

LETTERS TO AND FROM

SIDNEY GREEN DAVIDSON

AND HIS WIFE

MARY ELIZABETH KUYKENDALL DAVIDSON

IN THE YEAR 1861

To those who are concerned:

Some months ago Nancy Ewing Sutton was kind enough to give me photostatic copies of letters exchanged between Sidney Green Davidson and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Kuykendall Davidson between January 30, 1961, and June 17, 1961. The originals of these letters reside in the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas, Austin.

The copies were obtained by Bula Baugh Ewing, mother of Nancy and daughter of Laura Davidson Baugh, who is mentioned in the letters. As the letters are in poor condition, Nancy also furnished me with her mother's transcriptions. As I had difficulty reading some of the letters, I went back to the originals. Working with both the originals and Bula's versions, I have come up with the attached letters, which I feel are very close to what was written in 1861. They have tugged at my heartstrings, as I know they will at yours.

I asked my children if they would be interested in having legible copies of the letters and received a unanimously affirmative answer. As I went about the task of putting the material into the computer, it occurred to me that many of you might share the interest.

I have made no attempt to change punctuation nor spelling (the misspellings are pointed out, but they certainly add to the charm of these old epistles). I have not called attention to proper names other than "Chadbourne" (I found it delightful that the spelling of this improved with his proximity to the fort). I have proofread, apparently not as carefully as I should, for as the pages printed out, I caught two overlooked errors. Probably you will find more; I hope you will overlook them as easily as I did.

Now the holiday season is upon us, and I am anxious to get into the mail what I hope will be a cherished keepsake of the past, of the heritage so many of you share.

Best wishes for the coming year.

Mary H. Nichols

December 1990

Austin Jan 30th/61

Dear Mary.

Before this reaches you Texas will be a free and independent republic. At half past six o'clock yesterday evening 29th inst a vote was taken on the question of secession - a resolution was offered to this effect: - "Resolved that without stating the maner [sic] in which it shall be done, this convention is in favor of immediate secession." The "role" being called the vote stood thus: for secession 154, against secession 6 so you see the convention is nearly unanimous.

Monday night the Rev. Mr. Carter of the Methodist Church made a speech by invitation in the convention room to an audience of about three thousand persons - it was the best thing that I ever heard on the subject of secession and so decided to be by all the Stars of the State - he is a bold defiant speaker and from what I heard of him I am forced to the conclusion that he has missed his calling. There has been a committy [sic] of one from each District appointed to draft articles of secession. The committy [sic] will report this evening and more than likely you will breakfast out of the union tomorrow morning Feb. 1st. Our representative in Congress Judge Reigen who is a member of the Convention has just arrived. I have met my friend from El Paso also. Sanders and Carian are here and have said things which can be proven that may not be conducive to their health. Hamp Davidson is here, a deligate [sic] from Collorado [sic] County all rite [sic]. His wife is at her mothers [sic] about one mile from town. I called on her this morning. The male [sic] does not go out until morning and I will leave this open that I may insert anything of importance that occurs. I don't know when I shall get off - just as soon as I can though - write to me at this place immediately - write also to Victoria and I will get one or the other. I want to know how you all are getting along and particularly George for you know I left him sick. Be shure [sic] and write.

Yours ever
S. G. Davidson

P.S. The Hon. John McQueen commissioner from the republic of South Carolina arrived in Austin this evening. He was recieved [sic] by the Convention standing and seated on the stand with the president, the Convention went into secrete [sic] session tonight to decide wheather [sic] or not the ordinance of Secession shall be refered [sic] back to the people. I think it will be refered [sic] though it is not 10 o'clock and the doors not yet opened - the convention is very much divided on that question.

Feb. 1st. The convention opened doors last night. The Ordinance will be passed at 12 oclock [sic] today - it will be referred back to the people for ratification or regection [sic] - the election will be held on the 23rd. I failed to get this off by the last mail consequently I will keep it open till this evening when I can report the ordinance of secession passed.

Don't address me at this place. I will leave here before a letter can reach this place. Communication was recieved [sic] by the convention from Gov. Houston and read last night. He now recognizes the convention and will heartily cooperate with the people in this movement.

1 oclock pm. I have just lived out of the Union. At 12 oclock [sic] m. the ordinance of secession was passed by a vote of 163 to 7. Gov. Houston was invited and took a seat by the president - so much for his consistency. Gen McQueen addressed the Convention at 2-1/2 oclock [sic]. Now this letter must be mailed tonight if anything worth relating happens I will report. The Hon Mr Reigen is now speaking. I will leave in the morning or next day for Victoria.

S. G. Davidson

Brownwood February 22nd/61

Dear Mary.

I am now at Brownwood. We elected officers the 2nd day from home. Halley Capt and I 1st Lieutenant [sic]. The company has not arrived yet - we found that we could not get here at the times appointed and I came on a head [sic] to let the Col. know it. Capt Frost with 100 men got here last night - the Col starts with them this morning for Camp Colorado or near there where they will remain till we get there. The officer in command at Camp Colorado has received orders from Twigs to deliver up all on demand from the proper authorities except horses and arms. I am opposed to letting them have them. We are all well. Give my love to all. Tell George I will leave something for him to do. I don't think - the Col don't think that it will come to a fight but if it does all rite [sic].
Love ever

S. G. D.

In Camp near Camp Colorado Feb 24th/61

Dear Mary

Camp Colorado fell in to our hands by capitulation on the night of the 22nd. It was an unconditional surrender of all the property in there [sic] possession. The regulars leave here for the coast on the 26th where they will be shipt [sic]. Camp Cooper had been taken by Capt Dalrimple's command. We march from this point in a few days on Fort Shadborn [sic] which is 60 miles from here. The boys are mustering in to [sic] the service with the understanding that they can leave it when the forts are taken which service I think will not last more than 2 or 3 weeks. Some of them will leave at the expiration of that service. So if there are any of the boys down there that wish to join they can get a showing. The Col gives us permission to supply these places from Bell. I will enquire of the boys this evening and find out how many are going to return these places we want to supply as soon as possible - I will remain in the field 5 or 6 months I think. We elected officers the 2nd day from home. Hally-Capt, S. G. Davidson-1st Lieuteneant [sic],

Boshel-2nd, Arther-Orderly Sargent. I will write you every opportunity. If Gaston is there tell him to prepare for the service.

Yours ever
S. G. Davidson

In Camp near Camp Colorado February 25th/1861

Dear Mary

I wrote you a letter a few days since which you will receive with this in which I stated the terms of the treaty entered in to [sic] between our Col. and the officers in command here. James Bell who is a bearer of dispatches from the Col and of this will tell you why this treaty was not carried out. I could write you a great deal but Jim will tell you all. We start for Fort Shadbourn [sic] in the morning. My love to all. A word to the children for me.

Yours ever
S. G. D.

In Camp near Fort Chadbourn [sic] March 4th/61

Dear Mary

We have not taken possession of Fort Chadbourn [sic] yet. The troops are waiting for conveyance. They will probably get off in 10 days. When they leave we will take possession. It is the post assigned to us by the Col. and will be our headquarters while in the service - it is a large pretty post nearly as large as Belton. Matt has got a situation in the quartermasters department as clerk. We will make an excursion to the head of the Colorado - about 50 miles - on an Indian hunt in 10 or 12 days. If this reaches you before Jim leaves send me a pare [sic] of pants, one white shirt and a pare [sic] of cotton socks, also 15 or 20 dollars. See or send to your papa and get the latter. We are all well in camp. I have no more to write at present. Write often - direct your letters to Fort Chadborn [sic].

Yours ever
S. G. D.

In Camp near Fort Chadbourn [sic] March 10th/61

Dear Mary

I address you a few lines in haste. An express leaves camp in a few minutes for Camp Colorado - from there, there is a direct line of communication with the lower country. We send [sic] down to Berlison for 25 men to go with us on an Indian Scout. Our horses are too poor to do anything yet and I am not in favor of a scout until the grass puts up so that should we overtake the rascals we will not be forced to abandon the prize for the want of horses. This is the dullest place in the world. We get no news at all - the only paper we get here is the St. Louis Republican. We hear nothing from Texas and cannot for this overland mail carries nothing but letters. I don't think I will go on the first scout. I want to wait till the horses are fat

and then if I can get out I will do something. I have seen no ladies since I left home. Capt. Wallis of the regular service of this place has a little daughter - the only female that I meet. She is a sweet little girl and it is a treat that I shall miss when she is gone. My love to all, remember me to the children. Keep Jane Walker with you if you can - remember me to Jane. And now, Mary, in conclusion let me say what will not be new to you - this separation is not pleasant to me. I love the Service, I love the wild life that I am leading - I love my country and wish to assist in protecting her - I love my interest - and this frontier life would be pleasant to me if you and the children were but near me. This kind of service will not continue more than 3 or 4 months - and if I should continue in the service after that time it will be in a different way and I will have you near me. No more at present - write often.

Yours ever
S. G. Davidson

Belton, Texas March 29th/61

My dear Husband,

Your letter came last night, almost a month on the way, it was a pleasant surprise as I did not expect one untill [sic] the boys got back. I was told ther [sic] was no mail to Fort Chadborne [sic]. Jim left here two weeks ago. Bill Whittington will start next week if I do not hear from you before then. I will send you some clothes and money. I expect Jim & Matt before then and hope you will come too but can't say that I look for you. We have had some very bad sickness in this country, some kind of fever. Mr. Vansil died last week. I was there several times, he suffered a great deal, died very hard. His wife has gone to Mr. Price to live. George is here. They have all got well at papa [sic]. We are all well and I do hope will stay so. We had a good rain a few days ago and everything looks fine. All the corn is up, and most ploughed and howed [sic] over. I think that they are getting along very well, the team is in good order, as good as when they commenced.

Jany is still with me. We have been to Akin once since you left. She gets very lonesome some times [sic]. I tried to get her to stay up there a while [sic] and be in company, but she would not, says she intends to stay with me until you come home. I am glad that she is so willing to stay. I have not heard any particular news. Nothing except what you hear as I suppose that you get papers there. I will find out if they are sending any Democrats [the local paper] up to camp, if not I will have one sent to you. I would have written to you long ago if I had known that I could send it. I will write often. You must write every week that you are at camp. The time wont [sic] be so long then. I received a letter from Mary. I will send it to you as it will be that much more to read. I know some one would be glad to see it. The children are well and romping in the yard. If it was not for them I would be doubly lonesome. You can't imagine the company they are. George will sit in my lap and talk about papa. Says he wants to be a ranger. Laura

can walk every place. Jimmy had the piles very bad, but has got well, he looks better.

Yours in love
Mary

I am going to town this evening to get you a present and hope to get a letter from you. Mary.

March 29th

My dear Husband

I went to the office and found a letter from you and such a letter. It is such a treat to get it. You say it is not a pleasure for you to stay a way [sic]. I know it is not. It is duty that calls you. You say that if you stay more than 3 or 4 months I may stay with you. That would be happiness for me and I think I would like to live up on the frontier, if you was near me. You say that you do not here [sic] from Texas. It is out of the Union and all right. Turned old Houston out. There is a big rain coming and I must go home to the little ones.

So Goodby, Yours in love
Mary

You only see one little girl. I am so sorry that she is going to leave you. I wish Laura was there.

Goodby

Camp Colorado March 29th/61

Dear Mary

James Bell got to Camp last Sunday - by him I got your long looked for letter. I have bairly [sic] time to tell you how I am. I have been on a scout since Sunday. Came into this place for supplies. All well in Camps - the U.S. troops left Fort Chadbourne Saturday and we took possession the same day - got good quarters - am at home now - so we at last got to keeping two establishments. Hope it will not last long. I leave here for my home in one hour. The express that takes this starts now so I must stop. My love to all.

Yours ever
S.G. Davidson

Chadbourne April 3rd/61

Dear Mary

I arrived at home the 1st day of this month. Found all well. Capt Hally with 28 of his own men, 23 of Burlison's, and 60 of Moors has just left on his big Scout. They divided into four divisions. There will be mustered into the service of Texas in a short time 2000 soldiers. It is all well with me if Col McCullough gets things arranged to suit him, but if he does not I will be at home in the course of six weeks and even if I should go into the service for 12 months, I will come down soon. I have established weekly communication with Camp Colorado. By addressing your letters to this place by Camp Colorado I will recieve [sic] them. It is not necessary for me

to write more at present. How I would like to see you now it is easier [sic] for you to imagine than for me to say. Give my love to all.

Yours truly
S. G. Davidson

P.S. Rain: Rain: Rain, it rained all night last night, the grass will now be fine.

Chadbourne April 6th/61

Dear Mary

I have just time to write you a line. Matt Parson and Jerry Scott start down as recruiting officers. I have just recieved [sic] an order from Col McCullough authorizing me to rase [sic] a company for the 12 months service. I don't know whether I will be able to get the men or not - my evle [sic] star is still in the assendent [sic]. Capt. Hally is out on a Scout with half the Company, he has been gone 9 days and expects to be gone 40 - we are to be mustered in on the 30th of this mo., so he will not be back in time, unless my scout which has just gon [sic] in pursuit overtakes him. By this scout I have sent orders from Col McCullough for him to return immediately. Burleson is also required to turn his men over to me. No more at present - do the best you can. I will be down as soon as possible.

Yours ever
S. G. Davidson

April 9th/61

My Dear Husband.

It has only been two days since I wrote to you. I can't write too often, can I, for fear that you think that some of us are sick. I will tell you that we are all well except Jany. She has a very bad cold.

Jim Bell sayed [sic] that he would be back by this time but has not come. I received a letter from Jim Kuykendall the other day - he sayed [sic] to tell the boys to carry out that sale as soon as they could, that there [sic] not getting there at the right time made no difference with him, he wanted the negroes as soon as he could get them. For fear that the boys conclude not to come home I though [sic] I would write to you. I have no news except that the rust is taking all the wheat in the county which is very bad news. Dont [sic] know what the people will do for bread for two thirds of the county is in wheat. I dont [sic] think that it is in ours yet, but it is in all the neighborhood. I have been all over the field this morning. The corn looks fine, we have a good stand - hardly a missing hill. Mr. Sandlin has a very bad stand. Mr. Estes and Meadows had such a bad stand that they had to plough it up and plant over.

I noticed in the last week's paper that there was a company of one thousand rangers being raised for the frontier, when the company is rased [sic], you all will be discharged, wont [sic] you?

I hope to get a letter from you tonight. The little ones are all well and as mischievous as ever, expect you will think them a spoilt set when you come home. I will pet them; it is company.

Write often.

Yours in love
Mary

Can you get paper and envelopes up there?

Chadbourne May 4th/61

Dear Mary

Matt returned to this place a few days since, all well. I organized my company as directed to be ready to muster in to the service of the Confederate States on the 30th of April but the mustering officer has not yet arrived so that things remain in "Statue quo" [sic] in a very unsettled [sic], unpleasant condition, though I do not doubt its [sic] all working out well. Capt. Holly starts home in a few days. Lt. Bursnell and Orderly Sgt. Arther will go with him, dont know whether they will return or not - think not though. I have received a late communication from Col. McCullough dated San Antonio April 19th in which he expresses the belief that there will be a difficulty between the Confederate troops and the regulars at that point. If so would like to be there. In your letter you ask me to describe fort [sic] Chadbourne and the country around it, to do this I have not the time. The country is very poor, but pretty and Chadbourne is as prety [sic] a place as you will find. There are no settlers in this country except two or three Dutch cow drivers - no women. No more at present, I will come home as soon as possible - write to my relations in the lower country and tell them all - tell them I am too busy now and cannot write. Give my love to all.

Yours ever
S. G. Davidson

P.S. Since writing the above Lt. Boshell has resigned. He and Capt Halley start home in the morning. The mustering officer has not arrived yet. We have had plenty of rain, how is it with you? I have poltry [sic] plenty but don't attend to them so am not much benefited by them. I have two pretty little pets for Jane W. that I will bring down when I come if I can. They are the ground squerril [sic] peculiar to Chadbourne and never seen anywhere else. The stage stand 35 miles west of this place was burnt a few days since by the Indians and one man shot through the mouth making a very bad wound but he is now geting [sic] well.

Yours ever
S. G. D.

Fort Chadbourne May 10th/61

Dear Mary,

My Company was mustered into the service of the Confederate States of America today. The mustering officer got here this morning. Capt. Hally mustered out this morning and I mustered in this morning, so that you may know that I am pretty much wearied.

Lt. Bigham who will hand you this is on recruiting service. Matt is my first Lt. and Swan and Jim Bell my 2nds, James McDaniel Ord Sargent [sic]. I will not be down for a month yet - it is impossible for me to leave before that time, if anyone is coming up before that time you see your papa and tell him he must get me 25 or 30 dollars at the least and you send it to me. The Gov. did not pay us off and I am compelled to have a little money. Matt starts on recruiting service this morning. I have nothing more of interest to write. I don't know yet whether or not I will bring you up here, if there is a probability of my remaining at this post and I can do it without making too great sacrafice [sic] I will move up.

Write every opportunity. Give my love to all.

Yours ever,
S. G. Davidson

P.S. Drop a line to Gaston Cabler and let him know that I have reserved a place in my company for him, let W^m Bell know that I have done the same for him, and tell them to come up soon.

Yours as ever,
S. G. D.

Fort Chadbourne May 21st/61

Dear Mary,

I have just time to write. Lt. Bigham will return to this post in a short time - write by him. Tell your Pa that I will be down in a short time - just as soon as Col. McCullough comes up - and will want to move up. I wish him to hire a waggon [sic] and buy or hire a carriage or ambulance for the trip. Tell him that I shall attempt to get the contract to furnish these posts in corn for him if he wants it. Suppose he will want it if the corn crop is good in Bell. Tell Mr. H. that I expect my creditors will be clamirous [sic] when I come down there. He must be ready to back me. Tell Jim Robinson that I will do what I can for him in the flour business. Now for your own private ear let me say, we will move up unless some important change takes place on the arrival of Col. Mc. So be ready. We will bring but little baggage up - just a little clothing, and about two good beads [sic]. I wish to get a good family to stay on the place while we are absent. We have had a great deal of rain which has produced some sickness though the patients are all convalesent [sic]. No more. Write soon.

Yours ever,
S. G. Davidson

Camp Colorado June 1st/61

Dear Mary,

I had started down and got this far on my way home where I received an express from Col McCulloch stating that he would be here in a few days and requiring me to be at my post. So be it. I would have loved to have gone home. It would have afforded me more pleasure than all things besides but I must serve my Country first. The Col brings six Companies with him: two are to be stationed at the mouth of the Concho, one will be stationed (with me I presume) at Fort Chadbourne. So you see I will have plenty of company of the sort. Another will be stationed with Capt Barry's Company at Camp Cooper [sic], and the remaining four including Capt Frost's Company will go immediately to Read [sic] River where they are to be stationed. Camp Colorado which Capt. Frost now holds will be garisoned [sic] by twenty men from Chadbourne under a Lt. Tell Matt that if he and Swan have not a sufficient number of men for one of them to bring what they have got immediately and the other to go to eastern Texas and fill out the number that I kneed [sic]. Tell him that I have got five recruits since he left. So I have 43 men. I hope this may not reach you in time for you to tell it. I hope that they will be here with the men ere this reaches you. Mary, you must do the best you can and I will do the same. As for moving up here I cannot decide uppon [sic] it before I see the Col. I look for him at Chadbourne in 10 days at the farthest. If I am stationed at Chadbourne which there is but little doubt of, I will come down just as soon as possible after his arrival. But dont [sic] look for me. Tell Jane that I started with two ground squirrels but I don't know now whether or not she will ever get them. Give my respects to all. Tell George and Jim that I am coming to see them after a while, and let me whisper something in your ear: I am coming to see you too.

Yours ever,
S. G. Davidson

P.S. Matt has just arrived with 15 men. He has gone up - good luck - better than I expected. I stay here to see the Col. James Robinson is here and will remain here until the Col. comes.

Camp Colorado June 7th/61

Dear Mary,

Lt. Bigham arrived at this post this morning - all well- by him I recieved [sic] your affectionate letter. I was glad to here [sic] from you and particularly that you were all well. You seem to think that I am right off for home. I fear you are mistaken. I have received no such orders, and as two companies are to be stationed at Chadbourne, I suppose mine will be one of the two. Capt Frost has orders to be ready to march to Read [sic] River at a few hours notice but I don't think that the object is to invade Arkansas at present. Capt Frost has been elected Lt. Col. of our Regiment - every man in my Company voted for him. Swan brought me more men than I could recieve [sic].

By a great deal of persuasion, I got two of them to stop in Capt Frost's Co, but I found it impossible to get any more to do so. Numbers of them would have gone home rather than to have done it. I therefore took them all in, which filled my Co. thereby making it impossible for Wm. Bell or Gaston to get in. They were here, had come prepared to join, and it would have been a great disappointment to them to have been turned off. Besides it would have been doing them an injustice to have sent them home and kept places open for persons that are not here. Such a course would have ruined me with the Company and my partiality would have been known to the world. Mary, let Parson and Gaston know this immediately, tell them that I did the best I could under the circumstances. I have no more to write at present. I return to Chadbourne in the morning with the boys where I shall remain till I hear from the Col. There is a plenty to do in this section now. The Indians are thick. I will come down just as soon as I can, it may be twelve months or it may be in a few days, but let it be as it may, keep your spirits up and make yourself as happy as possible, but this advice is unnecessary for you will do that anyhow. Mr. Bigham who hands you this will tell you all.

Yours as ever
S. G. Davidson

Fort Chadbourne June 17th/61

Dear Mary,
Again I am disappointed but not as usual disagreeably. Lt Col Frost who is stationed at this post has just arrived here and starts on a scout to the head of Colorado River in the morning. As it will be the last chance for Indians until fall I have determined to go along. We will be gone 20 days and I hope and trust that we may do something in that time. When I return I shall go home. There are now two Companies (100) men stationed at this Post. Capt. John's Company and my Company. The boys are all well and in high spirits. We drill every day, the boys are very fond of it. Mary, I have no more to say now - no instructions to give, for I know that you will do all that you can. I will come home just as soon as I can but I wont [sic] neglect my duties to do it. My love to all. Kiss the children for me. God bless you all.

Goodbye
S. G. Davidson

THE BELTON DEMOCRAT

Volume 2 Belton, Texas Friday, July 12, 1861 Number 15

(This paper is badly decomposed and is preserved in the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas at Austin. I have transcribed what is legible. MHN)

. . . INDIANS KILLED

. . . Ed. J. Fancher, who is just down . . . bourne, we heard that a scouting . . . command of Lt. Col. T. C. Frost . . . on the 17th of last month, . . . the headwaters of the Colorado.

. . . On the 23rd the scouting party struck an old trail, which seemed to have been made by Indians driving cattle. After camping about 5 miles below Big Spring (the head of the Colorado), on the morning of the 23d, the advance spy came upon a camping place, with fires still burning. When this was reported, the command moved forward about a quarter or half mile, and came in sight of a body of Indians, eight in number, well mounted and in full gallop. Col. Frost formed the command in line and gave the signal for a "charge," which was made in gallant syle for the distance of a half mile or three quarters, (the Indians being distant about one mile) but soon, from the unequal fleetness of the horses, the line was broken, and several of the boys got much ahead of the main body of the scout. Those mounted on horses not so fleet, among whom was Col. Frost, followed as fast as they could. Capt. S. G. Davidson, being well mounted, was soon in the lead, and after running thus 5 or 6 miles, caught up with some of the Indians and dashed between two of them, and commenced firing upon them, when they dismounted and shot him--one in the heart just before he passed them, the other putting two arrows in his back immediately after he passed, killing him instantly. The boys in the rear, 40 or 50 yards distant, now opened fire, killing one of the Indians immediately, and continuing the charge upon the others, while some stopped to see if they could render any service to the fallen Captain. Those who continued the charge beyond where the Captain was killed, came near rushing into a larger body of the "black devils" mistaking them for some scouts. Of the Indians, two had to be held on their horses by their comrades, and another gave evidence of perhaps a deadly wound.

The horses of the whole party being much jaded, it was deemed prudent to return and camp at Big Spring. On their return, the main body fell in with Sergeant Fancher, Wm. Marshall and Mr. Oliphant, of San Antonio who, in an early part of the charge, and in company with private McCarty, of Tobin's company, had given chase to a young chief. This chase lasted 6 or 8 miles and ended . . .

About an hour after reaching the Big Spring to camp, and a while before night, seventeen Indians appeared on a ridge south-west of the camp, who, in broken Spanish, challenged the scouting party to fight. Lt. Col. Frost, with a few others rode upon an elevation to the north of the camp, and saw behind the ridge upon which were the seventeen, a large body of others, well mounted, and apparently waiting to see the effect of the challenge, and pretty soon afterwards another body of Indians were seen eastward from the camp. Thus showing a nicely made up trap for the boys if they had bitten at the bait. In the early part of the night they fired at the camp with two yagers, but did no harm, and later they attempted to steal some pack mules but the guard fired upon them and they left.

The body of Capt. Davidson was buried near the Big Spring, that of Mr. McCarty about a mile distant.

Fifty men started on the scout from the Fort, but some of them were sent back with a sick man, and on the day of the fight ten were herding the pack mules, leaving 32 men who started in the chase; of this number some 12 or 15 got near enough to shoot at the Indians.

The number of Indians seen was estimated by Mr. Mulkey, the guide, at 125 to 150.

Owing to the bad condition of the horses and the scanty supply of ammunition, the commander thought it expedient to return to the Fort to recruit. Another scout is intended very soon from which we hope to hear results more favorable

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