sent out in advance, early a.m., to try to contact party coming from Cripple Camp to meet us reports that he met the party, and found that they had lost 16 of their horses a few nights ago. Church parade A.M. Marched about 1:30. When out about 10 miles met Sergeant Sutherland, and party from Cripple Camp. He reports having found 3 of his lost horses.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Marched at 7 A.M. Several half breeds sent ahead, and mounted flankers looking for Sergt. Sutherland's lost horses. Levallee and party found the horses, and brought them into camp A.M. 29 lodges of Sioux Indians came into

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camp. Some of them offered me several ponies for my trumpet and bugle, which I was carrying. No trade resulted. Pow Wow in evening.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Colonel French left us to go to Wood Mountain. We continued on. Water and grass scarce.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) A rumour here that we are not going to Fort Garry let our spirits down considerably.

October 8<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) We are making good marches, every day averaging about 25 miles, but no wood, and water very scarce.

October 9<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 6 A.M. Marched at 7. Six miles, and reached Cripple Camp at 8 A.M. Found all the "cripples", both human and animal looking hale and hearty. Their camp very pretty, and has the appearance of a comfortable farmstead. They seem to have put in a great deal of work on it, and have dug a very good well. They all, including "Bill" Smith look healthy and contented. Some of them jokingly challenging our tatterdemalion mob to foot races. Marched about 4 P.M., taking all the "cripples" with us – except 2 men, 5 horses, some waggons and equipment, all to go to Wood Mountain for the winter. 8 miles, and camped.

October 10<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Marched at 7. Two men, who had been sent back last night to bring in a played out ox, were found by one of our scouts to be heading back towards Milk River, or perhaps trying to reach U.S.A. Reached Old Wives Lake about 5 P.M., and although we found grass all burned, and no water but what was alkaline, we camped on the West side of the Lake.

October 11<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Marched at 7. 20 miles without water, then had dinner in the Dirt Hills. Rough, hilly going. Short march after dinner, and camped at "Three Lakes".

October 12<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 3 A.M. I was put in arrest for not sounding Reveille at the proper time. Started at 5 A.M. 12 miles, and had dinner at the Souris River. Travelled over burned prairie A.M. Made 9 miles after dinner and camped at Moosejaw Creek – or, to give its full name: "The place where the white man mended the cart with the jaw of a Moose". I was "up" before the Colonel, and "crime" torn up. Tons of buffalo bones here, also plenty of wild artichokes poor grass, and bad water.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Marched at 7. 20 miles without water. Made about 5 or 6 miles P.M., and camped at "Many Bone" Creek. (Wascana), or "Pile o' Bones". Good water and grass.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Marched at 7. Cold morning. 10 miles, and reached Boggy Creek. No wood. Water good, grass fair. Camped for the night at a swamp. As we expect to reach the H.B.Co's Fort Qu Appelle tomorrow we receive orders to make ourselves and clothes as clean and presentable as possible. As the clothes

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of most of us are little better than rags this will be no easy matter. CLEAN AND PRESENTABLE. Rather a large order for a dirty, lousy, ragged and hungry mob such as we now are, and utterly impossible to carry out, or at least it will be no easy matter.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. (Thurs.) Marched about 7 A.M., over burned prairie. Prairie fires in every direction. 22 miles without water, then halted for dinner at a small creek. After dinner made about 11 miles over very rough country, and arrived at Fort Qu Appelle after dark. Had some difficulty in getting down the steep side of the valley. Barking of dogs within the Fort, and the sound of the hooves of the Commissioner's horse on boards cheerful and "home like" sounds. "Back to civilization again". We got some wood and hay from the Fort.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 6 A.M. The sight of a house this morning, the first we have seen during the past 4 months, brought thoughts of "home" to us poor wanderers. One man from each tent fitted out with "clean and presentable" clothes, and sent in to the Fort to get tobacco, pipes, and other small necessaries. Recent newspapers received by Mr. McLean, the Chief Factor here contain astonishing accounts of our progress and condition. One account has it that we have been wiped out to the last man by the Blackfeet. Prayers being said in all the churches of Eastern Canada for our welfare. We marched at 3 P.M. Crossed the Qu Appelle River, and camped on top of the hills opposite the Fort. Had to go a long distance – to the Lake – for water.

October 17<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Started at 7. Cold morning. One Officer and four men, with 5 horses sent to Fort Ellice. 20 miles without water, and halt for dinner. Country, in all directions burned by prairie fires. Started again after dinner, but as the nearest GOOD water was too far away for us to reach it to day, we traveled only about half a mile, and then camped at a mirey swamp. Dug a trench and got some swamp water.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Reveille at 5 A.M. A lot of delay and trouble caused by one of the cart oxen getting mired in the swamp. Started at 7 A.M. After a few miles halted at a swamp, and watered horses and oxen. A horse of "E" Troop got badly mired here. Made 24 miles to day and camped for night. Supper of "wet & dry".

October 19<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Started at 7. Very cold morning. Made 9 miles before dinner. After dinner made 18 miles, and camped after dark. Burned prairie surrounds us. Horses corralled and blanketed.

October 20<sup>th</sup>. (Tues.) Reveille at 4:30 A.M. Marched at 5 A.M. without breakfast. 4 miles and halt for breakfast. Very cold weather. Dense clouds of smoke from prairie fires everywhere. Huge bonfire of dry sticks and grass made by Sub Const McKibbon and other, around which we squatted while having late breakfast. Grass here, not reached by prairie fire, about 5 feet high.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. (Wed.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Marched at 7. About 17 miles, and halt for dinner. Colonel French and a party went on to Fort Pelly, where we expect to pass the

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

winter. Marched after dinner. Crossed White Mud River, and traveling about 10 miles by moonlight, reached the Fort, a H.B.Co's trading Post and camped about a half miles therefrom.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Thurs.) Reveille at 5:30 A.M. Had a swim in the Assiniboine River. Water very cold. Colonel French, and all Officers, except one, proceeded to Swan River, about 10 miles North of here, to inspect the Barracks(?) there. They returned to night, and reported the "Barracks" unfit for occupation. They brought some mail. The lucky ones sat up until a very late hour, reading their letters by candle light. The arrival of the mail induced a very sentimental mood in us all. Thoughts of home, and the happy by gone days spent with the loved ones there, caused the appearance of many a tear dimmed eye. Thoughts that were partly dissipated by the joking offers of the fortunate ones to sell their letters – after they had read them – to those who had not received any. The sentries' "All's Well" reminds us that we are here, and very far from that home we are dreaming of. And so, to bed.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Fri.) Reveille at 6 A.M. The Commissioner, and a Board of Officers have decided that in view of the unfinished state of the so-called Barracks, and the scarcity of hay (the H.B.Co. lost more than 300 tons by fire), it is imperative that "D" Troop go on to Fort Garry and "E" Troop to Swan River to remain there for the winter. (Pleasant prospect for "E" Troop.) The Commissioner held a muster parade to day of men, horses, animals, etc. and selected the best of the animals and equipment to go with "D" Troop. All hands busy preparing things for "D" Troop's departure. I was transferred from "D" Troop to "E", Captain Carvell in command, and J.B. Mitchell Sergeant Major. "D" Troop pulled out, en route to Fort Garry, at 6 P.M., taking all the best horses and oxen, and leaving us the weaker ones. Half breed dance to night. Some of our men attended.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 6 A.M. Breakfast at 6:30. Immediately after breakfast we struck tents, loaded our wagons, and marched about 8 miles to Snake Creek where we camped. This camp has been named "Harvest Camp."

October 31<sup>st</sup>. (Sat.) Still camped on Snake Creek. The routine of duty during the past week has consisted of haymaking (in the snow), stable building, tinkering, etc. Snow about 6 inches deep. 12 horses, and 3 oxen died during the week. Linklater, a halfbreed, engaged as dog driver and interpreter.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Bright, cold morning. Four horses died last week. Sutherland's Board of Works party, which made such a splendid(?) job of building barracks at Swan River, left to day for Fort Garry.

November 8<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Sob Const. Joe Woods and myself, both mounted, to Fort Pelly to hunt for a dog, and a horse of "E" Troop, and also to search the carts of a party of halfbreeds on their way to Fort Garry.

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November 14<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) I rode out to the hay field this morning and had dinner there. After dinner Sergeant Charlie Thompson and I walked several miles, through deep snow, to the Barracks(?). On arrival there found that my toes were frozen. 28 degrees below zero. Tough on the men cutting hay in the snow covered swamps. The uniform(?) of Trumpeter Fred A. Bagley, of the North West Mounted Police Force consists, at the present time of rough red shirt, moleskin (barndoor) trousers, brogan shoes, and long stockings, topped off by a disreputable helmet, all miles too big for him. Ichabod. The glory has departed.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Up about 6 A.M. Very cold morning. Nearly frozen in bed last night. The Troop moved from the "Harvest camp" into a large shanty close to the edge of Snake Creek, and below the high plateau on which the "Barracks" stand. Miserable place. Ridge open, and snow drifting in. Put up four box, "Carron Foundry" stoves, and a cook stove.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Sun.) The Red River mail arrived to day. I received a letter from my brother Frank. He says he has sent me several numbers of "The Boys of England", but I have never received them.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Mon.) Stock taking all day. After supper Captain Carvell issued an order to continue the work throughout the night. All hands refused to obey the order, whereupon he, after conferring with Troop Sergeant Major Mitchell, told us that he did not intend to order us to work all night, but if we would carry on voluntarily he would compensate us by issuing extra rations, and giving us a holiday to-morrow. As this seemed to be satisfactory to the men, work was continued, and finished a little after 12 midnight, and the men had supper of rice, bread and tea.

November 28<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Stormy morning. Two horses died last week. The following clothing issues were made to each Non Com. and man to day: 2 prs. of moccasins, 1 pr. of felt slippers, and 2 prs. of mitts. (1 woolen, and 1 moose hide.) Arrangements being made for a Christmas dinner. Invitations to be sent to Mr. and the Misses Macbeath, and their Staff at the H.B.Co's post at Fort Pelly, and also to all the Indians and halfbreeds within 50 miles of us. "Bill" Ouzman and Joe Woods succeeded in making a pack of cards out of some envelopes. The painting of the Court cards, etc. very fine work.

December 5<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Reveille at 5 A.M. Fine weather to day, and during the past week. "Rattlesnake" pork, (sometimes called "3 foot pork"), with streaks of red, yellow, and various shades of green through its fat, continues to be the staple item of our diet, varied now and then by the occasional rabbit Linklater and I trap.

December 26<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) Successful Christmas dinner and dance yesterday. Greatly enjoyed our guests, especially by the Indians and halfbreeds. Big feast of berry pemmican, bear meat and other luxuries purchased at the H.B.Co's store at Fort Pelly. The bear meat pretty tough, but mastication assisted by alternate bites at it, and frozen chunks of buffalo fat. An Indian child died here of fever (?) yesterday.

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DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1975

[1875] January 16<sup>th</sup>. (Sat.) A sick squaw, with 3 Indian bucks as escort, arrived here to day. Captain Carvell sent them to us for meals. Sub Const McCarthy, the Troop cook, supplied them with one meal, but refused to cook any more for them. For this the Captain put him in arrest.

January 17<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) McCarthy, the cook was "up on the carpet", and fined \$10.00 by Captain Carvell, and on his declaring that he would appeal to higher authority, was ordered to be placed as a prisoner in the Guard tent. Whereupon the whole Troop, including the Non Coms. (except the Sergeant Major), determined to release him, by force if necessary. Accordingly, after dark this evening, a pretended furious attack was made on the not too strongly resisting Guard, and the prisoner "taken" from them. After the Sergeant Major, and the Guard had made a futile search for him the Captain ordered a parade of the whole Troop, and the while he was soundly berating them for their mutinous conduct, and threatening condign punishment, the cook, suddenly appearing to spring from no where, was discovered sitting beside the stove. The Captain then ordered Sam Orr, and Bill Ouzman, whom he considered the ringleaders of the mutiny, and McCarthy into close confinement in the Guard tent, which, strange to relate, was done without any objection from the erstwhile mutineers. He also placed the remainder of the Non Coms and men concerned in arrest. There was no further trouble.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. (Mon.) Acting Sergeant Crawford, and sub Const. Smith were this morning "warned" for Guard, but refused to take charge of Guard tent and prisoners, claiming that they themselves were prisoners. The Captain held an "investigation", and found the mutineers guilty of insubordination. He handed out sentences as follows: All Non Coms. concerned reduced to the ranks, and fined 30 days pay each, and each mutineer Sub Const. fined 30 days pay. To add insult to injury he also ordered the release, without punishment, of the cook – the cause of all the trouble. 26 horses and 90 head of cattle have died since we came last Fall.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have managed so far this winter to get a little joy out of life by going out every day possible on snowshoes, with Linklater, the Interpreter, trapping rabbits and foxes, which are numerous. Snow very deep. He showed me many a "wrinkle" of the trapping business, and found me an apt pupil. The fox skins, after being tanned, were made into caps for the men, the head and tail of the skin being brought together, and the tail hanging down the back of the wearer, the top being left open. They are both comfortable and picturesque. Sub Const. Sam Orr chopped his finger half off to day while chopping wood. The Captain has been confined to his bed the past few days with illness. Anxiously expecting a mail from Red River.

March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived at last. It was on 3 flat sleds, and 2 halfbreeds accompanied it. The Troop turned out, and escorted it in with much cheering and firing of carbines. McCarthy, the cook, received his discharge from the Force. He

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applied for it some time ago, and now seems to be very pleased at receiving it. General Orders received state that Sergeant C. W. "Charlie" Thompson is reduced to the ranks for applying directly to Ottawa for his discharge instead of sending his application through the Captain and the Commissioner. This does not bother him a great deal, as he was already reduced to the ranks on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January last for taking a prominent part in the mutiny.

March 10<sup>th</sup>. The mail for Red River departed to day. McCarthy went with it. The men gave him a hearty send off. A character, whom we have named "Old Rocky" (other name unknown), who appears to be some sort of western prospector, and has been living on our bounty during the past winter, left us yesterday for parts unknown.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Captain issues orders that no games of any kind are to be played until after supper time.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. Jose Woods, Ted Griffiths, and Morgan return literally encased in ice after being on ice fatigue on the Swan River.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Captain started to day on a pleasure trip to Touchwood Hills, taking with him 2 trains of dogs, and Linklater, the Interpreter.

March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Captain and party returned to day. I bought the skin of a Red Deer from Sub Inspector Frechette. Honeysett and I rode out some distance to where Jack Oliver's men are cutting logs. We discovered a spring of splendid water. Beautiful weather.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Captain is off on another pleasure trip to day. Surveyor Lucas, of the C.P.R., with 5 trains of dogs arrived. Patches of earth are beginning to appear under the influence of a hot sun. What few horses we have are picking up in health and strength. I "smoked" my deer skin, but make a very poor job of it. Having made a smoke tent of the skin I was called away temporarily, and when I returned found that the "smoke" had blazed up, and blackened the skin in places.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. Fine day. Snow melting fast. Fitzgerald, who is now Troop cook, played an April fool joke on us to day when he served us with appetising looking buns which on being opened contained nothing but brown paper, bacon rind etc.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Red River mail arrived about 2 P.M. Great rejoicing. It was received, as on former occasions, with whoops of delight, and firing of carbines. I received a letter from my brother Frank, Toronto. By this mail came news that on last Christmas day Corporal Baxter and Sub Const Wilson were frozen to death while on patrol between Fort Kipp and Fort Macleod. That was 3 months ago, yet this was the first word we had of it. This gave us some real idea of our complete isolation from even our own comrades in the N.W.M.P. and the rest of the world. Made myself a pair of trousers out of my deer skin. They are similar to those of the rest of the Troop. Sewn with a three cornered needle and deer sinew, and with plenty of fringes up and down the

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outside seams. Mine, though, are a little different to the others, in that when cutting them I failed to match the blackened parts properly (see 30<sup>th</sup>. March). The consequence was that after I had finished, and donned them, expecting to create a sensation, (in which I was not disappointed), a view from the front showed the right leg black, and the left one white. The view from the back showed the colours reversed. Well, Bond Street London is a long way from here, so, who cares?

April 4<sup>th</sup>. Blizzard. The Captain returned about 7 P.M. Some of the C.P.R. Surveyor Lucas' men visited us to day. Among them a very pleasant and versatile fellow named Sam Gerard.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. Blizzard all day yesterday and last night. About 3 feet of snow fell. "Old Rocky" whom I spoke of before, returned a few days ago from "somewhere", received a severe verbal castigation from the Captain for sending false reports to the Eastern Canada news – papers about our doings here. Water and snow coming through the roof of our "home".

April 9<sup>th</sup>. Specimen routine: Reveille at 6:30 A.M. Cleaning saddles the order of the day. "3 foot" pork still on the menu. Very stormy weather the past week.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. The weather has at last cleared, and we now have a very hot sun. Joe Woods is laid up with congestion of the lungs, and is delirious. Ernest George also off duty with acute rheumatism.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. Bill Ouzman taken seriously ill with congestion of the brain. He is violently delirious, and at times it takes the strength of several men to hold him down on his cot. Tom Banbury and several others weak, and almost helpless from Nostalgia.

April 13<sup>th</sup>. "Daddy" Armstrong is now added to the sick list. We now have bread and pork 3 times daily. And such pork. All fat, several inches thick, and of almost rainbow colours, yellow, and various shades of green predominating. The men have named it "Rattlesnake" or "3 foot" pork. Those who cannot stomach it, and there are many such, must be content with bread and tea. But Linklater and I manage to get the occasional rabbit.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill Ouzman and Joe Woods have recovered sufficiently to allow them to walk the floor.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. More snow last night. Two Indians from Lac Qu Appelle arrived to day begging for food and ammunition.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. Still snowing this morning, but fine in afternoon. The popular game, a Fitzgerald patent, is "Ring the Bull".



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April 26<sup>th</sup>. Fine weather the past few days. Ice in Swan River and Snake Creek fast breaking up, and ground nearly clear of snow. A squaw killed a bear quite close to the "Barracks" to day. No mail yet.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. Very cold weather again. "Old Rocky", and – Fraser, who have both been non paying guests of ours during the past winter, departed for unknown destination a few days ago. Joe Woods and Johnnie Munroe went to Fort Pelly yesterday, and got a ducking when crossing Snake Creek, the water flowing over the ponies backs. Large party of C.P.R. Surveyors arrived.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Fine day. Good skating on the numerous ponds about here. The C.P.R. Surveyors who arrived yesterday report that Sub Inspector Le Cain, and a Constable, and a guide left Fort Ellice some time ago en route to Fort Garry, and that the guide turned up alone at Fort Garry, and stated that Le Cain had refused to follow him (the guide), and protested that he was being led astray. A party of halfbreeds afterwards found Le Cains' arms, ammunition, blankets, provisions, and two horses and a cart. The supposition is that Le Cain and his man have been lost during a blizzard. No mail yet.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. General parade at 9 A.M. Fatigue parties detailed to clear a plot of land near the Swan River for a garden. The Captain advises the men to work hard, and alternate work on the garden with military drills. Splendid weather. No mail yet.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Four drills daily for those who are not working on the "farm". The farmers are building a sort of pontoon bridge across the Swan River. Ground in vicinity of "Barracks" swarming with garter snakes. About 500 killed during the past 2 days. Literally thousands of them here. Sub Inspector Shurtliff to Fort Pelly in search for four of our men who went to the Fort on leave day before yesterday and have not yet returned. Before reaching the Fort Shurtliff met the men returning to "Barracks".

May 9<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Church parade at 11 A.M. Received word that Sub Inspector Le Cain, and his man, who were reported to be lost in a blizzard (see entry of 1<sup>st</sup>. inst.) had turned up at Garry safe and sound. Sergt. Harry Keenan launched his "boat" on the River. No mail yet.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. Light fall of rain A.M. I rode to Fort Pelly to day to get some bears grease.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Some amusement caused daily by Sub Inspector Frechette attending all morning stable parades clad in pyjamas, riding boots and spurs, cloak, and helmet. Raining all day. No mail yet.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. A detach. of men of "D" Troop arrived from Fort Garry this afternoon. They are to commence farming operations as soon as possible. Sub Const. Grant is head "farmer". Mail arrived per Jack Matheson. I received my watch from Bill Smith. Also 2 letters and photos of my 2 little sisters Nellie and Pauline who are in Toronto.

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May 18<sup>th</sup>. Fine morning. The mail for Red River left to day. The pontoon bridge across the Swan River was carried away last night. River still rising.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. Fine morning. Severe thunderstorm with high wind and heavy rain about 5 P.M. Several small buildings blown down by wind. "Barrack" buildings, standing on up ended pieces of logs, rocked as though by earthquake.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. Queen's birthday was celebrated in truly loyal style by a programme of sports, including carbine shooting matches, muley racing, horse racing, and in the evening a snake killing match by sides of 7 men each. The number of snakes killed by the 2 sides chosen was exactly 1,110 – all within half an hour. It is estimated that the total number of snakes already killed this Spring is more than 2,000.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Our kit bags, which we left at Dufferin last were returned to us from Fort Ellice to day. They were nearly all empty.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. We enjoyed the luxury of fish (pike) for dinner to day. A pleasant change from "Rattlesnake pork". The fish were caught in the Swan River. Church parade at 11 A.M.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. This day, being the anniversary of our departure from Toronto last year, recalls thoughts of "Home Sweet Home" – sweeter now than ever to many of us. Many of our men really very ill from home sickness. "Nostalgia". A mail arrived with a party of Surveyors. I received a letter from my sister Eva.

June 9<sup>th</sup>. Cold morning. Heavy rain. Myself and another to Fort Pelley. Got thoroughly rain soaked. Surveyor Macleod, a brother of our Asst. Comr., left to day with party, for the Blackfoot country.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. Up to now we have been living in a large shack close to Snake Creek, but during last night the creek overflowed its banks, and flooded our shack with several feet of water, and forcing us to move out in a hurry early this morning. To day we moved into the jerry built, two story "barracks" on the high plateau. An Indian chief, accompanied by one of the 7 squaws he is lord and master of, arrived to day from Qu Appelle. As the young squaw is rather pretty, and the Chief stately, the Captain found it a pleasure to show them around.

June 13<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Church parade at 11 A.M. As our stock of oats is getting very low feeding of oats to the horses is discontinued. Farm and garden showing up well. A hospital fitted up.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. Raining all last night and to day. A Board of Officers inspected the "Rattlesnake" pork, and condemned it as unfit for food. No comment was made on the fact that it has been issued daily to us since last Fall. An old bull killed to day for beef.

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June 26<sup>th</sup>. A bull train, with a small mail arrived to day. Despatch from Colonel French saying he is on his way, and requesting a guide. The captain sent scout Faval, with ponies "Toby" and "Tobias", to meet him. He also gave me his field glasses, with orders to sound "Assembly" as soon as I was sure that Colonel French was in sight.

July 6<sup>th</sup>. Colonel French, with "D" Troop and a large and noisy train of waggons, carts etc. arrived from Dufferin Manitoba about 3 P.M. The men in "D" Troop are mostly recruits, and some of them pretty rough in manner and speech. They camped on the plateau near the "Barracks". Several Officers and men accompanied by their wives and families. Bill Latimer brought 4 fifes and a side drum.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. General parade of "E" Troop for inspection by Colonel French. The Troop, for this parade donned their best "uniforms", which consisted largely of deer skin jackets and trousers, all profusely befringed, large fox fur caps, with the tails hanging down the backs of the men wearing them, with here and there through the ranks a remnant of a scarlet tunic. Colonel French rides to the parade ground, and accosts one who appears to be the chief bandit and, indicating the "E" Troop ragamuffins, enquires: "What is this, Captain Carvell?", and is answered with "My Troop, Sir, paraded, as per orders, for inspection by you". One fierce look and a hasty "Good G—d" from the Colonel, and then turning and spurring his thoroughbred mare, he is off like a shot. The parade was immediately dismissed.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. To day is the first anniversary of the departure of the Force from Dufferin on the first leg of the great '74 march.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. Marching order parades, and intensive drill for the past few weeks in preparation for the visit of Major General Sir Selby Smythe, who is making a tour of inspection of all Mounted Police Posts. He is Commander in Chief of the Canadian Militia Forces, and at present the N.W.M.P. are included in that Department. He arrived here to day, accompanied by his personal Staff of Captain Sir Myles Stapleton, of the Grenadier Guards, Mr. Ward, of the Royal Navy, and other Imperial Officers.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. General Smythe, and Staff, and escort of 11 N.W.M.P., composed of Sergt. Major George Hall, Corporal Fred A. Edgar, Trumpeter Fred A. Bagley, Sub Constable Ellice Miller, and others, left for the Far West this afternoon. As an extra precaution for the General's safety, and following the receipt of a despatch from the Governor of Fort Garry saying that hostile Indians are obstructing the working parties now engaged in locating the Government Telegraph line, Colonel French himself, with 41 men accompanied us as far as Fort Carlton, from where, after a march past, in front of the gates of the Fort, (Mr Lawrence Clarke Chief Factor), he and his outfit returned to Swan River, and we, of the smaller escort continued on West with the General.

August 21<sup>st</sup>. We (General Smythe and escort), arrived at Fort Saskatchewan, the Head Quarters of "A" Troop after a pleasant trip from Swan River, via Fort Carlton, (where we crossed the River by swimming), Fort Pitt, where we picked up William McKay as guide and Interpreter, and Victoria (H.B.Co's Post). The trip on the whole

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was uneventful, except that when we reached Sturgeon River we found it swollen by recent rains, unfordable, and no boat at hand. So Fred Edgar and myself stripped off our clothes, and, with clothes tied on our heads (and axes also), swam across the River to a clump of poplar trees on the opposite bank, and made a small raft, which was sufficiently "sea worth" to carry the Officers two by two, and small pieces of luggage. The waggon was floated over, and the horses swam. This was considered quite a remarkable feat. (by General Smythe and his party.) Fred Edgar and I exchanged with 2 men of "A" Troop, who went on with the escort to Bow River, Macleod, etc., while we remained here. Colonel W. D. Jarvis (a fine Officer) is in command here. This "Fort" is situated about 18 miles North of Fort Edmonton – or "Beaver Hills House" – a H.B.Co's trading Post, and, so far consists of only a couple of buildings erected, under difficulties, by the men of "A" Troop. Nails being non-existent wooden pegs and pins are used to bind lumber (whip sawn by ourselves), and logs together.

### **DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1876**

[1876] January 7<sup>th</sup>. Ball at the "Rossin" House, Edmonton. Donald Ross Proprietor. Several of our men went by dog train, and attended.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Sub Const. "Pat" Curran and myself rode to Edmonton, and distributed invitations to our forthcoming 1<sup>st</sup> annual Ball to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup>. inst. I here found "Old Rocky" who sojourned with us, at our expense, last winter at Swan River. Also Rodgers, and old "A" Battery man. Weather mild. Snow soft.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. Sub Const. Fred Tetu left by dog train on his way to the Tail Creek Detcht.

January 20<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Ball a great success. Almost everyone within a radius of 60 miles here. A great many very pretty Scotch and French halfbreed girls present. Colonel Macleod, Major Irvine, and "Pry" Patterson arrived by dog trains about 9 P.M. with money to pay the Troop.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. I sold my grey mare "Mollie" to Joseph Lamoureux for \$70.00 and a train of dogs, with flatsled, harness, and cariole complete.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bishop Grandin, and Brother Paquette, from St. Albert mission, held divine service in the Officers quarters 7 A.M.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Macleod, C.P.R. Surveyor, with 120 flat sleds, arrived. Sold my dog train, and flat sled to him for \$65.00.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. Joe McDonald arrived from Tail Creek with horses, and provisions for us. Q.M. Sergt Carr traded his house and land, and \$100.00 for the "White Phantom" race horse. I went to Edmonton, and there learned that the Revd. George McDougall, a Methodist preacher, was frozen to death during the winter while traveling between Bow River (Calgary), and Nose Hill.

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March 17<sup>th</sup>. Have been acting as Troop cook while George Elliott, the regular cook is in Edmonton on pass. Charlie Gaudin, or "Kiss-kah-wass-iss" (day child) is at present a prisoner here awaiting trial for the murder of his young wife by stabbing her 18 times while she was standing waist deep in the river to where she had fled in an effort to escape from him. This murder occurred in the year 1873, the year before we came to the country. He paid blood money (horses) to the girls' relatives, and by Indian custom, should be free from arrest. However; the N.W.M.P. hold different views.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. Snowing heavily the past 3 days. My dug out canoe broke away, and sailed down the river last week.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. Commenced shingling the stable to day. The flooring (whip sawed by us), partly laid down, but not nailed. Wooden pegs being used instead of nails.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. Colonel W. D. Jarvis, our O.C., having been ordered to proceed to Fort Pelly, and take command there, started down river, in a H.B.Co. York boat. He took Sub Const. George Brown with him as servant. The Troop raised three cheers for him as he left. It is rumoured that Colonel French has resigned from the Force, and is rejoining his Brigade (Artillery) in India.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Squit-ay-oh Nab-ee-qwan (the H.B.Co's stern wheel steam boat) "Northcote" arrived from down river at 8 P.M. She remained but about 15 minutes, and then on to Edmonton.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. The "Northcote" passed down river, taking Col. Jarvis' mare "Croppie".

May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived to day. I received a letter from Sub Const. W. H. ("Bill") Smith in which he says that the boys are organising a brass band at Fort Pelly. Civilian Bill Dixon arrived, with 150 head of cattle.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. Sub Inspector C. E. Denny, and Scout Piskan Munroe arrived from Bow River with one month's pay for the Troop.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. Sub Inspector Denny, and party, departed for Bow River, taking murderer Charlie Godin with them. Sergt. Dick Steele and S.C. Pat Curran also went along as escort. Fort Brisebois changed in name to Fort Calgary.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Pere Blanchette, Beaulieu, Bourque and self to St. Albert to inspect a water power mill site Beaulieu is contemplating purchasing.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Left St. Albert, and arrived in Edmonton 8 A.M. As Beaulieu is remaining here, and is keeping the horse we were driving, I made a bargain with one Washy Joe, an Indian, for a saddle horse to take me back to Fort Saskn. Washy Joe agreed, but was a little hazy as to the whereabouts of the horse, merely saying that he was

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running loose somewhere between here a Fort Saskn, and, that he himself was very busy, and would I be so kind as to hunt for the horse. Accordingly I hunted fruitlessly, from 12 noon until 6 P.M., through swamp and bush, with dire results to my clothes. Then, making pack of what portables I had, started off on foot for the Fort, 20 miles away. Fortunately, after tramping a few miles I struck the horse camp of Bill Dixon, who treated me very hospitably, and had a horse saddled and bridled for me, with which I reached the Fort, very weary, at 9 P.M. – or thereabouts.

July 15<sup>th</sup>. “Band” organised, consisting of Side Drum, (made by myself), 2 violins, Trumpet, Bugle, 2 pot lids, the wheel coulter of a plough, and various other “instruments”. S.C. George Elliott assumes a very important and dignified air as he poses as Bandmaster.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sub Const Phileas Brunette, and Interpreter Washington Brazeau left for Tail Creek Detcht. Up to now, for light at night in the barrack rooms, we have had what are called by the boys “bitches”, being lighted rags hanging over the edges of tin dishes filled with grease, but we now possess tin candle moulds, procured from the H.B.Co., and it is the orderly man’s duty to make candles every day.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. Terrific hail storm about 4 P.M. Very large hail stones – or, rather, blocks of ice. All windows on weather side smashed.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. Beaulieu and self, in buckboard, started for Lac St. Anne, but got only as far as St. Albert Mission, where we stayed for the night. Found that the recent storm played havoc in and around Big Lake (St. Albert), and flattened all growing crops. Even the tough willows cut down, and pigs killed.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Inspector Brisebois, who has resigned from the Force, is in Edmonton to day from Calgary. News has just reached us that General Custer, of the U.S. Army, and his whole command of 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, were destroyed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June last by Sitting Bull and his Sioux warriors. This happened nearly 2 months ago on the Little Big Horn River, Montana, yet the news of it has only just reached us.

August 21<sup>st</sup>. A very sad and fatal accident happened here to day. Neil Campbell, and Jim Nolan, who had brought a large band of horses here from Walla Walla, Washington, were both drowned in the Saskatchewan River, just below our Fort, as they were trying to cross the horses, by swimming, from the North bank to the South bank despite the frantic efforts of their Mexican boy, who was in a boat, to save them.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. River dragging operations, which have been carried on since the 21<sup>st</sup> of last month, in an effort to find the bodies of Campbell and Nolan, have been, so far, unsuccessful. Free traders Baker and Marshall arrived with a large stock of goods from Fort Benton, Montana.

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

September 17<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) The red River mail arrived about 8 P.M. All hands went out about a mile, and escorted it into the Fort. Much firing of rifles, and shouting and cheering as the boys galloped with, and around the mail, and mail carriers.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. The mail for Red River left to day.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Henry Hardisty died suddenly this morning in Edmonton. There is now regular mail service established from here to Fort Garry, with Post Offices at Fort Saskn, Battleford, Carlton, Fort Pelly, Palestine, Little Saskn, etc. Q.M.Sergt. Carr is Postmaster here.

Sub Inspector S. Gagnon, in Gros Beaupre's large dugout canoe, which he had purchased, left for Canada on leave of absence. Nine '73 time expired men, who wish to take their discharge, went with him. Sergeant Tom Labelle also left, traveling overland, and riding his race horse, which he expects to sell in Victoria, and then join Gagnon's party on the trip down river.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. (Sun.) Colonel W.D. Jarvis arrived to day from Fort Pelly, accompanied by his two sons Reginald ("Reggie") and Colborne ("Colley"). Hospital Sergeant (Dr.) George Herchmer also arrived to be stationed here. The Colonel tells us that the Dominion Board of Works men are to finish building the barracks here, and that we are not to do any more of that kind of work.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sub Constables Pat Curran, and Pete Coutts, with 2 bull teams, and wagons left for Fort Pitt to get oats for this Post. Sergeant Tom Labelle sold his horse in Victoria for \$400.00, bought a canoe, and then started down river after Gagnon's party, which was several hours ahead of him. Light fall of snow to day.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. Corporal Fred A. Edgar, Sub Const. William Chamberlayne, and Interpreter Washington Brazeau with 5 horses and a cart left to day for Lac La Biche to arrest, if possible, a halfbreed who, so it is reported, had murdered his father in law.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. The total strength of this Troop at present is as follows: 1 O.C.; 1 Sergt Major; 2 Sergeants; 2 cooks; (1 for the O.C.), 1 storeman; and 2 duty Constables. Total: 9.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Oliver, of the Dominion Board of Works, and his lumber and timber rafts for Battleford, arrived to day from up river.

Corporal Edgar and party returned from Lac La Biche. They were unsuccessful in their search for the supposed murderer. Frank Lamoureux, and a large party of French Canadian immigrants, including his own family, and other relatives, arrived here intending to settle on the North side of the river – opposite the Fort.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Oliver and party, with timber rafts, left, via the river, en route to Battleford. Five of his men, with some lumber, were left here in charge of Bill French.

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

October 16<sup>th</sup>. John Irvine, a H.B.Co's employee, to day preferred charges against Q.M.Sergt. Carr of illegally giving Government stores to the wife of said Irvine with intent to seduce her, and alienate her affections. Case dismissed.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. A free trader by the name of Johnnie McDougall arrived with a large stock of goods for sale.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Sun.) The Revd. Mr. Manning, a Methodist preacher, arrived here last night intending to hold service in the Fort to day, but as only 2 persons turned up for the Service he cancelled it.

Dr. Newton, a Church of England parson was more successful, and several N.C.O's and men attended his Service. Light fall of snow last night.

October 29<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) Sergeant ("Patent Safety") Johnson, of "F" Troop, arrived here last Friday from Bow River, and reported that when he passed the Tail Creek Detcht. on his way here, the solitary Sub Const. there told him that Sergeant Dick Steele, who had left the Detcht. five days before to arrest a murderer, was still absent, and the Sub Const. knew nothing of him or his whereabouts.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived to day. "Saskatchewan" Johnson, a free trader, arrived a few days ago from Bow River with a train of carts loaded with clothing, and oats for this Post.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. Weather very cold. About 3 inches of snow on ground. Sub Inspector Denny and guide from Bow River, by dog train, a couple of days ago. A lot of our men laid up with coughs and colds.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Sub Inspector Denny left by dog train for Bow River. Snow about a foot deep. Weather very cold.

November 20<sup>th</sup>. Sergeant Major R. Belcher, Hospital Sergt. George Herchmer, and Sub Const. Pete Coutts to St. Albert, and arrested a giant like halfbreed named Felix Plante on a charge of attempted murder of his father.

November 28<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived to day.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. Our numerous train dogs – more like wolves than dogs – last night tore the doors and windows off the cook shack, and devoured them and several sacks of flour. It must be explained that these doors and windows were of dressed buffalo hide.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. Sert. Major Belcher, Sub Const. Pete Coutts, and Interpreter Washington Brazeau left yesterday, by dog train, for Bow River with prisoner Morrow for trail there on a charge of stealing horses from N.W.M.P. there. This is the same Morrow, who for a time, acted as guide and scout for us on the plains in 1874, and as a spy for the Yankee whisky traders (so it was supposed) led us astray.



## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Sun.) His Lordship Bishop Grandin, accompanied by Fathers Le Duc, Paquette and Blanchette, celebrated Mass in the little log church on the North side of the river. (The Lamoureaux Settlement.)

December 25<sup>th</sup>. (Xmas day.) The "A" Troop "Minstrels" gave a show to night, which went off very well. About 110 in the audience, among whom were Dr. Newton, Mr. Brereton, and a Miss Hodgins, a white girl. (How the deuce did she get up here.) Dance (Hoe down) afterwards.

### **DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1877**

[1877] January 1<sup>st</sup>. (New years day.) Myself, Jimmie halpenny, Phil Brunette, Pat Curran, "Daisy" Thompson, and others to Edmonton to attend the big Citizens Ball in the Ross-inn-Hotel. We had a heavy snowstorm all the way from Horse Hills Plain to Edmonton.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>. All the Fort Saskn, boys (and girls) returned home to day after dancing until daylight this morning.

January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived by dog train.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. An Indian prisoner, accused of murder, died in his cell last night, and to night Dr. (Hospital Sergt.) Herchmer held a post mortem in a small shack in the barrack square, built of rough lumber, with wide openings between the edges of the boards. The prisoner Felix Plante being a sort of trusty, but wearing a heavy ball and chain, seeing a light in the shack peeped through the chinks, and seemingly horrified at the sight of the Doctor at this ghastly work, emitted an unearthly shriek and, in spite of the ball and chain leaped the fence, and dashed into the dense bush surrounding the Fort.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. Although 3 mounted men were sent out late last night in an effort to re-capture the escaped prisoner Felix La Plante they returned without having seen a sign of him, and as the drifting snow had covered his tracks, they could not follow his trail. Later, the same night, 2 mounted men were sent out with orders to go to Edmonton, or Big Lake (St. Albert), or any other place he might make for.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) The 2 mounted men who were sent to Edmonton, night before last, to re-capture Plante, returned to day about noon, bringing him in a cariole, with a log and chain attached to his leg, having captured him about 3 miles from Big Lake. During their search for him they learned from halfbreeds that during his brief spell of liberty he told everyone he met that we (the Police), not only killed our prisoners, but that we also ate them, and that he knew this to be a fact because he had seen one Policeman (the Dr.) doing it. It may be as well to state here that it was the belief of the Indians generally that we always killed our Indian prisoners as soon as we got them into the Fort. His story certainly did much to increase the respect and fear of the Police held by the Indians.

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived by dog trains.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. An unexpected, but welcome mail arrived from Red River, by dog train to day.

January (February?) 29<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Jarvis purchased some flannel from the H.B.Co, and sent it to the St. Albert Mission to be made up into under clothing for us.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Jarvis, his two sons, two Sub Consts., and Interpreter Brazeau left for a visit to the Oblat Fathers at Lac La Biche. They took one horse and flat sleds, and three trains of dogs.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Jarvis and party returned from Lac La Biche about 11 P.M. They report having been royally entertained there by the priests and the orphan children there. The priests gave the Colonel's sons two live bear cubs.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. This morning the half witted prisoner Felix Plante attacked Sub Const. Beaulieu, and was giving him a good pummeling until some men seized Mr. Felix, and frog marched him to the guard room. (Felix, who must have some Irish blood in him, was apparently celebrating St. Patrick's day.) I also, being Irish, was not behind hand, and "celebrated" by cutting a gash in my foot while chopping wood. The Hospital Sergeant put in several stitches of deer sinew, with a three cornered buckskin needle, during which operation the Hospital Orderly (George Elliott), who was engaged in holding the edges of the wound together, fainted, and rolled over on the floor.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Red River mail arrived by dog train. Land Warrants (Scrip) for Sergt.Maj. Belcher, and Sergeants R. Steele and A.H. Carr received.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. Snowing all day. A party of Dominion Board of Works men arrived from Battleford, and went up the river to the White Mud to get out timber.

March 31<sup>st</sup>. Sergt. Major R. Belcher arrested a man named Collins in Edmonton. He is accused of theft.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Colonel and sons presented the two bear cubs to the Troop.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. A violently insane Indian was brought to us by his relatives, who believe his enemies have put bad "medicine" on him. A religious maniac.

Prisoners here now are: 2 white men and one white boy, (theft); one half crazy half breed; and violently insane Indian, and only 5 men for duty, which includes 2 men night and day on guard.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. Corporal Fred A. Edgar and self to the Blackfeet Crossing. Halfbreed Laframboise, with our blankets, and a weeks rations accompanied us in a pony cart.

**Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

September 16<sup>th</sup>. Corporal Edgar and self arrived at Blackfoot Crossing, and found large concentration of N.W.M.P., and immense camp of Crees, Stonies, Blackfeet, Piegans, Bloods, and Sarcees, all gathered here for the, so called, Blackfoot Treaty. (Treaty No. 7.) Sergt. Major "Tommy" Lake has a Volunteer Police Brass Band here.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Negotiations between Lieut. Governor David Laird and Colonel Macleod on the one hand, and the Indian Chiefs on the other, began, and continued all week. Large quantities of beef and flour issued to the Indians.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. (My birth day.) Treaty No. 7 signed by the following:  
David Laird.....Lieut Gov. N.W.T.  
James F. Macleod.....Comr. N.W.M.P.

Chapo-maxico (Crowfoot) Chief North Blackfeet.  
Matoose-Apiw (Old Sun) Chief South        "  
Stomach-Soatigun (Bull's Head) Chief Sarcees.  
Mekasto (Red Crow) Chief of the Bloods.  
Natose Onistors (Medicine Calf.)  
TakogeStomach (Fiend Bull.)  
Akka-Kitcipimiw (Many Spotted Horses)  
Pitah-pekis (Eagle Rib.)  
Sakoye-Aotan (Heavy Shield.)  
Tvatze-Tapitapiw (Sitting on an Eagles' Tail.)  
Ponoka-Iss-tomach (Bull Elk.)  
Etc, etc...

Witnesses.

A.G. Irvine.....Asst.Comr N.W.M.P.  
J. McDougall.....Missionary.  
Jean L'Heureaux.....Interpreter  
W. Winder.....N.W.M.P.  
L.N.F. Crozier....."  
E. Dalrymple Clark....."  
A. Shurtliff....."  
C.E. Denny....."  
Frank Norman....."  
Mary J. Macleod  
Julia Winder  
Julia Shurtliff  
E. Hardisty  
A. McDougall  
E.A. Barritt  
Constantine Scollen.....R.C. Priest  
Charles E. Conrad.

**Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

Thomas J. Bogg.

Jerry Potts.....Interpreter N.W.M.P.

During the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> a number of other Indians signed.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Great doings here yesterday. When all the chiefs signified their approval of the terms of the Treaty, a procession of the Chiefs and braves was formed, and marched from the Indian camp to the big Marquee, headed by the Police Band, playing "Hold the Fort". 21 gun salute fired from the big 9 pounder guns. When Sergt. Major Lake was asked why he played "Hold the Fort" for the procession, he replied "Well. Isn't there a verse in that reading "See the Mighty Host advancing, Satan leading on"?"

September 29<sup>th</sup>. Corporal Fred A. Edgar and self arrived home at Fort Saskatchewan, after very good trips going and coming. (To and from Blackfoot Crossing.)

November 14<sup>th</sup>. Inspector Denny and guide from Bow River. He brought orders from the Comr. that Tail Creek Post is to be abandoned, and Sergt. Dick Steele to return to Head Quarters at Fort Saskatchewan. As Steele was married quite recently to Miss Annie Norne, of Victoria, these orders will not be pleasant hearing for him.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Inspector Denny returned to Bow River by dog train. 8 recruits arrived from Fort Macleod.

**DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1878**

[1878] April 18<sup>th</sup>. Last winter was very mild. Very little snow during the winter, but snowing heavy this morning.

Mail arrived from Bow River yesterday, and news was received that the Sioux (from the U.S.A.) are swarming in large numbers around Fort Walsh, Chief "Crazy Horse" alone having 800 lodges. Consequently all Troops possible are being hurried to Fort Walsh. A large boat, or scow, has been built at Battleford to facilitate the escape down river of the Government should that place be attacked.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. Ex Const. Jas Halpenny, and Jim Reed came in to day from Fort Macleod with 120 wild, long horned Texas steers.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. Snowing heavily all day. Weather cold. Const. D'Artigue was nearly drowned to day in attempting to cross the river in a leaky dug out canoe, which filled with water when he was half way across, and he had to swim the rest of the way, and losing the canoe, and 12 lbs. of beef.

December. While I was hunting at Beaver Lake with half breeds Johnnie Foley, and Baptiste Sauve the latter shot at me, thinking I was a bear, but fortunately missed.

## Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)

December. "Broadcloth" Smith, alias "Jim" Smith, alias "Corduroy" Smith, alias "Smith the Bilk" (no connection with "Smith the Fraud") with his new threshing machine, threshed 18,000 bushels of grain in and around Edmonton and Fort Saskn. this season. Agriculture sure is "up and coming". Progress in farmer settlement, Agriculture, and fine house building has been wonderful during the past year. There is also a good grist mill, centrally located, on the Sturgeon between Edmonton, Grand Lac (St. Albert), and Fort Saskatchewan. Sergt Major Belcher, and his brother Percy, and "crazy" Matheson arrived, with loads of assorted goods for sale.

December 26<sup>th</sup>. Big Troop dance. About 300 present. Some of them from 60 miles away.

### DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1879

[1879] January 1<sup>st</sup>. "Grand" Ball at Donald Ross' "Ross-in" House, Edmonton. Numbers of N.C.O's and men from "A" Troop attended.

January 6<sup>th</sup>. Ball at Joe Lamoureaux's. The chief features being the antics of one M. Harnois, or "crazy" Harness – so called, and the excellent step dancing of elderly Madame Joseph Lamoureaux.

January 7<sup>th</sup>. Edward Brazeau and Selina Deschineau, both half breeds, married at Ft. Saskn. to day. Dancing, night and day followed.

January 8<sup>th</sup>. Furious dancing still going on at Brazeau's. And such dancing. Half breeds, their long hair hanging to their shoulders, brilliant waist sashes trailing the floor, whooping and yelling like escaped lunatics, and thumping the floor with tremendous energy.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. Alec Roland and Caroline Fraser married at Edmonton. More floor thumping.

March (April?) 12<sup>th</sup>. Weddings and dances having become monotonous, horse racing is now the popular fad. Race horseowners Dan Driscoll, Jim Campbell, Dan Noyes, and others very busy. Also a foot race between white man Bill Ibbotson and half breed Alec Roland won by the latter.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We commenced digging a trench for the proposed stockade around the "Fort" to day.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. We finished the stockade to day. It is formed of upright logs placed in the all around ditch. Sergt. Dick Steele to day arrested a Cree Indian named Kah-kee-see-koo-chin (the Swift Runner), on suspicion of having killed and eaten his Mother,

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

Brother, and his own wife and 5 children. He states that they died of starvation, and that he gave them all decent burial.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. Kah-kee-see-koo-chin states that late last Fall he started out from Athabasca Landing to hunt. That after traveling some distance, and finding no game, one of his sons died of starvation, and the boy's Mother was so affected by the death of their son that she shot and killed herself, and that thereafter the rest of the family, except himself, died one after another from starvation, and that he himself managed to keep alive by boiling and eating his moose hide tepee, and so gained enough strength to make his way to Big Lake, (St. Albert) where he was arrested. A pretty plausible story, but his fat, well nourished appearance belies it.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. Sub Inspector S. Gagnon, and party composed of Doctor George Herchmer, Constables Pete Coutts and Pat Curran, Interpreter Washington Brazeau, and Kah-kee-see-koo-chin, with 6 horses and a cart, started for the North to day on a quest for the prisoner's camps, where, according to his statement, his family had died of starvation, and he had buried them decently.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Sub Inspector Gagnon and party returned to day, and reported that in their efforts to find the prisoner's camp they were continually frustrated by false leads given by him, but, as they approached a particularly dense part of the bush, he suddenly stopped dead, and emitted a long, wolf like, howl, which determined them to make a more intensive search in that immediate vicinity. Their search was ended almost at once when they found the remains of a camp situated in a small clearing in the almost impenetrable forest, and on an island in the middle of a large muskeg which was still partially frozen, and thus easier access to the island was afforded than if the party had arrived there a month later when the muskeg would be completely thawed out, and practically impassable. There they found his traps hanging on the limb of a tree; his moose hide tepee, (which he claimed previously he had eaten); neatly folded and stowed away in the branches of the tree, and scattered around the dead camp fire and tripod ghastly evidence of his cannibalistic orgies in the presence of human skulls and bones, and greasy smears on the trunks of the surrounding trees where he had frequently wiped his greasy hands. A couple of gunny sacks full of skulls and bones were brought in.

June 8<sup>th</sup>. At a preliminary examination held yesterday before Colonel Jarvis Kah-kee-see-koo-chin was committed for trial by a higher Court, on a charge of murder and cannibalism. He identified his wife's skull as it laid on the Colonel's table by sticking his finger in the eye socket of one of the many skulls there, and saying, with a merry laugh, "That is my wife".

June 9<sup>th</sup>. The H.B.Co's sternwheel steamboat "Lily" passed up river to Edmonton to day. She did not stop at Fort Saskn. The "Lily" has replaced the "Northcote" which was an older and smaller boat.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. Kah-kee-see-koo-chin to day confessed that he had killed and eaten his Mother, wife, brother, and 5 of his own children. Says he shot them all except one boy

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

whom he strangled. To use one of his own expressions he "made beef of them". He then gave gruesome details of how he had cooked and eaten them. He seemed to quite pleased as he recited the story.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The "Lily" passed down river to day with a large cargo of furs gathered at Edmonton from Northern points.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. The "Lily" arrived to day from down river with freight, and passengers among whom were Lieut. Gov. Laird and his secretary Mr. Forget and the latter's wife, and Lieut Col. Richardson the Stipendiary Magistrate for this District.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. Lieut. Gov. Laird, and his party, went to Edmonton this morning on the "Lily". I was sent to Edmonton, on horseback, to serve summonses, etc., and while I was in one house on duty my horse broke away from where I had tied him, and defied all my attempts to recapture him. This necessitated my having to travel on foot, in the general direction of Fort Saskn., for hours, through bush, swamp, and muskegs. Despite the fact that I was wearing tight jack boots, and breeches I arrived by night fall at the shack of a settler, a French veteran of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, named Charlie Schable whom I found living on the edge of the Horse Hills Plain, where I was hospitably entertained, and shared with him a sumptuous supper of pemmican, black bread, with copious draughts of tea. By the time supper was finished there was brilliant moonlight so, after being supplied with a saddle horse by my old friend "Geordie" Gullion, who happened to be camped close by, and a French Zouave cloak by Charlie Chable, I resumed my journey under more pleasant circumstances than previously and arrived at Fort Saskatchewan about 2 a.m.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. Charlie Chable found my horse "Baldy", and brought him in to the Fort early this morning. I rode him to Edmonton again this morning, and served more summonses, etc., and returned to Fort Saskn. about 2 p.m. Court was opened at 9 a.m., with Colonel Richardson presiding. Kah-kee-see-koo-chin was found guilty of murder and cannibalism, and sentenced to be hanged on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December next. The case of Dan Williams ("Nigger Dan"), who was charged by the H.B.Co. with setting fire to their buildings at Peace River, was remanded for further defence evidence. "Banjo Mike", late Fife Sergeant McDavidson of the U.S. Army, very much to the fore in prompting various defence witnesses until checked by Colonel Richardson. A charge of slander against the Revd. Dr. Newton, in that he stated publicly that "A" Troop N.W.M.P. was composed of a "lot of Scoundrels, from the Colonel down" was settled by the little parson humbly apologising. Court closed at 8 p.m., and, about the same time, two four horse teams arrived at the front gate, the drivers thereof loudly, and with much picturesque language, demanding admittance. After much parley they proved themselves to be drivers for Asst. Commissioner Irvine, N.W.M.P., who, with Mr. Dewdney, Superintendent General of the Indian affairs, is now in Edmonton, and intends to come here to-morrow on the steamboat.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. The H.B.Co's steamboat "Lily" arrived from Edmonton this morning. Lieut. Governor Laird and his party, and Major Irvine, and Mr. Dewdney were on board.

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

The steamboat remained here but a short time, and then left for down river points, with the Lieut Gov. and party, and Col. Richardson, and Mr. Dewdney as passengers, all bound for Battleford, the Capital of the North West Territories. Major Irvine remains here for a few days to attend to urgent N.W.M.P. affairs.

This evening we received the news that the "Lily" had not proceeded more than 25 miles down river when she struck a rock, and sank. The passengers and crew were landed safely, and are now camped on the bank of the river. To night Colonel Jarvis sent a large row boat down river, in which the Government Officials will continue their journey to Battleford.

The "joker" on the "Lily" attributes the disaster to the presence on board of a "Jonah" in the person of Mr. Manning, a Methodist preacher, - a rather rough joke. Chief Factor Richard Hardisty will later have the "Lily" raised, and taken to Edmonton for repairs. She will remain there all winter.

September 12<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Jarvis, who has been appointed Supt. of Indian affairs for a large District hereabouts, is busy paying the Indians their annual Treaty money. The H.B.Co. and the "free" traders doing a rushing business, and "Fire Water", and its effects in evidence.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Fort Saskatchewan Agricultural Society FORMED. This is the first Agricultural Society to be organised in the North West Territories.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. A large train of ox carts, with food, and other supplies for the various Indian Reserves, passed here to day, and crossed the river on their way to Edmonton, and other points.

A few days ago a train of ox carts loaded with supplies for this Troop sent by the O.C.N.W.M.P. at Bow River. These "supplies" consisted of a quantity of tattered clothing, and about a dozen pairs of red riding boots - all for the right foot. A lot of horse, and ox curry combs was also included in the shipment. Our O.C. (and every one else) very indignant.

October 8<sup>th</sup>. J.J. McHugh, of the Indian Department, and a party of "Farm Instructors" passed here last week on the way to the several Reservations they have been allotted to. Kiss-kye-oo, (Bob Tail) Ermine Skin, and Samson, all Cree Chiefs, are here, and report that large numbers of Indians, both Cree and Blackfoot, are starving to death. Investigation has proved this to be true, and at the present time Staff Sergeant Fred Hayes is a prisoner in the Blackfoot camp, and under threat of death unless the Government supplies the Indians with beef cattle, and other provisions by a certain date. A mail arrived from Bow River.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Fort Saskatchewan Agricultural Socy. held their first show (and the first in the N.W. Territories), in Edmonton to day. The exhibits of vegetables, including potatoes, cauliflower, squash, pumpkins, etc. were wonderfully good, and an eyeopener to those who viewed them. There was also a side exhibit of local and native handicraft, in which Mrs. Dan Noyes took 1<sup>st</sup> prize, with silk embroidered gauntlets and shoes.



## Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Percy Belcher, a brother of our Sergeant Major, arrived this evening from Fort Garry with a large and varied stock of goods, musical instruments, etc. for sale. Mrs. and Miss McLeod came in with him.

November 16<sup>th</sup>. Donald McLeod, with a large train of ox carts, arrived to day, having come from Fort Carlton traveling on the North side of the North Saskatchewan River. Walter G. Ross also arrived from Fort Garry. Four immigrants, one married to a white woman, also arrived to day.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. A mail from Fort Garry arrived by dog train.

December 19<sup>th</sup>. Sheriff Richard, and Rodgers, the official hangman, arrived from Battleford.

Chief Factor Richard Hardisty, and Doctor Verey in from Edmonton.

December 20<sup>th</sup>. (Sun.) 42 degrees below zero. I was on guard over Kah-kee-see-koo-chin last night. He made me a present of his beaded and furred Tap-iss-kah-gun, and a small mirror with it, and his pipe. Since he was sentenced to death he has become a Catholic, and attended Mass in the Colonel's quarters early this morning when he received the Sacrament from Father LeDuc. The execution, by hanging, was carried out at 10 A.M. He went very bravely to his death, and just before the drop fell made a short speech expressing sorrow for his crime, and thanking the N.W.M.P. for their kindness to him. He also asked all Catholics to pray for the repose of his soul. Rancher "Jim" Reed pinioned him and hangman Rodgers pulled the bolt which released the trap. Father LeDuc prayed with him until the very end. He weighed 202 lbs., and was 6 feet and 6 inches in height. A large number of Chiefs and braves were present, but turned away just before he dropped through the trap. An interesting aftermath was furnished by "Jim" Reed, the old 49 er. As he sat on the barrack table swinging his legs, and smoking his pipe, he remarked, with a faraway look in his eyes, "Byes, Oh Byes, that was the purtiest hanging I iver did see. And I've seen 31 of thim", thereafter giving us the horrible details of the many "Vigilante" hangings he had witnessed. This was the first legal hanging in the North West Territories.

## DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1880

[1880] January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Report received from Cypress hills states that Constable Grayburn was shot and killed near Fort Walsh on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November last by "Star Child", a Blood Indian. The murderer also killed Grayburn's horse. While returning from Edmonton to day, by dog train, got my face and ears badly frozen. Finally arrived at Tom Lebel's place, on the edge of Horse Hills plain and found Mr. Harry Belcher here, with his fingers frozen. After being entertained and cared for in true Western style by Tom Lebel and his partner Frank Hart, carried on, and arrived at Fort Saskn about 8 p.m.

February 13<sup>th</sup>. For the past week a crowd of Scotch half breed girls from Victoria (60 miles North), and a couple of their male relatives, one of whom is a fiddler, have

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

been "camping" in the barrack room, and dancing has been there, and in the Colonel's quarters, night and day until the girls left for home yesterday.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>. "Nigger" Minstrel show yesterday, by men of "A" Troop, was given in Johnnie McDougall's new store in Edmonton. A great success. Colonel Jarvis, made up as a very dignified, white haired (wig) old "nigger" was very competent as "Interlocutor", and Dr. George Herchmer made a vicious stage manager. The "Orchestra" consisted of Fred Bagley (Violin) and Mrs. Johnnie McDougall (Piano). The inevitable dance followed. Death by suicide of Interpreter Washington Brazeau.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Captain William M. Herchmer has been here for the past few days, having come from Battleford. Colonel Jarvis has gone to Macleod to take command there. "A" Troop now becomes "D" Troop, and is attached to Battleford Head Quarters. I had applied for my discharge from the Force, but following promises made to me by Captain Herchmer I decided to Re-enlist. Captain Herchmer and party, consisting of Sergt. Bog Wilde, and Constables Alf Stewart, Harry Nash, Jack Carruthers and myself, together with prisoners Felix Plante (lunatic), and Indian Charles Cardinal (murderer), left en route for Battleford at 3 p.m. The prisoners are to go to Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

Sergt. Major Robert Belcher, with his recently acquired bride, also accompanied us. "Curly", the horse I am riding, staged a bucking match before we started, but I "stayed with him", and left Fort Saskatchewan in a blaze of glory.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Arrived at Fort Pitt, where we arrested 2 Indians charged with assaulting one of the Farm Instructors. I brought them across the river, in a leaky dug out canoe, to our camp on the South side of the river, where Captain Herchmer tried the case, and sentenced them to 2 months imprisonment, with hard labour. They go to Battleford with us to day.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Arrived Battleford this evening. Discomfort caused by torrential rains while on our way here rather alleviated by receipt of a 2 gallon keg of "permit" brandy from Walter Ross, whom we met on his way from Winnipeg with a train of carts containing a cargo for Fort Saskatchewan.

September 28<sup>th</sup>. Left Battleford to-day with prisoners en route to Stony Mountain Penitentiary, Manitoba. Picked up some more at Duck Lake, and at Fort Qu Appelle. From the latter place the escort comprised S/Sergt. George Fraser, Sergt. "Dinnie" Molson, Col Hardy, Myself, Tom Smith (four horse teamster), and several others, with four horse team and waggon, and several saddle horses. Left QuAppelle during the first week of Novr.

November. QuAppelle to Winnipeg. Had pleasant trip until we reached "Three Creeks" which place marks the boundary between "dry" N.W.T. and "wet" Manitoba. Here some whisky was procured, and put into a partially empty molasses keg. The mixture proved so potent that Hardy promptly got blind drunk, fell on my violin case, and smashed both it and the violin. On arrival at Portage La Prairie we camped about 200

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

yards outside the town limits. After supper, and the prisoners being put to "bye bye" I suddenly realised that the whole of the escort, including the 3 Non Coms, had, Arab like, silently stolen away, and left me in sole charge of the prisoners. I had considerable trouble with Felix, the lunatic who intermittently emerged from the tent and performed war dances around the fire I was sitting by. Ex S/Const Collins now editor of the Marquette Review visited me during the evening. Prisoner Munroe informed me confidentially that he had a large sum of money deposited in a Fort Garry Bank, and wished me to have the use of it while he was doing his 7 year "stretch" in Stony Mountain penitentiary. I declined his generous offer. At about 12 midnight my troubles were increased ten fold when Hardy and Tom Smith, both roaring drunk, arrived from town. Their quarrelsome conversation and actions aroused the murderous ire of Felix, whom I had some trouble in pacifying. It was nearly daylight before things quieted down, by which time the rest of the escort had returned to camp. A hectic night for me! Hardy is the perfect nuisance. Someone "put a head" on him in town. We dumped him here.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. Arrived in Winnipeg. Team horses played out between the Portage and Winnipeg, and we were forced to detour towards the still uncompleted C.P.Ry. line, and put the prisoners on a construction train at a siding. Staff Sergt. Fraser and part of the escort went on with them while the rest of us went on to Winnipeg.

November. Here, in Winnipeg, we are staying at the International Hotel, and Mr. Jardine, the genial Proprietor is doing all things possible to make our stay pleasant.

November 10<sup>th</sup>.(about) After a few days well earned rest in Winnipeg we left for the West about this date. Constable Tom Smith, the regular four horse teamster, being ill, and off duty, I drove the four horse team from Fort Garry to Qu'Appelle. The Baie St. Paul District having been recently flooded from Lake Manitoba, following which there was freezing cold weather, my horses had to break through ice for some miles, and nearly came to serious grief at the Fort Ellice Hill when sliding down the hill practically on their tails. We left Tom Smith at Shoal Lake. Weather very cold. Driving four horse team in this severe weather, and with mitts on my hands, not very pleasant. Myself, and several others of the party frost bitten.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Fort Qu'Appelle about 4 p.m. "B" Troop is stationed here, having been moved from Fort Walsh about a month ago. Major Walsh is nominally in command of this Troop, but at present he is away, on leave of absence in "Canada", and Inspector Sam Steele is in temporary command.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. The members of "B" Troop making great preparations to celebrate the occasion of their getting into winter quarters – built by themselves. The one "barrack" room lavishly decorated with hay, and branches of trees, etc. There are two prisoners here. One, an ex Captain of the 97<sup>th</sup>. British Imperial Regt. of Foot, charged with shooting at, and standing off some Manitoba Provincial policemen who unsuccessfully tried to arrest him, and the other an ex Sergt. Major of the Peruvian Army charged with aiding and abetting the Captain aforesaid. The Manitoba Constables were

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

powerless to arrest these two, but one N.W.M.Policeman had no trouble in putting the “irons” on them.

There is a very good Troop (Volunteer) Brass Band here, with Corporal Jim Davis as Bandmaster. The Band instruments were purchased with money subscribed by Officers and men of the Troop. Ex Sergt. Major Saffery, and Dan Mowat have a General Store here. The “Barracks” are not very palatial. The walls of the stable being formed of a double row of fence rails, the spaces in between being filled with hay and horse manure, the roofs flat, and covered with hay and manure, and the floors bare ground.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. There are 11 Non Coms, and 24 Constables in this Troop. The hay and water are both very bad, and the horses are all affected with scurvy, or “scabby” as French Canadian Sergt. Major Bradley calls it. And hairless patches are appearing all over them. Large numbers of Sitting Bull’s Indians here. Sergt. “Jim” Davis has a very good volunteer Brass Band here.

### **DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1881**

[1881] February 15<sup>th</sup>. Having received orders from Captain Herchmer to return to Battleford I left to-day for that place with Staff Sergt. “Sandy” Warden, traveling with horse drawn flatsleds.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Arrived at Battleford after good trip, except that we had to camp in deep snow every night on the way.

August 29<sup>th</sup>. Colonel William (“Billy”) Herchmer, who is in command of the N.W.M.P. escort for the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada, arrived at Battleford after leaving Lord Lorne and his personal Staff at Prince Albert.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. Lord Lorne and Staff arrived at Battleford per H.B.Co’s steamboat “Lily”, and related that after he and his Staff had boarded the “Lily” at Prince Albert his servants found that sundry cases and casks supposed to contain wine and other more potent spirituous “consolation” were found to be unaccountably empty. The blame for the disappearance was laid on the civilian crew of the “Lily”, but the self satisfied cat that ate the canary smiles of some members of the Police escort suggested that they could offer a truer explanation of the mystery.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Governor General, and escort of the N.W.M.P., of which I am a member, and commanded by Col. Wm. Herchmer left Battleford to-day bound for Calgary, Macleod, and the U.S.A. John Longmore (Saskatchewan Johnnie) was our guide as far as Sounding Lake, and the Cree chief Poundmaker from there on to Calgary.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sounding Lake. Sergt. Major “Tommie” Lake is senior Non Com on this trip. Other Non Coms include Staff Sergeants “Tim” Dunn, Sam Horner, Fred Shaw, etc. At Red Deer River we sighted 5 buffalo. 3 killed. The members of Lord Lorne’s personal Staff much excited over this. Torrential rains made our crossing of Red

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

Deer River and climb up steep banks through slippery blue clay very difficult. My waggon upset.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. Reached Blackfoot Crossing. After supper S/Const. Ketchen and I crossed Bow River in a leaky canoe, and visited Indian camp. Nearly came to grief by our canoe filling with water when we were in the middle of River. Called on Wahtoglah, Sitting Bull's nephew in his teepee. Found him a college bred Sioux who had returned to the "blanket". He had 3 young Indian girls for comfort, and imposing tomes in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin for a pillow.

September 12<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Calgary. Forged Bow River above St. Patrick's Island. My horses balked in mid-stream. Made Ketcheson, my "off" man climb out and mount the near wheeler. Successful move. Camped on Elbow River, about a mile from N.W.M.P. Fort Calgary.

September 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Camped on Elbow River, Calgary. Our horses are in stables at the Fort, and we march there (a mile) 3 times a day to water and feed them.

September 15<sup>th</sup>. Left Calgary for Macleod.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Macleod. Salute by 9 pr. guns fired by Macleod N.W.M.P. from hill overlooking Willow Creek.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. Major L.N.F. Crozier takes over command of the escort from Col. "Billy" Herchmer. Large numbers of Blackfoot, Bloods, Piegans, and Sarcees here. "Horse" and "Scalp" dances, etc. galore. In the "Horse" dance several hundred of them mounted on their buffalo runner cayuses, and racing madly hither and yon while firing thousands of rounds from their rifles into the air caused some nervousness among the members of Lord Lorne's Staff, and at the request of Rev. Dr. Macgregor this dance was discontinued. The Marquis, a huge man, standing under a canopy – a la Indian Durbar – and flanked by the N.W.M.P. guard of honour (of which I was a member) presented an impressive spectacle.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Still in camp at Macleod. Lord Lorne, and N.W.M.P. escort, under command of Major L.N.F. Crozier left – en route to the U.S.A.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Colonel Wm. Herchmer and party consisting of civilian "Tommie" Wattam, Constables Harry Nash, Sam Donaldson, Fred A. Bagley, etc., left Macleod en route to Battleford via the Little Bow River, Blackfoot Crossing, the Hand Hills, Sounding Lake, Manitou Lake, etc. At Little Bow River our race horse "Grizzly" was beaten in a race with a Blood Indian's horse.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Arrived "home" at Battleford.

[1884] June 17<sup>th</sup>. Corporal Sleigh (afterwards killed at Cut Knife), and a small detcht. of N.W.M.P. attempts to arrest some Indians of Big Bear's Band who had assaulted J. Craig,

## **Glenbow Archives, Fred Bagley fonds (M 44)**

the farm instructor at Little Pine's Reserve, about 40 miles west of Battleford, but owing to the numerical weakness of the Corporal's party, and the fact that the Indians, gathered here from all parts of the country for the annual "Sun" dance, were so painted and be-feathered that Craig could not identify the culprits amongst the 2,000 or more Indians present, Sleigh found it impossible to make the arrests, and so sent a messenger in to Battleford to report the matter to Major Crozier, the O.C. of the NWMP there.

### **DIARY (COPY) OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS BAGLEY, 1884**

[1884] June 18<sup>th</sup>. Major Crozier, Inspector Antrobus, Sergt. Fred A. Bagley, and 25 men proceeded to Little Pine's Reserve, and seized all the stores (flour, bacon etc.) there, and took the same to Poundmaker's deserted Reserve, where, after working all through the very sultry night, with mosquitoes literally in clouds, we erected two log Bastions.

June 19<sup>th</sup>. Crozier made several attempts to day to "get his men" from the Sun Dance camp but failed to make the arrests. This p.m. he sent a messenger to Battleford with orders to send all available N.C.O's and men to the Reserve, leaving only a small party in the Fort as guard for the large number of alarmed farmers and settler who had flocked in there for protection.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. Reinforcements arrived from Battleford to day. We now have a total strength of 76 Officers, Non Com's and men – as shown by nominal Roll on the next page, herein, as opposed to more than 2,000 Indians, many of them the most desperate in the country – as was proved in the following year at Frog Lake, etc. By the "bluff", persistence, and moral courage usual with the N.W.M.P. under similar circumstances, the two assailants of Craig were arrested to day, and tried, and sentenced on the spot by that fearless Officer Major Crozier. Following the arrest, and sentence we were surrounded by thousands of howling savages, who vainly tried to intimidate us by firing hundreds of rounds from their rifles in the air over our heads. Several of our men were seized bodily, and stripped of uniform and arms, and Louis Laronde, our Interpreter, was taken prisoner, and lead off to one side, with threats of immediate execution, but his life was saved through the efforts of William McKay, a retired H.B.Co's servant. Our whole force returned to Battleford to-night with the prisoners. The occurrences of to-day marked another one of those many instances of courage, resource, and determination, in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles, shown by that gallant Officer and gentleman Major L.N.F. Crozier.