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A CIVILIAN AT OLD FORT BAYARD 1881-1883

Edited By ROY GOODALE¹

November 22, 1881

After staying at Fort Cummings about 1 month, Co. "K" (23rd Infantry) was ordered to Fort Bayard! So we made the march in 2 days in wagons, pretty good post and quarters. Capt. Goodale² ordered back to F. Cummings and started in ambulance at 2 o'clk am. He is to meet relay $\frac{1}{2}$ way.

November 23

Received telegram from Capt. G. arrived safely.

November 24

Thanksgiving—all well, beautiful day and post.

November 26

All our mornings are very fine—wrote sister Thurston and Hiram Whitehouse about 1 week ago.

December 5

Splendid weather! Dr. Cocket left this morning.

December 12

The past week has been very fine—a little frost at night. Capt. G. returned from Fort Cummings safe and sound. Letters fr. Bro. G. B. Swazey. He made me a present of \$25 God bless him!

December 18

Last night it rained hard—11 shots were fired at thieves trying to steal waggons and mules. No one hit. Dear Fide³ very low! She has only been ill a few days but we all have been very anxious about her.

1. Extracts from the diary of Ephriam Goodale (1806-1887) of Orrington, Maine. He was a retired farmer who after selling his farm lived with his son, Greenleaf Austin, while at Camp Supply, Fort Leavenworth, Fort Dodge, and Fort Hays.

Roy Goodale is the great grandson of Ephriam, and a graduate student in History at the University of California, Berkeley.

2. Brig. Gen. Greenleaf Austin Goodale, then Capt. 23rd Infantry.

3. Fidelia Beach Goodale, wife of Greenleaf Austin whom the latter met and married at Jacksonville, Oregon, while stationed at nearby Fort Klamath.

December 19

Dear Fide bid us farewell and died at 10 o'clk. What a beautiful character had this charming woman! An own daughter could never treat an own father with more delicate kindness and love than she has ever shown me.

December 20

How kind are all the officers and their ladies of the post—all lavish of their attentions and sympathy. The funeral of dear Fide at 3 o'clk. Lt. [R. H.] Pratt read the service at house and grave finely and we had good singing.

December 21

Greenleaf and Mrs. Hay engaged all day in looking over dear Fide's things and distributing little gifts so friendly.

December 22

Went to Silver City. What large stocks of goods for a small place!

December 23

Mrs. Hay went this morning 8 o'clk. for Ft. Bliss Tex. Capt. G. arrived home safe saw Mrs. Hay on cars.

December 25

Christmas—boys⁴ had lots of presents. Capt. G. and I dined at Lt. Pratt's—fine dinner.

December 29

After dinner the boys and I went to top of mountain over the stream. Evening we called at Lt. Martin's. Mrs. Martin and her mother, Mrs. Swift very pleasant ladies—very.

December 31

Last day of the year. What changes!

January 1, 1882

Sunday 1882! On this beautiful morning I was greeted by the boys with "a happy new year, Grandpa!" Mrs. Martin had Sabbath School and Lt. Martin read Episcopal service pm.

January 2

Fine morning. Greenleaf with bad cold.

4. Roy Lewis and Col. George Swazey, sons of Greenleaf Austin.

January 7

The past week I wrote to Katie Whitehouse and Dea Thomas George. Greenleaf has had a bad cold but is much better now. A lot of Mexicans with loaded ox teams came up to post trader. What queer outfits! One cart loaded with pepper made entirely of wood and rawhide! Not an ounce of iron. Last thursday a cattle thief was shot dead at suttler's store. How little human life is valued out here. It seems that the "cowboys" or rustlers are growing scarce. Four of them were shot 12 miles from here the other day and the owner got his stock.

January 8

Episcopal service and Sab. School Lt. and Mrs. Martin.

January 9

Wrote [Prof. George] Lincoln [Goodale] and wife—a little snow.

January 16

Lt. [C. D.] Cowles and family with us. Mrs. Cowles was formerly of the Sandwich Islands.

January 19

Last night 7 shots fired by a drunken sentinel. Wrote Mr. Marston.

February 7, 1882

Since last date there has been but little news. We have been to Silver City. There has been frequent snow squalls—cool nights—warm days. Dr. Whiting has vaccinated our family and all the post. Report says one case of smallpox S. City.

February 8

I wrote Mrs. George—fine day.

February 13

My vaccination has made me sick for days. One of the cavalrymen shot his horse this morning—crazy it is said. Wrote Willis Thurston. Also Ann Chapin last Saturday.

February 28

Last day of month. Good letter from S. E. Nourse. It has

been quite squally since last date part of the time. Inspection this morning. Pretty good.

March 20

Capt. Goodale went to Demming this morning for his mother White and Mrs. Hay—

April 9

Easter sunday—my birthday—76 years old. I found \$5 under my plate at breakfast from dear Greenleaf who has gone with Mrs. White and Mrs. Hay to Demming. We had a charming visit from them. Mrs. White reminds me so much of dear Fide—she gave me a fine raw silk handkerchief. We had a fine ride to Santa Rita.

April 18

Capt. G. and Co. "K" and two companies cavalry started for Sepor after Apaches on border of old and New Mexico. Twenty day's rations. G. gave me \$5 more. Only 1 co. at post.

April 25

The air is full of rumors of Indian hostilities. One man killed and four wounded in Lt. Martin's cavalry company.

Wrote Capt. G. at Separ N. M.

April 29

Last night Capt. [R. I.] Eskridge and Co. [left] 11 o'clk. with 10 day's rations—post left all alone. Wrote Capt. G.

May 9

The past week has been squally—some rain, snow, and hail. I was sick yesterday—better this morning. Expect companies pm. How I long to see dear Greenleaf. Capt. Eskridge and Co. came back from Lordsburg, N. M.

May 26

Since last date all the companies have returned to post looking well. All glad to see them. New suit of clothes from N. Y. for dear Greenleaf. Wrote sister Thurston, Lizzie Waters and Adelaide—

June 9, 1882

Since last date we have had a number of fine showers. A party of visitors from Fort Cummings came up and spent

two or three days. Hop in their honor. Yesterday I went to Silver City with Lt. [Stephen] O'connor and [Lt. O. L.] Wieting.

June 29

Day before yesterday we went in 3 ambulances to Pache de Nos to meet 2 companies troops on march to another post. Had a fine ride and picnic. Two officers came up with us. Garden looks well. Rec'd letter from Willie Chapin and answered it.

July 22

Very hot for 2 weeks. 146 bats killed from one window. Lot of Mexican teams come—dull at post—two cavalry companies went out 15 day's rations. Mrs. [T. M. K.] Smith gave us ride. Lt. Wieting and family gone to New York 6 mo. leave. Harry Waters' wife died about 1 week ago.

August 5

Hot 2 weeks—2 companies cavalry returned yesterday. I went to Wall and Maggie O'Brien's wedding 1st Aug. at Silver City—nice wedding in chh. Fine ride to Hanover Gulch with Mrs. Eskridge and family. Rain.

August 24

Greenleaf quite ill today—frequent showers. Lt. Duprey made us 3 day's visit—rode to S. City with him. A fine pleasant fellow.

August 29

I rode to Silver City with Lt. Martin's family. Fine ride.

August 31

We were invited to Col. [J. K.] Mizner's and stayed till 1 o'clk. Had a fine time—refreshments and music.

September 1

Heavy shower—I told the boys we went to Col. Mizner's last summer and came back this fall!

September 3

Went down to new barracks. Company inspection.

September 14

I have been quite ill for the last 10 days part of time fine

weather. Flowers looking splendidly. Dr. Cocket and Lt. Duprey called a few days ago.

September 25

Beautiful morning. My health better. We are having plenty of melons from the garden; grapes, apples, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley from California arrived and have performed on the violin and organ one evening—very fine artists. Mr. Kelley 70 and Mrs. Kelley 32. He is the finest player I ever heard and so droll and funny!

November 1, 1882

The Kelleys have come and gone—at our house one night. Wrote sister Thurston. A private died at hospital.

November 3

Some cases of dyphtheria and no school. Private buried.

November 4

Over to Reading Room. Capt. G. gone to S. City.

November 23

Cold with 4 in. snow. Capt. G. and Lt. Cowles gone hunting till Sat. 4th Cavalry to come soon.

December 11

Headqrs. 4th Cav. Since last date the Band and Col. [W. B.] Royall and family have arrived—very pleasant family. I went to Silver City last Friday. Last Sunday Capt. G. and the boys started for Fort Bliss via Fort Cummings to be gone a week. Last night two Episcopalian clergymen lodged with us—

December 25

Christmas—Capt. G. and the boys had a good visit to Fort Bliss and Mexico and ret'd safely. Lots of presents this morning for self and boys. Letter and handkerchief from Carrie and one fr. Cousin Belle today. Greenleaf gave me 1 silk hkf., 1 silk necktie, 1 linen hkf., oranges, apples, cigars, etc. etc. All the officers and ladies interchanged presents in the most generous manner. We had a most luxurious dinner—roast turkey, oysters, venison, sausage, and a nice dessert. This evening we were invited to Lt. Martin's and had a nice

supper, plays etc. What a delightful family! Met the Swartz brothers, Mrs. Munn, and Dr. Whitney.

January 1, 1883

We have entered on another year with all its unknown events. Oh, may God keep and bless us as a people and family. One family at post have lost 4 children by diphtheria—the rest of the family were ordered into a tent and their house and furniture burned up! A good deal of excitement. The school stopped—no other cases.

January 16

The post has had many festivities, meetings, etc. Catholic and Episcopal services. Sergeant Scott dead and buried. Attended masquerade ball reading room.

January 22

Very cold nights for 2 weeks—8 or 10 above zero. Lt. O'Connor and family arrived. We were invited to attend Mrs. Col. Mizner's "German" but declined. All well.

January 31

Amateur theatricals at Co. "K" barracks. Play of "Lending a Lover." It went off splendidly. Capt. Eskridge, Lt. ———, Miss Royall, Miss Martin, Lt. Martin, Mr. Mizner took parts. Full house after play at hop room.

February 3, 1883

The boys were to have had a picknick today but too cold and windy—three Chinamen killed out of four just above our post!

February 6

Three Mexicans arrested for the above murder. They are being tried at Central City today. Hop at Reading Room last night.

February 28

Last day mo. This mo. has been quiet, not cold. Amusements 2 or 3 times per week. Rev. Mr. Gamble of Silver City had preached nearly every Sab. evening.

March 23

Wrote Augustus Chapin. Co "K" plowing and sowing.

March 25

Gen'l Angar, Gen'l ———, Col. Forsyth and other officers arriv'd about 11 am. A salute of 15 guns, band, etc. Chh. services at 8 pm after which Col. Royall gave a reception and we met all the officers at his house. Had a fine time, refreshments, etc. They all left Monday morning.

March 27

Capt. Goodale, Lt. [E. de R.] Nichols, Lt. Wieting, George and self all went to Silver City. Rumors that Indians are out and committing murders. 5 or 6 ranchmen killed. We met the pack mules of two companies of cavalry dispatched this morning from Ft. Bayard to hunt them up.

March 28

Lt. Nichols' wife and baby are with us. Mrs. Nichols is Col. Haller's daughter.

March 29

Judge ——— and wife killed by Indians! Great excitement this morning, some talk of sending out another company of our post, Infantry. Capt. Eskridge's company went out for about a week.

April 9

My birthday, 77 years old. Greenleaf gave me a \$10 gold piece which I gave back to him. Gen'l McKinsley, Capt. Woodruff, Lt. ——— called. Mr. Ed Pearson came last friday. We called at Lt. Martin's evening.

April 10

Greenleaf, Ed, and Frank Bennet gone to S. City.

April 27

We have had a most brilliant "German" this evening at New Barracks, about 18 couples besides visitors. Most stayed till 3 o'clk—decidedly gay. Mr. Pearson left Sat. 28th.

April 29, 1883

Good Chh. services—Mr. Gamble preached.

April 30

George sick. Letters fr. Lizzie and Mrs. Chapin.

May 28

This mo. thus far has been cold and backward till last

week or 10 days. Terrible cyclones reported all over the continent nearly. Capt. G. has been selling off and packing up for our long journey, poor fellow is terribly tired. We have boarded at O. C. Pratt and Nichols.

June 1

Called at all the officers qrs. Mrs. Capt. Eskridge gave me a nice silk hkf—called on Mrs. Hugo. We started for S. City 11 am—on cars for Demming. Dined at Metropolitan Hotel. Started on cars for Fort Bliss 7 pm arrv'd about 11 at Post and met Col. Fletcher, Capt. Wheaton and Lt. Hay. A most cordial recep'n, lodged at Col. Flecher's, pleasant people all. Post of 2 companies but oh, how dry and hot! Fort Bliss is in Texas on the river Rio Grande.

June 2

Rested all day.

June 3

Capt. G. and Mrs. Hay went to town to chh. We went over to hear Mrs. Lt. [E. B.] Bolton sing and play—very fine.

June 4

We drove to El Paso, quite a smart place.

June 5

Drove to El Paso del Norte in Old Mexico—a queer old M. town, queer gardens, Cathedral 300 yrs. old, relics, etc.

June 6

Oh, hot hot! 100 deg! This post 2 companies. Officers kind.

June 7

We start tomorrow and am glad to get out of heat.