

## Rec/Cst. Wahl A.



**WAHL, ADAM - RECRUIT CONSTABLE - No Regimental No. Issued**  
May 25, 1882 - Missouri River, Montana Age: Unknown

Senior Surgeon Jukes of the NWMP accompanied a number of new police recruits on their journey from Ontario to Fort Walsh, North-West Territories. His report to Lt.-Col. Irvine, Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police, described the rigours of the trip and the death of Adam Wahl.

*" . . . left the new Fort Toronto . . . in medical charge of the newly formed detachment, 214 in number . . . for Fort Walsh, North West Territory, via Sarnia, the Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth and the Northern Pacific Railway to Bismark on the Missouri, from which point we ascended the river by a dreary voyage of thirteen days to the Coal Banks below Benton, Montana Territory, and thence by bull-train across the intervening plain, a no less tedious journey of twelve days to our destination, where we arrived on the evening of June 12<sup>th</sup>, thirty-two days having been occupied in reaching this post.*

*The voyage by steamer ONTARIO from Sarnia to Prince Arthur's Landing was attended with much personal fatigue . . . The voyage of thirteen days up the Missouri was no less trying . . . The Steamer RED CLOUD on which we embarked at Bismark, containing, in addition to our own men, who still numbered 212, . . . not less than 170 more in passengers and crew, the former of an indigent class of Missourian emigrants en route to the mines, besides cattle, horses, and sheep, making a total of 382 souls confined at all hours to the narrow hampered space constituting the decks of a vessel one hundred and eighty feet long by forty feet wide, the greater portion of which was occupied by the engine, boiler and machinery, merchandise and livestock below, and above by saloons and cabins, leaving little space available for the use of the men. The weather during much of the passage was windy, wet and cold, and the men, greatly restricted for space to lie down in, were much exposed to the influences of the weather and malaria (in which latter the Missouri Valley abounds) . . . Under such circumstances, sickness among the men was to be expected . . . remittent fever . . . diptheria . . . measles . . . intermittent fever . . . parotitis, and almost universal diarrhoea, produced by drinking the Missouri water . . . Much disease prevailed also among the Missouri emigrants and crew, who crowded the fore part and lower waist of the vessel in the foul space between decks among the cattle and sheep . . . a steamer passed us on her way to Benton, when six days out, having small pox on board, which exposed us at every stopping place where she had touched before us, to increased danger, necessitating the vaccination of all those not previously protected."*

One simple paragraph alludes to the sad fate of recruit Adam Wahl.

*" We were overtaken on this voyage by one other fatal casualty, occasioned by the falling overboard, at a dangerous and rapid part of the river, of one of the recruits named Wahl, whose body we were unable to recover."*

**Adam Wahl was recently added to the Montana Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial at Deer Lodge, Montana.**