

APPENDIX D

FRIENDLY INDIANS

On the first day of June, the *friendly* Indians within our borders, having exhausted the immense stores of their commissary department, which, by their *honest* exertions, had been accumulated during the years '64, '65 and '66, and having necessarily expended nearly all their ordnance stores in the prosecution of that laudable enterprise, the said ordnance stores having been furnished by the general government, through its faithful and impecunious servants, the Indian agents, proceeded to make a *requisition* on the United States for a further supply of ordnance and ordnance stores, which they did by blockading about two hundred miles of the Platte route, and killing, and burning the houses of a number of that worthless and troublesome tribe known as Frontier-settlers (vide New York Tribune). The general government immediately dispatched a commission to receive the requisition.

Communication with the east being thus cut off, Governor Hunt, who had just returned from Washington, issued the following:

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

To Jacob Downing, Joseph C. Davidson, E. L. Berthoud, John B. Wolff, James Burrell, Jas. D. Scoby, Sam. D. Hunter, Chas. P. Patterson, John H. Coats, M. M. Craig, U. B. Holloway, and Joseph Wolff:

Gentlemen: You and each of you are hereby authorized to enroll a company of mounted minute men, (60 being the minimum number of each company) to be in readiness, when mounted, for any emergency, to be commanded by you in person.

Should it be found impracticable to enroll a full company, twenty (20) men will entitle any of you to a second lieutenancy, and twenty-five (25) men to a first lieutenancy.

The vacant positions of captains, lieutenants, and non-commissioned officers, will be filled by vote of your respective companies, from the enrolled men.

Field and staff officers will be appointed by ballot election of the battalion organized after rendezvous. Owing to the low condition of the finances of the Territory, I would counsel you to incur no expense except for advertising, which will be assumed by this office, and enrollment lists, which will be furnished by the Adjutant General of the Territory, when you signify your willingness to comply with the above requirements.

Given under my hand at Denver, this first day of June, 1867.

(Signed,) A. C. Hunt,
Governor Colorado Territory.

No men were raised under this call; in fact, no one tried to raise any.

The following telegram was at this time dispatched by Governor Hunt to General Sherman, at Omaha:

Our people are too poor to offer anything but muscle; have plenty of that. Will the government back us in the expense of a campaign?

(Signed,) A. C. Hunt,
Governor Colorado Territory.

To which General Sherman replied :

Governor Hunt :

There is no law to pay for volunteers, but you ought to raise a regiment of five hundred men, and have them ready in case I call for them. I will be at Fort Sedgwick in a few days, and I don't believe you will have imminent trouble with the Indians there, if your people will be ordinarily prudent.

(Signed,) W. T. Sherman,
Lieutenant-General.

The following telegram was also received from General Sherman :

Omaha, June 2, 1867.

To Governor Hunt, Denver :

Your dispatch of yesterday is received. There is no doubt but there are bands of Indians at mischief everywhere; but where and against what Indians do you propose a campaign?

(Signed,) W. T. Sherman,
Lieutenant-General.

To which Governor Hunt replied :

Denver, June 4, 1867.

General W. T. Sherman, Omaha :

I have three hundred carbines only to form an armament. I have no money or credit with which to equip the five hundred men standing ready to go on a campaign.

I would move down the Platte and Smoky in separate columns, and carry the war to the villages of the Indians, which would soon develop the whereabouts of the warriors. An Indian war now exists over a country two thousand by one thousand miles in extent, and I know you have not troops to guard half so much territory. We have no fears of the safety of our city or its immediate surroundings. It is only our ranch settlements that are menaced, and many lives will be sacrificed if this state of affairs continues. Have no fears of our making war on Indians now peaceable.

(Signed,) A. C. Hunt,
Governor Colorado.

General Sherman finally advised the raising of three hundred volunteers and proposed to recommend the payment of the expenses thereby incurred, by the general government. He at the same time telegraphed as follows to General G. P. Irie :

Fort Sedgwick, June 8, 1867.

General G. P. Irie :

I have consented that Governor Hunt may dispatch three hundred (300) volunteer militia eastward to the head of the Republican, and unless they start to-day or to-morrow, so as to co-operate with General Custer, they will not do at all. They don't want quartermaster or commissaries, but must carry their food on their horses. When Governor Hunt telegraphs me that they are ready, I may get you simply to call the rolls of companies, and certify that the men are real and not fictitious. I think the Indians are already off for the north or for the Arkansas.

The volunteers in question cannot be paid at all till Congress appropriates specially, and I will not sanction the movement unless it be rapid and immediate. We don't intend to buy horses at all.

Show this to Governor Hunt, and caution the Smoky Hill line of stages to be on their guard between Denver and Fort Wallace, where Hancock will soon be.

(Signed,) W. T. Sherman,
Lieutenant-General.

Upon receipt of this telegram, Governor Hunt issued the following :

PROCLAMATION

To the Loyal Soldiers' Club of Denver :

In pursuance of the telegram this day received from the Lieutenant-General commanding this department, you are hereby authorized to enroll one or more companies of volunteers to serve for not less than sixty days, upon the expedition indicated in General Sherman's dispatch.

These companies will consist of a maximum of seventy-five men ; will be organized, equipped, mounted and subsisted as Colorado volunteers ; will elect their own officers, who will be commissioned by the Executive, and be mustered into the service of the United States as militia.

One captain, one first lieutenant and one second lieutenant, one first sergeant, four sergeants, four corporals, and sixty-three enlisted men, two of whom will be appointed musicians by the captain, will constitute a company.

Should a battalion be organized, the members of the command will select a major, who will, upon receiving his commission, appoint a staff, consisting of one adjutant, one quartermaster, who will act as commissary of subsistence, one surgeon, and one assistant surgeon, to be commissioned as first lieutenants, one sergeant major, and two musicians.

When the companies are filled and ready for the choice of battalion commander, they will notify His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, who will indicate a general officer to supervise the election.

Horses and subsistence, arms and equipage will be issued on proper requisitions upon Brigadier-General Hal Sayre, *ex-officio* Quartermaster General, who is charged with the execution of this duty.

(Signed,) A. C. Hunt,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Under this proclamation there were raised three companies, making a total of one hundred and fifty, officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, who were mustered in by me as companies A, B and C, and were officered as follows :

Co. A. Fred J. Stanton, Captain ; Albert Walter, first Lieutenant, and John Chase, second Lieutenant.

Co. B. Harry A. E. Pickard, captain ; W. F. Peters, first Lieutenant ; Robert Brown, second Lieutenant.

Co. C. David J. Cook captain ; Charles L. Cass, first Lieutenant ; Charles A. Coryell, second Lieutenant.

Much credit is due these gentlemen for the prompt manner in which they responded to the call for volunteers, and the energy displayed in raising men to fill their respective companies.

Subsistence having been furnished by *voluntary* subscriptions and donations by the citizens of Denver, these troops went into camp in the immediate vicinity of the city, there to await the furnishing of horses and equipments.

Governor Hunt now made the purchase of the cavalry equipment referred to under the head of "Ordnance and Ordnance Stores," and at the same time used his utmost endeavors to raise the horses necessary for the mounting of the men already enlisted. This, without funds, was found to be an almost fruitless effort, and the following appeal was issued:

To the business men of Denver and the Territory generally:

Two hundred patriotic soldiers stand ready to enter the service of the Territory or the general government, to go on a campaign against the Indians now menacing our settlements. Transportation and rations have already been supplied, but thus far no animals are forthcoming, with which to mount these men. I appeal to you for support in this emergency.

A proposition from Captain Shaffenberg was received last night, and pursuant to notice heretofore given, was accepted by me at 11 o'clock to-day, for three hundred horses, equipped complete, at one hundred and fifty-seven dollars per head, subject to inspection. Doubts as to the manner of payment and the time, have caused the Captain to reconsider this proposition. I am left, therefore, with this resort only, to ask if you, who have the preservation of lives, the prosperity of our citizens, and the safety of overland trade, at heart, will come forward and indemnify parties against loss who have the horses to spare.

As the executive of the Territory, I pledge you I will do all, *everything*, in my power, to forward this enterprise, which seems so much to be needed, save making myself individually liable, or rendering my position ridiculous by transcending my authority.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

A. C. Hunt, Governor.

Notwithstanding the efforts made to raise the necessary horses, they were not procured, and the troops, after having laid in camp ten days, were mustered out.—(Extracts from Annual Report of the Adjutant General, Colo., for the year 1867).