

some provisions by the mules falling in while crossing Pitt River, Lieutenant Feilner had to return sooner than he desired, and before he had an opportunity of punishing the Indians and hunting up all the cattle, about 350 head out of 850 being all he could find alive, while out. I did, therefore, order him out again, with two non-commissioned officers and twenty-seven privates of Company F, First Dragoons, on the 15th instant, with instructions to collect all the cattle he could find belonging to the drovers, and to punish the Indians known to have been engaged in the murder and theft.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. H. KELLOGG,  
*Second Lieutenant, First Dragoons, Commanding.*

FORT CROOK, CAL., *August 13, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that in accordance with Post Order No. 19, I left Fort Crook, Cal., on the 3d instant with one non-commissioned officer, one bugler, and twelve men of Company F, First Dragoons, Mr. Pugh, and one Indian as guide, for the purpose of examining the country northeast of this valley, and of ascertaining the truth of rumor of an attack by Indians on a party of citizens out prospecting. We had marched about eight or nine miles from the post when we met two men who had survived a fight which took place on the 1st instant, in a valley near the head of Pitt River, about eighty miles from here, between a party of nineteen cattle-drovers on their way from Oregon to Washoe, with about 850 head of cattle, and a party of Indians, variously estimated, numbering from 150 to 500. Two of those cattle-drivers, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Evans, the principal owners of the cattle, were killed, and three others wounded. The party made for the fort, leaving the cattle and wagons behind them. Believing the force I started with insufficient, I sent back after more men and encamped at Ralf's Crossing, on Pitt River, distant from the fort twelve miles. The same afternoon Sergeant Moore and six men joined me. August 4, we started about 4 a. m., eight citizens of the party who lost the cattle along. Crossed the mountains to Big or Round Valley. After marching about thirty-five miles we stopped on Pitt River to wait for three of the men who were with the pack animals, and who lost our trail coming across the mountains. They did not come up until late, consequently we had to remain here all night. August 5, marched along the river up Pitt River Cañon (about ten miles long); found fifty-two head of cattle, and proceeded about eight miles into what I should call Upper Pitt River Valley, where we saw Indians driving cattle toward the river about two miles ahead. Took after them; killed 1 and wounded 3 others. Some ran for the tules and swamps, others for the timber, up the side of a mountain studded with rocks and brush, where it was impossible to find them. The whole command, including Mr. Pugh, the guide, behaved very courageously and soldierlike, especially James Rathburn, private of Company F, First Dragoons. I received two slight arrow wounds, one in the right arm and one in the breast, but was lucky enough to kill the Indian. Several head of cattle had been killed and the beef hung up on the trees to dry. We destroyed all the meat we could find, and then went to where the drovers' wagons had been burned by the Indians, and from there two miles farther, where the fight between the citizens and Indians took place. There we found the bodies of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Evans, both entirely naked and terribly mutilated. We buried the bodies and

encamped in the valley for the night. Including the run after the Indians, we traveled over sixty miles to-day.

August 6, there being some cattle scattered all over the valley, I sent small escorts with the owners to collect them together, after which we proceeded with them (176 head) toward Round or Big Valley. On the way one of the citizens accidentally shot one of our horses. August 7, believing the cattle and citizens out of danger, and also believing that the various Indian tribes all around here had been engaged in this affair, and that each had made off to the interior of the mountains with his share of the spoils, I concluded to take a northeast direction, and wherever I would come across an Indian trail with cattle tracks to follow it up. About noon I came to a very pretty little valley, with water and grass, suitable for a camp. Here we halted, and having seen several cattle and Indian tracks, I sent several scouts out, who returned toward evening without success. Bugler Arnold having been sick all along, I sent him back to the post this morning with the citizens. August 8, marched southeast. About 10 a. m. struck an Indian trail; followed up northeast for about two miles; came on a very large Indian rancheria, which seemed to have been abandoned about one day since, and temporarily arranged for about 150 Indians. We kept on up the mountains; crossed, and came toward evening to a small valley, where we found near a deserted Indian rancheria fifteen head of cattle. We also found a large cattle trail. It being late we had to camp. August 9, took up the cattle and Indian trail (eastern direction); followed it through the mountains for eight or nine miles; took a northeast direction; passed a lake, where the Indians with cattle must have camped. Followed on the trail over a very rocky country; came on the edge of the mountain overlooking a very large valley, on the South Fork of Pitt River. Saw some cattle at a distance and a number of Indians scattering in all directions. Got in the valley and made for their rancheria, at the mouth of a cañon. Here the Indians sent off their women and children, and about 100 warriors paraded. The rocky country compelled us to dismount and attack them on foot, but before we came within shot distance, all of them ran up the cañon. Our pursuit was fruitless. Here I found over fifty head of cattle killed and the beef hung up to dry. I burned all I could find belonging to the Indians. Here we encamped.

August 10, having over 100 head of cattle, it was impossible for me to follow the Indians—more so as we were out of provisions—therefore I struck for home. On the way home I found about fifty head of cattle more. Camped on Pitt River. August 11, followed the Pitt River down and encamped at the mouth of Pitt River Cañon. August 12, citizens and cattle being out of danger, I started ahead and arrived at sunset at the post. On the way I found in the Big Valley all the grass on fire; also the mountains dividing the Big Valley from Fall River Valley; also a house burned down at Ralf's Crossing, on Pitt River. Since my arrival I learn that one of the men who got wounded died; also four horses, which fully proves that the arrows were poisoned.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FEILNER,

*Second Lieutenant, First Dragoons, U. S. Army.*

Second Lieut. J. H. KELLOGG,

*First Dragoons, Commanding Fort Crook, Cal.*