

FM
Frank Monroe

My father was getting very old and we had gone back to the reservation near Edmonton and we returned to Fort Shaw and here we met Boswick and Charlie Buck and when I got here I was taking care of the old people and I was a young man and I hunted for them etc. When I arrived at Fort Shaw they told me the best thing I could do .. They came to my tent and they were going to arrest some of the settlers along Sun river and they told us we had better move so they went trapping. When we travelled through the St. Mary again my father dreamed there was a big snake and they knew that that meant danger and he said "you Big Eyes you be very careful and watch during our stay here" and they came to the lake and there were some Mexicans and we, and we might as well go camp with them because I felt there was danger. When we started to pitch our tepees I looked at my father and mother and I saw that they needed my help because they were old and I kept thinking about how he had warned me and I felt sharp pains in my back and I felt that something was going wrong and all this time and all this time there were Assiniboins down at the bottom looking down on us all the time. They had us spotted and in the beginning before we started on the trip we got rations at Fort Shaw such as bacon, pork, coffee etc. and one wagon was loaded with provisions. We had two wagons. I felt bad and still I had courage and I was the only son. If anything happened we would all be in the one place and then my wife began to get something to eat. Night came and my father was telling us some stories and I was thinking by the fire and I had killed a goose that day and it was on the other side of the fire and I was watching that. We just had one little dog and it was sick. Before I went in the tepee I went out and saw that my horses pulled out and tried to get away and I told my wife I would go get the horses and hobble them and I did. When I went to

bed I had my gun handy and I told my wife to have the amunition handy and the first thing she must do is to get the amunition if anything did happen and before I went to sleep I heard a noise and I jumped up and listened. I said it must be a bear around the horses and I went out and couldn't hear any noise and I knew there was some on there. I had very good horses. They got ahold of the horses and I could hear them going away. They were driving them along and at the first crossing of the Swiftcurrent I could hear them. I was so angry, I hated to lose the horses. I began to think since the horses are gone I wonder how I am going to travel and we are a long way from our people and my parents are old and we are going to move. When I was coming back to the camp it was moonlight and I saw an object on one side of the tepee. I didn't know whether it was a person or a horse. It was a person and during this time I was very angry and I got up to him and first I thought and then I said in Piegan who are you but the Indian said nothing and I talked to him in English and said who are you and he started to run and he shot and I ran but he shot. I shot again and I killed him. During this time my wife was running towards me with the amunition and I nearly shot her but she hollered and during this time they fired on the camps and it was so fast it threw light and I could see the Indians with a scarf and a breech elout and then I ran for the tepee to protect my family and one of the wagons loaded with flour so I got behind it and I kept shooting and then they retreated. They kept shooting for some time then they would retreat and then they would come back. My mother wanted to go but I wanted to fight as long as my amunition lasted. I had a Winchester and stood them off. I was making my last shot and I grabed my mother and threw her over my shoulder and my father and wife and children followed and my wife was shot through the skirt. My little girl's foot was shot and they feel so I asked them if they were hurt and they said no. We went to Chief Mountain and we came to some white men, one of them was Left-Hand and they were

selling liquor. John Kennedy's party they were. The man said last night we heard shots but some of the men said it was a snow slide. As we went along that night we were near the Swiftcurrent and we looked back and I told my father and mother that I would go back and I would invite them out there and fight them. I kissed my father and mother and they said if you go we will go too. My mother didn't want me to go so I decided not to go. We made for the Sun River. We were afoot. Then we got back to our relatives at the old fort, it used to be Chouteau near Fort Shaw and our relatives gave us some provisions and bedding. We moved west to Fort Shaw and we found Boswick and we were very poor and Boswick knew what had happened to us. The Captain at Fort Shaw had a long talk with my father and then Boswick came and wanted me to go over and he gave me liquor and he tried to get me to go. I told him I don't want to go because I can't understand English. Boswick said we will go with your father. They finally got me over to the Generals and he said he wanted me for a scout but I told him you can't use me what are you going to do? I don't know the country and neither does Boswick and he said they wanted to take me along and finally they got me full and Boswick said now Frank you make up your mind that we are going with them. I was taking after this young antelope and I was running along at the side of the hill and in the deep valley there were eight people and they were a war party and they were looking for horses and when I got close they all had their guns up and I said wait I want to talk and they said go away and they said you are a Piegan go away but I said no I am a white man. They were Flatheads and I recognized Shot-Face and Little-Faced-Son. I didn't know how to get out of this and I said I am going to arrest you, all of you and Shot-Face could understand Piegan and I said I am going to arrest you, I have been looking for you and I said come along all of you and they all came and I turned them over at the Fort so I saved myself but I lied to them. I was hunting antelopes

but happened to run onto them. The Flatheads said they were out visiting but if I had been there I would have told them that they were on a war party and were going to kill me. If I knew they were going to release these people I would have gone to Milk River and told them to ~~work~~ look out but I didn't know anything about it.