

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

### Introduction/Explanation...

... This is a work in progress, by no means a finished product...

... It attempts to give a brief time-line of happenings in and around Yellowstone during the Nez Perce retreat...

... The main participants are indicated by letters (S, R, H, etc.) and titles (S. G. Fisher, Helena Party, etc.) to make it easier to follow a particular person or group from day to day...

... Sometimes different paragraphs retell almost the same story, but usually there are additional facts and/or emphasis. Sometimes different dates are given for the same incident; readers should decide which date/time makes more sense to them...

... When choosing selections I included some comments/perspectives about incidents not mentioned in this paper. I just hope readers are familiar with the basic story and won't be too confused by this...

... Entries are often abbreviated, but I tried to leave in everything pertinent to exact locations in Yellowstone. I have left some things in even though they may not be totally relevant to the main story, I just found them interesting. I hope you do too...

... I didn't say much about atrocities at Big Hole – they are well covered elsewhere, and it depresses me to dwell on them...

... A lot of interesting people show up in these pages- many of them I'd like to be able to drink a Rainier Ale with while listening to their story. I am especially envious of Lucullus McWhorter for the time he was able to spend with Yellow Wolf and his companions... but if wishes were horses, beggars would ride...

... Let me know of any specific dates, times, places and people you find in sources I haven't found... this is an ongoing interest and project...

... Many, many thanks to Pat Brown for getting me started in computer word processing, a subject I've avoided many years. Pat's patience, poise, energy and enthusiasm kept me on track when I was tempted to shoot my wife's computer... THANKS...

g. e. mernin, compiler...

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

### MAIN PARTICIPANTS

- S - S.G. Fisher
- R - Radersburg Party
- H - Helena Party/Weikert
- A - Army - Howard, Sturgis et al
- N - Nez Perce - Joseph, Yellow Wolf, et al
- O - Other Participants
- P - Perspective
- C - Compiler's Comments

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 - [Fisher, Journal] - Journal of S. G. Fisher, Vol. II - Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana
- 2 - [McWhorter, Adventures] - Adventures in Geyserland, H. D. Guie & L. V. McWhorter
- 3 - [Brown, Flight] - Flight of the Nez Perce, Mark H. Brown
- 4 - [Greene, 1877] - Nez Perce Summer: 1877, Jerome A. Greene
- 5 - [Haines, Yellowstone] - The Yellowstone Story, Aubrey Haines
- 6 - [McWhorter, Wolf] - Yellow Wolf, Lucullus McWhorter
- 7 - [Weikert, Tour] - Journal of a Tour Through Yellowstone National Park, Andrew J. Weikert, Vol. III - Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana
- 8 - [Sutherland, Howard] - Howard's Campaign Against the Nez Perce, 1877, Thomas A. Sutherland
- 9 - [Buck, Story] - Story of the Nez Perce Campaign, Summer of 1877, Henry Buck
- 10- [Stanley, Rambles] - Rambles in Wonderland, Edwin T. Stanley
- 11- [Haines, Elusive] - An Elusive Victory, Aubrey L. Haines
- 12- [Walter, Tales] - More Montana Campfire Tales, Dave Walter
- 13- [Marquis, Crow] - Memoirs of a White Crow Indian, Thomas B. Marquis
- 14- [Wilfong, Trail] - Following the Nez Perce Trail, Cheryl Wilfong

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

7/30/1877

Monday

N – Nez Perce: 10 A.M. – THE NEZ PERCE PASS THROUGH STEVENSVILLE

(...Henry Buck, storekeeper/freighter – “took out my watch and timed their passing to a given point. It took just one hour and a quarter for all to move by, and there were no gaps in the continuous train.

... There was no unusual confusion or disorder...

... Developments afterward showed that their herd of horses numbered more than 3,000, many of them being of very fine stock...

... They were all well dressed ... well armed, and rode the finest of horses...

... The Nez Perce were by far the finest looking tribe of Indians I have ever seen and so much superior to the Flatheads in intelligence, physique, manner of dress, equipment, and arms that they were hardly to be compared. We had always considered the Nez Perce as a wealthy tribe”...)

[Buck, Story]

8/3/1877

Friday

A – Army/Miles: SENDS DOANE TO THE MUSSELSHELL RIVER TO WATCH FOR THE NEZ PERCE...

(... Col. Nelson A. Miles sent 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gustavus C. Doane with Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and about 60 Crow scouts to the Musselshell River to watch for signs of the Nez Perce...

... They departed from Tongue River Cantonment soon to be known as Fort Keogh...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/4/1877

Saturday

A - Army/Sherman: SHERMAN LEAVES FT. ELLIS TO TOUR YELLOWSTONE...

(... Commanding General William T. Sherman, on a tour of western forts during the summer of 1877, left Ft. Ellis to tour Yellowstone National Park...

...had two officers, beside himself, his son, a packer/guide, three drivers, and only four soldiers; a total of 12 persons...)

(Greene, 1877)

A - Army/Gibbon; GIBBON'S COMMAND LEAVES MISSOULA TO INTERCEPT NEZ PERCE...

(...Gibbon's command left the post near Missoula at one o'clock on 8/4, with the infantry in wagons which allowed them to make 29 miles before stopping at 11 that night...

...at Missoula Gibbon combined his Ft. Shaw detachment with a company from Ft. Ellis and the two at Missoula to form a battalion of 146 men and 15

Officers - included 19 mounted men...)

[Haines, Elusive]

8/5/1877  
Sunday

R – Radersburg Party: NINE ADVENTURERS LEFT RADERSBURG  
ON 8/5/1877 HEADING FOR YELLOWSTONE...

(... George Cowan, lawyer, 35 year old Civil War veteran...  
... Emma Cowan, 24, George's wife...  
... Ida Carpenter, 13, Emma's and Frank Carpenter's sister...  
... Frank Carpenter, 27, a mining engineer from Helena...  
... Three of Frank's Helena friends:  
... A.J. Arnold, a mining speculator...  
... William Dingee, who owned the Pony Saloon...  
... Albert Oldham, gunsmith and music teacher...  
... Charles Mann, Jefferson County district-court clerk...  
... Henry Myers, middle aged teamster and handyman, hired as a cook  
for the excursion...)

[Walter, Tales]

R – Radersburg Party: HAD PLANNED ON ALMOST A MONTH IN THE  
NATIONAL PARK...

(... they had a two horse spring wagon, a double seated carriage, four saddle  
horses...  
... in the hot, dry weather they averaged 30 miles a day...)

[Walter, Tales]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/6/1877

Monday

R – Radersburg Party: LEFT RADERSBURG MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1877, FOR YELLOWSTONE...

(...they went by way of Sterling and up the Madison River to the Lower Geyser Basin...)

[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Sherman: 8/6, MONDAY, TO 8/17, FRIDAY, SHERMAN'S PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE PARK...

(...they visit Mammoth Hot Springs, Mount Washburn, the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone, the geyser basins and Old Faithful...

...they were impressed by Yellowstone's beauty and geologic features...)

[Greene, 1877]

8/7/1877

Tuesday

A – Army/Sherman: GENERAL SHERMAN'S PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE...

[Greene, 1877]

8/8/1877

Wednesday

A – Army/Sherman: GENERAL SHERMAN'S PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE...

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/9/1877      BATTLE OF THE BIG HOLE  
Thursday

A – Army/Gibbon: COL. GIBBON CALLED A HALT AT ONE O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING... WITH HIS LINE ON THE TRAIL DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE SLEEPING VILLAGE...

(... “The men sat down in the grass and sage, to shiver in the cold night air (most were stripped to their shirt sleeves), and gaze at the shadowy tipis in the meadow 300 yards to the east...

... Upon receiving the order to advance on the camp at “exactly four o’clock (as noted by Adjutant [Lt. Charles A.) Woodruff), the skirmish line moved forward through the swamps”...)

[Haines, Elusive]

N – Nez Perce/Families: THE FAMILIES LEFT THE EMBATTLED CAMP ABOUT NOON...

(... after the soldiers had been driven out the women took down the tepees and packed the camp...

... others, with the help of some of the men, buried the dead...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

N – Nez Perce/Families: NEZ PERCE FAMILIES LEAVE THE FIGHTING...

(... the bedraggled column of families, bearing the seriously wounded on travois, crawled all afternoon... southwesterly... through the Big Hole Valley...

... camping that evening 12 miles from the battlefield at a place called Takscen (Willows) on Lake Creek...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/9/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

A – Army/Gibbon: GIBBON SENDS FOR HELP

(... It was during the first part of the night while the yelling and shooting of the besieging Nez Perce was the worst that one of the Bitterroot citizens, William "Billy" Edwards, volunteered to carry dispatches to Deer Lodge...  
... He crawled through the encircling Indians, walked 40 miles to French's Gulch, obtained a horse and rode 40 miles more... at 10 A.M. [probably 8 A.M.], 8/11 was in the telegraph office at Deer Lodge...)

[Haines, Elusive]

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN'S PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE  
[Greene, 1877]

O – Other participants/ J.W. Redington: REDINGTON WAS AN ITINERANT  
PRINTER IN SALT LAKE CITY WHEN THE NEZ PERCE WAR  
STARTED...

(... got himself named "special correspondent" to the Salt Lake Tribune...  
... arrived in Deer Lodge about the time of the battle of the Big Hole...  
... hooking up with a force of volunteers mobilizing to aid Howard, he rode part way with them, then took off on his own...  
... as a scout he was a bust...)

[Stadius/ Dreamers]

P – Perspectives: FOR THE NEZ PERCE THE BIG HOLE MARKED THE  
BEGINNING OF THE END...

(... here was the forewarning of the bitter finale to the gallant fight for independence and fatherland...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/10/1877

Friday

N – Nez Perce/ Warrior Rearguard: RIDING RAPIDLY THE WARRIORS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD REACHED LAKE CREEK AND OVERTOOK THE FAMILIES BEFORE ALL OF THEM HAD LEFT CAMP...

[Josephy, Northwest]

N – Nez Perce/Families: FAMILIES TRAVEL SLOWLY AFTER BIG HOLE...

(...During the three days following the battle the bands made no more than 60 miles as they headed south up and out of the Big Hole valley...

(...soon the camp fell into a routine, rising early each morning and traveling until about 10 o'clock...

... then Poker Joe would order a halt to breakfast and allow the horses to graze...

... About two o'clock, the camp would start up again, traveling until about 10 o'clock each night...

... In this manner, by gaining an hour or two each day over their pursuers, the Nez Percés hoped to maintain their lead...)

[Hamilton, Grace]

R – Radersburg Party: WENT THROUGH RAYNOLDS PASS TO HENRY'S LAKE...

(...stayed at Henry's Lake three days, fishing, hunting birds and deer, and exploring... ([McWhorter/Adventures]..they camped near the ranch of Gilman Sawtell, which was unoccupied)...) )

[Walter, Tales]

P – Perspectives: THE NEZ PERCE TRAIL FROM THE BIG HOLE WAS A BROAD SWATH, ONE HUNDRED YARDS WIDE...

(... the trail was a hundred yards wide, of trampled grass and the litter of many animals and people which they cut through the valley with their hundreds of ponies...

... parts of the trails were still visible two years later when Andrew Garcia (who had himself served briefly with Howard) returned with his Nez Perce wife to hunt the site of her father's burial...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/10/1877 cont'd.

Friday

P – Perspectives: THE NEZ PERCE WOULD STILL GO TO THE CROWS...

(... although many of them talked persuasively now of continuing the flight into Canada and joining Sitting Bull's camp...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

A – Army/Gibbon: GETS WORD THAT HELP IS ON THE WAY...

(... the first knowledge that help was approaching in the form of General O. O. Howard's column, arrived at 6:30 on the morning after the battle – August 10<sup>th</sup> – when a civilian courier by the name of Nelse McGilliam rode into the works with a dispatch from the general...)

[Haines, Elusive]

A – Army/Sherman: GENERAL SHERMAN PARTY OF 12 TOURS  
- YELLOWSTONE...

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/11/1877

Saturday

N – Nez Perce Bands: BANDS CONTINUE TO MOVE SLOWLY...

(...because of the condition of the wounded, the bands moved slowly on 8/10 and 8/11...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

A – Army/Gibbon: GIBBON SENDS OUT MORE MESSAGES FOR HELP...

(...the night after the battle and siege Gibbon had sent out three messengers, one to the wagon train and two toward the nearest mining town of Deer Lodge...

(...the first of the two messengers to make it to Deer Lodge was a civilian, Billy Edwards, who covered the 80 mile distance in about 30 hours arriving early on the eleventh (8/11, Sat.) on a horse he had borrowed at a mining camp on the way ...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD REACHED THE SIEGE AREA JUST AFTER 10 A. M...

(...Howard found it looking... “like a hospital at first, though there were lines of rifle-pits, and well soldiers enough to give one the impression of a heavy hospital guard...”)

[Haines, Elusive]

R – Radersburg Party: RADERSBURG PARTY CAMPED AT HENRY’S LAKE...

[Walter, Tales]

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE...

[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/Relief Parties: NEWS OF THE BATTLE REACHED HELENA BY TELEGRAPH AT 9 A.M. SATURDAY THE 11<sup>TH</sup>...

(...Concerned citizens immediately organized an ambulance which left Helena early in the afternoon... with two doctors and three hospital attendants...)

[Haines, Elusive]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/12/1877

Sunday

R – Radersburg Party: RADERSBURG PARTY CAMPED AT HENRY'S LAKE...  
[Walter, Tales]

A – Army/Sherman: GENERAL SHERMAN PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOW-  
STONE...  
[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Gibbon: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GIBBON'S WOUNDED  
REACHED THE BATTLEFIELD DURING THE FORENOON OF 8/12...

(...by hard riding Maj. Charles T Alexander (Surgeon) and Capt. Jenkins A.  
Fitzgerald (Assistant Surgeon) managed to gain five hours on Maj. Mason's  
Cavalry from whence they had come with a mule load of supplies...)  
[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Major Mason: BALANCE OF CAVALRY AND MAJ. MASON REACH  
BIG HOLE BATTLEFIELD SUNDAY AFTERNOON...

(...they arrive five hours after Doctors Alexander and Fitzgerald...  
...Gibbon bolstered Howard's force with a detail of three officers and 50 men to  
accompany Howard as far as Bannack...)  
[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Sgt. Wilson, Courier: WILSON FROM BIG HOLE TO DEER LODGE,  
80 miles in 20 HOURS...

(...Sgt. Wilson left Gibbon before Gen. Howard arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup> and reached  
Deer Lodge at 4 p.m. the following day (8/12, Sunday)...  
...he was 20 hours in the saddle on that 80 mile ride – an endurance test for both  
the man and the animal!...)  
[Haines, Elusive]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/12/1877 cont'd.

Sunday

O – Other Participants/Relief Parties: BY NOON SUNDAY (8/12) THE PEOPLE OF DEER LODGE HAD A DOCTOR, A MILITIA COMPANY AND 20 AMBULANCES AND SPRING WAGONS IN THE BIG HOLE...

(...J. W. Redington, who was then passing himself off as a correspondent for a Salt Lake City newspaper, left the concourse of rescuers where they waited for Gibbon's wounded, and proceeded alone to the battlefield and then along the track of Howard's command...)

[Haines, Elusive]

A – Army/Gibbon: GIBBON DISMISSES VOLUNTEERS AND STARTS WOUNDED TOWARD DEER LODGE...

(...most of the civilians had already started for home...  
...with the remainder of his command in Hugh Kirkendall's rough freight wagons or carried on travois, Gibbon started for Deer Lodge... )

[Brown, Flight]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/13/1877

Monday

R – Radersburg Party: 9 A. M. RADERSBURG PARTY ENROUTE TO GEYSER BASIN FROM HENRY'S LAKE...

(... over Targhee Pass and through present day west entrance to Yellowstone...  
... that night they run into Wood and Hicks, prospectors coming out of Yellowstone... learn that General Sherman's party has left the Geyser Basin...  
... will later speculate that Wood and Hicks may have run into the Nez Perce when Carpenter thought he saw Wood's mare with them...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena Party/Weikert: ANDY WEIKERT LEFT HELENA IN COMPANY WITH R. DIETRICH, FRED PFISTER, AND JOE ROBERTS TO SEE THE WONDERS OF THE NORTHWEST...

(... “had a little adventure with one of the packhorses... he ran away, lost the bread pan... considerable skirmishing before he got the pack off...  
...Distance traveled 14 miles...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Sherman: GEN. SHERMAN PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE  
[Greene, 1877]

A – Army: ON SHERMAN'S AUTHORITY, LT. GEN. SHERIDAN DIRECTED TERRY TO COOPERATE WITH HOWARD...

(... “even to temporarily placing such troops as you may have to spare under his command...”)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD'S PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING NEZ PERCES RESUMED MONDAY, 8/13...

(...Howard's column was strengthened by the addition of 50 of Gibbon's men who volunteered to go as far as the stage road...  
...Howard's column now numbered 310 men ...)

[Brown, Flight]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/13/1877 cont'd.

Monday

### O – Other Participants/Relief Column: 15 MILES NORTH OF BATTLEFIELD RELIEF COLUMN MEETS GIBBON...

(...relief column from Deer Lodge, Helena, and Butte meets Gibbon's column, transferred them from the freight wagons and travois to easier riding spring wagons and concords for the remainder of the journey to Deer Lodge...)

(... The hospital supplies provided the corps of five doctors included four gallons of brandy, two gallons of whiskey, 50 yards of bleached muslin for bandages, some lint, two cases of surgical instruments, \$75 worth of medicines, and a case each of strawberries, peaches, oysters, and sardines..)

[Brown, Flight]

### O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: REDINGTON ARRIVED IN DEER LODGE CLAIMING TO BE A "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" OF THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE...

(...acquiring a horse, Redington left town with the relief column...

... When the relief column stopped to await Gibbon, Redington pressed on to find Howard – alone and without a gun...)

[Brown, Flight]

### O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: PERSPECTIVE/REFLECTION...

(...“My awakening to the real size of Montana was when I covered 800 miles getting to the front during the Nez Perce Indian war in 1877, and I made it in ten days by swapping saddle horses three times...”)

[Redington, Scouting]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/14/1877

Tuesday

R – Radersburg Party: ENTERS YELLOWSTONE...FOLLOWS ‘ROAD’ TO LOWER GEYSER BASIN...

(... they establish their permanent camp on the left bank of Tangled Creek about one half mile west of Fountain Geyser...)

[Greene, 1877]

H – Helena Party/Weikert: ENROUTE TO YELLOWSTONE... TRAVELED 30 MILES...

(... “four of us slept in one stall in the barn (at a half-way house)...  
...Pete the packhorse had pulled up his picket pin and struck for his old range...  
...after a 10 mile ride I found him grazing with a band of horses, having a long rope trailing... left camp at four o’clock, traveled until after dark...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Sheridan: GEN. SHERIDAN PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE  
[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: REDINGTON FOLLOWS NEZ PERCE TRAIL ALONE...

(... “History may prove that I never crossed the Alps with Napoleon as I thought I had, but it can never deny I was the first white person who went through the Bloody Dick Gulch country after the hostile Nez Percés...)

...Lucky for me my horse began to peter (out), for if he hadn’t I would have rode on into the hostile camp, a few miles ahead...

...in the interest of humanity I picketed him on good grass below the Farnsworth mine at the head of Horse Prairie...

...and staked myself out on the brushy benchland above, intending to resume the stern chase at the first streak of daylight...”)

[Redington, Scouting]



## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/15/1877  
Wednesday

R – Radersburg Party: AT 2:30 P. M. RADERSBURG PARTY SEES IT'S FIRST GEYSER...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: "PACKED UP BEFORE BREAKFAST, WENT THROUGH RADERSBURG...

(...stop at Dunn's ranch. Miles, 35...")

[Weikert, Tours]

A – Army/Sherman: GEN. SHERMAN PARTY OF 12 TOURS YELLOWSTONE  
[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD TELEGRAPHS FT. HALL FOR MORE SCOUTS  
[Brown, Flight]

N – Nez Perce: SCOUTS OF RETREATING NEZ PERCE KILL FREIGHTERS  
CAMPED AT BIRCH CREEK...

(...Perspective: Passing here in 1835 the missionary Samuel Parker noted (Birch Creek) in his journal...

...According to the mileage he gave, he and the Nez Perce accompanying him, camped at the exact site of the murder of the teamsters on Birch Creek...

...It must have been a traditional stop over for the Nez Perce traveling this country...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

O – Other participants/J. W. Redington: REDINGTON OVERSLEEPS...

(...“and down on the bottom a bunch of Indians were dashing away to the south, driving a big bunch of horses, among which was mine...

...they even took my picket pin...

...I hiked on down Horse Prairie...”)

[Redington, Scouting]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/16/1877

Thursday

R – Radersburg Party: LEAVES EAST FORK (NEZ PERCE CREEK) MOVES CAMP A COUPLE MILES...

(... they camp in a grove of pines about 300 yards from Thud Geyser...  
... they tour the basin, carve their names onside of basin, search for specimens...  
... they found hundreds of names written with lead pencil on sides of basins,  
some dated as far back as '66 and '67...  
...Meyers burns his foot in a hot pot...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: START AT 7 A.M. ... GET INTO BOZEMAN ABOUT 6 P.M...

(... “went to bed about 10 p.m....Traveled 25 miles...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Howard: CAMPS AT RED ROCK STATION...

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Gibbon: GIBBON’S WOUNDED ARRIVE IN DEER LODGE MID-DAY...

(... after three and a half days of travel averaging 26 miles per day...  
...uncomfortable at best, it was an excruciatingly painful for some...)

[Haines, Elusive]

N – Nez Perce: AT HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK...

(... Nez Perce take possession of the stage station, destroy telegraph line...  
... they stop stages and all travel on the road and use of telegraph wire in the vicinity for three days...  
...they gather all loose stock, use and/or destroy all grain at the station...)

[Brown, Flight]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/16/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

S – S. G. Fisher: GOES TO BANNACK AGENCY, AGREES TO SCOUT FOR HOWARD...

(...rode “Tex” to Bannack Agency and “agree to take charge of Bannack scouts and join Gen. Howard in his campaign against the Nez Perces”...)

[Fisher, Journal

A – Army/Sherman: TOURING YELLOWSTONE...

(...Sherman is overtaken by a courier and given the news of Gibbon’s battle...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/17/1877

Friday

R – Radersburg Party: THREE MEN AND A BOY RIDE INTO THEIR CAMP...

(... “Houston from Bear Gulch gives us the particulars of the Big Hole fight...  
... We go to Upper Basin with Houston, about 10 miles, camp near Old  
Faithful – the Lower Basin is insignificant in comparison to this...  
... We find Houston to be thoroughly conversant with every part of Geysers-  
land – has visited it yearly for a number of years...”)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: “AT BOZEMEN GOT A SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS FOR  
THE ROAD...

(... left Bozeman at noon... stopped at Traut’s ranch... distance 18 miles...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Howard: AT JUNCTION (SOMETIMES CALLED WILLIAMS  
JCT.), 23 MILES SOUTH OF RED ROCK...

(... Howard selects Lt. George R. Bacon with 40 picked men to take the direct  
route east up Centennial Valley through Red Rock Pass (Howard: “Mynhold’s”)  
to “Tachee Pass” (Targhee Pass) to head off the Nez Perce...)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Howard: AT JUNCTION STATION...

(... “firewood three miles off; poor grazing owing to the superabundance of  
alkali...

... “Junction Station... was a lively place indeed... The road from Corinne to  
Virginia City is very direct. It supports a daily stage... Passing through a wild,  
uninhabited region, a station is planted about every 15 miles...

... Here 55 Montana volunteers, under Captain Callaway, came up – good,  
sturdy-looking men, well mounted and well armed...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/17/1877 cont'd.

Friday

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN PARTY ENROUTE BACK TO FT. ELLIS...  
(... Sherman receives dispatches, telegrams, and newspapers describing battle at Big Hole...)

[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Perces: THE NEZ PERCES BEAT HOWARD TO THE STAGE ROAD WHERE HE HAD HOPED TO INTERCEPT THEM...

(... they camped on Beaver Creek, north of present day Dubois, Idaho...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WORKED HARD ALL DAY AT BANNACK AGENCY RECRUITING 50...

(... Rode home to Blackfoot in the night...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

P – Perspectives: REV. SPAULDING ON NEZ PERCE TRAVELING HABITS SUMMER OF 1836...

(... The Nez Perce camp was divided into small bands of some 50 or 100 with four times as many horses; each band under a sub-chief, the whole tribe directed by three war chiefs, who gave their orders or directions every evening for the day, riding slowly among the lodges, with a crier by the side repeating every sentence in a distinct loud voice...

... The labor of the Indian camp while in a dangerous country, was pretty well divided between the women and the men. The latter having the fighting to do, the hunting and scouting and the constant watching; the driving horses to grass and bringing them in at night. While the women do the packing and driving the horses by day, the putting up and taking down lodges and poles, the gathering wood and digging roots and the pounding seeds for food and making moccasins. ... probably the way it was in Yellowstone in 1877...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/18/1877

Saturday

R – Radersburg Party: TOURS UPPER BASIN...

(... “wash clothes in Old Faithful – as nice and clean as a Chinaman could wash it with a week’s scrubbing...”)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: “CAMPED FOR DINNER ON YELLOWSTONE RIVER, CAUGHT JUST LOADS OF FISH...

(...Distance 29 miles...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Howard: DETACHES LT. BACON, 40 PICKED MEN, WITH RUBE ROBBINS AND A FEW BANNOCK SCOUTS TO HENRY’S LAKE...

(... they rode into the darkness about one a. m. on 8/18...  
... 15 hours later Bacon was forced to call a halt on the shores of Red Rock Lake..  
... The exhausted horses and men could go no further after covering 55 miles...  
...(3.66 m.p.h.)...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD MOVES HIS CAVALRY IN ADVANCE OF SLOWER MOVING INFANTRY...

(... reaches the Beaver Creek campsite which the Indians had left that morning...  
... Howard is joined by Capt. Randolph Norwood, from Ft. Ellis with 50 cavalymen...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/18/1877 cont'd.  
Saturday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD LEAVES JUNCTION MID AFTERNOON,  
REACHES DRY CREEK BY 10 P.M. THAT NIGHT...

(...Howard told by Buffalo Horn that Nez Perces seen camping at Camas  
Meadows, about 15 miles east of Dry Creek...)

[Brown, Flight]

O – Other Participants/Henry Buck: TEAMSTER/FREIGHTER WITH HOWARD...

(...“At the bugle call on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the command (Infantry and Artillery) had pre-  
pared to get an early start in order to cover as many miles as possible, thereby  
catch up with the cavalry...

...My duty mostly was to pick up and haul footsore and worn-out soldiers as we  
traveled along. I usually started empty, but by camp time – say 12 or one  
o'clock - I would have all the men that could get in the wagon...”)

(...“My freight outfit consisted of four horses...(pulling a new wagon)...  
a new Schuttler with double box, having an excellent spring seat in front  
and a fine footrest outside the box. Under the foot rest was a box for  
carrying wrenches, hammers, rough locks, etc., and attached to the rear  
end of the wagon was a large commodious box for carrying camp equip-  
ment and grub. Bows were fixed over the wagon, with a good sheet  
stretched across the bows to keep everything dry in rainy weather...  
... Thus equipped my wagon was considered first class...”)

[Buck, Story]

N – Nez Perces: TACTICAL QUESTION:

(... What were the Nez Perces doing between Wednesday (8/15) when they camp-  
ed along the southern reaches of Birch Creek until Saturday (8/18) when they  
reached Camas Meadows... ?

(...About 50 miles through level country...at the three mile an hour gait of a  
walking horse they were only looking at 16 or 17 hours travel time...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/18/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

N – Nez Perce/Black Hair: HAD A DREAM...

(... wounded at Big Hole, Black Hair slept fitfully... had a dream: warriors riding through darkness... came to a place with lush grass and two streams with cavalry horses grazing, ripe for stealing... success...  
... when Black Hair awoke he saw the location of his dream was where the Nez Perce were camped: Camas Meadow...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

S – S. G. Fisher: "STARTED FOR FORT HALL AT ONE P.M. AND ARRIVED AT THREE P.M...."

(...31 Indians have enlisted and have drawn rations for 10 days...  
...I am hired as chief of scouts, wages not stated...")

[Fisher, Journal]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/19/1877

Sunday

R – Radersburg Party: TOUR BASIN, WASH CLOTHES...  
[McWhorter Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: ENROUTE TO MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS...

(...“Had a pretty wet night of it... our tents, blankets, and baggage are pretty wet this morning. Passed one ranch to the Mammoth Hot Springs... about 12 miles...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Howard: MARCHES 15 MILES EAST; CAMPS AT CAMAS MEADOWS...

(...39 volunteers again join Howard, the remainder having turned back...)  
[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS REACHED THE MUSSELHELL RIVER...

(...having marched cross-country from Pompey’s Pillar to be in position to meet the Nez Percés when they got to buffalo country...)  
[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN BACK AT FT. ELLIS...  
[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Percés/Yellow Wolf: CHIEFS SENT WARRIORS TO MEET HOWARD...

(...“It was about the 10<sup>th</sup> sun from Big Hole that a report came. Perhaps 10 o’clock in the morning, and camp had not broken... “soldiers close!” ... chiefs directed warriors to go meet soldiers...  
...“Soldiers making camp” – the chiefs now make arrangements to arrive at the soldier camp in darkness of after part of night. Warriors now stake their horses to graze, while scouts closely watched soldiers...  
... Chief Joseph was not along...”)

[ McWhorter, Wolf]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/19/1877 cont'd.

Sunday

N – Nez Perces: THAT NIGHT ABOUT 30 MEN LEFT THE NEZ PERCE CAMP...

(... were now just about 18 miles from Howard...

... Looking Glass and Frog led the warriors...

... Joseph stayed with the families...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE PACKED UP AND STARTED...

(... Captain Bainbridge and 10 men with us...

... We got hay and cartridges... and procured pistols for my Indians...

... I didn't get to bed until after midnight...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/20/1877  
Monday

CAMAS MEADOWS BATTLE

A – Army/Howard: CAMAS MEADOWS BATTLE...

(“At about 3:30 a.m., at the first streaking of dawn, or rather, just after the intense darkness that precedes the daylight had passed away, our camp was awakened by sharp firing and the diabolical yelling of Indians, about 200 yards from the headquarter’s tents...”)

[Sutherland, Howard]

A – Army/Howard: AT CAMAS MEADOWS...

(...“The Indians... had crept in slyly between the pickets...  
... They cut the hobbles of the bell- mares and took off the bells and were ready at the signal to give the herd a direction the instant the firing began. The yell was so terrible that mules tied to wagons tried to break loose, and the horses at the picket ropes did all they could to manifest their fear by pulling, pushing and spring...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Howard: NEZ PERCE CAPTURE 150 OF ARMY’S HORSES AND MULES...

(...“Among the missing ones was a pack train of 20 mules that belonged to Albert Cave of Missoula, and a bell mare that was the property of Hill Cave, his stepson. ... These animals, I think, constituted the finest pack train I ever saw... These Animals were never recovered but were subsequently paid for by our government...”)

[Buck, Story]

A – Army/Sutherland: OPINION OF VOLUNTEERS...

(“Facts are truly stubborn things, we have not one word to say in extenuation of the abject cowardice on the part of settlers – a class of men whom we have been taught in early life to regard as courageous as lions...”)

[Sutherland, Howard]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/20/1877 cont'd.

Monday

H – Helena/Weikert: GOT TO THE SPRINGS ABOUT TWO P.M...

(... “unpacked our horses and turned them out to rest and feed up for a couple days...

...Duncan, Wilke, and Ben Stone arrived here one day ahead of us...

Bacon is good enough for me until I take a view of the Springs...

...It is perfectly grand is all that I can say about the Springs, for it is no use to try to describe them...

...Got supper, had a few songs, then went to bed...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

R – Radersburg Party/Carpenter: “HOUSTON INFORMED US HE AND PARTY WILL BE GOING BACK BY WAY OF YELLOWSTONE LAKE AND FALLS

(...he informed us at nine a.m...

...Dingee and myself will go with him to the Lake (45 miles) then return and rejoin party at Lower Geyser Basin...

...one p.m. at camp, lower Basin; 2:30 p.m. on the road, taking Dido (Cowan’s dog)...

... We travel 10 miles and at foot of Mary Mountain run into John Shively...

... We continue on, camp on Warm Springs Creek; distance traveled, 35 mi...”)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

N – Nez Perces/Yellow Wolf: “AT CAMAS MEADOWS ...NO INDIAN WAS BAD HURT...

(... only one or two grazed by bullets...

... The place where we took General Howard’s mules is called Kamisnim Takin (Camas Meadows)...

...I did not know how many mules we got. All were kept for packing and riding, ...but the warriors did not ride them...”)

[McWhorter, Wolf]

N – Nez Perces: CAMAS MEADOWS RAID BY 28 NEZ PERCE WARRIORS GETS 200 OF HOWARD’S MULES...

(... were pursued by cavalry... had a fight about 8 miles from Howard’s camp...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/20/1877 cont'd.

Monday

A – Army/ Howard: HOWARD'S WAGON TRAIN, INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY...

(...“a courier from Howard confronted us on the road, bringing word of the raid the Indians had made on the cavalry...

... We piled all the men we could into all the wagons, and then quickening our pace, marched as rapidly as possible, changing off footmen for riders and vice versa... arrived at (Camas) Meadows at sundown, making 46 miles for our day's travel. This we prided ourselves as “going some”, even on a forced march...”)

[Buck, Story]

A – Army/Howard: INFANTRY ET AL REJOIN HOWARD...

(...Howard's force: 200 cavalry, 350 infantry, 50 scouts, 50 Montana volunteers...)

[Beal, Forever]

A – Army/Bacon: LT. BACON REACHES TARGHEE PASS...

(...Bacon scouts area, finds no Indians; returns to command, missing Howard...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

A – Army/Bernard Brooks: TRUMPETER BROOKS WAS THE ONLY SOLDIER KILLED OUTRIGHT AT CAMAS MEADOWS...

(...“Bernard A. Brooks, Co. B, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, Capt. Jackson's orderly and trumpeter ... was shot out of the saddle at the skirmish eight miles from camp... his horse came back to him, whinnied and edged up beside him... Brooks tried to pull himself up by stirrup straps and then fell dead...

... that afternoon Brooks was buried on a knoll near where Howard's tent was pitched...”)

[Brown, Flight]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/20/1877 cont'd.

Monday

A – Army/Brooks: TRUMPETER BROOKS BURLIAL...

(... “The farewell volleys were given, and the remains of young Brooks were left to rest there in loneliness till the resurrection...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

S – S.G. Fisher: “WE REACHED MARKET LAKE AT 10:30 A.M...”

(... learned we were within 25 miles of the enemy...

... Some of the Indians were up all last night shouting and singing warsongs...

... I was up at daylight this morning...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/21/1877

Tuesday

R – Radersburg Party: CARPENTER WITH HOUSTON... ON TO YELLOWSTONE LAKE...

(... “10 miles distant. Three or four miles from camp we meet the Story/Riche’s party (five men, guide, four pack animals) heading for the geysers...  
... Between Mud Volcano and Lake we meet Texas Jack , two Englishmen and a camp-jack heading for the geysers...  
... camp 200 feet above Lake, grove of small pines, wood and a cold spring...  
... on foot to Lake, tour area...  
... return to camp – horses gone; only one pack mule remains; he’s restless all night – prolonged brays... ”)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: AT MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS...

(... “Had a little shower during the night. The sun rose clear...  
... Went to the Springs again...  
... had a fine supper... Sat around the camp-fire for a couple hours spinning yarns and singing songs. Retired about 10... ”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD RESUMED PURSUIT...

(... With his command united, his supplies packed on the remaining mules and piled high on the newly arrived wagons accompanying the foot soldiers, Howard once more resumed his pursuit..)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/21/1877 cont'd.

Tuesday

A – Army/Howard: SENDS WOUNDED TO VIRGINIA CITY...

(... under guard of most volunteers...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

A – Army/Howard's Combined Force: "THIS MORNING WE WERE LATE GETTING STARTED..."

(... but when ready, we sure did move in military style...

... The wagon train and pack animals were placed in the center, ahead of us was a company of cavalry to lead the way, while another company of cavalry brought up the rear...

... We made only 18 miles for the day's march and were tired and worn out ...

... camped on a little creek that came tumbling down from the nearby mountain (Shot-Gun Creek)...")

[Buck, Story]

N – Nez Perce/Yellow Wolf, et al: DAY AFTER CAMAS MEADOW RAID THE BANDS MOVED TO HENRY'S LAKE...

(... "The soldiers did not hurry to follow us. They slowed after losing their mules...

... It was, I think, 12 suns from the Big Hole that we camped on the southwest side of a fine lake (Henry's Lake). Camped for about one sun...")

[McWhorter, Wolf]

N – Nez Perces: AT HENRY'S LAKE...

(... their livestock fairly blanketed a three square mile tract as it grazed...)

[Greene, 1877]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/21/1877 cont'd.

Tuesday

A – Army/Sherman: JUST ARRIVED AT HELENA...

(... W.T. Sherman to Howard: “Just arrived at Helena... Telegraph me some account of affairs that I can understand... Spare nothing to insure success”...)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS HEARS VIA COURIER THAT NEZ PERCE WERE STILL IN VICINITY OF CAMAS MEADOWS...

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Doane: DOANE AT JUDUTH GAP HEARS OF BIG HOLE FIGHT... HEADS TO FT. ELLIS...

(... Commanding Officer of Ft. Baker forwards a copy of dispatch sent by Gibbon (two days after he reached Deer Lodge from Big Hole) to Sturgis directing Sturgis to proceed “with all speed to Ft. Ellis – then to proceed up the Yellowstone and try to intercept the Nez Percés...)

... a copy of the dispatch reaches Doane at Judith Gap on Tuesday, 8/21...

... Doane took DeRudio’s company plus 75 Crow scouts and immediately headed for Ft. Ellis... reached there Saturday, 8/25...)

[Brown, Flight]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE REACHED GEN. HOWARD’S BATTLEGROUND AT DARK...

(... One of Wells Fargo and Co’s. messengers arrived at daylight and informed us that the enemy were at Hole-in-the-Rock and that Howard was fighting them...

... We ate a bite of breakfast and struck out pell-mell – the Indians throwing away their grub and superfluous clothing...

... We reached Gen. Howard’s battle ground at dark...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/22/1877

Wednesday

R – Radersburg Party/Carpenter: TO CANYON AFTER THEY FIND THE HORSES...

(... up at daylight... mule leads them to the horses two and a half miles from camp... head for Canyon...  
... Three p. m... camp near Falls; dinner; view falls...  
... Five p. m... Houston heading to Clark's Fork...  
... rest to the Brink of Lower Falls... "leave our names on a small pine tree growing on the verge of the precipice"...  
... return to camp, repicket horses, and are soon recuperating from the fatigues of the day in sound sleep...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: ARRIVED AT TOWER FALLS AT TWO P. M...

(... "going to travel today; got baggage packed and ready to start at eight a. m...  
... Arrived at Tower Falls about 2 p. m... Distance 25 miles...")

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Howard: FISHER AND 50 BANNOCKS ARRIVED AT HOWARD'S COMMAND AT 3 A. M...

(... Howard was camped beside Henry's Fork of the Snake River...  
... Fisher and 50 Bannocks, escorted by Capt. Bainbridge and 10 soldiers left Ft. Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup>, traveled 150 miles, arrived at 3 a. m., 8/22...)

[Brown, Flight]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/22/1877 cont'd.  
Wednesday

A – Army/Howard: AT CAMP BENSON...

(...“the second day after the battle of Camas Meadows... the advance guard of a company of scouts from Ft. Hall arrived...

(... S. G. Fisher, the leader of these scouts, or the “Chief Scout”, as he was called, deserves a special notice. He was a tall, pale man of fair proportions, being slightly deaf. A stranger would see little that was remarkable in him. Yet of all the scouts in our Indian campaign, none equaled this chief, Fisher. ... Night and day, with guides and without, with force and without, Fisher fearlessly hung upon the skirts of the enemy...  
... The accuracy, carefulness, and fullness of his reports were a delight to one attempting to chase Indians across a vast wilderness.”...)

[Howard, Joseph]

P – Perspective/Fisher and the Bannocks: THE BANNOCKS PROVED MORE TROUBLESOME THAN VALUABLE IN THE INTERVAL THEY WERE WITH THE TROOPS...

(... they had left Ft. Hall... the 19<sup>th</sup> (Sunday), riding hard and covering 100 miles in less than 72 hours...

... Quick to desert, disgruntled by hardship, disgusted by Howard’s tendency to delay, the Bannocks proved more troublesome than valuable in the interval they were with the troops...

... but according to Howard, Fisher himself was the best scout ever attached to the command...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE OVERTOOK THE COMMAND AT THREE O’CLOCK THIS MORNING...

(... camped near the command... I was up shortly after daylight... was introduced to Gen. Howard and the officers of his command...

... I took the lead with my scouts and following the enemy’s trail... went into camp for the night... at the second crossing of the North Fork of Snake River... The command came up and camped near us...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/22/1877 cont'd.  
Wednesday

N – Nez Perces: ARRIVED ON THE UPPER MADISON RIVER AT PRESENT DAY WEST YELLOWSTONE...

(... Nez Perces move past Bacon, unseen, crossed Targhee Pass, and arrived on the upper Madison River at present day West Yellowstone...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

P – Perspective: IMPACT OF NEZ PERCES ON GAME...

(... Redington has pointed out that until they reached the buffalo country, the NezPerces had scared away or killed all the game along the route although they “failed to trap all the wormy trout in the Yellowstone”...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

P – Perspectives: NEZ PERCE GOALS/DIRECTIONS...

(... Wottolen: a council of chiefs held several days before they reached the Yellowstone River had concluded that the only avenue of peace and security open to them was to reach Sitting Bull’s camp in Canada...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

O – Other Participants/Story-Riche Party: HEADING BACK TO BOZEMAN...

(... Story-Riche Party departed the Lower Geyser Basin for Bozeman via Canyon...

... they leave a member of their party, William H. Harmon, to continue his travels with the Cowan Party...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/23/1877

Thursday

R – Radersburg Party/Carpenter: CARPENTER HEADS BACK TO LOWER GEYSER BASIN CAMP FROM YELLOWSTONE FALLS...

(...“at foot of (Mary) mountain (west side) meet Texas Jack’s party going toward Yellowstone Falls...

...at 2 p. m. we come to Jack’s dinner camp – picket horses, build campfire, dine off scanty provisions we have left; (will eat at same place tomorrow under vastly different circumstances); head out...

...run into Shively – lost his horses – will we carry his “traps” if he doesn’t find them? – yes...

...arriving at our camp, find Harmon, a prospector from Colorado, whom we had met in Riche’s party...”

...the Radersburg group has a reunion celebration that night...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Carpenter: CARPENTER MEETS EARL OF DUNRAVEN PARTY

(...around mid-day at foot of Mary Mountain (west side); they are heading to Mammoth...

...Earl of Dunraven, friend Dr. George Kingsley, horse wrangler Earnest Boney, guided by Texas Jack Omohondro “flashily dressed guide, a scout of the swaggering type”...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/23/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

R – Radersburg: THAT EVENING OF 8/23 WAS THE EIGHTH DAY IN THE PARK FOR THESE TOURISTS...

(...who had entered the Lower Geyser Basin on the 15<sup>th</sup> just as General Sherman's party was leaving...

... With the Radersburg Party was William H. Harmon of Colorado, who had joined them from the Story-Riche party, who had departed for Bozeman, Montana, the day before...

...Radersburg Party had had a satisfactory tour of the geyser basins under the gratuitous guidance of George Houston, the old Bear Gulch miner...

...they had no particular feeling of danger...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

P – Perspectives/Emma Cowan: EMMA'S RECOLLECTIONS APPEAR THE LEAST PRETENTIOUS AND, FOR THAT REASON, THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY...

(... While some of the male members of her party have been accused of offering inaccurate and exaggerated accounts of events that were about to transpire, Emma's appears the least pretentious and, for that reason, the most trustworthy...)

[Hampton, Grace]

O – Other Participants/Shively: A MILE NORTH OF THE RADERSBURG PARTY WAS THE CAMP OF A SOLITARY PROSPECTOR, JOHN SHIVELY...

(...he was relaxing while considering where to look for his lost horses...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

O – Other Participants/John Shively: SHIVELY WAS CAPTURED BY THE NEZ PERCE THURSDAY EVENING, 8/23...

(...he was 55 years old... had lived in the west 20 years...

...spring of '77 was in Deadwood... decided to try his luck in Yellowstone...

...headed west from Yellowstone Lake, was camped at the northern edge of the Lower Geyser Basin...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/23/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

P – Perspectives/Shively: THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH SHIVELY'S RECOLLECTIONS...

(...“confusion over dates, his estimate of the total number of warriors, and more than a little doubt about how much the Nez Perce actually relied on Shively as a guide...

(...suspicion increases when, as in so much frontier eyewitness narrative, the author immodestly places himself on center stage...

...But no matter. What is important is that Shively became one of the few whites to travel for an extended period with the Nez Perce, view the daily rhythms of camp life during their journey through Yellowstone Park, and, most of all, live to tell about it...”...)

[Hampton, Grace]

H – Helena/Weikert: TRAVEL TO YELLOWSTONE FALLS...

(...Distance 25 miles...

...“A very fine morning; everything seems to be alive, birds are singing... reached the falls of the Yellowstone about 3 p. m.; had dinner... Everybody went to see the upper falls; we had a beautiful view of them just before sunset...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

H – Helena/Weikert: HAD A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE FALLS ABOUT SUNSET – AT ABOUT THE TIME PROSPECTOR JOHN SHIVELY WAS BEING APPROACHED BY THE NEZ PERCE NEAR THE LOWER BASIN...

[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/J. C. Irwin: SOMEWHERE IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA WAS A RECENTLY DISCHARGED SOLDIER BY THE NAME OF J. C. IRWIN WHO WAS SIGHT SEEING AFOOT AND ALONE...

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/23/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD HAD THE MEN AWAKENED AT 2 A. M. TO MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO OVERTAKE NEZ PERCE...

(... seven hours later troops were at former Nez Perce campsite near southeast corner of Henry's Lake...

... scouts arrived to say Nez Perces had passed over nearby Tygee (Targhee) Pass and were gone...

...about 5 p. m. Howard with two officers leaves for Virginia City in a light wagon owned and driven by "Doc" Van R. Woodmancy...)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Howard's Column: ARRIVED AT HENRY'S LAKE ABOUT MIDDAY

(... "Next morning... we made a start up the river, bound for Henry's lake...

... We were compelled to ford the river several times on our way. On so doing the infantry had to cross in our wagons, taking a load of soldiers over, then driving back after another load, and so on until all were transported...

... Traveling on upstream, we arrived at Henry's Lake about midday and struck camp at the cabin of an old trapper by the name of Sawtell...")

[Buck, Story]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD STARTS LAYOVER AT HENRY'S LAKE...

(... sends Capt's. Norwood and Cushing back to Ft. Ellis, driving commands worn-out horses and mules...

... Montana volunteers and packers depart for home...

... Howard and aides start for Virginia City to send dispatches to his superiors and to oversee reequipping of his army...)

[Josephy, Northwest]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/23/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

P – Perspective: HOWARD'S COMMAND HAD MARCHED CONTINUOUSLY FOR 26 DAYS, AVERAGING ALMOST 20 MILES A DAY...

(... there was little he could do the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August but rest his weary men and animals...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

N – Nez Perce/Bands: (NEZ PERCE INTO YELLOWSTONE PARK) – “WE DID NOT FOLLOW THE USUAL TRAIL... WE TRAVELED OVER A HUNTING TRAIL INSTEAD...

(... we went through a gap (Targhee Pass) into Yellowstone Park...  
... We knew that Park, no difference what white people say...  
... And when retreating from soldiers we went up the river and crossed where are two big rocks. The trail there is called Pitou Kisnit meaning Solid Narrows...  
... We did not enter the Park by our old trail when on war retreat...”)

[McWhorter, Wolf]

N – Nez Perce/Yellow Wolf: “WE KNEW THAT COUNTRY WELL BEFORE PASSING THROUGH THERE IN 1877...

(... The hot smoking springs and the high-shooting water were nothing new to us.  
... My grandfather... died on a buffalo hunt in Yellowstone Park... It was at Sokolinim (Antelope) where he was buried. This is north of some hot springs...  
... Not over or beyond any big mountains, but is above where two rivers meet.  
... Names of larger river Pahniak Koos (Tongue Water). A smaller river above there is Wiyukea Koos (Elk Water)...”)

[McWhorter, Wolf]

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES SPEND NIGHT OF 8/23 IN A CAMP ON THE BANKS OF THE FIREHOLE, ABOVE THE NARROWS...

[Beal, Forever]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/23/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

P – Perspective: NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABSENCE OF IMPROVEMENTS  
500 PEOPLE VISITED YELLOWSTONE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1873  
[Beale, Forever]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE TOOK THE LEAD ON THE ENEMY’S TRAIL AT 3:30  
THIS MORNING...

(... We reached Tagie Pass at 7 a. m...

... On top of the divide I climbed up into a tree and sighted the enemy’s camp on  
the Madison...

... We reached the South Fork of the Madison just at sundown...

... I sent out some scouts, who returned during the evening and reported the  
enemy in camp a few miles above us on the river...

... We numbered 82 all told, well armed and mounted, and if we could succeed in  
surprising the camp the odds would not be so heavy against us...

... I accordingly sent back the pack animals and all the extra horses and moved on  
cautiously for the moon was shining brightly...

... Every man was now mounted on his warhorse and sat silently awaiting the  
return of the runners...

... They soon came back to us and reported the camp deserted...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/24/1877

Friday

R – Radersburg Party: AT 5 A. M. DINGEE AND ARNOLD BEGIN PREPARING BREAKFAST...

(... were contacted by Nez Perce scouts who first said they were Shoshones...  
... Cowan party packs up, leaves; are diverted by Nez Perce up Nez Perce Creek...  
... two miles up creek they come on so much downed timber they couldn't go on with wagons; they abandoned their wagons...  
... six miles farther east, near foot of Mary Mountain entire body halted to eat...  
... they were relieved of horses, guns, and provisions in a "trading" session...  
... In a separate incident Cowan and Oldham are shot; rest of party scatters into woods, except for Mrs. Cowan, Ida and Frank Carpenter who are taken as prisoners...)

[Greene, 1877]

R – Radersburg Party: CONTACTED BY YELLOW WOLF AND HIS SCOUTS AT DAYLIGHT...

(... they break camp and file out about 9 a. m. with Yellow Wolf and the others...  
... as they travel out, "(they) could see about three miles of Indians with 1000/1500 ponies and looking off to the left (they) could see more Indians looking at the geysers in Firehole Basin..."  
... continue with wagons three or four miles up east fork when they came to fallen timber and were compelled to abandon their wagons...  
... Cowan is shot and left for dead; Oldham is also shot; others disperse...  
... Carpenter and his sisters continue with the Indians over a rough trail; on the lake side of Mary Mountain the trail is better...  
... weather becomes overcast with heavy clouds, grows quite dark...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Cowan: COWAN IS SHOT, LIES UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWO HOURS...

(... Cowan stands, shot again by a passing Indian – lay there 20 minutes; Indians passed within 40 feet of him without seeing him...  
... started crawling, found water, quenched thirst; crawled until one or two a. m.; rested until daybreak...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/24/1877 cont'd.

Friday

R – Radersburg/Arnold: DURING ‘SWAPPING’ POKER JOE ADVISED  
ARNOLD TO GET IN THE WOODS, STAY IN THE WOODS...

(...shook hands with Arnold; shortly after there was shooting...  
...Arnold got with Dingee, abandoned their horses, stayed hidden...  
checked his watch: 3 p. m. ...  
...had neither coats nor blankets; stayed warm by crawling over fallen trees.)  
[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Ida Carpenter: IDA WAS WITH POKER JOE’S CAMP...

(...“The squaws soon had supper, and gave me some bread, and tea made of  
willow bark... They were very kind to me – They made my bed on some buffalo  
robes, and the squaws laid down all around me and thus watched me until  
morning”...)  
[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg Party: 8/24/1877 EMMA’S AND GEORGE’S SECOND WED-  
DING ANNIVERSARY...

[Hampton, Grace]

O – Other Participants/Shively: CAPTURED ON 8/23 SHIVELY SERVED AS A  
GUIDE FOR ABOUT HALF A DAY...

(...on 8/24 until the Nez Perce felt sure of their ground ...  
...Shively escaped from the Nez Perce camp about the night of 8/31...  
...Shively says in his story he was with the Indians 13 days (Stanley, Rambles,  
p. 178). This seems unlikely as he also indicates (Ibid., p. 177) that he escaped  
a day or so after Frank Carpenter and his sisters were released, which would  
make the date of his own escape considerably earlier...  
...Yellow Wolf says he was kept a “few suns” (Yellow Wolf, p. 122) before his  
escape, whereupon he headed for Mammoth Hot Springs, Henderson’s ranch, and  
eventually, Bozeman...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/24/1877 cont'd.  
Friday

O – Other Participants: SHIVELY AND NEZ PERCES HEAD UP NEZ PERCE CREEK...

(...“While camped...about noon the Radersburg party was brought into camp...  
...Shortly afterward, a march was made toward Yellowstone Lake, I still being kept some distance in the advance...  
...After traveling about a mile, I heard seven distinct shots fired and supposed all the persons had been killed...  
... That evening Joe told me that only two men had been shot...”)  
[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Howard: AFTER AN ALL NIGHT DRIVE, HOWARD’S WAGON RATTLED INTO VIRGINIA CITY ABOUT 10 A. M...

(...Howard telegraphs Generals Sherman and McDowell; buys supplies to be freighted to the command...  
...Howard, with son Guy (an aide), leaves early evening to return to the command...  
...Lt. John Q. Adams, acting quartermaster for the cavalry battalion, stays to secure horses and mules...  
... Here, and at Bozeman shortly after, he contracted for a total of 101 cavalry horses (\$120 each), 56 “Q. M. horses” (\$70 each), and 56 mules (\$112 each)...)  
[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Howard: FROM VIRGINIA CITY HOWARD WIRES GEN. SHERMAN

(... who had reached Ft. Shaw on the Sun River:  
...“My command is so much worn by over fatigue and jaded animals that I cannot push it much further. If Miles, or Sturgis, is nearby... (and can head the hostiles off)... I think I may stop near where I am, and in a few days work my way back to Ft. Boise slowly...”  
[Josephy, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/24/1877 cont'd.

Friday

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN TO HOWARD: “THAT FORCE OF YOURS SHOULD PURSUE THE NEZ PERCES TO THE DEATH...”

(...Sherman, feeling the heat of public opinion to which Howard seemed indifferent, replied the same day: “I don’t want to give orders...but that force of yours should pursue the Nez Perces to the death, lead where they may. Miles is too far off, and I fear Sturgis is too slow. If you are tired, give your command to some young, energetic officer...”)

[Josephy, Northwest]

O – Other Participants: MISSOULA AND FRENCH TOWN WAGON TEAMS PULLED OUT FOR HOME (FROM HENRY’S LAKE)...

(...These teams were to be paid \$10 a day...  
...Henry Buck: “concluded best to tarry until the command moved, thereby resting my horses...”)

[Buck, Story]

N – Nez Perces: NOON CAMP SIX MILES ABOVE THE PLACE WHERE THE VEHICLES HAD BEEN ABANDONED...

(...the noon camp was in the open meadow near the crossing of Cowan Creek...  
...The Indians camped that evening in a meadow east of Mary Lake...  
...Mrs. Cowan and her brother were assigned to Chief Joseph’s camp, while Ida and the prospector Shively were left with Poker Joe...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES CAMP AT HIGHLAND HOT SPRINGS...

(...the Indians had encamped on the outer edge of a circular basin about three quarters of a mile in circumference, and were building campfires about every 20 or 30 feet apart...  
...were a thousand or more ponies in the basin encircled by fires...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/24/1877 cont'd.

Friday

O – Other Participants/Buffalo Horn: BUFFALO HORN DESERTS, TAKING HALF THE BANNOCK SCOUTS WITH HIM...

(...Buffalo Horn, who had been with Howard since Kamiah, deserts, taking half the Bannock scouts...

...Fisher, with the rest of the Bannocks, enters Yellowstone...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

S – S. G. Fisher: FISHER COMPLETELY WORN OUT WITH HARD RIDING, HAVING EATEN NOTHING FOR 26 HOURS...

(...“I sent two Indians out hunting and they succeeded in killing an antelope...

...I find 15 of my scouts have deserted... the deserters have stolen my roan horse

... The Indians are very much discouraged on hearing that Gen. Howard had laid over (at Henry’s Lake) to refit...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/25/1877

Saturday

N – Nez Perces/Bands: ON THE MORNING OF 8/25 THE INDIANS MOVED DOWN TROUT CREEK TO THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER...

(...Nez Perce outriders found the solitary sightseer, James Irwin, hiding in a ravine... near Sulphur Mountain...

...Indians, Mrs. Cowan, Ida and Carpenter... cross the Yellowstone River...

...Indians council; decide to release the two women – with their brother; not Irwin, who Mrs. Cowan thought was a deserter...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

R – Radersburg Party: CARPENTER AND HIS SISTERS CONTINUE WITH NEZ PERCE TO MUD VOLCANO...

(...Indians capture Irwin (discharged soldier, backpacking in Park)...

...Nez Perce cross Yellowstone, camp on east side, hold a council, decide in the late afternoon to free Carpenter and his sisters...

... Mrs. Cowan: “some of our own bedding, a waterproof wrap, a jacket for my sister, bread and matches, and two worn out horses were brought and we were ready...

... We clasped hands with our good friend Shively promising to deliver some messages to friends in Phillipsburg should we escape...”)

[Mc Whorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Carpenter: CARPENTER AND SISTERS RELEASED...

(...Carpenter: “Darkness overtook us when we had gone four or five miles...

... We went up the timber about two miles southwest of Sulphur Mountain, crept into some underbrush, and passed the night the best we could...

...My sisters suffered from cold, they having got their dresses wet in swimming the Yellowstone...’)

[Stanley, Rambles]

R – Radersburg/Cowan: AT DAWN COWAN STARTED CRAWLING...

(...crawled until noon then rested for an hour; an Indian passed within 10 feet of him... by nightfall he made four or five miles... he crawled during the night...

...Indians kept passing him every little while...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/25/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

R – Radersburg Party/Oldham: AL OLDHAM HID IN THE BUSHES FOR 36 HOURS AFTER BEING SHOT...

(... then crawled to where Cowan had been shot; could find no one... made a fire in the woods and warmed himself...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Arnold and Dingee: AT DAYLIGHT ARNOLD AND DINGEE STARTED DOWN THE RIVER...

(... At noon caught and cooked three small fish; Dingee ate one and threw up; did not eat a bite for the next four days...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Mann and Meyers: CHARLES MANN AND HENRY MYERS WERE RESCUED AFTER ONLY ONE DAY IN THE WILDS

(... although the two had separated, Gen. Howard's advance scouts found them both near Madison Junction on the afternoon of 8/25...)

[Walter, Tales]

H – Helena/Weikert: HEAD FOR MUD GEYSER... GET TO SULPHUR MOUNTAIN... SEE INDIANS... TURN BACK...

(... "After breakfast, gathered up our horses. Old Whitey came up missing... (hunted for him, couldn't find him)... He is not worth more than \$10 anyhow, but he made a first rate pack horse ...

... We will make Mud Geyser by noon...

... (near) Sulphur Mountain... spied a moving caravan... Indians... held a council of war and we all concluded... (to go back)... They numbered about 300, and we only 10... we went into camp between the forks of the first creek above the Upper Falls (Otter Creek), about a mile and a half above the falls and felt quite secure.")

[Weikert, Tour]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/25/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

O – Other Participants/Shively: REGARDING MRS. COWAN AND MISS CARPENTER... “WITH ALL THEIR SAVAGERY AND FEROCITY, LET IT BE SAID AND REMEMBERED TO THE CREDIT OF THE NEZ PERCES, THAT THESE LADIES WERE TREATED WITH ALL RESPECT, AND WERE PROTECTED FROM ALL HARM WHILE THEIR PRISONERS.”

[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD TO CUSHING: GO TO FT. ELLIS... THEN AWAIT THIS COMMAND AT OR NEAR CROW AGENCY...

(...Howard, on the road in the Madison Valley, meets Cushing – dictates orders: “ take your company, Fields’, and Norwood’s immediately to Ft. Ellis... get supplies... communicate with Col. Sturgis... await this command at or near Crow Agency...”)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Doane: ARRIVES AT FT. ELLIS FROM JUDITH GAP...

(... has with him Lt. Charles DeRudio’s Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, along with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Hugh L. Scott and 75 Crow scouts...)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS MOVED UP THE STILLWATER TO THE CROW AGENCY...

(...hired six Crows and a French guide named Rogue...  
...he sent them into the Clark’s Fork/Stinking Water region after receiving a telegram from Howard citing these streams as the likely objective of the Nez Perce...)

[Greene, 1877]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/25/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

N – Nez Perces: MAIN NEZ PERCE CAMP GOES UP YELLOWSTONE RIVER,  
THEN TO INDIAN POND...

(... three small parties of Nez Perce warriors remain behind to scout...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

N – Nez Perces: THREE SMALL RAIDING PARTIES SPLIT OFF AT THE FORD

(... As the bulk of the tribe moved east farther and farther from Howard's forces, three small raiding parties split off at the ford, following the river downstream along the left bank, crossing finally at Baronett's bridge... heading east, along the east fork of the Yellowstone and eventually joining the main camp...

(... A good share of the confusion concerning Nez Perce activities and whereabouts in the park results from this division of forces...

... These three groups of young warriors were the usual small scouting parties dispatched all along the route inquest of suitable horses...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

S – S. G. Fisher: "WE NUMBER JUST 40 NOW ALL TOLD..."

(... We saddled up and traveled about 10 miles when we went into camp in a canyon (on the right or south fork of the Madison River). A wagon road runs through it to the Geyser Basin...

... I saddled up "Tex" and we rode (back) about six miles (where Madison John had seen a white man on the opposite side of the river)... proved to be..(William) Harmon...

... I took him back to camp with us, letting him ride my horse while I walked...

... Shortly after we got back to camp (two Bannocks) came in with another escaped prisoner, Charles Mann..."

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/26/1877

Sunday

R – Radersburg Party: CARPENTER/SISTERS SUFFER UNTIL DAYLIGHT,  
THEN HEADED FOR MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS...

(... they forded Alum Creek, reached timber on north side as the sun was coming  
up... saw fresh pony tracks on the trail...

... about eight miles from where Joe left them and three or four miles from the  
falls they heard what seemed to be someone chopping in the distance...

... they began the ascent of the mountain about 8 a. m.; reached the summit at  
one p. m... let the horses graze...

... at three p. m. they made "Tower Falls"; found and ate bread from various  
campsites...

... 15 or 16 miles later they came on Lt. Schofield and a squad of soldiers, camp-  
ing for the night...

... they had been in the soldier's camp about one hour when Frederic Pfister  
(Helena Party) showed up – told of the Otter Creek raid, thought he was the  
only survivor...

... all head to Mammoth Hot Springs; reach McCartney's around 10 – 10:30 p.m.)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R - Radersburg Party/Mrs. Cowan: "NEAR MIDNIGHT WE REACHED  
MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS...

(... tired out and stiff from long riding...

... A semi-weekly stage had been run to the Springs that season. We were told  
that if we desired we could rest 'til Wednesday (8/29) and return to Bozeman  
on that stage...")

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Cowan: CROSSED THE EAST FORK SUNDAY NIGHT...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/26/1877 cont'd.

Sunday

R – Radersburg/Oldham: WENT TO GIBBON'S FORK, FOLLOWED IT INTO THE CANYON OF THE MADISON...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg/Arnold and Dingee: WALK INTO HOWARD'S CAMP AT HENRY'S LAKE, ENTERING CAMP SOON AFTER BREAKFAST...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena Party: ATTACKED BY A SMALL NEZ PERCE SCOUTING PARTY ABOUT NOON...

(... (Party led by either Kosooyen or Lakochets Kunnin (Rattle Blanket):

[Greene, 1877])...

...lost 12 horses, four shotguns, one Henry rifle, two revolvers, and seven saddles; clothing, provisions, and camp accoutrements...

... Charles Kenck was killed; John Stewart wounded, rest escaped...

... Frederic J. Pfister made it to Lt. Schofield's camp just as he was starting for Mammoth with Mrs. Cowan and her brother and sister...)

[Brown, Flight]

H – Helena/Weikert: "(AFTER BREAKFAST) I SADDLED MY HORSE (TO GO CHECK ON THE INDIANS)..."

(... "Wilke said he would go along... Past Sulphur Mountain... (we determined the Indians had moved on... were returning to camp... got delayed catching and trying to lead an Indian pony we ran into)..."

... If we had not lost so much time with that colt, we would have gotten (to camp) just about the time (the Nez Percés) were whooping the boys up in camp...

...(returning and )... into the timber not more than a quarter of a mile when we ran into a lot of redskins... I was riding ahead when I saw them raise up their heads from behind the log... told Wilke there were Indians...

... wheeled my horse... Bang! Bang! Bang! Then, Zip! Zip! Zip!... cut a crease in my shoulder blade about four inches long...

... my horse tripped... and fell... I went sprawling... (my horse got up)... and by that time I was on my feet with the reins in one hand... still held my gun in the other... let them have one from my repeater... you should have seen them dodge..

(cont'd.)

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/26/1877 (cont'd.)

Sunday

H – Helena/Weikert: (cont'd.)

(... (remounted)... The Indians did not follow us... in the timber... we halted...  
...(bound his wound)... looked our horses over, and found them all sound,  
thank fortune...  
... rode into camp and found that the boys had gotten away in a hurry as things  
were lying around promiscuously...  
... what (the Indians) did not want, they put on the fire and burned up...  
replenished our saddle bags with a ham that was left and some other eatables,  
then struck out for the Springs that were 50 miles away...  
... soon overtook Stewart and Ben Stone... dismounted and helped them on our  
horses and we took it afoot most of the way...  
... When we reached the top of Mt. Washburn (Stewart began to feel better); then  
we took our lunch of raw ham and crackers, but kept moving on...")

[Weikert, Tour]

H – Helena Party/Roberts and Foller: ESCAPING FROM OTTER CREEK THEY  
TRAVELED FROM ABOUT NOON UNTIL DARK – DIRECTION WEST...

(... During the attack on the Helena Party... Roberts and Foller ... "succeeded in  
reaching the timber amid a shower of deadly missiles, and started in a north-  
westerly direction across the mountains...  
...(Roberts)... "Foller and I traveled from about noon until dark – direction west,  
hugging the timbered mountainside. We lay down supperless to sleep...")

[Stanley, Rambles]

H – Helena Party: ABOUT THE TIME THE NEZ PERCE WARRIORS WERE  
SHOOTING UP THE HELENA CAMP, LT. CHARLES SCHOFIELD STOOD  
ATOP MT. WASHBURN SCANNING THE COUNTRY TO THE SOUTH  
WITH BINOCULARS – NO ACTIVITY...

[Stadius, Dreamers]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/26/1877 cont'd.  
Sunday

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN TO SHERIDAN: “I DON’T THINK HOWARD’S TROOPS WILL CATCH JOSEPH...”

(...Gen. Sherman wired Gen. Sheridan in Chicago: “I don’t think Howard’s troops will catch Joseph, but they will follow trusting to your troops heading them off when they come out of the mountains”...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS AT CROW AGENCY ON STILLWATER CREEK...

(...receives his only message from Howard... suggested the bands would likely exit east of the Park...)

[Hampton, Grace]

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES MOVE JUST FOUR MILES...EARLY HALT AT INDIAN POND...

(...In his most complete account of his stay with the Nez Perces, published in Deer Lodge New Northwest newspaper on 9/14/1877, Shively told the editor that at this camp he showed them the mountains they must pass going to Crow Country and pointed out the trail to Stinking (Water) River...

...But there was a Snake chief... with a few men along, who said he had now found the old Snake trail and they would follow that...

...Mr. Shively was therefore released from service as a guide and kept back while the Snakes went ahead...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

N – Nez Perces: 8/26 AND 8/27 NEZ PERCES CAMP IN VICINITY OF INDIAN POND...

(...camp was between Indian Pond and Yellowstone Lake...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/26/1877 cont'd.

Sunday

S – S. G. Fisher: “CHARLES MANN GOES WITH US...

(...Baptiste let the man Harmon have his mare to go back to the command...  
... I furnished (Mann) a horse to ride and we rode on a lope most of the way to  
the Lower Geyser Basin, where the wagon and buggy belonging to the Raders-  
burg party had been left... about 20 miles from where we camped last night...  
... The Indians had... scattered things around promiscuously...  
... We followed the trail to where the enemy camped night before last...  
... We are out of provisions, and the Indians are hungry and dissatisfied... ”)

[Fisher, Journal]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/27/1877

Monday

H – Helena Party/Weikert: “WE (WEIKERT, WILKE, STEWART AND STONE) ARRIVED AT THE SPRINGS A LITTLE AFTER SIX IN THE MORNING...

(...having traveled about 50 miles in 13 hours...  
...an English physician at the Springs... dressed our wounds nicely... (after breakfast, tried to nap)... had not slept any in 48 hours...  
...Duncan came in... (reported) Dietrich was lying about two miles out... completely worn out... (went and got him)... He got all right... as soon as he took several baths... I turned my horses out to graze...  
...determined to go back and hunt for (the missing) if I could persuade some one to go with me...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

H – Helena Party: LT. SCHOFIELD SENDS A COURIER TO FT. ELLIS WITH AN UPDATE...

(...McCartney, Weikert, Dietrich and Stone remain with Stewart who is waiting for ambulance from Ellis...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

R – Radersburg Party/Mrs. Cowan: ABOUT 10 A. M. CARPENTERS AND MRS. COWAN HEAD FOR BOZEMAN WITH CALFEE AND CATLIN...

(...two photographers, in a wagon with a four mule team; at Bottler’s ranch at midnight...)

(...The Englishmen and their guide also decided to return to Bozeman...)

R – Radersburg Party: LT. SCHOFIELD, SOLDIER BOYS AND PFISTER START FOR BOZEMAN EARLY IN THE MORNING...

R – Radersburg Party/Oldham: OLDHAM CROSSED THE MADISON...

(...hid among some willows on a little island...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/27/1877 cont'd.

Monday

R – Radersburg Party/Cowan: TODAY COWAN REACHED THE WAGONS  
THEY HAD ABANDONED ON FRIDAY (THE 24<sup>TH</sup>)...

(... Cowan had crawled about 9 miles in 60 hours...  
... At the wagons he found his dog Dido; it was a joyful reunion...)  
[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena Party/Roberts and Foller: UP AT DAYLIGHT, HEADED FOR THE  
MADISON RIVER...

(... “Had nothing to eat except some berries plucked along the way...”)  
[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Howard: SHERMAN’S REBUKE (8/24 TELEGRAM) STUNG  
HOWARD...

(... On 8/27 Howard answered Sherman: “You misunderstand me. I never flag...  
You need not fear for the campaign. Neither you nor General McDowell can  
doubt my pluck and energy... We move in the morning and will continue  
till the end...”)

[Josephy, Northwest]

A – Army/Howard’s Column: HOWARD RETURNS FROM VIRGINIA CITY  
AT NOON...

(... began making preparations to renew the chase...)  
[Buck, Story]

A – Army/Gilbert: LT. COL. CHARLES C. GILBERT TO HELENA...

(... ostensibly to verify a flour contract...  
... Gilbert is C. O. at Camp Baker (later Ft. Logan)...)  
[Brown, Flight]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/27/1877 cont'd.

Monday

A – Army/Doane: DOANE PARTY LEAVES FT. ELLIS...

(... under orders “to push up the Yellowstone to the (Baronett’s) bridge at the mouth of the East Fork, cross that, and feel for the Indians up the right bank of the Yellowstone...”)

[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Perce: THE EVENING OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> THE NEZ PERCE CAMPED ABOUT FOUR MILES UP PELICAN CREEK FROM MARY BAY...

[Greene, Yellowstone]

N – Nez Perces: THE NEZ PERCE HAD CEASED SENDING OUT A REAR GUARD AFTER CROSSING THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER...

(... according to Shively...

... compared to their earlier haste, they were obviously in no hurry...

...(today) moved only four miles up the creek...)

[Hampton, Grace]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE CROSSED THE (EAST FORK/ALUM CREEK) DIVIDE OVER A VERY ROUGH TRAIL...

(... At Mud Volcanoes on the Yellowstone we found an old wounded Nez Perce squaw left in camp to die. The scouts killed and scalped her before I got to camp

... The enemy evidently left here this morning...

... fish “straight” now is all we have to eat...

... there is no end of grumbling among my scouts...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

N – Nez Perces: THE DAY HOWARD’S TROOPS RENEWED THE PURSUIT THE NEZ PERCES WERE CAMPED IN THE VALLEY OF PELICAN CREEK, FOUR MILES ABOVE YELLOWSTONE LAKE...

(... the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup> ...)

[Haines, Elusive]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/28/1877

Tuesday

R – Radersburg Party/Mrs. Cowan: BOTTLER’S RANCH TO BOZEMAN...

(... At Bottler’s ranch, Mrs. Cowan, Frank and Ida had met an old friend, Dave Boreum of Bozeman, who offered to take them to town in his carriage...

... They made 15 miles before stopping for the night at a ranch house on Trail Creek...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

R – Radersburg: AT NOON CARPENTER ET AL HEAD FOR BOZEMAN...

(... one hour out meet David Boreum of Bozeman coming to meet Mrs. Cowan with a carriage; bid Calfee and Catlin goodbye...

R - Radersburg/Cowan: COWAN REACHED LOWER GEYSER BASIN CAMP...

(... found coffee he had spilled Thursday, 8/23, and a few matches; made coffee; was the first refreshment he had taken for five days and nights...

... remained in Lower Geyser Basin Tuesday night...)

R - Radersburg/Oldham: OLDHAM FOUND BY TWO WHITE SCOUTS...

(... took him to Howard’s command where he found Arnold and Mann...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: JAMES MCCARTNEY AGREED TO ACCOMPANY WEIKET TO OTTER CREEK...

(... to bury Kenck and, if possible, to find out what happened to Roberts and Foller...

... Ambulance was coming to the Springs to get Stewart...

... Dietrich didn’t want to leave until he knew what happened to the rest of the party...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/28/1877 cont'd.

Tuesday

H – Helena/Roberts and Foller: 9 A. M., STRUCK THE SUMMIT OF THE DIVIDE SEPARATING THE WATERS OF THE MADISON AND THE YELLOWSTONE...

(...struck a small stream which led us to the river...  
...Foller, having a tackle...caught three fish. These we roasted, having made a fire...)

[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD'S COLUMN RESUMES PURSUIT...

(... Wagons from Missoula and packers from Lewiston who had lost their mules at Camas Meadows were released...  
...A new wagon train was put together with wagons from Stevensville and Virginia City: three four horse wagons, five two horse wagons, and another team with a light spring wagon....)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Howard: " SETTING FORTH BRIGHT AND EARLY (WE LEAVE) THAT BEAUTIFUL CAMP BY THE LAKE...

(... "where in weariness, poverty, and heartsickness we had been halted for four days...  
... "Our column looked well. Even the horses had picked up a little, and the movement was passably brisk as we... passed through the mountain gorge to new fields and to dangers still unknown..." )

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Howard's Wagon Train: "WITH CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE, (WE) LEFT OUR LOVELY CAMP BY THE LAKE...

(... "After having had a four days rest, we packed up at 7:00 a. m. on the morning of 8/28...  
...(We went) through a very low pass called Tacher's Pass... to the Madison River where we camped for the night..." )

[Buck, Story]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/28/1877 cont'd.

Tuesday

A – Army/Howard: TWO MORE OF COWAN PARTY RESCUED BY GEN. HOWARD'S SCOUTS...

(...as they pushed up the Madison River into the Park: Henry Myers and Albert Oldham...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN'S REPLY TO HOWARD: "GLAD TO FIND YOU SO PLUCKY..."

(... "Have every possible faith in your intense energy, but thought it probable you were worn out, and I sometimes think men of less age and rank are best for Indian warfare. They have more to make" ...)

[Joseph, Northwest]

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES LEAVE INDIAN POND - START UP PELICAN CREEK...

[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Perces: GO ACROSS ABSAROKA DIVIDE AND DOWN COLD CREEK

(... In Cold Creek canyon the Nez Perce found the worst terrain they would encounter during their long flight to Canada...  
... Shively and Irwin were clearing the way with axes through choked timber...  
... Accustomed to long days digging prospecting holes, Shively called 8/28 "the hardest work he ever did" ...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

N – Nez Perces: FOR ONE WEEK, BETWEEN 8/28 AND 9/4, NEZ PERCES REMAINED IN THE HIGH MOUNTAINS EAST OF YELLOWSTONE LAKE

(... only moving occasionally to re-camp and find new pasture for their horses...)

[Hampton, Grace]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/28/1877 cont'd.

Tuesday

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE CROSSED THE YELLOWSTONE THIS MORNING...

(... passed one of the enemy's camps, where we found about 30 pounds of bacon, which we devoured with avidity...  
... It beats wormy fish a long way...  
... After we crossed Pelican Creek three scouts... reported the enemy in camp at the lake, about one mile distant...  
... As I approached the camp I saw two of the Nez Percés leaving it, the last two they proved to be. It was situated in the timber on the shore of Yellowstone...  
... In passing through it I found a derringer in good condition and loaded...  
... I then changed my saddle to “Tex” and started on alone, following the trail up Pelican Creek...  
... Having followed it about 10 miles, I turned aside and went up on a mountain from which I could plainly see the smoke in the enemy's camp...  
... I started back a little before sundown...  
... Upon reaching camp, about midnight, I... ate a little peace of raw bacon and turned in for the night...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

S – S. G. Fisher: EVENING OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup>... CAPT. FISHER ABLE TO SEE THE SMOKE OF THEIR CAMPFIRES ON THE HEADWATERS OF TIMOTHY CREEK...

(... Was unable to get Bannocks to move forward for an attack...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONS, 1877

8/29/1877  
Wednesday

R – Radersburg/Cowan: COWAN CRAWLED TO WHERE EAST FORK  
EMPTIES INTO THE FIREHOLE...

(... got there at 2 p. m., exhausted; in about two hours he heard horses and  
his dog growled...  
... two white men, Robbins and Redington, packing supplies to Fisher; they  
left him some “hard-tack” and blankets...  
... Cowan ate, felt better, despite no news of his wife...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD INTO YELLOWSTONE...

(... “Officers and men were naturally enough on the qui vive as our little  
pursuing column made its way through the western gateway and rough  
avenue into the grand National Park...”  
... they pick up “... Oldham, a tall, stout young man... shot through both cheeks  
and of course could hardly speak” and one other (Myers) “with his feet  
wrapped in rags”...)

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Howard’s wagons: CAMPED IN THE MADISON CANYON, WITHIN  
THE BOUNDARY OF YELLOWSTONE PARK...

[Buck, Story]

R – Radersburg/Carpenter et al: LEAVE (TRAIL CREEK STOPOVER) AT 9 A. M.,  
DRIVE INTO BOZEMAN ABOUT NOON...

(... As they arrive in Bozeman they meet Lt. Doane with 95 Crow scouts (“They  
looked rather more dangerous than anything we had yet met”) enroute to  
Yellowstone Park...  
... Carpenters/Mrs. Cowan go to the North Pacific Hotel...  
... Carpenter borrows a horse and a gun from Boreum, then joins six or seven  
Bozeman citizens heading out to bury Cowan...  
... they ride until midnight...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/29/1877 cont'd.

Wednesday

H – Helena Party/Weikert: MCCARTNEY AND WEIKERT, WITH TWO SADDLE HORSES AND TWO PACK HORSES, START FOR THE OTTER CREEK CAMPSITE...

(... they left Dietrich, Stewart and Stone at the Springs; the ambulance was coming up after Stewart that day...

... McCartney and Weikert “went within two miles of the old camp and unpacked and stayed all night, for it was too late to go farther...”

[Weikert, Tour]

H – Helena Party/Weikert: ON THE WAY OUT THEY MUST HAVE PASSED, UNSEEN, A BAND (OR TWO) OF NEZ PERCE SCOUTS MOVING TOWARD MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS...

[Haines, Yellowstone)

H – Helena/Roberts and Foller: “ROSE EARLY... TRAVELED SOME MILES... WE SAW SEVERAL MEN... AND HAILED THEM... WAGONS TRANSPORTING SUPPLIES TO GEN. HOWARD AT HENRY’S LAKE...

(... “The party took good care of us – gave us first a small dram of whiskey and then carefully rationed us... gave us the directions to Virginia City, and we proceeded on still afoot...”)

[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Sherman: SHERMAN HAS SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT LEAVING HOWARD IN COMMAND...

(... writes Howard a letter authorizing Howard to transfer his command to 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry’s Lt. Col. C. C. Gilbert...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/29/1877 cont'd.

Wednesday

A – Army/Sherman: LT. COL. GILBERT GETS AUTHORIZATION LETTER FROM GEN. SHERMAN: HOWARD CAN TURN OVER HIS COMMAND TO GILBERT AND THEN RETURN TO OREGON...

(...on 8/30 Sherman plans to go to Missoula, then to Walla Walla – “There are many things in your department about which I would like to consult you, and I will feel your absence much...”)

[Brown, Flight]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE ARE CAMPED ON THE RIVER ONE MILE BELOW THE YELLOWSTONE LAKE...

(...I concluded to lie over and rest... Breakfasted on bacon straight this morning...  
... Mann and Baptiste started to go back to the command...  
... Madison John and eight others are still ahead...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

O – Other Participants/George Houston: HOUSTON LEAVES MCCARTNEY’S TO GO WITH JIMMY DEWINGS TO FIND COWAN, BURY HIS REMAINS...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES FOLLOW A SHOSHONI INDIAN ON AND ACROSS MIRROR PLATEAU...

(...If they had followed Shively’s advice they would have been on the Lamar...  
... soon were on Broad Creek; were several days lost...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

N – Nez Perces: FOLLOW A SHOSHONE INDIAN AROUND A MOUNTAIN (SHIVELY)...

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/30/1877

Thursday

R – Radersburg/Cowan: COWAN PICKED UP AT NOON BY HOWARD’S COLUMN...

(...met Arnold who told him that Oldham also was with the command, that Mann, Harmon, Dingee and Myers had gone to Virginia City; there was no news of Mrs. Cowan...

...Cowan got his wounds dressed after doctors got done looking at the geyser basin...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R - Radersburg/Cowan: THAT NIGHT BY CANDLELIGHT THEY PROBE COWAN’S WOUNDS AND REMOVE THE BULLET FLATTENED ON HIS SKULL...

[Haines, Yellowstone]

A – Army/Howard’s Column: “MADE CAMP AT NEZ PERCE CREEK, NEARLY A MILE ABOVE ITS MOUTH...

(...(in camp)... word reached us that Mr. Cowan had been found about one-fourth mile in advance of us and was still alive...

...A comfortable bed was made with plenty of blankets in the bottom of Doc Van R. Woodmancy’s light spring-wagon, thus forming a sort of ambulance for Mr. Cowan...”)

[Buck, Story]

A – Army/Howard: “WE NAMED THIS CAMP OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST FOR THE WOUNDED LAWYER, “CAMP COWAN...”

(...“Wood in his notes called it the sulfurous camp...

...“During the short time before sunset, officers and soldiers, except for the pickets, guard, and herders, were allowed to investigate these strange phenomena

...“There is no end of surprises in this wonderful park...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

H – Helena/Stone and Dietrich: AMBULANCE LEAVES MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS FOR BOZEMAN TAKING STEWART AND LEONARD DUNCAN

(...Dietrich and Stone stay, plus Jake Stoner who came up on the ambulance...

...Nez Perce raiders pass through, going north...

...Stone ran out the back door; hides overnight and through the next day...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/30/1877 cont'd.  
Thursday

H – Helena: MORNING – AMBULANCE/STAGE FROM FT. ELLIS STARTS  
BACK...

(...Dietrich refused to go; wanted too find out what happened to Roberts and  
Foller...

...Jake Stoner, an ambulance crewman who stayed behind, went hunting and in  
the vicinity of Lava Creek spots a party of Indians...

...Stoner rushes back to McCartney's; warns Dietrich and Stone; all three hide...

...Indians search around hotel, then head toward Henderson's ranch...)

[Greene, 1877]

H – Helena/Weikert: WEIKERT AND MCCARTNEY... "STARTED EARLY...  
AND GOT INTO THE OLD CAMP... BURIED (KENCK)... THE BEST WE  
COULD...

(... "spent the remainder of the day searching for the other two missing boys...  
(nothing)...

... We packed up what little was left in the camp and started back, camping at  
night where we did the night before; had our supper...

... went to picket our horses... (McCartney): "better go on"... all right, so we  
saddled up and started... (looked back and saw an Indian)... traveled on until  
three o'clock in the morning..."

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Doane: LT. DOANE'S MIXED FORCE CAMPED AT BOTTLER'S  
RANCH...

[Haines, Yellowstone]

R – Radersburg: CARPENTER AND BOZEMAN CITIZENS OVERTAKE  
DOANE AT BOTTLER'S RANCH THAT EVENING...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Roberts and Foller: ARRIVED SAFELY IN VIRGINIA CITY...

(..."We fell in with a man looking for stock... we bargained with him to take  
us to Virginia, where we arrived safely that evening..."

[Stanley, Rambles]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/30/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCE SQUAW CAMP WAS ON DEEP CREEK ON MIRROR PLATEAU...

[Haines, Yellowstone]

N – Nez Perces/Main Camps: NEZ PERCE SHIFTED ANOTHER FEW MILES DOWN THE LAMAR TO PROVIDE FRESH GRASS FOR HORSES...

(... according to John Shively...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

S – S. G. Fisher: "I AM SICK THIS MORNING... WE STARTED TO GO BACK TO THE COMMAND..."

(... got as far as Mud Volcanoes, where we went into camp...

... While here two of Captain Robinson's scouts came up with some hard-tack and bacon for me. They also brought my bay horse...")

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Mason: MASON WRITES HIS WIFE: "MRS. COWAN AND HER SISTER HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF LT. SCHOFIELD..."

(... "We received intelligence (it came last night) that Mrs. Cowan and her sister have been released and are now in the hands of Lt. Schofield ... Today the chapter was completed by finding Mr. Cowan, her husband alive!")

(... News of Mrs. Cowan's rescue was sent to Ft. Ellis by a courier whom Lt. Schofield dispatched after his arrival at Mammoth Hot Springs...

... The next day Capt. Benham at Ft. Ellis wired it to Gibbon, and thus broadcast the information to all the telegraph operators...

... Presumably, one of Howard's couriers – probably Frank Parker - picked it up in Virginia City and carried it back to the command...

... Sometimes news traveled quickly on the frontier – even in remote places...)

[Brown, Flight]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/31/187Friday

N – Nez Perce/Raiders: AT HENDERSON'S RANCH, EIGHT NEZ PERCE RAIDERS SHOW UP IN THE MORNING, HAVE LONG RANGE GUN BATTLE WITH RANCH OCCUPANTS, STEAL HORSES, BURN RANCH HOUSE; TEN NEZ PERCE WATCH FROM TERRACE BEHIND RANCH...

(...take 15 horses ... [Brown, Flight]...

...Doane et al are just rounding Cinnebar Mountain... saw the smoke; put command to the gallop... raiders flee past McCartney's hotel...

...Dietrich, who had returned to the hotel to get something to eat, is shot and killed by retreating Nez Perce as he stands in the doorway...

...raiders are pursued by Lt. Hugh L. Scott, guide Jack Baronett, and ten cavalymen...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

A – Army/Doane: AT HENDERSON'S RANCH... GUNFIGHT BETWEEN RAIDERS AND FIVE RANCHERS... SPORADIC SHOOTING FOR TWO HOURS...

(...Doane, passing Cinnebar Mountain with Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 42 Crow scouts, Carpenter and Bozeman citizens, sees smoke...

...Doane sends 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Hugh Scott with 10 men, guided by Collins J. ("Jack") Baronett to investigate...

...Nez Perce head back into Park from Henderson's...ride past McCartney's...

...Dietrich, at hotel looking for food, comes to doorway...

... is shot and killed by Nez Perce warrior Chuslum Hahlap Kanoot (Naked-Footed Bull) still enraged over loss of family members at Big Hole...

... about 3 p. m. Stone, still hiding in the trees, hears burst of gunfire from McCartney's...

... Scott's men, pursuing the Nez Perce, find Dietrich's body at McCartney's; they move the body to the floor of the cabin...

... Scott's men pursued Nez Perce to Lava Creek; there, at Baronett's insistence, returned to join Doane at Henderson's ranch where they bivouacked...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/31/1877 cont'd.

Friday

A – Army/Scott: SCOTT REJOINS DOANE AT HENDERSON'S RANCH...

(... “We went back to find the troop camped on an irrigating ditch, in which we could lie with access to water and make a good fight if attacked by a larger force. ... “That night Doane told me to take 20 men next morning to go to Baronett's Bridge and see if the Indians had crossed there... and to set fire to the grass coming back to burn the Indians out of the Yellowstone Valley...”)

[Scott, Memories]

H – Helena/Weikert: WEIKERT/MCCARTNEY LEAVE YELLOWSTONE FALLS (EVENING 8/30)... TRAVELED ON UNTIL 3 A. M., THEN CAMPED UNTIL MORNING...

(... “It was about 9 o'clock when we found our horses... we... were about 18 miles from the Springs... saddled and packed our horses then started for the Springs... got within 200 yards of (a party of 18 Indians)...

... “We struck out for the nearest brush... lively race for a mile... 18 guns kept up quite a racket... We returned fire as best we could...

(... the Indians that raided Henderson's ranch met Weikert and McCartney near the Blacktail Ponds, chased them one mile to a brush thicket on the slope of Mount Everts [Haines, Yellowstone])

... “they soon put a ball in my horse and he stopped as quick as a person could snap his finger... so I got off quick...

... “We had fired several shots apiece... Mack's horse commenced bucking... and bucked him off, then ran off... with the saddle under him...

... “The Indians never let up shooting... must have fired 50 shots at me... Mack and I got together...

... “We soon got to the brush, but there was no reds to be seen anywhere... they will not follow a man into the brush. We camped for about an hour, then ventured out to see if the walking was good...

... (found only the dead horse) “and from even this they had taken my saddle and bridle... saw the Indians four miles off...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

O – Other Participants/Groff and Leonard: JOHN J. GROFF AND J. S. LEONARD (SCOUTS FOR STURGIS) WERE AMBUSHED BY NEZ PERCE AND UNHORSED...

(... were carrying dispatches from Sturgis... Groff was shot through the neck...)

(... around the head of Little Blacktail Deer Creek – [Brown, Flight]...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/31/1877 cont'd.  
Friday

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS LEAVES CROW AGENCY FOR CLARK'S FORK/  
STINKING WATER...

(...had waited for information from his scouts, but didn't hear from them...)  
[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Percés/Main Camps: (ACCORDING TO SHIVELY) NEZ PERCE MOVE  
THREE MILES, LEAVING THE RIVER BOTTOM AND ASCENDING A  
HIGH RIDGE TO THE EAST BETWEEN TWO CREEKS FLOWING FROM  
THE ABSAROKA HEIGHTS...

(...found more meadows and springs and an abundance of elk...  
...built breastworks atop the ridge... wait for return of emissaries to the Crows...)  
[Stadius, Dreamers]

S – S. G. Fisher: "I GAVE 22 OF THE BANNOCKS PAPERS TO GO BACK...

(...I wanted to start ahead on the trail again today, but the Indians are worn out  
and grumbling...  
...During the day... I took a good wash in the river... Since taking a good feed on  
hard-tack and bacon I feel like a new man...")  
[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Gilbert: LT. COL. CHARLES C. GILBERT DEPARTED FT. ELLIS TO  
FIND HOWARD AND TAKE OVER THE GENERAL'S COLUMN...

(...has with him Co. L, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, now under command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles B.  
Schofield...)  
[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/George Houston: HOUSTON RAN INTO A NEZ PERCE  
WAR PARTY IN HAYDEN VALLEY AND GOT AWAY ONLY AFTER  
A STRENUOUS CHASE...

(...Houston had joined forces with Jimmy Dewing, and the two of them had  
gone up the Yellowstone River with the idea of finding Cowan's body and  
burying it...)  
[Haines, Yellowstone]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/31/1877 cont'd.

Friday

A – Army/Howard: “WE CAMPED FOR THE NIGHT JUST BEYOND THE BEAUTIFUL MARY LAKE ON THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...

(... “a practical wagon road was made by Spurgin’s pioneers...  
... “The wagons which had joined us in Montana were brought on so as not to detain the march the next day”...)

[Howard, Joseph]

H – Helena/Weikert (p. m.): “IT WAS GETTING ALONG DARK ... (WE FORDED THE GARDINER RIVER)...

(... “it was only up to our necks... It was now dark and we were two miles from the Springs and I was getting awful hungry...  
... (got to McCartney’s) “Went into the house, struck a match and lit a piece of candle we found lying on the table...  
... “Saw poor Dietrich lying on the floor dead... About this time I had almost lost all feeling for everything...  
... “Mack hunted around for something to eat, but found nothing, so we concluded to go down the river to the next ranch which was seven miles away..”)

[Weikert, Tour]

R – Radersburg/Cowan: COWAN HEARD FROM A COURIER FROM BOZEMAN THAT MRS. COWAN WAS ALIVE AND WELL...

(... “This revived me more than all the attention I could have received”...)

[Brown, Flight]

O – Other Participants/Shively: REGARDING SHIVELY’S “GUIDING”...

(... Yellow Wolf admitted Shively guided the Nez Perce during some of this time in the Park, but said it was only for half a day (Friday, 8/24) when they were attempting to find their way from the Lower Geyser Basin to Yellowstone Lake...  
... Yellow Wolf, however, was a member of one of the raiding parties down the Yellowstone River about this time and probably did not rejoin the bands before the night of 8/31, Friday...

(... (this is) the same day Shively claims he pointed out the Clark’s Fork route...  
... Yellow Wolf was hardly in a position to know what transpired in his absence..)

[Hampton, Grace]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

8/31/1877 cont'd.

Friday

Q – Question: WAS YELLOW WOLF PRESENT AT DIETRICH'S DEATH?

(...McWhorter, Yellow Wolf, pp. 177 – 180, details the death of a white man at the door of a structure but a variety of facts argue against Yellow Wolf describing Dietrich's death:

..... the size of the warrior party...

..... the mention of willows near the building...

..... the presence of another party of whites with whom the warriors had a fight...

..... the proximity of a second house with five or six men inside...

[Stadius, Dreamers]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/1/1877

Saturday

A – Army/Doane: COURIER FROM FT. ELLIS FOR DOANE: REMAIN AT HENDERSON’S, WAIT FOR COL. GILBERT...

(...Doane sends out scouts and a courier to Howard, with a message from Carpenter requesting information on Cowan when they get it; telling Howard of Gilbert’s impending arrival with Sherman’s letter...

...(At Henderson’s ranch Doane has one company of 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, about 30 citizens, and 42 Crow scouts – [Brown, Flight]...)

...Carpenter: During the day a number of us went up to the Springs and buried Dietrich...

...stragglers from surrounding ranches come into Doane’s camp...

...McCartney tells Carpenter that on 8/29, George Houston and Jimmy Dewings left McCartney’s to go bury Cowan...)

[McWhorter,Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: WEIKERTAND MCCARTNEY ARRIVE AT HENDERSON RANCH IN EARLY A. M...

(... “we went into camp and old Ben recognized my voice. He jumped up and came to me taking me by the hand and saying, “God bless you, Andy, I never expected to see you any more.” ...

...(later in the day) Several soldiers and quite a number of citizens went with me to Mammoth Springs to bury Dietrich...

... We buried him the best we could in an old bath tub that was at the Springs, for lumber was scarce...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Scott: “AFTER CROSSING THE CANYON (OF BLACKTAIL DEER CREEK), WE WENT ON TO THE (BARONETT’S) BRIDGE, WHICH WAS INTACT...

(... leaving Baronett’s Bridge and returning to camp... we picked up two of Gen. Samuel O. Sturgis’ scouts, Groff and Leonard, who had come across the mountains...”(they had run into a Nez Perce party, lost their horses, one of them was wounded and one of their party killed... [McWhorter, Adventures])...

...I found on my return to camp that night that a party of our men had gone to McCartney’s cabin... to bury the man killed there...”)

[Scott, Memories]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/1/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

Q – Question/Stadius: SCOTT MUST NOT HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER, BECAUSE HE FAILED TO NOTICE THAT SOME OF THE BRIDGE TIMBERS WERE BURNED...

(... the result of an attempt by the Snake chief traveling with the Nez Perce to destroy the bridge two days earlier...)

[Stadius, Dreamers}

A – Army/Howard: SPURGIN'S "SKILLETS" TOOK UP BUILDING A PASSABLE ROAD FOR THE WAGONS...

(...Howard's soldiers move to top of plateau...

...40 horses belonging to civilian contractors are missing in a. m....

...Howard sends out a cavalry detachment that brings back 10 former Bannock scouts to the command...)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Spurgin: SPURGIN'S "SKILLETS"...

(... "Before starting his long pursuit, Gen. Howard organized in Idaho a company of 52 frontiersmen, all of whom were skilled in some useful kind of work...

...they were under the command of Capt. W. F. Spurgin, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry....

... They were organized as a company of engineers, armed as infantry troops, but mounted on horses furnished by themselves, and were paid... \$3 a day and their rations...

... were not designated engineers... but as "skilled laborers"... (the title was quickly condensed by the troops into "skillets"...

...(they) started out every morning half an hour after the scouts, and an hour before the main body...

... Their duty was to make a road for the army, and it involved constant work, 'great activity...')

[Chittenden, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/1/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD MOVES HIS CAVALRY AHEAD OF SPURGIN...

(... deserting Bannocks make off with 40 horses belonging to laborers; Howard sends a cavalry squad after them... they arrest eight Bannocks who are held until all the horses are brought back...

...Howard moves on to Yellowstone River, six miles below Yellowstone Lake; find “plenty of wormy fish...”)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Howard: “WE REACHED THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER ABOUT 9/1...

(... Our marches at this time averaged about 15 miles a day, the object in making such small distances being to enable certain supplies from Virginia City to overtake us...”)

[Sutherland, Howard]

A – Army/Howard: “WE WERE NEXT IN CAMP ON THE YELLOWSTONE...

(... “near one of those noisy, dirty, heated smoke holes such as I have mentioned, bearing the descriptive name of “Muddy Springs”...

... “The Yellowstone bottom broadens out in this neighborhood, giving to us plenty of grass and a good encampment, notwithstanding the immense herds of Chief Joseph which had here just preceded us...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

S - S. G. Fisher: “JUST AT SUNDOWN, WHILE RIDING ALONG THE TRAIL (UP PELICAN CREEK) I MET A WHITE MAN...

(... I instantly covered him with my gun and ordered him to advance...

... He then told me his name was Irwin and that he was an escaped prisoner from Joseph’s band...

... He left the enemy’s camp this morning about 30 miles from here...

... I sent (two scouts) back to the command with Irwin’s statement...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/1/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

S – S. G. Fisher: AT SUNDOWN, ABOUT THREE MILES UP PELICAN CREEK, FISHER FINDS IRWIN...

(... Irwin had left Nez Perce camp “about 30 miles from here” about eight that morning...(Fisher’s force is down to 18 men [Stadius, Dreamers])...)

[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/Irwin: NEZ PERCE ENCAMPMENT IS STILL ON THE MIRROR PLATEAU...

(... Irwin asks Shively where the stream they were on flowed to... Shively told him; Irwin escapes...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

O – Other Participants/Shively: “THE INDIANS MOVED TO THE (EAST FORK OF THE) YELLOWSTONE, AND FROM THERE MOVED OVER TO THE HEADWATERS, OR RATHER A TRIBUTARY, OF CLARK’S FORK...”

(...“The first night of our arrival being quite dark, I slipped out of camp and started for Mammoth Hot Springs... which I made after traveling two whole nights and one day...”)

[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Sherman: GENERAL OF THE ARMY WILLIAM T. SHERMAN VISITED THE MEN HOSPITALIZED AT DEER LODGE ON 9/1...

[Haines, Elusive]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/2/1877

Sunday

A – Army/Gilbert: GILBERT REACHES HENDERSON’S RANCH...

(...is escorted by Norwood’s company, taken from Cushing at Ft. Ellis...  
...Gilbert insists on backtracking down Yellowstone to Tom Miner Cr., then to  
the headwaters of the Gallatin, then to the Lower Geyser Basin to pick up  
Howard’s trail rather than follow Doane’s advice and push on up the Yellow-  
stone to Baronett’s bridge...)

[Brown, Flight]

A – Army/Gilbert: GILBERT TAKES OVER DOANE’S COMMAND...

(...According to Lt. Scott, “Doane begged him with tears in his eyes” to proceed  
up the Yellowstone after the Indians, but Gilbert stubbornly refused, saying that  
he was only trying to reach Howard and did not want to be delayed by a fight and  
miss him [Scott, Memories, p. 68]...)

(...instead they backtrack...the command ended up circumnavigating almost  
120 miles only to arrive at Baronnet Bridge and Howard’s cold trail, a mere  
24 miles up the Yellowstone Valley from Henderson’s ranch...  
...two weeks later, near the Crow Agency, Gilbert finally gave up and  
returned to Ft. Ellis, his men and horses so jaded from the 300 mile journey  
that only 20 men...remained out of a force that had numbered over 100 at  
the start...the rest eventually straggled back to Ft. Ellis...)

[Hampton, Grace]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD LAYS OVER (NEAR MUD VOLCANO) AWAIT-  
ING RESUPPLY FROM FT. ELLIS...

(...soldiers bathe in medium temperature hot springs...)

[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/Irwin: IRWIN GETS TO HOWARD...

(...Irwin advises Howard of Nez Perce location and not to follow directly...)

[Greene, 1877]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/2/1877 cont'd.

Sunday

- O – Other Participants/Redington: HOWARD RELEASES TWO BANNOCK SCOUTS (DETAINED FOR STEALING SPURGIN'S HORSES) TO GO WITH REDINGTON TO FIND FISHER...

(...Redington was apprehensive of the loyalty of his guides...  
...they rode all night through a steady rain over a trail covered with fallen timber...  
...near morning, they found Fisher with his reduced force, with no supplies save the game they could shoot...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

- A – Army/Spurgin's Skillets: SKILLETTS FINISH PASSABLE TRAIL FOR WAGONS UP MARY MOUNTAIN MID-DAY...

(...took them a day and a half...)

[Brown, Flight]

- A – Army/Howard's Wagon Train: AFTERNOON OF SECOND DAY "SKILLETTS" FINISH ROAD...

(... "My wagon was in the lead; we hooked eight horses to it and made the start... my wagon being the only one to reach the top that night... dusk when we drew up to the shore of Mary Lake...  
... "Neil Brooks and I held down this camp alone for the night, the rest of the men, taking the horses with them, returned to the camp at the foot of the mountain for the night...")

[Buck, Story]

- O – Other Participants/Houston and Dewing: GEORGE HOUSTON AND JIMMY DEWING COME INTO DOANE'S CAMP...

(...had encountered Nez Perce and barely escaped...  
(...Houston was at McCartney's on 8/29... heard of Cowan being shot and of escape of Carpenter... heads for Mud Springs to bury Cowan...  
... is joined by Dewing at Baronett's Bridge; they traveled Thursday, 8/30, and on Friday, 8/31, they saw an Indian camp across the river near Mud Volcano...)

...Indians chased them to the timber above the Falls – (8 miles)...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/2/1877 cont'd.

Sunday

O – Other Participants/Shively: SHIVELY CROSSES BARONETT BRIDGE ON PARTIALLY BURNED STRINGERS...

(... Shively had escaped from the Nez Perce the night before...

(... from the camp on the Mirror Plateau... (Haines)...

... or from a camp on the Clark Fork Divide?)...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

N – Nez Percés/Camp: NEZ PERCES CAMP NEAR PARKER PEAK...

(... “a beautiful grassy ridge”...

... Shively escapes from Nez Perce after pointing them in direction of Crow country...)

[Greene, 1877]

S – S. G. Fisher: “HAVING PASSED OVER THE PELICAN CREEK DIVIDE TODAY, WE ARE NOW ON THE WATERS OF THE EAST FORK OF THE YELLOWSTONE...

(... Irwin started for the command this morning...

... I climbed up the side of a mountain to get the lay of the country...

... About two p. m. (some of the boys) came up with two of Captain Robinson's scouts. I got a letter from General Howard...

... We (six of us) pulled out at four p. m. on the trail...

... We made about six miles over a very bad trail through fallen timber and then left the trail and camped in a hollow... (on the East Fork side)...

... We are living on meat “straight”, one of the scouts having been so fortunate as to kill a deer this morning...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/3/1877

Monday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD GETS PROVISIONS...

(...after talking to Irwin, Howard decided to go down the Yellowstone River rather than try to follow Nez Percés directly...

...in the afternoon the troops march down the left bank of the Yellowstone River and camp “on a little flat just above and nearly abreast of the Lower Falls”...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Lt. Col. Gilbert: GILBERT JOINS DOANE AT HENDERSON’S RANCH...

(...Gilbert, with Co. L, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, under Lt. Schofield joins Doane...

(...Lt. Col. Charles C. Gilbert (1822 – 1903), at 55 was eight years older than Howard...

...taking over Doane’s force, Gilbert marched the combined force down the Yellowstone to Miner’s Creek and an old trail to the West Gallatin and then to the Madison – wanted to reach Howard’s command and take it over... (letter from Sherman)...

... Gilbert follows Howard’s trail over Washburn to Baronett’s Bridge...

... here Doane and his fatigued men and animals return to Ellis...

... Gilbert, with 20 men continues to follow Howard – finally gives up at Crow Agency and returns to Ft. Ellis...

... never did catch Howard...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Gilbert: GILBERT WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEZ PERCES WHO WERE CLOSE, BUT WITH HIS OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER HOWARD’S COMMAND...

(... ordered Doane to accompany him... all citizens and the Crow auxiliaries are sent down the river...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/3/1877 cont'd.  
Monday

R – Radersburg/Carpenter: CARPENTER HEADS BACK TO BOZEMAN WITH WEIKERT, STERLING HENDERSON AND OTHERS...

(... party makes Emigrant Gulch by night – were “nicely entertained” ...  
... Houston says he will find Cowan and bury him...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: WEIKERT AND STONE TO BOZEMAN...

(... “After getting through with everything at the Springs... I started for Bozeman to replenish my wardrobe and get a couple more horses, then was going to look for the missing boys until I found them...”)

[Weikert, Tour]

A – Army/Wagons: “BY NOON WE WERE ALL IN CAMP AT MARY LAKE...

(... “Next morning... Brooks and I went down to the camp below to assist in getting up the rest of the wagons...  
... by noon we were all in camp at Mary Lake for lunch... then on to “Sulphur Mountain”... Spurgin’s Beaver Slide... dusk... camp on Yellowstone River, about a mile away and about two miles above the Upper Falls...”)

[Buck, Story]

S – S. G. Fisher: “BROKE CAMP AT DAYLIGHT AND WERE OFF ON THE TRAIL, FOLLOWING IT THROUGH THE ROUGHEST CANYON I EVER UNDERTOOK TO PASS THROUGH...

(... “About every foot of it was obstructed with dead and fallen timber and huge blocks of granite which had fallen from its sides...

... We found plenty of dead and crippled horses that had been left by the enemy...”)

(... Not in the published journal: “saw enemy’s camp about seven or eight miles to the east near the summit of a high mountain.” Redington brings bacon, beans, and a letter from the command... finds Fisher camped in a meadow on lower Mist Creek, not far from the Lamar River [MtMagWstn Hist, Winter 1990])...)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/3/1877 cont'd.

Monday

O – Other Participants/Shively: SHIVELY REACHES MCCARTNEY'S HOTEL...

(...“Here I found no one, but did find some potatoes which greatly revived me...  
having had nothing to eat from the time of leaving the Indian camp...”)

[Stanley, Rambles]

A – Army/Sturgis: COL. STURGIS, WITH SIX COMPANIES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
CAVALRY, ARRIVES AT THE MOUTH OF CLARK FORK CANYON...

(...began to send out patrols...

...had to watch both Clark's Fork and Stinking Water...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/4/1877

Tuesday

A – Army/Wagon Train: “WAGONS START EARLY...PAST SPURGIN’S BEAVER SLIDE AND CASCADE CREEK...NOON WHEN WE STRUCK CAMP WITH THE SOLDIERS...”

(... “Although I was forced in the beginning to go with Gen. Howard’s command ...after a lapse of 45 years, I can look back and say, in spite of the hardships, that it proved to be the pleasure trip of my life.”...)

[Buck, Story]

P – Perspectives: PARK NATURALIST WAYNE REPLOGLE “REDISCOVERED” SPURGIN’S BEAVER SLIDE IN 1936...

[Beal, Forever]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD SPLITS FROM WAGONS; GOES AHEAD WITH PACK TRAIN...

(...Howard directs Spurgin to take wagons to Ft. Ellis...

(...from the Falls, Spurgin goes down the Yellowstone, through Dunraven Pass and into Carnelian Creek, down Tower Creek, detours around Tower Fall, journeys down the Yellowstone to strike the Gardiner River about one and a half miles above its mouth...

...he builds a bridge to cross it, then goes down the Yellowstone and out of the Park...

...Spurgin reaches Ft. Ellis Saturday, 9/15)...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD THEN TOOK ALL HIS SUPPLIES ON PACK ANIMALS FROM THIS CAMP AT THE LOWER YELLOWSTONE FALLS...

(Howard’s packers: “The packers were a splendid class of men physically, and better accustomed to the hardships of the camp than even the soldiers or volunteers...

...Most of them were Americans with a small sprinkling of Mexicans – just enough to give the proper pronunciation of aparejos and swear in a musical tone...

...In the long tramps, they were always the happiest, and in camp their fires were the first made, their suppers first ready and better provided and cooked than any others...

...In time of fighting, they were never known to falter”...)

[Sutherland, Howard]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/4/1877

Tuesday

O – Other Participants/Shively: SHIVELY ARRIVES AT HENDERSON'S RANCH...

(... “which I found destroyed, but plenty of provisions lying around...  
...I got some eggs, and, while cooking them, Mr. J. W. Schuler, of Butte City, who was returning from the Clark's Fork mines, rode up...  
...He kindly gave me his horse to ride, he going on foot...  
... That night, early, we reached Dailey's ranch, where we received the kindest treatment...  
...Mr. Dailey loaned me a horse on which to ride to Bozeman”...)

[Stanley, Rambles]

N – Nez Perces: FOR ONE WEEK, BETWEEN 8/28 (TUESDAY) AND 9/4 (TUESDAY), NEZ PERCES REMAINED IN THE HIGH MOUNTAINS EAST OF YELLOWSTONE LAKE...

(...only moving occasionally to recamp and find new pasture for their horses...)  
[Hampton, Grace]

R – Radersburg, etc: CARPENTER, WEIKERT ET AL, EMIGRANT GULCH TO BOZEMAN...

(..just before reaching Bozeman they were told that Joe Roberts and August Foller had returned safely to their homes...)  
[McWhorter, Adventures]

H – Helena/Weikert: HEARS ROBERTS AND FOLLER ARE SAFE...

(... “When I got within five miles of Bozeman, I met a man who told me that the boys had got to Virginia City about three days before and he thought they were in Helena by that time. You bet I was a happy man, went down the canyon flying on my borrowed horse, until I got to Bozeman where I got the particulars...”)  
[Weikert, Tour]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/5/1877

Wednesday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD ARRIVES AT BARONETT BRIDGE...

(...“a slight structure, stretched across the roaring torrent of the Yellowstone, had its further end so much burned by the raiders that it had fallen out of place, and was not passable...

...so that we were allowed to rest three hours, long enough to repair the broken bridge...

...Mr. Baronett’s house, the only one we had seen since Henry Lake, stood a few hundred yards away, on Joseph’s side of the river. It was appraised at \$300, and much of its lumber was brought to the river for replanking...

...As the first animals were started across the patched-up structure it trembled... (but) in the short span of half an hour the work was done; led horses, loaded pack mules, and marching men had crossed the flood...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD’S SCOUTS UNDER “CAPTAIN” ROBBINS RODE TO MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS AND HENDERSON’S RANCH TO SURVEY DAMAGE...

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS REACHES MOUTH OF CLARK’S FORK CANYON

(...camps on a tributary two miles away...

...they found no trail led through the canyon; was told by his scouts the country was impenetrable...

...Sturgis turns his attention to the Stinking Water...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS SENDS TWO SCOUTS TO WARN SODA BUTTE PASS MINERS...

(...sends his French-Canadian guide, Rocque, and a prospector he had found in the mountains to proceed as best they could to the miner’s camp near Soda Butte Pass and warn the miners of the possible imminent arrival of the Nez Perces...

... These two fell in with Howard’s command two days later on the 7<sup>th</sup> (Friday), giving the general the first word he had of Sturgis’ whereabouts...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/5/1877 cont'd.

Wednesday

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE STAYED IN CAMP TODAY AND RESTED OUR HORSES, CLEANED UP OUR GUNS, ETC...”

(... the balance of the boys got in at daylight this morning...  
...I sent an Indian back to the command with a letter to General Howard...  
...had nothing to eat but beans...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

P – Perspective: IT TOOK HOWARD FROM 8/28 UNTIL 9/5 TO MOVE HIS COMMAND FROM HENRY’S LAKE TO BARONETT’S BRIDGE...

(... “Howard and his weary men plodded up the east fork of the Yellowstone, leaving the infant national park behind...  
...Once more the park became an uninhabited wilderness dependent on geysers and sulphurous springs for its excitement...”)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/6/1877

Thursday

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES PASSED DOWN CRANDELL CREEK TOWARD CLARK’S FORK...

[Haines, Yellowstone]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD MARCHES UP SODA BUTTE CANYON...

[Greene, 1877]

O – Other Participants/Shively: SHIVELY ARRIVED IN BOZEMAN...

[Haines, Yellowstone]

R – Radersburg: CARPENTER WAS STANDING ON THE STREET IN BOZEMAN WHEN A HORSEMAN RODE UP AND TOLD HIM THAT COWAN WAS ALIVE...

(...Cowan had been found the Thursday (8/30) before...  
...soon after Carpenter heard that Shively had escaped and was then at the Lachede Hotel...  
...Carpenter met him there – “Could be no heartier handshaking than that which followed...”)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE STARTED IN GOOD SEASON THIS MORNING, FOLLOWING DOWN THE STREAM OVER AN EXCEEDINGLY ROUGH TRAIL...

(... “When we had made 12 miles one of the boys killed a deer. We camped at once, built a fire, and cooked and ate it at a single meal...  
...It rained all day today and was cold and disagreeable...  
...After finishing our meal we saddled up and went over to Soda Butte Creek, a distance of about three miles...  
...We found, by the trail, that the command had passed up this creek...  
...The enemy’s trail followed down the same creek that we came down today to a point where it formed a junction with another stream and then turned in a south of east direction, making up this last mentioned creek...  
...After reaching Soda Butte Creek we followed on about two miles and went into camp after dark...  
... There is just an even dozen of us now...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/6/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS SENDS HIS WAGONS WITH 25 MEN BACK TO CROW AGENCY FOR PROVISIONS EXPECTED FROM FT. ELLIS...

(... Sturgis' Crows also depart for the Agency...  
... Sturgis sends Rogue and a prospector named Seibert with a notice to miners in the Clark's Fork area regarding proximity of Nez Percés...)

[Greene, 1877]

P – Perspective: WRITING YEARS LATER, LT. HUGH SCOTT MAINTAINED THAT "DOANE HAD TOLD US WHERE THE NEZ PERCE WERE GOING TO GO A MONTH AND A HALF BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY WENT..."

(... "He knew that country so well that he could predict everything they did..." )

[Scott, Memories]

P – Perspectives: HOWARD'S ROUTE UP THE LAMAR AND SODA BUTTE CREEK...

(...relatively good doing for much of the way...  
... Crow and Shoshoni had traveled the trail for generations. John Colter may have taken it in 1808 on his way back to Manuel Lisa's post from the vicinity of the Tetons...  
... Was used by many other trappers during the heyday of the mountain fur trade; later by prospectors and miners...  
... Howard used it to move from the headwaters of Soda Butte Creek to those of the Clark Fork...)

[Joseph, Northwest]

P – Perspectives: ON 9/6 THE NEZ PERCES WERE MOVING DOWN CRANDALL CREEK WHILE GEN. HOWARD'S COMMAND WAS ONLY LEAVING BARONETT'S BRIDGE...

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/7/1877

Friday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD ARRIVES AT SODA BUTTE SILVER MINE...

(...“(we find) some 20 miners still hovering about their new crushing mill, resolute and well armed, ready to defend their treasure with their lives...  
...George Houston, one of the miners, was a favorite and already celebrated guide... Houston and all his companions were employed to scout the country.”)

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Howard: MARCHING FROM THE SODA BUTTE MINES TO THE FOOT OF CLARK’S MOUNTAIN HOWARD MET “THREE UNIQUE, DISTINCTIVE PERSONS...

(...“a jolly half-breed, more French than Indian (Roque), an Indian of the Crow Nation, and a veritable, though timorous, American (Chapman)... they were couriers from General Sturgis... (I was) delighted to find that Sturgis, with six or seven companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, was within 50 miles of us, and that the hostile Indians were surely between us and Sturgis...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE WERE IN OUR SADDLES AND OFF AT DAYLIGHT... OVERTOOK THE COMMAND NEAR THE CLARK’S FORK MINES...

(...It rained today...  
...I met my old friend George Huston. J. W. Reddington joined my outfit as scout...  
...I am ordered to take the lead in an easterly direction and to intercept the trail of the hostiles...  
... We crossed over the divide and camped with the command on the waters of Clark’s Fork...  
...I obtained some rations this evening... having eaten nothing since yesterday afternoon...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/7/1877 cont'd.

Friday

O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: “THE SOLDIERS ... MARCHED UP SODA BUTTE CREEK AND PASSED COOKE CITY, WHERE SEVERAL PIONEER MINERS VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE AGAINST THE INDIANS...

(... “Along here Captain Fisher and his little bunch of Bannacks rejoined the command...

...and again rode out far in advance, on the heels of the enemy...

...I went with them...

... We rode through the lofty region at the head of Crandell Creek and struck the head of Clark’s Fork of the Yellowstone, following down that stream after dropping through one of the steepest canyons on earth...”)

[Redington]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS MARCHES BACK TOWARD CLARK FORK CANYON/HEART MOUNTAIN...

[Greene, 1877]

R – Radersburg: CARPENTER LEFT BOZEMAN FOR RADERSBURG... ARRIVED THERE 2 P. M...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/8/1877

Saturday

R – Radersburg: CARPENTER/MRS. COWAN GO TO HELENA...

(... Spend Sunday, 9/9 there...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE GOT OFF THIS MORNING AT SIX O’CLOCK... STRUCK THE ENEMY’S TRAIL ON CRANDELL CREEK...

(... They are two days ahead of us, judging from the signs...

... The command halted about 4 p. m...

... Now I have only one riding horse...)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD’S COMMAND AT THE MOUTH OF CRANDALL CREEK ON CLARK’S FORK... DISCOVERS INDIAN TRAIL...

(... they continue downstream where Sturgis’ couriers to the miners found them..)

[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Perce/Yellow Wolf: AT DAWN, NEAR DIVIDE BETWEEN STINKING WATER AND CLARK’S FORK, YELLOW WOLF AND GOING AWAY RUN INTO TWO PROSPECTORS ACTING AS SCOUTS FOR STURGIS...

(... one scout was killed, one left wounded...

... Yellow Wolf is stunned by a bullet glancing off his skull...

... later that morning an army patrol led by Lt. Luther Hare finds the dead and wounded scouts...

... they make the wounded man comfortable, then report to Sturgis...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

N – Nez Perces: (NEAR DEAD INDIAN PASS) JOSEPH AND HIS FOLLOWERS ... ESCAPED OUT ON THE LONG SOUGHT BUFFALO PLAINS...

(... “men, women and children, horses and pack animals – came swarming down the mountainside, through the tunnel trail... a narrow gully... between the high walls of rock that, almost meeting at the top in places, made it appear as if we were passing through an incline tunnel...”)

[Sutherland, Howard]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/8/1877 cont'd.

Saturday

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS SENDS SCOUTING PARTIES UNDER LTS. HARE AND FULLER INTO SEPARATE AREAS...

(...Lt. Hare returned at 3 p. m. to report having found Rogue and Seibert 16 miles away, one dead, the other badly wounded – apparently attacked by Nez Perce warriors coming from the Stinking Water...

...Lt. Fuller reported that from a mountain top he had seen Nez Perce moving toward the Stinking Water...

...Saturday evening Sturgis set out with pack animals for the Stinking Water... moving up Pat O'Hara Creek, camping after 15 miles, probably on Skull Creek near the base of Heart Mountain...)

[Greene, 1877]

P – Perspectives: NO NEZ PERCE WARRIOR WHOSE STORY WAS RECORDED INDICATED THAT LOOKING GLASS WENT TO THE CROWS FOR HELP AND WAS REBUFFED...

(...Instead the Nez Percés apparently met a few Crow warriors while enroute from Yellowstone to Canyon Creek...

...These proved friendly, gave them ammunition, and possibly promised in case to fire their guns in the air, which a few may actually have done...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

O – Other Participants/Tom Leforge: “WHEN I WAS ASKED TO ACCOMPANY THE UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES AS A SCOUT IN THE INTERCEPTION OF THE NEZ PERCES, THE ORDER WAS EVADED...”

(...“I was at Absaroka... This was during the summer of 1877... I already had been in scout service... the preceding year or more...

...I met Looking Glass, Chief Joseph's subordinate chief, and talked with him...

...he was assured of my sadness of heart because of their distress and was promised that whatever influence I might have among the Crows would be used toward dissuading them from giving their aid in intercepting him and his people in their movement through our reservation lands...

...Most of the Crows felt this same way...

...Many of them, though, affected to array themselves against the Nez Percés, but in reality their warlike operations were restricted to the capture of ponies...”)

[Marquis, Crow]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/9/1877

Sunday

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE GOT OFF AT SEVEN O’CLOCK THIS MORNING...  
I RODE IN ADVANCE AND FOUND A GOOD TRAIL...”

(... we passed over the divide and camped upon a small stream which puts into  
Clark’s Fork...

... The command camped about one and a half miles southwest of us to-night...

... We have a steep hill to go up in the morning and must pass through a narrow  
cut at its summit...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD’S COMMAND ARRIVES AT DEAD INDIAN...

(... “A party of our white scouts, having with them, I think, one or two Indians,  
coming suddenly upon Joseph’s last bivouac, at the foot of a broad mountain  
ascent, surprised and killed and scalped an old, ailing warrior, who had been  
left behind by Joseph that morning...

... Twice before had our scouts committed a similar savagery...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS LOCATES WOUNDED PROSPECTOR/SCOUT...  
LOADS HIM ON A TRAVOIS...

(... Five civilians volunteer to take him north to safety...

... Sturgis heads south – camps near present day Cody...)

[Stadius, Dreamers]

N – NezPerces/Yellow Wolf: YELLOW WOLF SEES LT. HARE’S SCOUTING  
PARTY; WARNS NEZ PERCE THAT SOLDIERS ARE AHEAD OF THEM...

[Hampton, Grace]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/10/1877

Monday

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE STARTED AT SUNRISE THIS MORNING (UP DEAD INDIAN HILL)...

(...I rode a few hundred yards ahead of the balance of the boys over the summit...  
...no enemy in sight in any direction...  
...from the top of the divide, the enemy’s trail bore off toward the south-east...  
...After leaving the summit the enemy followed the trail towards the Stinking Water about two miles, and then attempted to elude pursuit by concealing their trail...  
...To do this, the hostiles “milled”, drove their ponies around in every direction, when, instead of going out of the basin in the direction they had been traveling and across an open plain, they turned short off to the north, passing along the steep side of the mountain through the timber for several miles...  
...I was so fortunate as to stumble onto the trail...  
...We followed through a very narrow and rocky canyon down to Clark’s Fork, at a point about two miles below where it comes out of a canyon...  
...Here the command about 5 p. m. went into camp for the night...  
...My horse is just about worn out...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD UP DEAD INDIAN HILL...

(...“It was the 10<sup>th</sup> of September at dawn... Our small force scattering out, and leading up their horses a short distance at a time, near the fresh Indian trail, began in earnest the ascent of the mountain...  
... Found where Joseph with consummate generalship... made a regular feint towards the odorous water, while he plunged into a forest which, to us, was apparently thick and impassable, and, under its cover, kept around the base of an immense ledge, and then passed into a narrow and slippery canyon, without exposing a man to the view of General Sturgis...  
... My command, discovering Joseph’s ruse, kept the trail which Sturgis had been so near, but had not seen ...  
... and, finally slid down the canyon, many a horse, in his weakness, falling and blocking the way...  
... The mouth of this canyon, which debouches into Clark’s Valley was not more than 20 feet from high wall to high wall...”)

[Howard, Joseph]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/10/1877 cont'd.

Monday

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD'S COMMAND FOLLOWS NEZ PERCES DOWN RIGHT BANK OF CLARK'S FORK...

(... during the day the scouts found and buried the bodies of three prospectors killed by Nez Perce warriors as they passed...

...Howard bivouacs about two miles below the canyon...)

[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Perces: FROM DEAD INDIAN HILL NEZ PERCE WENT DOWN BALD RIDGE TO CLARK'S FORK, NOT VIA DEAD INDIAN GULCH (WHICH GOES INTO CLARK'S FORK SOME FIVE MILES ABOVE CANYON'S MOUTH)...

(...S. G. Fisher: "We struck Clark's Fork about two miles below where it comes out of the canyon..."

...also, the official campaign map drawn by Lt. Robert Fletcher, Howard's aide, indicates the route was down Bald Ridge, not the canyon...)

[Hampton, Grace]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS RECROSSED BOTH FORKS OF THE STINKING WATER – MOVED BACK TOWARD DEAD INDIAN...

(...finds trail of Nez Perces...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS REALIZES NEZ PERCES ARE HEADING FOR CLARK'S FORK... THEN REALIZES HOWARD IS AHEAD OF HIM...

(... the trail led through a narrow, rocky canyon, almost as dark as a railroad tunnel, according to Lt. C. E. S. Wood...

... at places, Howard noted, "rocks on each side came so near together that two horses abreast could hardly pass..."

[Josephy, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/10/1877 cont'd.

Monday

N – Nez Perces: IT HAD TAKEN THE INDIANS FROM THE 26<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST  
TO 9/10 TO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS...

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/11/1877

TUESDAY

O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: “SCOUTING THREE TO FIVE MILES AHEAD OF THE SOLDIERS, WE HAD A CHANCE TO SEE IT FIRST WHEN THERE WAS ANYTHING TO BE SEEN...

(... Fifty well-mounted Mountain Crow Indians joined us along Clark’s Fork when we were five miles ahead of the command...  
... they were proud of the Spanish brands on their prancing horses, which they said had been stolen away down in Mexico and brought back by their war parties.  
... They said it was no trick to swipe horses from the Mexicans, but they often had a tough time getting them through the tribes between Mexico and Montana.”)

[Redington, Scouting]

S – S. G. Fisher: “FIVE OF MY INDIANS WENT ON WITH THE CROWS TO SCOUT THE COUNTRY...

(... Wilbur’s scouts are with us...  
... We ate our last “grub” for dinner to-day...  
... Camped on Clark’s Fork...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Howard: ON THE EVENING OF 9/11, TO HOWARD’S AMAZEMENT AND STURGIS’ EMBARRASMENT, STURGIS CAUGHT UP WITH HOWARD IN THE LOWER VALLEY OF THE CLARK’S FORK RIVER...

(... The Nez Percés were “free” and 50 miles ahead of the two commanders...  
... Howard sent two couriers to Miles – one overland and one down the Clark’s Fork and Yellowstone Rivers – asking Miles to try to head the Nez Perce off...)

[Joseph, Northwest]

A – Army/Sturgis: HOWARD MEETS STURGIS AT THE SPOT STURGIS LEFT ON THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, 9/8...

(... Sturgis: “Poor as I am I would give \$1000 if I had not left this place”...  
... The two agreed Sturgis should press on after the Nez Percés by forced marches... Howard would follow with the balance of the command “as rapidly as possible...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/12/1877

Wednesday

A – Army/Sturgis: STURGIS' COMMAND "ALMOST BREAKFASTLESS" PROCEEDED DOWN THE RIVER TOWARD THE YELLOWSTONE THROUGH A MIST THAT GREW INTO A TORRENTIAL RAIN...

(... Sturgis drove his force mostly at a trot and by 1 p. m., at the first halt, they had covered 30 miles...

... At 11 p. m. Sturgis camped for the night about eight miles above the Clark's Fork confluence with the Yellowstone...

... they had traveled more than 60 miles...

(... 60 miles without seeing fresh Indian sign... in one week Sturgis discovered what Howard had been contending with for two months: the Nez Perces were an exceptionally fleet, resolute, and resourceful band of people.. [Beale, Forever]...)

... On directions of the officers, Howard's packers set the mules loose to graze to stop their braying, fearful that the noise would warn any Indians nearby of the troops presence...

...most of the soldiers succumb to their weariness and "sank into a damp, restless, unrefreshing sleep"...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD'S DISPATCH TO COL. MILES AT THE TONGUE RIVER CANTONMENT...

(... Howard asked Miles "to make every effort in your power to prevent the escape of this hostile band (should Sturgis fail to halt them), and at least hold them in check until I can overtake them..." )

[Greene, 1877]

N – Nez Perces: NEZ PERCES CROSS THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER BELOW THE MOUTH OF CLARK'S FORK...

(...they moved six miles downstream, then camped about three miles up Canyon Creek...

... they at last recognized the futility of attempting a union with the Crows...

... the once remote Canadian option loomed invitingly as the Nez Perce leaders cogitated over what to do and where to go...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/12/1877 cont'd

Wednesday

S – S. G. Fisher: “GENERAL STURGIS’ COMMAND CAME UP THIS MORNING...

(...It rained hard this afternoon...

... We camped on the river, six miles above Rock Creek, cold, wet and hungry...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Howard’s Wagons: HOWARD’S WAGONS ARRIVE AT BARONETT BRIDGE...

(...Cowan had been in an army ambulance with very little care except what Arnold and the teamsters could give him...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/13/1877

CANYON CREEK BATTLE

Thursday

S – S. G. Fisher: “NO BREAKFAST... GOT STARTED EARLY, I RIDING A MULE AS MY HORSE HAS ENTIRELY GIVEN OUT...

(...across the Yellowstone... very deep ford... water running over my mule’s back ... The command halted on the bank of the river, while we went ahead a short distance, stopped and made fires to dry our clothing...

...an Indian scout... came galloping up to tell us that the enemy ... (was) coming up the river toward us...

...I ordered my boys to saddle and pack up at once... we rode at a good gait for about five miles across an open country...

... Upon reaching the rise of the table-land, bordering the valley, about 2 p.m., the Indians opened fire on us from the tops of the hills...

... just at this time a portion of Gen. Sturgis’ cavalry came up and, instead of charging which should have been done, dismounted about 500 yards from the enemy’s lines, deploying right and left, and opened a very rapid fire...

... The Indians fought entirely on horseback, firing mostly from their animals and at long range, doing but little harm...

..During this time the enemy’s herd passed slowly across our front in the direction of the canyon, evidently being driven by the squaws and children, the warriors keeping between us and the horses and holding us in check...

... As soon as their herd had entered the canyon the Indians got in among the rocks and cottonwood timber that skirted the creek, dismounting and concealing their horses in the ravines and washes close by...

... here the hardest fighting was done...

... Probably not more than 200 soldiers were engaged at any one time, the greater portion of the command being held back on the bench as a reserve or to guard the ammunition train...

... The Indians were driven very slowly from point to point up the gulch...

... As it was now nearly or quite sundown, we all went down to where the soldiers were camped and there learned that the Crows had stolen my pack animals, clothing, bedding, etc., as well as a number of pack and saddle animals from others...

... The Crows took no part in the fight, but staid in the rear and stole everything they could get their hands on...

... The scouts generally were very much disgusted with Gen. Sturgis’ management of the fight...

... The firing during the day was mostly at very long range, and, as the wind was blowing nearly a gale, it was impossible to do good shooting...

... The ground, also, was wet and it was seldom we could see where our bullets struck...)

[Fisher, Journal]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/13/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

### O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: “WE FORDED THE YELLOWSTONE JUST ABOVE THE MOUTH OF CLARK’S FORK...

(... We saw Indian scouts watching us from the bluffs to the north...  
... when we had driven them over the bluffs... on the other side... there was the whole hostile outfit right under us, strung along the bottom of Canyon Creek...  
... At the sight of 2500 head of hostile horses the Crows went wild, charged one corner of the rear of the herd, and cut out 300 horses, which they stampeded over the hill and rushed back to their reservations...  
... When the cavalry finally appeared... we all thought there would be a charge of the 600 right there that would wind up the Nez Perce War...  
... But there was no charge. Gen. Sturgis dismounted and deployed the troopers, and followed up the Indians in skirmish line...  
... So the battle of Canyon Creek lasted the rest of the day, the hostiles contesting every foot of the ground while gradually drawing off up a box canyon...  
... One Indian behind a point of rocks held them back for ten minutes, and when the point was taken I counted 40 empty shells on the ground where he had been crouching. And they were all government cartridges he had been firing at us...  
... After the battle was over and darkness had come we had to cut steaks from the horses and mules shot during the day. The meat was tough and stringy, the poor animals had been rode and packed for months, with only what grass they could pick up at night... it was all the food we had...”)

[Redington, Scouting]

### A – Army/Sturgis: ABOUT 10 A.M. STURGIS FORDS THE YELLOWSTONE... CANYON CREEK BATTLE STARTS ABOUT 11:30 A.M... MOSTLY OVER BY 4:30 – 5 P.M...

(... fords near where present bridge crosses into Laurel...  
... scouts continue on Nez Perce trail...  
... Sturgis waits on the left bank of the Yellowstone for the pack mules and rear guard to come over...)

[Greene, 1877]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/13/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

P – Perspective: AT CANYON CREEK THERE WAS LONG DISTANCE FIRING AS WARRIORS HELD OFF CAVALRY WHILE FAMILIES AND THE HERD HEADED FOR THE CANYON...

(... Then Sturgis, dismayed by the crackling shots of the interposing warriors, ordered the forward companies to dismount, form a skirmish line, and advance on foot...

...It was a tactical error which, according to one soldier, made some of the men weep with frustration and which, in the end, cost Sturgis whatever chance he may have had to accomplish anything...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

A – Army/Sturgis: AT CANYON CREEK – TO HAVE DISMOUNTED THE CAVALRY IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS STURGIS' MOST TELLING ERROR AND INSURED THE INDIAN'S ESCAPE...

(... Weary soldiers went into camp near the mouth of the canyon; losses: three killed, 11 wounded...

... Sturgis claimed the Indians lost 16...

... Yellow Wolf: three Indians wounded...

... Fisher: not a single dead Nez Perce; his Bannocks, anxious for scalps, combed the area the next day to no avail...

... Benteen's battalion had suffered most heavily: one man killed, five wounded, 41 horses killed or abandoned...

... Sturgis claimed the Nez Perce lost 900 to 1000 horses at Canyon Creek...

... Howard was more modest: "More than 400 (horses) have fallen into our hands, most of them worthless for use..."

... Yellow Wolf: "If they took horses, it was those left along the trail. Too lame with sick feet to travel fast as we were going. We lost maybe 30 or 40 horses not too lame. I do not know if anybody got them or if just lost...")

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/13/1877 cont'd.

Thursday

A – Army/Howard: “SOME 12 OR 15 MILES FROM THE FORD (ON THE YELLOWSTONE) I HAD JUST COME INTO CAMP THE EVENING OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER...

(...“received a brief note from Fletcher who had gone with Sturgis: ‘We have struck the enemy,’ he said, ‘and are fighting.’...

...“I rested from six to nine, and then, with 50 cavalymen, set out. It was a bitter cold night.”...)

[Howard, Joseph]

N – Nez Perces: AS NEZ PERCE FAMILIES HEAD NORTH FROM CANYON CREEK, THE WARRIORS TRAILED BACK TO WATCH FOR STURGIS’ TROOPS...

(...instead of soldiers, they ran into Bannocks and Crows, the scouts of the commands of Howard and Sturgis – now combined into a unit of somewhere between 50 and 200 warriors...)

[Joseph, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/14/1877

Friday

S – S. G. Fisher: “WE GOT OFF EARLY AND FOLLOWED THE ENEMY...

(...finding two dead Nez Percés in the trail, who had evidently been wounded yesterday and died of their wounds on the march...

... A big march was made by us today ... in the direction of the Musselshell...

... camped on a slough this evening and had very poor water...

...(received a dispatch) from General Howard ordering all his command back to the Yellowstone...

... We could see the enemy today by the aid of field glasses...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Sturgis: AFTER THE BATTLE ... PURSUIT WAS RESUMED AT DAWN OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup>...

(...After several days of brutal travel (covering 150 miles) Sturgis managed to reach the Musselshell where he called it quits...)

[Haines, Elusive]

A – Army/Howard: “AT SUNRISE WE CROSSED THE YELLOWSTONE AND REACHED THE BATTLE-FIELD BY HALF-PAST 10 IN THE MORNING...

(... “Sturgis and Sandford, already 20 miles further on, were declared to be in hot pursuit...”)

[Howard, Joseph]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD WAITED FOR SUPPLIES WHICH ARRIVED THAT DAY FROM FT. ELLIS...

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

N – Nez Percés: FIGHTING BETWEEN THE CROWS AND SMALL GROUPS OF NEZ PERCE WARRIORS CONTINUED FOR TWO DAYS...

(...Crows were unable to prevent the forward movement of the Nez Perce...

... Sturgis claimed that the Crows appropriated 400 Nez Perce horses during the two day battle; the Nez Perce never admitted any such loss...)

[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/14/1877 cont'd.

Friday

O – Other Participants/Crows: AS THEY WERE WORSTED IN THE BATTLE THE CROWS GAVE UP THE FIGHT BY ONES AND TWOS, DRIFTING BACK THROUGH THE LINES AND HEADING FOR HOME...

(...according to one observer: letter, Golden to McWhorter, 3/20/1929...)  
[McWhorter, Chiefs!]

R – Radersburg/Cowan: ON 9/14, THREE WEEKS AFTER (BEING WOUNDED) ...COWAN REACHED THE BOTTLER RANCH NEAR EMIGRANT...

[Walter, Tales]

O – Other Participants/Scott: SCOTT RE COWAN: HE AND I OCCUPIED OPPOSITE CORNERS OF A ROOM ON BOTELER'S RANCH, WHERE I WAS SICK WITH PLEURISY FOR AWHILE...

[Scott, Memories]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/15/1877

Saturday

S – S. G. Fisher: “THE COMMAND HAD HORSEMEAT FOR BREAKFAST...

(...It rained hard all morning...

... We traveled about 30 miles and camped on a slough, the weather being exceedingly disagreeable, cold, rainy and windy...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

O – Other Participants/J. W. Redington: “NOTWITHSTANDING THE WEATHER EXPOSURES THERE WERE NO COLDS OR COUGHS AMONG THE SCOUTS...

(...but most of them absorbed enough rheumatism to last a lifetime...

...It took all the pay they received to buy liniments in after years, and there was much misery in the experience...”)

[Redington, Scouting]

A – Army/Spurgin: SPURGIN AND WAGONS REACH FT. ELLIS...

(...after refitting at Ft. Ellis Spurgin heads down the Yellowstone to meet Howard....

... 120 miles below Ellis, Spurgin got orders directing him to return to Ellis...

...back at Ellis, Spurgin discharged his engineers and journeyed back to Lewiston, Idaho, via stagecoach, train and steamer...)

[Greene, 1877]

A – Army/Gilbert: GILBERT ET AL REACH CROW AGENCY...

(...Howard has already been resupplied by Cushing...

... Gilbert heads toward Ft. Ellis...

...of the two companies he had (Norwood’s and DeRudio’s) numbering approximately 100 men, all that remained were “about 20 officers and enlisted men”...)

[Brown, Flight]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/16/1877

Sunday

S – S. G. Fisher: “I HAD TO LEAVE MY MULE THIS MORNING, IT BEING  
WORN OUT...

(... so I bought a horse...

... About noon I (got) some rations and tobacco sent to me by General Howard...

... I picked up a big bay horse on the trail today...

... We did not reach General Howard’s camp on the Yellowstone until some time  
after dark...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

## NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/17/1877

Monday

S – S. G. Fisher: “I QUIT THE COMMAND THIS MORNING, MY INDIANS HAVING ENLISTED FOR ONE MONTH ONLY, AND THEIR TIME IS NOW OUT...

(... General Howard and his officers tried to get me to remain with them...  
... The General very kindly remarked in the presence of the officers and a number of scouts, that I had been of more service to the command than all the balance of the scouts put together...”)

[Fisher, Journal]

A – Army/Howard: HOWARD’S PRINCIPAL SCOUTS...

(... “Fisher from Ft. Hall (the only man we met the entire campaign who wore buckskins and amounted to anything), who actually camped on the Nez Perce trail...  
... scouts... (also included) Jack Carlton...; Frank J. Parker...; J. L. Penseroso; W. D. Curry...; Captain (Orlando) Robbins of Boise City; and a young Bannock Chief named Buffalo Horn...  
... All made enviable reputations for themselves...  
... A braver set of men never put spurs to horse, nor a more cheerful set, under hardships, ever gathered around a sage brush fire...  
... We met with a great many so-called guides, of the long hair, buckskin-suit, overly armed order, with high sounding titles, but invariably found them to be guides of fiction and of no practical use, being in fact almost as great cowards as they were boasters...”)

[Sutherland, Howard]

N – Nez Perces: THE NEZ PERCE CROSSED THE MUSSEL SHELL...

(... continued north through the Judith Gap toward the Missouri River...  
... Gone, now, was all idea of finding a haven on the buffalo plains...  
... If there had been a lingering hope that they could settle down on their old hunting grounds along the Yellowstone and the Musselshell, the hostility of the Crows dashed it...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/17/1877 cont'd.

Monday

A – Army/Miles: THE SAME DAY THE NEZ PERCE CROSSED THE MUSSEL-SHELL... ONE OF THE COURIERS HOWARD HAD SENT FROM THE CLARK FORK ON 9/12 REACHED MILES AT FT. KEOGH...

(... Ft. Keogh, at the mouth of the Tongue River, was about 150 miles east of where the Nez Perce crossed the Musselshell...)

... Col. Nelson Miles... was regarded by his fellow officers as ambitious and “something of a glory chaser” like Custer, but also as a vigorous and competent soldier...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

9/18/1877

Tuesday

A – Army/Miles: MILES TOOK OFF AT A RAPID PACE ON THE MORNING OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup>...

(..Miles' command, 383 men strong, included three companies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, three of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, five of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry (four of which were mounted), a company of scouts, and 30 Cheyenne Indians; plus a breech-loading Hotchkiss gun and a 12-pound Napoleon Cannon...)

[Josephy, Northwest]

9/19/1877

Wednesday

R – Radersburg: MRS. COWAN RECEIVED WORD THAT COWAN WAS AT BOTTLER'S RANCH (ABOUT 10 P. M., WEDNESDAY, 9/19)...

[McWhorter, Adventures]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/20/1877

Thursday

R – Radersburg: MRS. COWAN WAS ENROUTE TO BOZEMAN (125 MILES DISTANT) AT 3 A. M.; ARRIVED THERE AT 9 P. M. THAT DAY...

(... At Bozeman, Mrs. Cowan took supper, hired a livery rig, and in an hour from her arrival, was on her way to Bottler's ranch...(10 p. m., 9/20)...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

9/21/1877

Friday

R – Radersburg: MRS. COWAN ARRIVED AT BOTTLER'S 10 A. M., FRIDAY...

(... Mrs. Cowan made a drive of 175 miles through a mountainous country, over rough roads in 31 hours...

... she reunited with Cowan nearly four weeks from the time they left him for dead...)

[McWhorter, Adventures]

R – Radersburg: ALMOST ONE MONTH AFTER BEING SHOT COWAN WAS REUNITED WITH HIS WIFE AT A RANCH OUTSIDE THE PARK...

(... this was after an arduous and painful journey over the Mount Washburn trail in the same springless wagon in which Howard had spent a sleepless night (from Henry's Lake to Virginia City)...

... Cowan was cared for only by Arnold the entire way...)

[Hampton, Grace]



NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

10/5/1877

Friday

N – Nez Perces: AT TWO O’CLOCK THAT AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 5 JOSEPH, WITH FIVE FOLLOWERS ON FOOT, RODE OUT THROUGH A LIGHT SNOW STORM, ON A BORROWED BLACK HORSE, TO SURRENDER HIS RIFLE TO GENERAL HOWARD, WHO WAVED HIM ON TO COLONEL MILES...

[Haines, Elusive]

R – Radersburg/Cowans: COWANS REACHED THEIR HOME IN RADERSBURG

(... Cowans arrive home a little over two months from the time of their departure [McWhorter, Adventures]...

... Cowan recovered fully from his injuries...

... he had the bullet removed from his skull made into a fob for his watch...

... the Cowans later visited the Park – 1902...)

[Haines, Yellowstone]

NEZ PERCE IN YELLOWSTONE, 1877

9/21/1904

N – Nez Perces/Joseph: CHIEF JOSEPH DIED AT NESPELEM, WASHINGTON,  
COLVILLE RESERVATION, SEPTEMBER 21, 1904...

(...Dr.Latham, Colville Agency physician, said he felt Joseph “died of a broken  
heart” ...

...Joseph is buried in the cemetery at Nespelem...

...buried near Joseph is Yellow Wolf whose site and monument were provided  
by his friend, Lucullus V. McWhorter...)