



Site 5

Saving Five Calves

THIS PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE SOUTH GRAND RIVER, as it winds through a valley where the last wild buffalo grazed, provides a good place to consider their near extermination. Towering cottonwood trees cluster together along the stream, their deep green leaves glistening in the morning sun.

This may well be the valley where Pete Dupree and his family came with a buckboard wagon in early summer 1881 or 1882 to rescue buffalo calves. The last wild buffalo herds still ranged here and within 30 or 40 miles of this beautiful grassland. It also was fairly close to where the Duprees lived on the Cheyenne River.

While here, take a few minutes to view what could have been a dry gulch buffalo trap or box canyon for slaughtering buffalo in prehistoric days, as explained in Site 6 “Shadehill Buffalo Jump.” At the southeast end of the fence ahead, follow the trail halfway down to the river, then look to the right up the short, curved gulch. Note that its steep sides could be defended easily by people and dogs above, while hunters drove the game