

**The following is the first report by Surveyor General John Calhoun
after the first season of surveying in Kansas and Nebraska.**

1855

**REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA
TERRITORIES.**

**SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Wyandotte, K. T., November 8, 1855.**

SIR: The progress of the surveys in this district, for the present year, have been retarded by the discovery of an enormous error in the base line, and by an unusual amount of sickness, which has reached most of the parties in the field during the hot summer months. The error in the base line, a full and detailed account of which has been communicated to you, lost us the benefit of the two best months in the year for surveying operations, May and June; and the sickness has been so general during the months of August and September that, while every party in the field has suffered and been consequently delayed, some of them have been compelled to quit work for weeks in succession, and other parties have been entirely broken up and disbanded. Scarcely a surveyor that entered the field in the months of July and August has been enabled to complete his contract by the time stipulated.

The work, however, is now progressing vigorously and actively; and the large force in the field, with the improved health of the season, justifies the conclusion that the work estimated for this year will be completed by the first of March next.

The base line has been corrected and re-established from the monument on the Missouri river west to the guide meridian, a distance of sixty miles. The guide meridian, for ninety-eight miles, together with the standard parallels for that distance north through Nebraska, have been completed and reported to this office; and a letter from Colonel Manners, the contractor for establishing these lines, dated the 18th ultimo, informs me that the guide meridian, and all the standard parallels east of the guide meridian in Nebraska, will be completed in three or four weeks from that date. The township lines of about

one hundred and twenty townships in Nebraska are either completed or in process of survey, leaving but about twenty townships yet to contract for this year, which will be done so soon as Colonel Manners completes the guide meridian and standard parallels.

About ninety townships in Nebraska are contracted to be subdivided, most of which are now in process of survey. The subdivision of about twenty-five townships remain to be contracted for, and the whole work will, I think, be completed by the first of March next. I cannot speak with certainty of the number of townships in the limits proposed to be surveyed in Nebraska, for the reason that we have but little certain information of the position of the Missouri river, the eastern boundary of our surveys.

It is proper to remark here that the guide meridian and standard parallels in Nebraska would have been completed before this time but for the interruption to Colonel Manners' progress interposed by the Pawnee Indians; all accounts of which, in a letter from Colonel Manners, is annexed hereto.

The surveys proposed in Nebraska this year will, it is thought, embrace the entire settlements in that Territory.

In Kansas the guide meridian and standard parallels, for one hundred and twenty miles south, have been contracted for, and ninety miles of the guide meridian, with three standard parallels, have been completed and reported to this office. The whole work will be completed in four or five weeks from this time. The extension of the guide meridian south thirty miles, and the running of the fifth standard parallel, so as to include the country of the Miamis, will be contracted for and completed by the middle of January next.

The township lines of about one hundred and forty-five townships in Kansas have been put under contract, about fifty of them completed, and the balance in progress will be completed by the first day of January. Sixty-five townships more will be put under contract so soon as the guide meridian and fourth standard parallel are extended to the fourth division.

The subdivisional lines of about one hundred townships in Kansas have been contracted, a large portion of which is nearly completed, and all of which will be completed by the first day of February next.

The subdivision of about sixty townships more will be put under contract as soon as the survey of the township lines will admit. All of these, it may safely be estimated, will be completed by the first of March next.

The number of townships, spoken of above, is only approximated, for the reason that the true position of the Missouri river and the boundary line and the Kansas river, the southern boundary of the Delaware reserve, are not accurately known.

The appropriations for surveys in this district, for this year, were based upon the proposed survey of all that part of Nebraska north and east of the base line and guide meridian, and all of Kansas, east of the line, between ranges twelve and thirteen, and north of the fourth standard parallel, estimated them, in all, at three hundred and eighty-one townships. With the assent of the department, it has been concluded to divert a portion of the appropriation made for the

survey of the above district, and apply it to the survey of the fifth division south of the base line in Kansas, so as to secure the survey of the Miami lands and country on the head of the Osage river at the earliest possible period. With this view it will be seen that I have made calculations for the survey of about fifty-six townships less, in the above districts, than was estimated for in my report of January 9, 1855.

The Indian Department will also be properly chargeable with the expenses of the survey of a considerable number of townships of Indian trust lands, which will go to increase the balance unexpended after making the surveys contemplated, north of the fifth standard parallel. That the unexpended sum of the appropriations for the present year will more than cover the expenses of surveying the fifth division south in Kansas is very evident. The townships in the above districts, in Kansas and Nebraska, which it is now proposed shall not be surveyed this year, have been carefully selected, with a view to the interest of the actual settlers, those being left unsurveyed which contain very few or no settlers at all.

The accompanying map will exhibit, as nearly as may be, the present condition of the surveys in this district, what is further contemplated to be done within this year, and what is proposed as the basis of appropriations for next year's operations.

The estimates for the extension of the surveys in this district, a copy of which is annexed, are based upon the proposition that all the lands east of the principal meridian and north of the fifth standard parallel in Kansas should be surveyed into townships, and such townships as are now settled, or will probably be settled during the next year, should be subdivided into sections. There will probably be some settlements made in Kansas a few miles south of the fifth standard parallel, on the lands set apart for the New York Indians, but as the United States have not yet acquired the title to the country through which the sixth standard will run, no estimate can be made for the survey of any portion of the sixth division in Kansas at present.

The whole number of townships in Kansas, east of the principal meridian and north of the fifth standard parallel, for the survey of which no appropriation has been made, is three hundred and sixty-five. The following estimate proposes the survey of all the township lines within this district, and the subdivision into sections of two hundred and seventy townships.

The whole number of townships in Nebraska, east of the principal meridian, for the survey of which no appropriations have been made, is two hundred and forty, all of which it is proposed to survey into townships, and one hundred and four townships into sections.

This contemplates the continuation and establishment of the base line forty-eight miles west of its present western termination; the survey of the principal meridian one hundred and fifty miles in Kansas and one hundred and ninety-eight miles in Nebraska, together with the extension from the guide meridian to the principal meridian of all the standard lines in both Territories.

Whole number of townships east of the principal meridian in

Kansas, and north of the fifth standard parallel, for which appropriations have not been made	-	-	-	-	-	365
Number, in same district, for which appropriations are asked						270

Leaving	-	-	-	-	-	95
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for which no appropriations are asked.

Whole number of townships in Nebraska, east of the principal meridian, for which no appropriations have been made	-	240
Number for which appropriations are asked	-	104

Leaving	-	-	-	-	-	136
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for which no appropriations are asked.

For all the wants of the Territories, I am of opinion that the estimate proposed will be sufficient for the next year.

The greatly increased business of the office leads me to ask for an increased appropriation for salaries of clerks, while the estimated sum for office rent, stationery and contingencies, is the same as for the present year.

Accompanying papers, which form a part of this report.

- No. 1. Triplicate map of Kansas and Nebraska.
- No. 2. Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of August 4, 1854, and March 3, 1855.
- No. 3. Estimate of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1857.
- No. 4. Summary of salary account for the 4th quarter of 1854, first, second and third quarters of 1855.
- No. 5. Summary of rents and contingent disbursements for same period.
- No. 6. Letters from Col. Manners, in relation to Indian troubles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. CALHOUN,
Surveyor General.

Hon. THOS. A. HENDRICKS,
Com'r General Land Office, Washington, D. C.

Number of contract.	Date of contract.	Name of contractor.	Style of work.	Territory.	Date of account, with plats forwarded to General Land Office.
1	Nov. 2, 1854	J. P. Johnston.....	Base line.....	Kansas and Nebraska....	Jan. 12, 1855
2	April 26, 1855	Joseph Ledlie.....	Guide meridian, &c.....	Kansas.....	July 30, 1855
3	April 26, 1855	Charles A. Manners.	Erecting monument.....	Kansas and Nebraska....	July 30, 1855
4	April 26, 1855	Charles A. Manners.	Examining base line.....	do.....	July 30, 1855
5	April 26, 1855	Charles A. Manners.	Resurveying base line....	do.....	July 30, 1855
6	April 26, 1855	Charles A. Manners.	Guide meridian, &c.....	Nebraska.....	Oct. 1, 1855
7	July 23, 1855	Ira H. Smith.....	Township lines.....	Kansas.....	Sept. 14, 1855
8	July 24, 1855	Edward Berthoud....	do.....	do.....	Nov. 8, 1855
9	July 24, 1855	M. M. Hall.....	do.....	do.....	Oct. 23, 1855
10	July 27, 1855	E. H. Hastings.....	do.....	do.....	Nov. 8, 1855
11	July 30, 1855	William Brown.....	do.....	do.....	Oct. 23, 1855
12	Aug. 10, 1855	B. H. Mathews.....	do.....	Nebraska.....	Nov. 8, 1855
13	Aug. 10, 1855	William N. Byers....	do.....	do.....	Nov. 8, 1855
14	Aug. 14, 1855	M. Thompson, jr....	do.....	do.....	Oct. 23, 1855
15	Aug. 18, 1855	E. G. Dial.....	Subdividing and Indian bounds.	Kansas.....	Oct. 23, 1855
16	Aug. 20, 1855	H. Robinson.....	do.....	do.....	
17	Aug. 20, 1855	Preland & Keys.....	do.....	do.....	
18	Aug. 20, 1855	Spencer & Arnold....	do.....	do.....	
19	Aug. 20, 1855	Parr & White.....	do.....	do.....	
20	Aug. 22, 1855	C. L. Burge.....	do.....	do.....	
21	Aug. 23, 1855	Doniphan & Crane....	do.....	do.....	
22	Aug. 23, 1855	Joseph Brodus.....	Indian bounds.....	do.....	Oct. 23, 1855
23	Aug. 30, 1855	James Withrow.....	Township lines.....	do.....	
24	Sept. 1, 1855	Frederick Hawn.....	do.....	do.....	
25	Sept. 8, 1855	M. M. Hall.....	do.....	do.....	
26	Sept. 4, 1855	J. P. Jones.....	do.....	Nebraska.....	
27	Sept. 7, 1855	J. P. Cathcart.....	do.....	Kansas.....	
28	Sept. 7, 1855	G. M. Tilford.....	Subdividing.....	do.....	
29	Sept. 15, 1855	Calhoun & Bostwick.	Township lines.....	Nebraska.....	
30	Sept. 18, 1855	Ira H. Smith.....	do.....	do.....	
31	Sept. 19, 1855	William Shields.....	Subdividing.....	Kansas.....	
32	Sept. 19, 1855	Joseph H. Wagner....	do.....	Nebraska.....	
33	Sept. 24, 1855	D. T. Mitchell.....	do.....	Kansas.....	
34	Sept. 24, 1855	T. W. Wheatly.....	do.....	do.....	
35	Sept. 26, 1855	Bt. Burnum.....	do.....	Nebraska.....	
36	Oct. 1, 1855	J. K. Starr.....	do.....	Kansas.....	
37	Oct. 1, 1855	J. C. Stuck.....	do.....	Nebraska.....	
38	Oct. 1, 1855	John McNiven.....	do.....	do.....	
39	Oct. 2, 1855	Horace Tucker.....	do.....	do.....	
40	Oct. 2, 1855	Justus L. Cozad.....	do.....	do.....	
41	Oct. 8, 1855	W. E. & J. S. Wheeler	do.....	Kansas.....	
42	Oct. 4, 1855	G. W. Foster.....	do.....	do.....	
43	Oct. 4, 1855	H. J. Adams.....	do.....	do.....	
44	Oct. 8, 1855	Alex. Oliphant.....	do.....	do.....	
45	Oct. 8, 1855	Ly. Shepard.....	do.....	do.....	
46	Oct. 9, 1855	Horatio Waldo.....	do.....	do.....	
47	Oct. 9, 1855	Ira H. Smith.....	do.....	Nebraska.....	
48	Oct. 12, 1855	M. Thompson, jr....	Township lines.....	do.....	
49	Oct. 19, 1855	M. McManus.....	Subdividing.....	do.....	
50	Oct. 20, 1855	J. D. White.....	do.....	do.....	
51	Oct. 20, 1855	Johnson Pierson....	Township lines.....	do.....	
52	Oct. 22, 1855	E. H. Hastings.....	do.....	Kansas.....	

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Number of contract.	Date of contract.	Name of contractor.	Style of work.	Territory.	Date of account, with plats forwarded to General Land Office.
53	Oct. 23, 1855	Lot Coffmann	Township lines	Kansas	
54	Oct. 25, 1855	D. F. Tiedeman	Subdividing	Nebraska	
55	Oct. 27, 1855	W. G. Allen	Township lines	Kansas	
56	Oct. 27, 1855	W. S. Caldwell	Subdividing	do.	
57	Oct. 30, 1855	Wallace Barnum	do.	Nebraska	
58	Oct. 30, 1855	Charles E. Watson	do.	do.	
59	Oct. 30, 1855	Edward Everett	do.	do.	
60	Oct. 30, 1855	William N. Byers	Township lines	do.	
61	Oct. 30, 1855	Thomas Connolly	Subdividing	Kansas	
62	Oct. 30, 1855	Bates & Mitchell	do.	do.	
63	Oct. 30, 1855	J. T. Swartz	do.	do.	
64	Oct. 31, 1855	Lorin Miller	do.	Nebraska	
65	Oct. 31, 1855	J. J. Paynter	do.	do.	
66	Oct. 31, 1855	William J. Card	do.	Kansas	
67	Oct. 31, 1855	Thomas Patterson	do.	Nebraska	
68	Oct. 31, 1855	Alex. Johnston	do.	Kansas	
69	Oct. 31, 1855	William N. Byers	do.	Nebraska	
70	Oct. 31, 1855	J. P. Cathcart	Township lines	Kansas	
71	Oct. 31, 1855	Frederick Hawn	do.	do.	
72	Nov. 1, 1855	Walter B. Bracket	Subdividing	do.	
73	Nov. 1, 1855	Heiny C. Derrick	do.	Nebraska	
74	Nov. 5, 1855	P. C. Patterson	do.	do.	

**SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Wyandott, November 8, 1855.**

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Wyandott, November 8, 1855.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I send you estimates of the sums required for the extension of the surveys in this district for the year ending June 30, 1857.

Estimate of the sums necessary to be appropriated for the extension of surveys in Kansas for the year ending June 30, 1857.

For principal meridian, 150 miles, at \$12 per mile -	\$1,800
For standard lines, 240 miles, at \$12 per mile -	2,880
For township lines, 2,940 miles, at \$7 per mile -	20,580
For subdividing 270 townships, at \$300 each -	81,000
Add 5 per cent. for errors and meandering -	5,313
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	\$111,573

Estimate as above, for Nebraska.

For principal meridian, 198 miles, at \$12 per mile -	\$2,376
For standard lines, 354 miles, at \$12 per mile -	4,248
For township lines, 2,700 miles, at \$7 per mile -	18,900
For subdividing 104 townships, at \$300 each -	31,200
Add 5 per cent. for errors and meandering -	2,836
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	59,560
Surveying base line common to both Territories, 48 miles, at \$12 per mile - - - - -	576
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Total estimate for surveying, - - - - -	<u>171,709</u>

Estimate of sums necessary to be appropriated for office expenses for the year ending June 30, 1857.

Salary surveyor general - - -	\$2,000
Salary 1 clerk, at \$1,500 - - -	1,500
Salary 2 clerks, at 1,300 each - - -	2,600
Salary 3 clerks, at 1,100 each - - -	3,300
For transcribing field notes - - -	4,000
Office rent, stationery and contingencies -	6,000
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	<u>\$19,400</u>

J. CALHOUN,
Surveyor General.

HON. THOMAS A. HENDRICKS,
Com'r Gen. Land Office, Washington City, D. C.

No. 4.

The United States in account current with John Calhoun, surveyor general for Kansas and Nebraska.

SALARY ACCOUNT.

		Dr.	
1854.			
Dec. 30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks to date.....	\$1,010 92	
	To balance due the United States.....	189 08	
			1,200 00
1855.			
March 31	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for 1st quarter of 1855	1,184 68	
	To balance due the United States.....	504 40	
			1,689 08
June 30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for 2d quarter of 1855	1,506 32	
	To balance due the United States.....	798 08	
			2,304 40
Sept. 30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for 3d quarter of 1855	1,547 56	
	To balance due the United States carried to 4th quarter of 1855..	1,825 52	
			3,373 08
		Cr.	
1854.			
Dec. 30	By this amount received per treasury draft.....	1,200 00	
1855.			
March 31	By balance due the United States from 4th quarter of 1854.....	189 08	
	By this amount received per treasury draft.....	1,500 00	
			1,689 08
June 30	By balance due the United States from 1st quarter of 1855.....	504 40	
	By this amount received per treasury draft.....	1,800 00	
			2,304 40
Sept. 30	By balance due the United States from 2d quarter of 1855.....	798 08	
	By this amount received per treasury draft.....	2,575 00	
			3,373 08

JOHN CALHOUN, *Surveyor General*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Wyandott, November 8, 1855.

No. 5.

*The United States in account current with John Calhoun, surveyor
general for Kansas and Nebraska.*

RENT AND CONTINGENT ACCOUNT.

1854.		
Dec. 30	Dr.	
	To amount disbursed to date.....	\$389 34
	To balance due the United States.....	610 66
		1,000 00
1855.		
March 31	To amount disbursed during 1st quarter of 1855.....	184 13
	To balance due the United States.....	1,626 53
		1,810 66
June 30	To amount disbursed during 2d quarter of 1855.....	974 79
	To balance due the United States.....	1,351 74
		2,326 53
Sept. 30	To amount disbursed during 3d quarter of 1855.....	417 49
	To balance due the United States.....	1,634 25
		2,051 74
1854.		
Dec. 30	Cr.	
	By this amount per treasury draft.....	1,000 00
1855.		
March 31	By balance due the United States from 4th quarter of 1854.....	610 66
	By this amount per treasury draft.....	1,200 00
		1,810 66
June 30	By balance due the United States from 1st quarter of 1855.....	1,626 53
	By this amount per treasury draft.....	700 00
		2,326 53
Sept. 30	By balance due the United States from 2d quarter of 1855.....	1,351 74
	By this amount per treasury draft.....	700 00
		2,051 74

JOHN CALHOUN, *Surveyor General*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Wyandott, November 8, 1855.

No. 6.

BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA TERRITORY,
October 6, 1855.

SIR: The progress of the surveys under my charge has been suspended since the third of this month, on account of the positive refusal of the Pawnee Indians to allow us to proceed. For several days prior to that time we had been progressing with the work at the rate of from three to five miles per day, and although in the midst of the Pawnees, they all seemed friendly and allowed us to proceed unmolested, except by their annoyances as beggars. On the evening of the second instant we crossed the Platte river on the twenty-fourth mile of the fourth section of guide meridian, and were congratulating ourselves upon our unlooked-for friendly treatment from the Indians, and happy delivery from their midst. On the following morning, however, a company of fifteen old men, accompanied by a young Indian who spoke very good English, came to the camp and told us to leave. We however went on about our business, in the completion of the triangulation of the river, until some Indians (chiefs) came who refused the usual tokens of friendship, ordered us to leave in the most peremptory manner, and backed their orders with repeated threats that every man who did not leave the survey before the sun should arrive at meridian should be shot. That a "heap of Pawnees" would come across the river to do it. They then pulled up all the posts set on the north side of the river, told us they would destroy all the landmarks made in that vicinity, and that we must and should leave. When we saw that the landmarks were destroyed, and that the ends for which we were sent into the field were wholly unaccomplished, we concluded to abandon the survey and proceed to report to you for instructions as to the best course for us to pursue. We have determined not to alarm the settlements or call upon strangers for assistance.

To-day I met Colonel Gilmore, Judge Ferguson, and others, of the friends who think that it may be possible yet to arrange the matter through Major Hefner, the agent, and Mr. Ellis, the interpreter. I have concluded to go back with *them*, and try to have a decided reason for their past, as well as a decided understanding as to their future course. A proper state of feelings may be restored, and if so, I do not wish to lose the time to report to the office in person.

Should this state of things continue, men cannot be employed to prosecute the work at any wages.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MANNERS,
Deputy Surveyor.

JOHN CALHOUN,
Surveyor Gen. of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

OMAHA CITY, NEBRASKA TERRITORY,
October 18, 1855.

SIR: Enclosed please find field notes and diagrams of the guide meridian from the third to the fourth standard parallels, and also of the last named parallel. The monuments destroyed by the Indians, near the Loup and Top Paw village, were again put up by us north of the Platte, but we did not examine south of that river to ascertain the extent of their depredations. I have, however, learned that some of the monuments are known to be destroyed, and that none were seen standing in the vicinity of the river. Their excuse for their conduct, as made to the agent in my presence was, that *they* owned the land east to the Elk Horn. But upon the representations of the agent, "that we were only sent to survey it, and that we did not wish to occupy it, and also that if the land *was* theirs, the running and marking of lines and erection of corners did not invalidate their title thereto," they agreed to allow us to proceed without further molestation. I find it very difficult to keep men in a country where every house we find is unoccupied or deserted. Every time we come to the river we have to look up several hands, and to find such as are willing to go out upon the Elk Horn is no easy matter. The last parallel we brought in with six men only, and one of them so sick a part of the way that he was not able to sit up for over one-half the time. From what I can learn of the country, I do not expect to be over three weeks longer on the contract.

Very respectfully yours, CHARLES A. MANNERS.

JOHN CALHOUN,
Surveyor General of Kansas and Nebraska.
