

# “YOUR SONNY SILE...”

## PART TWO: DOCUMENTS FIVE THROUGH NINE

THE LETTERS OF  
CAPTAIN SILAS SOULE  
D COMPANY  
FIRST COLORADO VOLUNTEERS



### **DOCUMENT NUMBER FIVE:**

Fort Lyon, C.T.  
July 28th, 1864

Dear Mother;

...We have sent five Co.s after Indians, and left three Co.s at this Post. I expect Major Wynkoop will go to Denver in a day or two. If he does, I shall be in command of the Post. Won't I put on Style? I suppose you think I spend a good deal of money, but when you consider that it costs sixty dollars for a coat, twenty for a pr. of pants, sixteen for a pr. of boots, ten for a hat, and six and a half apiece for shirts, it counts up and you know a Captain has to wear good clothes. I had a birthday on the 26th, I suppose you know. I am 26 years old, most old enough to mary, ain't it? Well it is late and the mosquitos are troublesome. I guess I will close. I went to a show to-night and saw a man turn his joints out of shape for a dollar, so you see we are quite civilized in this country.

Give my love to everybody and tell them that I should be glad to hear from them. Don't fret if you don't hear from me once a year, for if I get killed you will hear of it soon enough....

Your Sonny Sile

### **DOCUMENT NUMBER SIX:**

Fort Lyon, C.T.  
Aug. 15th, 1864

Dear Annie,

I have just received a letter from you and hasten to answer it before I forget it. I am still at Fort Lyon and perhaps you had better direct your next here. I presume I shall be here some time yet. We

have considerable trouble with the Indians -- they would like to scalp us all. We have been chasing them for two weeks, but only killed two. It is hard to get into a fight with them, they scatter so....

Yours &c.  
Sile

Fort Lyon, C.T.  
Oct. 30th, '64

## **DOCUMENT NUMBER SEVEN:**

Dear Annie;

I am still at Fort Lyon. Have been to Denver once since I came down here, but only stopped a week...

We have had considerable trouble with the Indians this Summer, but they are quite peaceable at present. There are about three thousand here within a mile of the Post who have come in for the purpose of making peace. I do not know what we shall do, but I think Government will not make peace with them. If that is the case, we shall have some fighting to do this winter. I am not in a very good humor to write this evening, for the wind blows and it is cold and I can hardly see the lines on the paper...Write me all that you can think of interest on your next.

Yours &c.  
Sile

## **DOCUMENT NUMBER EIGHT:**

Fort Lyon, C.T.  
Dec. 18th, 1864

Dear Mother;

I received a letter from you tonight and you bet I was glad to hear from you. I ought to write oftener, but I am so lazy and have so little that would interest you that I neglect to write. I wrote to Annie and sent the letter by Mr. Gould who belongs in Brunswick I believe. He has served three years in my Regiment and is going to Bath. You will see him and he will tell you every thing you want to know. I have not received any letter from Will since he left Lawrence. I think I will write to him in the morning although I don't believe he will receive it, the mails are so irregular. I receive letters from Annie and Em quite often and endeavor to answer them as soon as possible. I still have hopes of going to Maine this winter, but may not until spring. We have had considerable trouble with Indians this fall. The day you wrote I was present at a Massacre of three hundred Indians mostly women and Children. It was a borrible scene and I would not let my Company fire. They were friendly and some of our soldiers were in their Camp at the time trading. It looked too hard for me to see little Children on their knees begging for their lives have their brains beat out like dogs. It was a Regiment of 100 days men who accomplished the noble deed. Some of the Indians fought when they saw no chance of escape and killed twelve and wounded forty of our men. I had on Horse shot. I have been on Indian scout for the last three weeks but don't think I will have much more at present. Tell Annie and Em that I am just beginning to receive papers from them for which I am very grateful. I give my love to every body and tell them that I would be glad to hear from them. I do not write near as often as I used to for I have so much to do to keep my Co. papers correct. I am responsible for fifty thousand dollars worth of Government property which must be attended to. I will write occasionally. Don't get worried for there is not the least danger in the world of my getting killed and as I am the most interested party you should not fret. I believe I will write a letter to Uncle Ben. Good night.

Your Sonny  
Sile

Jan.8th, 1865  
Fort Lyon, C.T.

## DOCUMENT NUMBER NINE:

Dear Mother;

I suppose you are anxious to hear from me. I should have written oftener if I had not been so busy fixing up my papers. Our Reg. has been mustered out. Their 3 years having expired, and all the officers are relieved from duty at this Post and I amongst the rest want to get my papers all square so if I go out I can start for the States right off but the officers think that I will be retained in the Veteran organization. At any rate I can if I wish and I have been thinking the matter over and believe it is best for if I go back I don't know of anything I could go at that would pay for I am too lazy to work you well know. The only chance would be to marry a rich widow. Do you think there is a good chance in Maine or will I find a richer one out west? I had applied for a leave of absence to go to Maine and just received answer from it saying that our Reg. was to be immediately reorganized so I will have to wait and may not see you until March. I suppose you have seen Av. Could I send a letter by him? He will tell you all about Killing Indians. I spent New Year's Day on the battle ground counting dead Indians. There were not as many killed as was reported. There was not more than one hundred and thirty killed but most of them were women and children and all of them scalped. I hope the authorities in Washington will investigate the killing of those Indians. I think they will be apt to hoist some of our high officials. I would not fire on the Indians with my Co. and the Col. said he would have me cashiered but he is out of the service before me and I think I stand better than he does in this great Indian fight. I am reforming in regard to my bad habits Mother, for I have left off chewing tobacco and smoking a pipe but will smoke cigars when I can get them. I don't drink, so you can see I'm getting quite respectable and will stand a chance of getting a wife when I go down east. I am going to write Will this evening. I have not written since he went south. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New year. Wish I could send you a present, but our pay master died Christmas day and we have had no pay for 4 months. I am almost broke.

Your affectionate Son

Sile