R Bennett, L. G. (Lyman G.).
Collection, 1857-1865.
Ten folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are diaries and topographic maps of a civil engineer, member of the 36th Illinois Infantry, and civilian employee of the U. S. Army. The materials concern homesteading in Minnesota in 1857; campaigning in Missouri and Arkansas with the Army of Southwest Missouri, 1861-1862; mapping in Kansas and Colorado in 1865; and the Powder River Indian Expedition in Nebraska and Wyoming in 1865.

Lyman Gibson Bennett was born in 1832 in Schuyler County, New York. He was reared and educated there until 1849, when his family removed to Oswego in Kendall County, Illinois. Bennett taught school for five years, and then trained as a surveyor and civil engineer. He worked as a railroad surveyor and later served as the county surveyor of Kendall County. Bennett spent most of 1857 in Minnesota in an unrewarding attempt to homestead, first near Winona, then in the Faribault District near Ashland. He supported himself by selling maps through subscription and by employment as a member of the surveying team for the proposed Transit Railroad. He terminated his unsatisfactory experience in Minnesota by returning to Illinois late in 1857 to resume teaching school.

When the Civil War broke out, Bennett enlisted as a corporal in Co. E of the 36th Illinois Infantry, a three-year unit known as the “Fox River Regiment.” Military authorities took advantage of his skills, assigning him to engineering duties at Rolla and St. Louis.

His detached duty, which included map-making and work on fortifications, ended in time for Bennett to join his regiment at the Battle of Pea Ridge. He was detached after the battle to serve on the engineering staff of Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis. He sketched the battlefield and was the cartographer of the Army of the Southwest as it marched across Missouri to Helena, Arkansas. In 1863, Bennett took a commission as major of the 4th Arkansas Cavalry (U.S.), which he helped raise and organize. He resigned and was discharged in August 1864. As a civilian, Bennett again joined the engineering department of Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, then commanding the Department of Kansas. He mapped the 1864 battlefields of Price’s Missouri raid, and was sent to inspect the army’s installations along the stage line to Denver. Later in 1865 Bennett served as engineering officer with the Powder River Indian Expedition. Bennett left the army’s employ in 1866 to return to Illinois. He moved to Springfield, Missouri, in 1880, purchasing a farm on the west edge of the city. He continued to work as an engineer and surveyor, platting additions to the City of Springfield, and surveying railroad lines in Missouri and Oklahoma. He died in Springfield in 1904.

The Bennett collection consists of diaries and a series of topographic maps. Original materials, photocopies and typescripts are included in the collection. All of the material is indexed. Chronologies and/or itineraries compiled from the diaries also are available. With the exception of the diary for 1857, which pertains to homesteading in Minnesota, all of the materials concern Bennett’s Civil War service and subsequent employment by the army. The diaries for 1861-1862 cover Bennett’s surveying at Fort Wyman in Rolla, Missouri, his assignment to army headquarters in St. Louis, sickness and hospitalization in that city, participation in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, and the movements of the army following that battle. The diaries feature several pen and ink sketches including the regimental camp and Ft. Wyman at Rolla, the camp at Springfield, the Battle of Wilson’s Creek, and “Bob’s Knob,” an unusual topographic feature in McDonald County, Missouri. Some of the information from the diaries for 1861-1862 was later incorporated into the History of the
The topographic maps are entitled “Route of the Army of the Southwest,” 1862. They begin with the positions of the Union and Confederate armies at the Battle of Pea Ridge, March 6-8, 1862. Subsequent maps show the Union army’s march southeast along the White River, ultimately to Helena, Arkansas, in July 1862. Many of the maps also feature notes on distances marched, camps and towns. There are plats of the towns of Cassville, Cape Fair, Galena, Forsyth, and West Plains, Missouri; and Salem, Batesville, Sulphur Rock, Elizabeth, Moro, and Helena, Arkansas.

Bennett’s late-war diary of service as a civilian employee consists of entries for January-April and July-October 1865. The first period includes Bennett’s work as a surveyor for the Department of Kansas. The entries describe field work on the battlefields at the Big Blue River, the Marmiton River, and Westport, Missouri, and at Mine Creek, Kansas. Bennett’s maps of these locations were later published in the *Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*, plate 66, numbers 3-4. Bennett was then ordered on an inspection trip to Fort Scott, Olathe, and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, in which he examined and reported on fortifications in those areas. There followed a similar inspection of defenses along the stage line to Denver, Colorado, and at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. The first segment of the diary ends with entries on Bennett’s visit to the gold mining camps west of Denver.

The last portion of the diary concerns the Powder River Indian Expedition, a three-pronged offensive against Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in Wyoming and Montana. Bennett accompanied the eastern column, commanded by Col. Nelson Cole of the 2nd Missouri Light Artillery. The column left Omaha in July 1865 bound for Wyoming and a rendezvous with similar columns from Salt Lake City and Fort Laramie. The expedition terminated in failure in September 1865, beset with severe logistical problems, the early onset of winter, and attacks by Indians. Cole’s eastern column was particularly hard-pressed. It was near collapse when it reached the supply depot at Fort Connor (later known as Fort Reno), Wyoming. The entries in Bennett’s diary record the arduous march through Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. There are vivid descriptions of incidents along the march, skirmishing with Indians, and the effects of exposure and starvation on the men and animals in the column. After the eastern column reached Fort Connor, Bennett was ordered to Fort Laramie to begin mapping the operations of the Powder River Expedition. The final entry in the diary is that for October 4, 1865, in which Bennett noted meeting famed mountain man Jim Bridger at Fort Laramie.

The Bennett collection includes another diary of the Powder River Indian Expedition. Its author is unknown and its provenance with the Bennett material is unexplained. The author accompanied the western column of the expedition, but he does not appear to have been a soldier. Perhaps, like Bennett, he was a civilian employee of the army. He usually traveled with the wagon train, but was privileged enough to ride away from the main body on brief excursions. He was on familiar terms with many of the officers of the expedition.

The western column originated at Salt Lake City and reached the Powder River country via Fort Laramie. The column marched with the commander of the expedition, Brig. Gen. Patrick E. Connor, and its guide, Jim Bridger. The diary entries begin on July 29, when the command left Fort Laramie. Subsequent entries include descriptions of the march and the expedition’s leaders, the construction of Fort Connor on the Powder River, the activities of the Army’s Pawnee scouts, and the Battle of Tongue River. The last diary entry, on September 14, 1865, describes attempts to establish communications with the missing eastern column. The volume concludes with an undated discussion of the Indian troubles of the 1860s which suggests that agitation by rebel emissaries to the west had a considerable influence on the behavior of the tribes.

The collapse of the Powder River Indian expedition under logistical duress led to the removal of Gen. Connor from his large command. His final report was destroyed in a hotel fire in Salt Lake City in 1865. Lyman Bennett’s diary and the unidentified author’s account are useful additions to the sources. The handiest compilation of Powder River materials is that by LeRoy R. and Ann W. Hafen, *Powder River Campaigns and Sawyers Expedition 1865* (Glendale, Calif., 1961). Bennett’s
diary may be compared with the reports of Col. Nelson Cole and Capt. Henry Palmer of the eastern column. The anonymous account of Gen. Connor’s column can be used in tandem with the diary of Capt. B. F. Rockafellow.

343  16 May 1986  John C. Bennett  Loaned for photocopying
421  27 September 1988  Lyman L. Bennett  Gift
424  7 November 1988  Lyman L. Bennett  Gift
427  21 November 1988  Lyman L. Bennett  Gift

Shelf List

These are diaries and topographic maps of a civil engineer, member of the 36th Illinois Infantry, and civilian employee of the U.S. Army. The materials concern homesteading in Minnesota in 1857; campaigning in Missouri and Arkansas with the Army of Southwest Missouri, 1861-1862; mapping in Kansas and Colorado in 1865; and the Powder River Indian Expedition in Nebraska and Wyoming in 1865.

Folder 1: Diary, 1 January--31 December 1857 (photocopy of original, Lyman L. Bennett, 183 pp.).
Folder 2: Diary, 19 August--20 December 1861 (photocopy of typescript from Lyman L. Bennett, 74 pp.).
Folder 3: Diary, 21 December 1861--4 April 1862 (original from Lyman L. Bennett, 189 pp.).
Folder 4: Diary, 21 December 1861--4 April 1862 (photocopy of original from John C. Bennett, 189 pp.).
Folder 5: Diary, 21 December 1861--4 April 1862 (photocopy of typescript from John C. Bennett, 114 pp.).
Folder 6: “Route of the Army of the Southwest,” 1862 (photocopy of original from John C. Bennett, 61 pp.).
Folder 7: Diary, 1 January--4 October 1865 (original from Lyman L. Bennett, 186 pp.).
Folder 8: Diary, 1 January--4 October 1865 (photocopy of original from John C. Bennett, 186 pp.).
Folder 9: Diary [author unknown], 29 July--14 September 1865 (original from Lyman L. Bennett, 72 pp.).
Folder 10: Diary [author unknown], 29 July--14 September 1865 (photocopy of typescript prepared by Helen Davenport, from Lyman L. Bennett, 24 pp.).

Folder Shelf Lists

Folder 1: Diary, 1857

01 Jan  Wedding of “Cousin Mary” near Oswego, Illinois
03  Begin Preparation for Trip to Minnesota
05  Travel through Chicago
05  Travel through Waukegan, Racine, Kenosha to Milwaukee
12  To Madison
14  Muscoda
18  Coon Valley & Raccoon River, Through La Cross
19  Winona
25  Sketch of Sugar Loaf Mountain, near Winona
26  Good Templars meeting at Winona
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28  Travel to Wabash and return to Winona
03 Feb  To La Cross and Muscoda
05  To Madison
12  To Muscoda and Boscobel
18  To Winona
19  Commence selling maps of area in Winona
16 Mar  Proceed to Pleasant Valley to begin survey work
21  To Winona
01 Apr  Winter ice on Mississippi River begins to break up at Winona
07  Mayoral elections in Winona, ending in a fist fight
20  Hunting trip along the Mississippi River, visit Indian camp on 23rd
30  Travel to Chatfield District of Minnesota to pre-empt land, arrive 1st May
02 May  Return to Winona without pre-empting
04  Knights of Grand Templars meet at Winona
07  Travel toward Faribault District passing through Rochester, Mantorville and Ashland
07  Make inspection of land near Ashland and make claims
11  Sketch of Bennett’s shanty erected on his claim
17  Travel to Fairbault to enter claims
19  Visit Warsaw
21  File for pre-emption, return to Winona
24  Employed as Member of survey team for Transit Railroad
26  Begin Survey at Minnesota City
27  Survey to Stockton
28  Davidson Valley
30  St. Charles
01 Jun  Whitewater Valley
02  Rochester
03  Rochester to Ashland through Manorville, Sacramento & Wasiona
04  Reconnaissance survey from Ashland
06  Survey toward Owatonna
08  Survey toward Lake Elysian & Lake Duster
09  Arrive at St. Peter, lodge at Alma Hotel. Remain to 12 June
12  Survey to Redstone
13  New Ulm
15  Back to St. Peter to begin Survey east of Lake Elysian to Oakoman (17)
21  Abandon survey and recommence at Strait River
22 Jun  Survey to point near Wild Goose Lake
23  Survey from Winnebago Reserve to outlet of Lake Elysian
25  Survey near Lake Madison
27  Visit Mankato
28  Survey to Hasota
30  Move camp to St. Peter
02 Jul  Head for Sioux Country
04  Terminate survey to avoid Sioux areas
05  Retrace steps to New Ulm and Redstone
11  Arrive at Winona
20  Begin Survey of Gilmore Valley, Burns, Barrett’s & Bear Valleys
27  Survey Straight Valley
31  Re-survey Bear Valley
03 Aug  Bennett quits railroad survey party, return to Winona
14  To Rochester
16  Ashland
17  To Owatonna for Good Templar meeting
21  Commence plat of Ashland town lots, finish 5 Sept
07 Sep  Survey at Head of Tombro River, return to Ashland
14  Begin survey of country road from Ashland to Concord
22  Comments on grist mill under construction at Ashland
Folder 2: Diary, 19 Aug—20 Dec 1861

19 Aug Organization of Fox River regiment (36th Illinois Infantry)
21 Regiment moved to Camp Hammond, near Montgomery, Illinois
22 Mustered into U. S. service, Bennett visits his home in Oswego. Remains at home until 27 Aug.
28 Bennett appointed corporal of Co. E
29 Detailed as sergeant of the guard
28 Visitors to camp Hammond
29 Monotony of camp life
30 Bennett visits his home
31 Visitors at camp
01 Sep Storm disrupts camp
02 Clean-up after storm
03 Dysentery in camp
04 Battalion drill
05 Receives visit from parents; camp regulations tightened
06 Homesickness
07 Visits home in Oswego, remains until 9 Sep
09 Attends temperance meeting in Montgomery
11 Dress parade
12 Medical examinations of men, and muster-in for second time. Two men refuse to be mustered-in and are severely beaten by soldiers.
13 Visit by wife and daughter
14 Drunkenness in camp
15 Visits family in Oswego
16 Visits dentist in Oswego with wife
17 Homesickness sweeping camp
19 Trouble in camp over removal of non-commissioned officers of company by Capt. Camp
20 Partial issue of uniforms
22 Religious services held in camp
23 Uniforms and equipment issued, no firearms
24 Leave Camp Hammond for Missouri by train via Oswego, Arlington, Mendota and Galesburg
25 Board steamboat at Quincy, arrive in St. Louis on 27th
27 Disembark at St. Louis arsenal for issue of weapons. Two companies refuse to accept rusty guns
28 Description of St. Louis arsenal. Board train for Rolla
29 Arrive at Rolla
30 Description of Rolla. Wyman’s column returns from Southwest Missouri
01 Oct Col. Greusel attempts to institute prohibition in Rolla
02 Comments on drill of 13th Illinois
03 Camp and parade grounds cleared
04 Wilson’s Creek wounded come into Rolla
05 Homesickness; patriotic sentiments
08 First death by disease in regiment
09 Soldiers arrested for passing counterfeit money in trade with Missouri citizens
10 Wyman reviews regiment; complaints against inferior rations and company commander Capt. Fish
11 General unrest in camp and confrontations between men and overbearing officers. An officer
  arrested for passing counterfeit money
12 Marked improvement in disposition of officers
13 Bennett detailed to assist engineers at Ft. Wyman. His company disturbed by problems with
  commissions of officers
14 Ft. Wyman; Douglas County home guard
15 Drafted plan of blockhouse at Ft. Wyman and prepare to take levels inside. A jayhawking
  expedition from regiment is arrested.
16 Work on Ft. Wyman. Lt. Chappel dies of disease
17 Continue work at Ft. Wyman and blockhouse
18 Establish exact center of Ft. Wyman
19 Prisoners from Wet Glaze enter town. Account of skirmish at Wet Glaize. Prisoners incarcerated
  at fort.
20 Accidental shooting among pickets of 4th Iowa leaves one soldier dead
21 Guns at Ft. Wyman put in order
22 Guns fired at Ft. Wyman for first time
24 Work force at Ft. Wyman increased, blockhouse begun
25 Wright County refugees arrive at Rolla
26 Secesh prisoners put to work at fort
28 Unrest in camp over rations and fraudulent activities of cooks. Judge Sample Orr and Southwest
  refugees prepare to return home.
29 Continued unrest over cooks and rations
31 Work suspended at Ft. Wyman
01 Nov Pay for laborers at fort, rumors of attack on Rolla
02 Spies at Rolla
03 Funeral for soldiers of 4th Iowa Infantry
04 Commissioned by Col. Dodge to prepare topographical map of Rolla area, begin along Beaver
  Creek
05 Survey along Houston road
06 Survey along Salem road; escort of train to Fremont’s army near Springfield
07 Survey west of Rolla
08 Survey Beaver Creek and Little Piney Creek; return of Texas County expedition
09 36th Illinois Infantry paid at Rolla
11 Prisoners at Ft. Wyman
13 Survey along north Salem Road; a refugee encountered
14 Camp excitement and near riot as soldiers force an abusive officer to flee camp; survey Beaver
  Creek
15 Survey area between Salem road and, from Dillon toward Rolla; local inhabitants
16 Difficulty between Bennett and Col. Gruesel
18 Assist in work at Ft. Wyman
19 Work on drawing up maps; temperance
20 Gen. Sigel delivers prisoners to Ft. Wyman; Bennett visits camps of Sigel and Osterhaus
21 Bennett moves tent to Ft. Wyman
22 Prisoners at the fort
23 Bennett forced by cold weather to work in headquarters; Col. Phelps and trouble with teamster
24 Prisoners from Crawford County
25 Refugees from southwest Missouri
26 Col. Dodge and Gen. Wyman
28 Survey area north of Rolla; description of Rolla as seen from Ft. Wyman
29 Exploration of cave near Rolla
01 Dec Prisoners removed from Ft. Wyman
02 Bitter dispute between Col. Greusel and the quartermaster
03 Description of skirmish at Salem
06 Survey along Vienna road
07 Arrest of regimental quartermaster; arrival of paymasters
08 Sabbath day in camp; sickness and deaths of soldiers
09 Survey along Vienna road
12 Survey Beaver Creek rd.; ordered by Gen. Halleck to report to St. L. to complete topographic map
13 Col. Greusel arrested and confined to camp
15 Measels in camp of Col. Phelps’ regiment; skirmish between Bowen’s cavalry and Coleman’s rebel band
16 Train to St. Louis; Col. Phelps’ wife
17 Report to army headquarters; visit Benton Barracks
18 Begin work on plats
19 Continue platting
20 Final entry in volume, followed by Bennett’s note to his wife that he is sending diary home in care of M. LaRue Harrison

Folders 3-5: Diary, 21 December 1861—4 April 1862

21 Dec Detached duty at headquarters in St. Louis, Mo.
22 Visit with cavalrymen from Kane County, Ill.
23 Enter military hospital at St. Louis, until 13 Jan 1862
25 Lithograph of Benton Barracks, St. Louis
27 Visit to the hospital by the Biddle sisters of St. Louis
28 Receipt of letters from M. LaRue Harrison and George Walker
29 Dwight Follett of Ohio
30 Sketch of camp of 36th Illinois Infantry at Rolla, Mo.
03 Jan Death of Dwight Follett
04 Benjamin F. Wells of Birge’s Sharpshooters
06 Visit to Benton Barracks; comments on Franz Sigel
09 Regimental affairs at Rolla, Mo.
11 Visit to home of Biddle sisters, St. Louis
13 Release from hospital; return to duty at headquarters
22 Arrest and release of Bennett for lack of proper pass
31 Begin furlough to Oswego, Illinois. Return from furlough and travel to Rolla on 12 Feb
16 Feb Sketch of Fort Wyman, Rolla, Mo. Start westward to join regiment and army of the Southwest Missouri. Stay overnight at cabin between Little and Big Piney
17 Pass Waynesville and California House, Pulaski County, Mo.
18 Feb—20 Feb Lebanon, Mo.
22 Sketch of camp near Springfield, with description of town
23 Sketch and description of Wilson’s Creek battlefield
25 Cassville, Mo. Skirmish near Keitsville.
26 Expedition to Newtonia, Mo. to seize Confederate supplies
28 Description of Home Guard at Cassville
03 Mar Meet Army of Southwest Missouri at Sugar Creek, Ark.
06 Rejoin 36th Illinois near Bentonville, Ark., and fighting
07-8 Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.
11-17 Rivalry within regiment and criticism of Col. Greusel; duty in engineer department, survey of Sugar Creek; Sketch of “Bob’s Knob,” McDonald County, Mo.
18 Begin plat of battlefield at Pea Ridge; 13th Illinois Infantry arrives from Rolla
19 Army begins retrograde march to Keitsville, Mo.
22 Begin Plat of telegraph road at Keitsville
27 Visit M. LaRue Harrison at Cassville
02 Apr Negro arrested for mail robbery
04 Final entry. Diary sent home via member of regiment returning on furlough
### Folder 6: Diary -- “Route of the Army of the Southwest,” 1862

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Map Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>Bentonville and Sugar Creek, Benton County, Ark.; plat of battlefield, 6 Mar 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Position of Sigel’s batteries, 6 Mar; Camp Stevens, Ark.; site of skirmish 17 Feb 1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Cross timbers and Keitsville, Barry County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>06 Apr</td>
<td>Washburn’s Prairie and Keitsville, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>Grist mill and Curtis’s encampment near Cassville, Mo.</td>
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<td>08</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>Road northeast from Cassville</td>
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<td>09</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Road northeast from Cassville</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Road northeast from Cassville</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Plat of Cape Fair and crossing of Flat Creek, Stone County, Mo.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Plat of Galena, Stone County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Valley of Raley’s Creek, Stone County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Valley of Bear Creek, Stone or Taney Counties, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Camp at confluence of Bear and Bull Creeks, Taney County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Road to Forsyth; confluence of White River &amp; Swan Creek, Taney County, Mo.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Plat of Forsyth; road northeast to Taney City</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>Camp Ballou, confluence of Ballou [Blue?] &amp; Swan creeks, Taney County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>Stormy Camp, Little Beaver Creek, Taney County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Camp Beaver, confluence of Big Beaver &amp; Prairie Creeks; Lyon’s Mill &amp; Arno P. O., Douglas County, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Valley of Wild Cat Creek and Hunter’s Fork and plat of Vera Cruz, Douglas County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Route east from Vera Cruz and campsite</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Crossings of Big North Fork and Spring Creek, Howell County, Mo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Plat of West Plains and route along Spring Creek, Howell County, Mo.</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road south along Spring River</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Missouri-Arkansas border, site of skirmish 18 Mar 1862</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Plat of Salem and camp on Cypress Creek, Fulton County, Ark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road south of Salem and crossing of Strawberry River</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Crossing of Piney Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Junction with Jacksonport Road, plat of Poke Bayou P. O., Izard or Sharp County, Ark.</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Poke Bayou</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Plat of Batesville; Blowing Cave and Star Mills, Independence County, Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Junction with Clinton Road; crossings of White River and Caney Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Plat of Sulphur Rock, Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>24 Jun</td>
<td>Camp Galloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Turnstall’s Ferry over Black River; Jacksonport; plat of Elizabeth, Jackson County, Ark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Camp on Village Creek; site of Battle of Waddle’s Farm. 12 June 1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>03 Jul</td>
<td>Camp Pickett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road obstructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Camp on White River at Augusta, Woodruff County, Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road shouthward and cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>Confluence of Bayou Cache and Cache River; site of Battle of Round Hill, 7 July 1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>08 Jul</td>
<td>Camp near Bayou de View</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<td>Crossing of unnamed slough</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road along Cache River</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Camp near Clarendon, Monroe County, Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road northeast from Clarendon</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Road northeast from Clarendon</td>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Crossing of Big Creek, Lee County, Ark.; plat of Moro, Ark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Crossing of Spring Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Route to Helena, Ark</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Route to Helena, Ark</td>
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<tr>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Helena, Phillips County, Ark.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 7-8: Diary, 1 Jan – 4 Oct 1865

Date

01 Jan  Description of Paola, Kan.
02  Negro wedding at Paola
03  Abusive soldier shot and killed by Negro at Paola
04  Travel to Mound City, Kansas, to map battlefield at Mine Creek (25 Oct 1864); account of murder of blacksmith at Mound City on New Year’s Day
05  Description of Mine Creek battlefield, unburied Confederate dead noted. Anecdote concerning Gen. Marmaduke. Return to Mound City, then proceed to Ft. Scott
06  Select grounds for fortifications at Ft. Scott
07  Draft maps of Big Blue, Westport and Mine Creek
08  Ride to Deerfield, Mo. to map battlefield at Marmiton River (25 Oct 1864)
09  Work on battlefield map
10  Finish battlefield map
11  Map area surrounding Ft. Scott
12  Description of mapping procedures
13  Ride to Drywood Creek, 9 miles south of Ft. Scott; description of coal mines near Ft. Scott
14  Mapping in vicinity of Ft. Scott
15  Mapping in vicinity of Ft. Scott
16  Map area north of Marmiton River
17  Continue work on maps
18  Complete maps
19  Prepare for move to Leavenworth, Kan.
20  Move toward Leavenworth, stop to encamp at Twin Springs
21  Proceed to Paola and inspect fortifications under construction, then move to Olathe, Kansas
22  Arrive at Leavenworth, reunited with family from Oswego, Illinois
23  Report for duty, receive suggestions from Gen. Curtis for improvements on maps
24  Seek lodging for family
25  Seek lodging for family
26  Arrange lodging for family
27  Continue work on maps
28  Continue work on maps
29  Visit Congregational Church
30  Work on maps
31  Work on maps

[no entries from 31 January through 10 Feb 1865]

11 Feb  Prepare for trip to Denver, Colo.
12  Attend church services, remarks on presence of Col. William F. Cloud. Attend Baptist service in evening
13  Arrangements for Denver Trip
14  Arrangements for Denver Trip
15  Start for Denver, encamp at Mount Pleasant
16  Camp 4 miles west of Atchison
17  Pass through Lancaster, encamp on Grasshopper Creek
18  Remain in camp
19  Pass through Kinnekuk on edge of Kickapoo Reserve
20  Pass Granada, camp 3 miles beyond at log tavern
21  Pass village of Seneca, camp 3 miles west
22  Start toward Oketa but cannot cross flooded Big Blue River, turn toward Marysville
23  Pass through Marysville and cross Big Blue, camp 17 miles west of Marysville
24  Enter Nebraska
25  Cross Little and Big Sandy Creeks, camp 12 miles from Big Sandy
26  Proceed along north bank of Little Blue River
27  Proceed along north bank of Little Blue River
28  Proceed along north bank of Little Blue River, camp at deserted farm
28 Camp at stage station 28 miles from Ft. Kearney, Nebraska
01 Mar Reach Platte River, then proceed to Ft. Kearney
02 Inspect unfinished fortifications at Ft. Kearney
03 Make preparations to continue to Denver
04 Pass through Kearney City, continue along Platt River to post at Plum Creek, where fortifications were inspected and approved
05 Pass stage stops with small garrisons at Milaley’s Ranch, Miller’s Ranch, and Dan Smith’s Ranch. Make recommendations for defense against Indians.
06 Pass Gillman’s Station and camp at Cottonwood
07 Remain at Cottonwood due to rumor of Indians in vicinity. Make recommendations for considerable alterations at post.
08 Remain at Cottonwood due to intense cold weather
09 Pass Morrow’s Ranch, 12 miles from Cottonwood. Pass Fremont’s Springs and post at O’Fallon’s Bluff. Order post removed from the latter to Fremont’s Springs
10 Travel 25 miles to Alkali Station
11 Travel 25 miles to Beauvois Station
12 Make plans for fortifications at Beauvois Station, move on to Julesburg, Colo.
13 Pass ruins of stage station at Wisconsin Ranch, encamp at Buffalo Springs post
14 Move through Lillian Springs, camp at Valley Station and order defenses to be constructed
15 Reach American Ranch, destroyed by Indians. Corpse of an Indian attacker in evidence. Continue to Godfrey’s Ranch and Beaver Creek Station
16 Take Denver cutoff from Platte River, travel to Bijou Creek
17 Reach stage stop at Living Springs, continue to Kiowa Creek
18 Proceed to Box Elder, reach Denver in afternoon
19 Meet Gen. Moonlight, commanding district. Make recommendations for posts at Living Springs, Junction, American Ranch, Spring Hill and Julesburg
21 Prepare plans for posts in district
22 Tour Denver and Vicinity
23 Ride to mountains to view gold mining operations. Visit Golden City, Golden Gate, North Clear Creek, Black Hawk and Central City
24 Visit gold mines Gregory No. 2 and Old Gregory, return to Denver
25 Prepare for move to Ft. Laramie, Wyo.
26 Prepare for move to Ft. Laramie, Wyo.
27 Move to Bulington on St. Vrains Creek
28 Arrive at Ft. Collins
29 Move north toward Ft. Laramie, encamp on Lone Tin [Pine?] Creek
30 Pass Lodge Pole Creek and former site of Camp Walbach. Camp near head of Chugwater Creek, Wyo.
01 Apr Arrive at Ft. Laramie
02 Examined site for defenses
03 Leave Ft. Laramie, proceed southeast along Platte River camp near Indian agency, 32 miles from Ft. Laramie
04 Pass into Nebraska to Camp Mitchell, 3 miles from Scott’s Bluff, then move 15 miles more to Ficklin’s Ranch
05 Remain in camp due to storm
06 Pass Chimney Rock and Courthouse Rock, reach Mud Spring Station. Hear of capture of Richmond, Va.
07 Camp on Pole Creek
08 Reach Julesburg, Colo., receive dispatch from Gen. Patrick Connor ordering a return to Denver
09 Remain at Julesburg, Hear of surrender of Robert E. Lee’s army at Appomattox, Va.
10 Remain in camp
11 Take stage for Denver, pass through Buffalo Springs, Lillian Springs, reach Valley Station
12 Change horses at Godfrey’s Station, move to Bijou
13 Pass through Living Springs
14 Reach Denver
[no entries from 15 April through 2 July 1865]
03 Jul Aboard Missouri River steamer at Nebraska City, Neb., bound for Omaha. Pass Mormon camp

04 Join Cole’s Expedition moving along north bank of Platte River. Camp near mount of Shell Creek at Confluence with Platte

05 Leave Plate and camp above mouth of Loup 3 miles from Columbus

06 March up north bank of Loup River, camp 17 miles from Columbus

07 Pass town of Genoa and enter Pawnee Reserve. Visit Pawnee Academy and village near mouth of Beaver Creek. Camp near Council Creek

08 Camp near Cedar Creek

09 Camp on Loup River

10 Camp three miles above mouth of North Loup River

11 Camp on North Loup

12 Camp on North Loup

13 Cross divide to main branch of Loup River

14 March up south bank of Loup and encamp. Stampede of horse heard at night

15 Remain in camp to collect animals

16 Proceed northwest along north bank of Loup River

17 Proceed northwest along north bank of Loup River

18 Proceed northwest along north bank of Loup River

19 Camp near mouth of Dismal River

20 Proceed up middle fork of Loup River. Another stampede of horse herd

21 Collect animals and march three miles. A Threatened mutiny by soldiers who refuse to go on

22 Proceed up Loup River, 17 miles

23 Proceed up Loup River, 15 miles

24 Proceed up Loup River, 17 miles

25 Proceed up Loup River 18 miles

26 Reach headwaters of Loup, search parties sent out to determine the best route northward

27 Proceed from head of Loup, march 16½ miles to camp on Lake Raymond.

28 March toward Snake River, 8½ miles.

29 Camp on Boardman Creek, a branch of the Snake River

30 March to McMurry’s Creek. Bennett continues with scout to Snake River, 100 miles west of its mouth. Continue to Niobrara River, then return to camp

31 March 31 miles to Snake River

01 Aug Pass Angelope Creek and reach Niobrara River, camp on north bank

02 March northwest 12 miles to camp on Wounded Knee Creek

03 March 13 miles, encamp 10 miles from Porcupine Tail Butte

04 March 17 miles down Wounded Knee Creek

05 Camp on Wounded Knee Creek

06 March 15 miles, cross White River and encamp

07 Enter Badlands, march 16 miles to camp at Ash Springs

08 Pass head of Bear Creek, camp on Cheyenne River

09 Remain in camp

10 Cross Cheyenne River and encamp

11 March 14 miles to Elk Creek

12 Encamp on Bear Creek

13 March west along Bear Creek to headwaters, then to camp on head of Broken Water Creek

14 March northward, camp on south branch of Bear Butte Creek

15 March 12 miles to camp on White Wood Creek

16 March 18 miles to camp on unnamed creek

17 March west, cross Peak and Cascade creeks, branches of Red Earth River. A Negro dies, the first death of the expedition

18 March 10 miles, 16th Kansas from Ft. Laramie joins the column

19 March north-northwest to the Cheyenne River, 10 miles

20 Cross to north bank of river, march 9 miles

21 Aug Pawnee guide found dead, a soldier also dies of disease. March 21 miles to little Missouri River

22 March 12 miles northeast down Little Missouri

23 Cross river and march 11 miles along west bank
Another soldier dies, of scurvy. March 11 miles

Remain in camp

Cross divide into valley of Box Elder Creek. March 20 miles

March 9½ miles northwest from Box Elder Creek

March 30 miles toward Powder River

March 11 miles to camp on Powder River

Party sent to explore route to Tongue River and Panther Mountains, the rendezvous point to meet column under Gen. Patrick Connor

Remain in camp


Dead buried. March 24 miles down west bank of Powder River, livestock begin to die

Return to Ft. Laramie contemplated as livestock begin to die and provisions run low. 150 animals die in course of 17 mile march.

March 2 miles to camp. 50 Indians attack cavalry squad, pursuit ends with nightfall

Skirmishing resumes with Indian attempt to capture wagons. Cavalry sortie across Powder River results in many casualties. March 12 miles toward Tongue River after 3-4 hours of skirmishing

March up Tongue River, 10 miles

Attack on party of stragglers from 12th Missouri Cavalry, 1 man killed. Total of nine deaths due to Indian attacks. March 11 miles.

Attack on 16th Kansas at head of advance. March and skirmish 15 miles.

100 animals left dead at camp, 200 more dying animals shot in 2½ mile march. 300-400 men now dismounted, barely enough draft animals to pull wagons. Excess baggage and 100 wagons burned to lighten loads.

Pass old Indian camp, march 6-¾ miles

March 11½ miles. Command on short rations

Cross to west bank of Powder River, march 15½ miles

Cross Powder River 8 times in 15½ mile march

Indians attack stragglers on two occasions, 1 trooper killed. March 9½ miles, passing mouth of Clear Creek

March 20 miles. Communications received from Gen. Connor, who is moving up Tongue River

March 20 miles, pass stream thought to be Sandy Fork

Scout sent to Ft. Connor. March 9 miles

March 19 miles. Detachment of 50 men arrives from Connor’s command

Relief party arrives with rations from Ft. Connor. March 15 miles

March 12 miles to encamp within 5 miles of Ft. Connor. Receive rations and newspapers as recent as August 15.

Remain in camp to issue commissary stores

Bennett visits Ft. Connor, description of stockade and buildings

Move camp to within 3 miles of Ft. Connor

Gen. Connor’s column arrives

Bennett ordered to proceed to Ft. Laramie with Connor’s engineer to begin making maps of Powder and Tongue River operations. March 42 miles

Cross headwaters of Cheyenne River, march 45 miles

Strike telegraph road and Platte River at Deer Creek, move downstream 20 miles to encamp on Lapasselle [La Prele?] Creek

Reach stage station at La Bonte. Pass Horseshoe Station to encamp 2 mi. below. March 45 miles

Pass Maggie’s Springs and Limestone Creek, reach Ft. Laramie

Rest at Ft. Laramie

Begin work on maps of operations

Continue mapping

Continue work, meet Jim Bridger at Fr. Laramie
Folders 9-10: Diary of Powder River Expedition [author unknown], July—September 1865

Date

29 Jul  Leave Ft. Laramie
30    Star Ranch
31    Horse Shoe Station & Horse Shoe Creek
01 Aug LaBonte’s Ford
02    “Bad Lands of the Platte”
03    LaParelle Creek. [LaPrele Creek.]
04    Sage Creek
05    Brown’s Spring Creek
06    Bear Lodge Trail & Rattlesnake Run, S. Fork Cheyenne River
7-8    Middle, or Wine River, Fork of Cheyenne River
9    Dry Fork of Powder River
10    Camp Few miles west of Pumpkin Buttes
11-12 Powder River, Scouts along Powder River
13    Scout to Old Woman’s Fork [Crazy Women Creek]
14    Camp on Powder, Scout toward Tongue River
15-16 Cross Powder River, stake out Ft. Reno/Ft. Connor
17    Return of Capt. North’s Pawnee Scouts, account of fight with Cheyenne war party on Powder R.
18    Move camp 2 miles up Powder River for better grazing
19    Camp on Powder River
20    Pawnee scouts chase Sioux
21    Move camp down river to bluffs below fort
22    Break camp, pass Ft. Connor, camp on Crazy Woman’s Fork, Powder River
23    Travel Bozeman cut-off to camp on Clear Creek
24    Remain in camp
25    Pass Smith [DeSmet] Lake, camp near Piney Fork
26    Cross Piney Creek, to forks of Bozeman Road, camp on Peno Creek
27    Peno Creek on Tongue River
28    Down Peno Creek to Tongue River, camp on Tongue at Wolf Mountain. Gen. Connor moves w/300 men to attack Arapahoe village.
29    Camp on Tongue River
30    Account of Battle of Tongue River, camp on Tongue River.
31    Continue down & camp on Tongue
01 Sep    Continue down river
02    Continue down river
03    Continue down river
04    Continue down river
05    Remained in camp on Tongue River
06    Gen. Connor orders withdrawal, move up river.
07    Camp on Tongue River
08    Remain in camp, Capt. North with 50 Pawnees sent to make contact with Col. Cole’s column on Powder River, another scout sent toward Rosebud River, make preparations to return to Ft. Connor and Ft. Laramie
09    Remain in camp
10    Remain in camp
11    Move camp short distance up river. Capt. North returned to report evidence of Cole’s command having camped on Tongue River, and large numbers of dead horses
12    Continued up Tongue River, encamp near campsite of 1 Sept. Three guides sent to communicate with command on Powder River
13    Move up Tongue River, 10 mi. Guides return reporting Indians between Tongue and Powder R.
14    Continue up river toward mouth of Peno Creek. Criticism of Gen. Connor. Comments on Indian uprisings on Plains, with speculation that Confederate emissaries played a part in encouraging unrest against U. S. government.
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