

I 29.58:38

Clemson University



3 1604 019 675 026



FEDERAL  
PUBLICATION



**FORT**

**DAVIS**

**HISTORICAL HANDBOOK NUMBER 38**

This publication is one of a series of handbooks describing the historical and archeological areas in the National Park System administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. It is printed by the Government Printing Office and can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 20402. Price 30 cents.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



# FORT DAVIS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, TEXAS

by Robert M. Utley



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORICAL HANDBOOK SERIES NO. 38

WASHINGTON, D.C., 1965



*The National Park System, of which Fort Davis National Historic Site is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.*

# CONTENTS

Page	
1	Blazing Trails in West Texas, 1849
4	Upper and Lower Roads
5	Founding of Fort Davis
7	First Fort, 1854-61
9	Guarding the El Paso Road
10	Stagecoaching on the Lower Road
16	Camels at Fort Davis
17	Confederate Interlude
20	A New Fort
24	Garrison of Fort Davis, 1867-81
27	Life at Fort Davis
31	Field Operations, 1867-79
38	Victorio Brings a New Challenge
40	Disarming the Agency Indians
42	The Fight at Quitman Canyon
44	The Battle at Rattlesnake Springs
45	Victorio's Last Stand
47	Peace Comes to West Texas
50	Fort Davis Today
51	About Your Visit
52	Administration
55	Related Areas
56	Appendix 1—Commanding Officers of Fort Davis
62	Appendix 2—Regiments Serving at Fort Davis



*"A Government Draughtsman" sketched the first Fort Davis for Harper's Weekly, March 16, 1861.*

**N**

**ESTLED AT THE EASTERN**  
base of the scenic Davis Mountains in West Texas, Fort Davis guarded the Trans-Pecos segment of the southern route to California. From 1854 to 1891, except for the Civil War years, units of the United States Army garrisoned this remote post beyond the frontiers of Texas. They patrolled the San Antonio-El Paso road, escorted stagecoaches and guarded mail relay stations, policed the Mexican border, and skirmished with Comanche and Apache warriors whose raiding trails to Mexico sliced across the deserts of West Texas. Troops stationed here played a major role in the campaigns against the able Apache chieftain Victorio, whose death in 1880 terminated Indian warfare in Texas. Today the remains of Fort Davis commemorate a significance phase of the advance of the frontier across the American continent.

In 1849 West Texas was a vast stretch of wilderness that few Americans had seen. On the west, a scattering of Mexicans lived at points along the Chihuahua Trail, which led down the Rio Grande from Santa Fe through the Mexican city of El Paso del Norte to Chihuahua. Six hundred miles to the east, Austin, Fredericksburg, and San Antonio traced the frontier of settlement in Texas. Between lay a barren, rocky desert broken in the west by a series of rugged desert mountains. Aside from the Pecos and the Rio Grande, a handful of springs and one or two permanent streams furnished the only water. One oasis relieved this hostile country. North of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, the desert gave way to the Davis Mountains—a jumble of

**Blazing Trails in  
West Texas, 1849**

conical peaks and palisaded canyons covered with thick grama grass, dotted with oak trees, and drained by several clear mountain streams.

Few Indians actually lived in this country. Several bands of Mescalero Apaches had villages in the Davis Mountains and the Big Bend, and farther east Lipans menaced the Texas frontier from haunts on both sides of the Rio Grande in the neighborhood of Eagle Pass and Laredo. But many other Indians regularly passed through the Trans-Pecos. Mescalero Apaches from the Sierra Blanca and Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico and Kiowas and Comanches from the buffalo plains to the north had developed the custom of raiding the haciendas and isolated hamlets of northern Mexico. The Apaches usually swept across the deserts west of the Davis Mountains and crossed the Rio Grande anywhere between the Mexican towns of Presidio del Norte, now Ojinaga, and El Paso del Norte, now Juarez. The Kiowas and Comanches passed east of the mountains and forded at crossings within the present Big Bend National Park. Their raiding parties wore a broad and distinct path, the Great Comanche War Trail, in the prairies and deserts between Red River and the Rio Grande. For Apaches, Kiowas, and Comanches, raiding in Mexico had become an established institution, important to their way of life as a source of food and stock and as a means of winning rank and status in the tribe.

Before the war of 1846-47 between the United States and Mexico, Texans displayed little interest in the country west of the Pecos. The productive land lay east of the 100th meridian, and Comanche war parties stifled curiosity about what lay beyond. The Mexican War changed this. For 20 years Texans had talked of stealing the lucrative "commerce of the prairies" that flowed between Missouri and Chihuahua over the Santa Fe and Chihuahua Trails. A direct road from San Antonio to Chihuahua would considerably shorten the established route and, they hoped, divert the trade through Texas. Now part of the United States, at peace for the first time with Mexico, and possessing a solid claim south and southwest to the Rio Grande, Texans believed that they could at last succeed. In 1848 an expedition of Texas Rangers under Col. John C. Hays and Capt. Samuel Highsmith attempted to open such a road, but the waterless mountains of the Big Bend forced the rangers to return to San Antonio 3½ months later, exhausted and destitute.

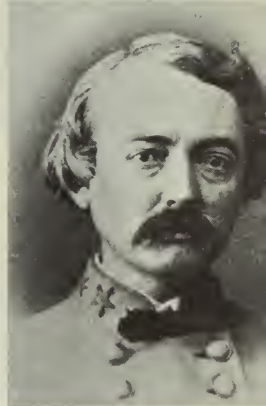
Soon the Federal Government discovered a common interest with Texas in opening the Trans-Pecos. As a result of the Mexican War, the United States had acquired not only Texas but the vast territory comprising the present States of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and California as well. About the time the Hays-Highsmith Expedition limped into San Antonio, the



news of gold discoveries in California burst on the Nation. Through letters and promotional literature sent to eastern newspapers, Texans proclaimed the virtues of the southern route to California. Texas senators and many Mexican War veterans urged the southern route as the most feasible for the projected transcontinental railroad. The flood of immigrants that descended on the gulf ports of Texas in 1849 furnished ample testimony to the effectiveness of the promotional campaign. Recognizing an obligation to explore the newly acquired territory, to seek out the best railroad route, to protect immigrants from hostile Indians, and—under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war—to prevent Indians based in the United States from raiding in Mexico, the Federal Government laid plans to open a road from San Antonio to El Paso.

Soon after the return of the Hays-Highsmith Expedition, Maj. Gen. William J. Worth, commanding the 8th Military Department (Texas), ordered two engineer officers, Lts. William H. C. Whiting and William F. Smith, to extend the exploration of the Texas Rangers westward to El Paso del Norte. Escorted by nine Texas frontiersmen and guided by Richard A. Howard, the lieutenants left San Antonio on February 12, 1849. By the middle of March they were in the Davis Mountains, where the journey nearly ended. The column found itself suddenly surrounded by about 200 menacing Apache warriors. The grim demeanor of the well-armed Texans inspired the Indians with caution, however, and they ended by escorting the white men to a nearby village for the night. There were five chiefs. Four proved reasonable enough, but Gomez—"the terror of Chihuahua," Whiting called him—was insulting and belligerent. He innocently asked why the Americans did not scatter out and gather wood for cook fires. Patting his rifle stock, Whiting replied that "we held wood enough in our hands." At a council with the chiefs, the lieutenant argued forcefully that the expedition meant no harm and should be allowed to proceed unmolested. While the Americans spent an uneasy night, the chiefs debated. Finally, Gomez was outvoted, and the crisis passed.

On March 20 the little column made its way up a clear stream winding through a deep canyon shadowed by towering basaltic columns. "Wild roses, the only ones I had seen in Texas, here grew luxuriantly," wrote Whiting. "I named the defile 'Wild Rose pass' and the brook the 'Limpia'." Emerging from the pass, the explorers halted beside the creek in a grove of great cottonwoods on the edge of an open plain. On the trunks of the trees the men discovered rude pictographs painted by passing Comanches. Here at "Painted Comanche Camp," where the Limpia flowed from the mountains and turned north toward Wild Rose Pass, Whiting made camp. Countless immigrant



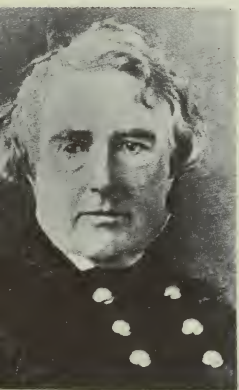
*Lt. William H. C. Whiting, Topographical Engineers, commanded the official survey expedition that marked out the San Antonio-El Paso Road in 1849. He is shown here about 12 years later as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army.*

parties were to camp here in the next decade, and here, 5 years later, the Army was to build Fort Davis.

Whiting and Smith succeeded in reaching El Paso del Norte and were back in San Antonio by late spring. While they were absent, another party had been west of the Pecos. Led by Dr. John S. Ford, it was financed by a group of Austin merchants. General Worth lent Federal support by assigning the United States Indian Agent for Texas, Maj. Robert S. Neighbors, to accompany Ford. This group pioneered a trail that ran north of the Davis Mountains, close to the New Mexico boundary, before turning southward toward El Paso. Early in June 1849, Worth's successor, Bvt. Brig. Gen. William S. Harney, sent out topographical parties to make additional surveys of the two roads and to improve them for use by wagons. Lt. Francis T. Bryan performed this mission for the northern route, Bvt. Lt. Col. Joseph E. Johnston for the southern. The latter attached himself to a battalion of the 3d Infantry under Bvt. Maj. Jefferson Van Horne, ordered to take station across the river from El Paso del Norte. There Van Horne established the post that was later named Fort Bliss.

## Upper and Lower Roads

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



*Bvt. Maj. Gen. Persifor F. Smith commanded the Department of Texas in 1854 and personally selected the site of Fort Davis.*

**T**HE TRAIL BLAZED BY FORD AND NEIGHBORS and improved by Bryan became known as the Upper Road, that opened by Whiting and Smith and improved by Johnston as the Lower Road. At once they became the two recognized routes of transportation across West Texas. By either road, El Paso was more than 600 miles from San Antonio. But as the Lower Road was slightly shorter and offered more dependable sources of water and wood, it quickly emerged as the more popular. By the middle 1850's, this was *the* San Antonio-El Paso road.

The gold rush furnished the first heavy traffic. During 1849 alone, about 3,000 argonauts made their way to California by way of Texas. Many used trails through northern Mexico, but a large share followed the Upper and Lower Roads. Some preceded the official surveys. One company, led by John C. Hays, marched west as far as El Paso del Norte under the protection of Major Van Horne's infantry. The immigrant parties suffered hardship and misfortune. Some flew apart from internal dissension and strung out over the road in small groups. Besides suffering from heat and lack of water, many were not properly provisioned, and before reaching El Paso they found themselves subsisting on the meat of horses, mules, and even snakes. The migration continued throughout the 1850's, and the Painted

Comanche Camp on the Limpia played host to several thousand travelers who, like Whiting, were delighted by the pleasant campsite with its abundant water, grass, and fuel.

The gold rush gave birth to an American settlement on the Rio Grande opposite the Mexican city of El Paso del Norte. First called Magoffinsville, it was named Franklin in 1852 and El Paso in 1859. The Santa Fe-Chihuahua trail here crossed the Texas-California trails, and local merchants enjoyed a lively business supplying the large numbers of travelers who used these routes. Freight trains began to ply the Lower Road, reaching Chihuahua and Santa Fe by way of El Paso. The Trans-Pecos trails became established avenues of commerce, and Texas at last had her longsought share of the Santa Fe-Chihuahua trade.

Mail carriers, freighters, and immigrants all risked Indian attack on the journey to El Paso. Almost from the edge of San Antonio to the Davis Mountains they rode in constant terror of Kiowa and Comanche warriors traveling between Mexico and their northern homes. From the eastern foothills of the Davis Mountains to Franklin, opposite El Paso, Mescalero war parties might at any moment dash upon a luckless train. With mounting frequency, Indians swept down on wagon trains and mail parties, ran off the stock, and, if the prey were weak enough, killed the whites and plundered the wagons. This they could do with impunity, for once a traveler left Fort Clark, 130 miles west of San Antonio, he could expect to see no soldiers until he reached Fort Bliss at Franklin. By 1854 military protection of the Lower Road had become a necessity.



*Lt. Col. Washington Seawell, 8th Infantry, built Fort Davis in 1854 and commanded it for most of the years before 1861.*

# M

## MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT

department headquarters in San Antonio believed that the proposed fort in the Trans-Pecos should be located either in the vicinity of the Painted Comanche Camp or across the river from Presidio del Norte, to the south. The department commander, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Persifor F. Smith, set forth early in September 1854 to inspect the troublesome western portion of his department and to select a site for the new post. Its garrison, six companies of the 8th Infantry commanded by Lt. Col. Washington Seawell, was to follow General Smith, who planned first to inspect Fort Bliss, then to meet Seawell and his troops at the Painted Comanche Camp early in October.

Returning from Fort Bliss, the general gained some knowledge of the Apache problem. Near Eagle Springs a party of travelers

## Founding of Fort Davis

reported that Indians had run off their stock the day before. Smith detached part of his escort—41 men of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen under Capt. John G. Walker and Lt. Eugene A. Carr—to follow the trail of the stolen cattle. In the Sierra Diablo the pursuers overtook their quarry and surprised a Mescalero village. In an action that lasted most of the day, Walker routed the Indians and inflicted casualties of 6 or 7 killed and 12 to 14 wounded. He lost one man killed, and his lieutenant and the guide were dangerously wounded. Lieutenant Carr later recovered and after the Civil War became a distinguished Indian fighter.

On October 5 General Smith and his escort bivouacked at the Painted Comanche Camp. Two days later Colonel Seawell and the vanguard of his command rolled up the Limpia and made camp. During September two long wagon trains had transported the regimental headquarters, band, and six companies of the 8th Infantry over the Lower Road. On October 11 the second train arrived. The general went to Presidio del Norte to consider locating the post there. He was back by the 23d, convinced of the superiority of the Painted Camp. It offered plenty of wood, water, and grass—requisites for a frontier military installation. Strategically located on the Lower Road, it commanded the Mescalero Apache country and lay within striking distance of the Great Comanche War Trail. The site had already been filed upon by John James, a San Antonio surveyor, and it was leased by the Army from him and his heirs, with one interruption, for the next 37 years.

Head Quarters, Department of Texas  
Painted Camp on the "Limpia"  
October 23d, 1854

Order No. 129

Lieutenant Colonel Washington Seawell with his command of six companies of the 8th Infantry will occupy the Camp where he is at present in position, which will be called "Fort Davis," where he will proceed to make his command as comfortable as circumstances will admit of for the winter. He will immediately make requisitions for the necessary stores, provisions and forage for the half year commencing November 1st next, drawing as little as possible upon forage already, and about, to be delivered.

Preparations will be made for an additional quantity of provisions, supplies and forage for detachments which may shortly be expected for service in the field.

By order of Bvt. Maj. Gen'l. Smith  
A. GIBBS  
Bvt. Capt. A.D.C. & A.A.A.G.

On October 23, 1854, General Smith issued orders establishing Fort Davis, which was named for Secretary of War Jefferson Davis. The general himself chose the spot where the post was to rise. It was in a canyon about a quarter of a mile south of the Painted Camp. On three sides palisaded rock walls rose abruptly from the canyon floor, terminating at the top in grassy hills. Considering the tactical situation, this was not the wisest choice, for an enemy could, and later did, approach very near without discovery. Seawell wished instead to establish the fort near a bubbling spring on the prairie opposite the mouth of the canyon, where it was in fact rebuilt after the Civil War. Whether he voiced this opinion to General Smith is not known, but throughout his service at Fort Davis he clung to the hope of one day building a fine new post of stone outside the canyon. Meanwhile, he contented himself with erecting temporary structures of pine slabs and canvas on the site inside the canyon designated by General Smith.



#### CONSTRUCTION OF FORT DAVIS

First Fort, 1854-61

began immediately. A scouting party discovered a fine stand of timber in the mountains about 25 miles distant. Colonel Seawell set up a timber camp, and muledrawn wagons hauled pine logs over a rough road to the site of the fort. Here a Page Circular Sawmill powered by 12 mules cut the logs into slabs. A quarry of building stone was opened a mile from the post; but since Seawell hoped to build a permanent fort on another site in the future, very little was used. With no attempt at lasting construction, the buildings rose rapidly.

The troops of the 8th Infantry were first housed in six rude shelters, one for each company, extending in a line across the mouth of the canyon. They were built of oak and cottonwood pickets thatched with grass, and each was 56 by 20 feet. By 1856 six stone barracks with thatched roofs and flagstone floors, each 60 by 20 feet, had been erected in a line immediately to the west. Aside from the stone bakehouse, blacksmith shop, and warehouse, these were the only substantial structures built on the site of the first fort. The original barracks served thereafter as kitchens and messrooms.

The rest of the buildings were scattered at random up the canyon to the west. Built of pine slabs set vertically in the ground, they had plank or packed-earth floors, roofs of thatched grass or canvas, and glazed windows. Officers lived in 11 sets of

*Before their conquest  
in 1875, the  
Comanches regularly  
raided deep into  
Mexico and en route  
frequently attacked  
travelers on the El  
Paso road.*



DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Comanche Warrior, by Frederic Remington.

quarters. The commanding officer enjoyed the luxury of a two-room house with exterior weather boarding. Completing the physical layout were a hospital, the adjutant's office, 13 houses for married soldiers and their families, a stable, sawmill, the sutler's store and "billiard room," storehouses, a corral, a wagonyard, and a woodyard.

By 1857 the slab buildings had deteriorated badly. Installed green, the slabs had warped, shrunk, and rotted. The houses of the officers, testified the post quartermaster, "are altogether very uncomfortable and insufficient quarters." The hospital, held together by wooden pins because the supply of nails had run out, was "in a very rickety condition." The flimsy wooden frames covered with canvas that served as storehouses provided scant protection to supplies when new and in 1857 were about to fall down. In 1858-59 a stone warehouse was erected to provide a measure of relief. One carpenter, sometimes two, were kept constantly occupied repairing the buildings of Fort Davis.

There were compensations, however, for Fort Davis had advantages of scenery and climate that made it the envy of tenants at many other frontier posts. Limpia Creek provided fresh, clear water; for drinking purposes, it was superior to that at the spring east of the fort. The spring provided a good site for the post garden. Its vegetables and melons varied the diet of the garrison and delighted travelers on the sterile road to El Paso and San Antonio.

The main item of food was beef. The troops ate 5,000 pounds each month, purchased by contract for 15 cents a pound. Beans at \$2.48 a bushel and flour at 12½ cents a pound came from Mexico, although after 1858 Simeon Hart supplied the flour from his mill at El Paso. All other subsistence stores—pork, bacon, coffee, sugar—as well as quartermaster and ordnance supplies were furnished from the military depot at San Antonio. Corn for stock forage was obtained under contract from Mexico and fuel for \$6.50 a cord from timber in the Davis Mountains.

Elements of the 8th Infantry occupied Fort Davis throughout the decade of the 1850's, and, except for occasional absences, Colonel Seawell commanded the post for most of this time. He doubtless dreamed of the model fort he hoped one day to build on the prairie east of the canyon. Not until after the approaching Civil War, however, was his dream realized.

# G

ENERAL SMITH HAD NO SOONER returned to San Antonio in the autumn of 1854 than he mapped a campaign against the Mescalero Apaches. Under Maj. John S. Simonson, three companies of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen and three companies of Texas mounted militia reached Fort Davis in December. A company of the 8th Infantry joined them there, and the expedition plunged into the deserts west of the Davis Mountains. For 3 months, as the command marched

## Guarding the El Paso Road

An Overland Station: Indians Coming in With the Stage, by Frederic Remington.



*The coaches operating on the route through Fort Davis were often attacked by Comanches and Apaches. Guarding the mail stations was a continuing duty for the garrison.*



*Regulations prescribed this uniform for infantrymen in the 1850's. From an 1856 inspection report it is evident that few soldiers at remote Fort Davis even possessed an entire uniform, much less wore it in the arduous scouting on the deserts of West Texas.*

and countermarched in an attempt to catch the elusive Apaches, Fort Davis served as a supply center and communications link with San Antonio. Although Major Simonson fought few engagements, his energetic scouting caused the Indians to withdraw northward into New Mexico, where many were rounded up by other troops and concentrated on a reservation near newly established Fort Stanton. A few bands continued to live in the Guadalupe and Davis Mountains and in the Big Bend. The menace had not been destroyed, and the Mescaleros returned to haunt the El Paso road.

It soon became obvious that the one post between Forts Clark and Bliss could not effectively police a 400-mile stretch of road. Others were built: Fort Lancaster in 1855, Fort Hudson in 1857, Fort Quitman in 1858, and Fort Stockton in 1859. Mounted on mules, the garrisons of these posts spent most of their time in the arduous duty of escorting mail and freight trains, pursuing but rarely catching Apaches or Comanches, and covering their sector with patrols designed to keep track of Indian movements. Occasionally there was action, but it involved small numbers on both sides and produced no headlines in eastern newspapers.

A typical encounter occurred in July 1857 when a party of about 80 Apaches swept down on the monthly military express bound from San Antonio to Fort Davis just after it crossed the Pecos River. The infantry escort made a brief defense, but when the ranking sergeant was killed, the men abandoned the wagons and fled back to Fort Lancaster. Lt. Edward L. Hartz and 40 men from Fort Davis happened to be at Lancaster. Joined by an officer and another 40 men, Hartz loaded his command in wagons, drew the canvas covers, and set forth on the road to Fort Davis under the guise of a provision train. About 45 miles west of Lancaster, the Indians attacked. The infantrymen piled out of the wagons and shattered the charge with musketry, then spread out as skirmishers. The Indians pulled back out of range and fired the prairie. The troops moved with their wagons into a depression free of grass, and the flames swept past them. Again they advanced with rifles blazing, and the Indians gave up the contest and scattered.

## Stagecoaching on the Lower Road

**I**N 1853 THE EL PASO ROAD BECAME part of a Federal mail route connecting San Antonio with Santa Fe by way of Franklin and El Paso del Norte. The contract went to George H. Giddings, who was destined to make an im-





*Inspecting Fort Davis in 1856, Col. J. K. F. Mansfield made this sketch of the prewar post. It is the only known map of Fort Davis as it appeared before the Civil War.*

pressive reputation in Texas stagecoaching. At first Giddings carried the mail by mule, but before long he inaugurated passenger service, too. His mail train consisted of two wagons for the mail and an ambulance for passengers, each vehicle drawn by four mules and leading a fifth. The mules made the entire run without relief. The train halted each night at 10 o'clock and resumed the journey at 4 the next morning, pausing for meals at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Passengers paid \$100 for the trip to El Paso. They were allowed 40 pounds of baggage and, advertised Giddings, "are not required to stand guard." This function was performed by six men, former Texas Rangers, each of whom carried a Sharp's rifle and a Colt's revolver. "They had so much the appearance of drunken ruffians," observed a traveler in 1854, "that we felt no disposition to join the party." Between 1854 and 1857 the Giddings coaches paused at Fort Davis each

month. During this period, too, the Army operated a monthly military express between San Antonio and Fort Davis.

In 1857 James Birch won a Federal contract for carrying the mail between San Antonio and San Diego, Calif. At first using wagons, the company soon had coaches providing semimonthly service to the Pacific. As general superintendent, Birch appointed I. C. Woods, who in turn selected George H. Giddings as agent for the eastern division, San Antonio to El Paso. Although Giddings pooled his stock and equipment with those of the Birch line, he continued to operate between El Paso and Santa Fe under his own contract. The Birch coaches, captained by such frontier figures as Giddings, Thomas McCall, Henry Skillman, and "Big Foot" Wallace, stopped at Fort Davis twice a month until 1858, when weekly service was inaugurated.

Within a year the rival and more famous Butterfield Overland Mail, St. Louis to San Francisco, had moved in on Birch's territory, duplicating his route between El Paso and Fort Yuma, Calif. In Texas the Butterfield Trail struck the Upper Road on the Pecos and followed it through the Guadalupe Mountains to El Paso. Water on this trail proved scarce, however, and in 1859 Butterfield moved south, crossing the Pecos by ferry at Horsehead Crossing and reaching El Paso on the Lower Road by way of Fort Davis. Here the company built a station a half mile northeast of the post. From 1859 to 1861, when both Butterfield and the Birch line discontinued service, the two companies operated through Fort Davis.

To Apaches and Comanches, the stagecoaches were inviting prey. They carried fewer defenders than most freight trains and made their way across Texas with predictable regularity. Giddings recalled an event illustrating the danger that threatened the coaches on the San Antonio-El Paso run:

*As I was crossing the Escondido about nine miles from Fort Davis our party was attacked. There were two men besides myself in the coach. Jim Spears, the driver, and a contractor named Parker Burnham were on the box. The Indians had no guns, but used bows and arrows exclusively. One of these missiles struck Burnham in the neck. Jim Spears placed the wounded man in the boot of the compartment in the rear of coach. The six horses attached to the stage were then given their heads and ran all the way to Fort Davis, the Indians following close to the post. The coach was filled with arrows which they shot into it and which stuck in it. We kept up a steady fire from our revolvers at them, but I do not know how many, if any, we killed or wounded. . . . One of our horses dropped dead, just as we pulled up at Fort Davis Post Office.*

U.S. ARMY, FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.

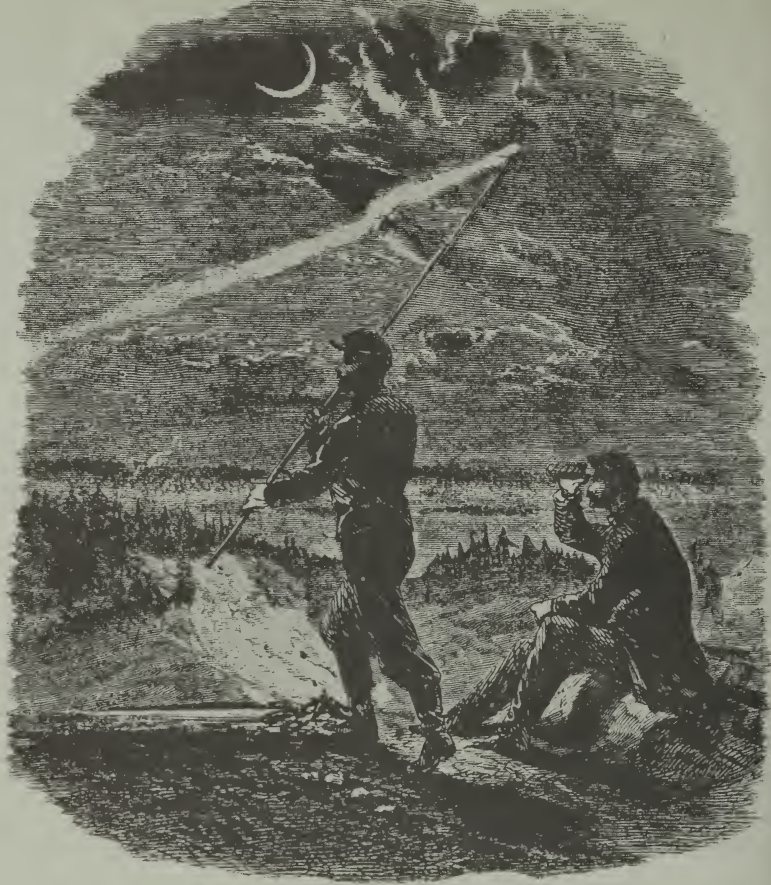


*Assistant Surgeon Albert J. Myer in New York upon his departure for Texas in October 1854.*

## Father of the Signal Corps

*When Assistant Surgeon Albert J. Myer reported for duty in the Department of Texas in 1854, he had already devoted several years of thought to devising a new and simpler military signaling system. It is possible that his observations in Texas, where Apaches and Comanches used fire, smoke, and flags to transmit messages, gave him additional ideas. His 9 months of service at Fort Davis, January to November 1855, afforded him ample opportunity for such observations, but during most of this time he was seriously ill, and his diary reveals no concern with signaling matters. Rather it indicates that he desperately desired transfer to another station. In October 1856 he wrote to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis from Fort Duncan, Tex., offering to explain the new signaling system he had devised. In 1858 a board of officers endorsed it for use in the Army, and on June 27, 1860, Myer was promoted to major and appointed Signal Officer of the Army.*

*The Civil War underscored the necessity for accurate and rapid communication, and under Myer's leadership the Signal Corps grew into a vital part of the military establishment. As these pages from an early training manual show, his system owed a considerable debt to the signaling techniques of the western Indians. Myer served as Chief Signal Officer of the Army until his death in 1880. Fort Myer, the military post adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, commemorates the services of the founder of the Signal Corps.*



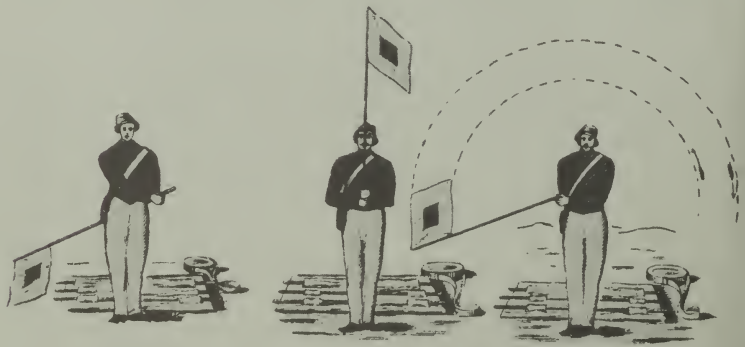
An Army signal station at night. From Harper's Weekly, Jan. 24, 1863.



Foot Torch - light

Post

From Myer's Manual of Signals, 1864.



Ready

Up

Swing



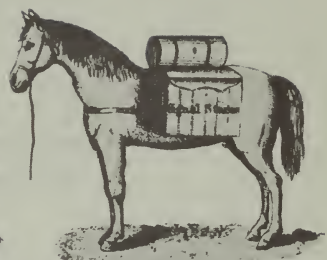
First Position  
For Night Signals  
Torches.



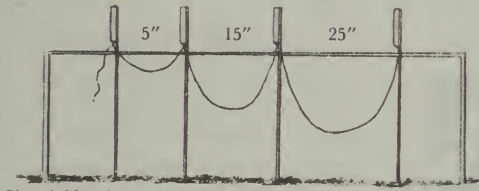
First Position-or "Ready"  
For Night Signals  
Lanterns.



Signal Man  
with Kit complete.



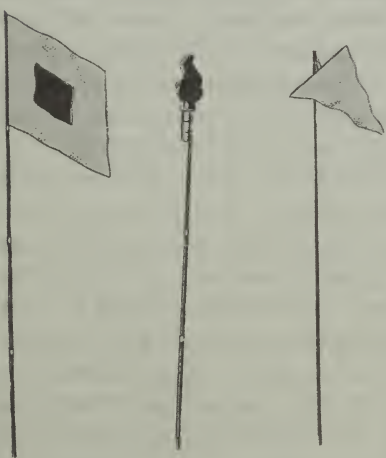
Pack animal with Panniers and Mortar.



Signal Number 1 3 5 135  
Rockets with time matches for chronosemic Signals.



Firing rockets from the hand.



Instruction in Signaling:  
practice with wands.

A. D. Richardson, who rode a Butterfield stage across the country in 1859, recorded an incident that occurred in Wild Rose Pass north of Fort Davis. Apaches waylaid a Birch mail wagon, killed the guard, and made off with the mail. They stopped to examine the loot and, discovering a bundle of illustrated newspapers, grew so absorbed in the engravings that they allowed themselves to be surprised by a pursuing detachment of soldiers. Caught off balance, the war party lost 14 men. The survivors, convinced that the pictures had somehow led to their punishment, thereafter avoided them with superstitious fear.

With the El Paso road an important Federal mail route, the Army increasingly felt an obligation to protect it. Brig. Gen. David E. Twiggs voiced the sentiment of most commanders of the Department of Texas when he lamented in 1858:

*The road from this [San Antonio] to El Paso is travelled almost daily, and large amounts of property transported on packs and trains. The San Diego mail makes two trips a month to San Diego from this place. It is important that this road be well guarded, but I have not the force to do it.*

Nor did he ever get the force to do it. By the close of the 1850's, the Army had made little real progress in destroying the Indian barrier of West Texas.



SECRETARY OF WAR JEFFERSON DAVIS

## Camels at Fort Davis

believed that the vexing problem of supply and transportation on the western deserts might be solved by the use of camels. At his urging, Congress in 1855 appropriated \$30,000 to conduct experiments. By early 1856, 74 camels had been brought from the Levant and corralled at Camp Verde north of San Antonio. The first camels passed by Fort Davis in July 1857 under charge of a naval officer, Lt. Edward F. Beale, who had been assigned to survey a wagon road across Arizona. The lieutenant already had high praise for the efficiency and endurance of the animals. Two years later, Davis' successor, Secretary of War John B. Floyd, ordered additional tests. Lt. William B. Echols was to use camels in searching out a shorter route from San Antonio to Fort Davis. Lt. Edward L. Hartz and an infantry detachment from Fort Davis served as escort. For comparison, 24 camels and 24 mules carried the supplies. Throughout the summer of 1859, the command scoured the desert between Forts Stockton and Davis and the Big Bend, and the officers emerged from the trials convinced of the superiority of camels over mules.

The following year, 1860, Secretary Floyd ordered more experiments in still rougher terrain. Again attempting to pioneer a new route from the Pecos to Fort Davis, Lieutenant Echols with 25 camels and 20 mules nearly perished in the desert. For 5 days, 120 miles, they found no water. But the camels, carrying much water and consuming none, saw the party through to Fort Davis. But for their "endurance, docility, and sagacity," wrote the acting department commander, Bvt. Col. Robert E. Lee, "the reconnaissance would have failed."

Despite their demonstrated value, camels were not again used. Those at Camp Verde fell into the hands of Confederates in 1861. After the war, any project associated with the name of Jefferson Davis was discredited, and no one ever attempted to revive the idea. The camels were sold at auction, and the army mule continued to enjoy its customary supremacy.



#### THE TEXAS SECESSION CONVENTION

met in Austin on January 28, 1861. The State seceded from the Union on March 4 and formally joined the Confederacy on March 23. As early as February, State commissioners demanded the surrender of Federal military property and the withdrawal of Federal troops. Sympathetic with the South and unable to get a clear directive from Washington, General Twiggs met the demand on February 18. Orders promptly went out for the evacuation of the frontier forts. On April 13 Capt. Edward D. Blake and Company H, 8th Infantry, abandoned Fort Davis and joined the garrisons of Forts Bliss and Quitman for the eastward march. The column grew as it picked up additional contingents at Forts Stockton, Lancaster, and Hudson. Meanwhile, the Civil War had broken out, and as the units from the forts on the El Paso road neared San Antonio they were seized by Texas troops and made prisoners of war.

#### Confederate Interlude

Captain Blake had left E. P. Webster and Diedrick Dutchover, stagecoach drivers who had settled in the Davis Mountains, in charge of Fort Davis. As the Confederate authorities planned to mount an offensive against the Federals in New Mexico, they regarrisoned the forts as protection for the line of supply and communication. The advance element of the invasion, the 2d Texas Mounted Rifles under Lt. Col. John R. Baylor, passed Fort Davis in June 1861. Company D of the regiment, officered by Lts. Reuben E. Mays and W. P. White, held Fort Davis. Baylor seized Mesilla, N. Mex., late in July, organized the

Confederate Territory of Arizona, and waited for the main invasion force, a brigade of Texans under Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, to launch the assault.

At Fort Davis, meanwhile, the Confederates had established seemingly cordial relations with the Mescalero Apaches of the Davis Mountains. In fact, Colonel Baylor had concluded a treaty with Chief Nicholas, feted him at a banquet in El Paso, and caused rations to be issued at the fort to his people. Nicholas took advantage of the arrangement for 2 months, but in August he descended upon Fort Davis, killed some cattle, and ran off part of the horse herd. With 14 men, Lieutenant Mays followed the trail deep into the Big Bend. Learning of the pursuit, the Apache chief posted his warriors, numbering 80 to 100, on the sides of a rocky canyon and waited. On August 12 the Confederate detachment rode into the ambush. When the smoke lifted, all the soldiers lay dead. Only the Mexican guide escaped to tell the story.

Concerned only with supporting the invasion of New Mexico, the Confederates mounted no offensive against the Apaches. Indians took advantage of this immunity to lay waste the land. "Outrages were committed frequently," reported Colonel Baylor:

*The mails were robbed; in one or two instances the passengers were found hanging by their heels, their heads within a few inches of a slow fire, and they thus horribly roasted to death. Others were found tied to the wheels of the coach, which had been burned.*

General Sibley's brigade passed over the El Paso road in November 1861 and pushed up the Rio Grande from Mesilla the following February. It won victory at Valverde and seized Albuquerque and Santa Fe only to be turned back at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in March. The remnants of the brigade were back at Fort Bliss by May. Many of the wounded were sent to Fort Davis, which became a medical receiving station. In July 1862 advance units of a column of California Volunteers reached the Rio Grande, and Sibley had no choice but to withdraw from West Texas. His decimated regiments passed Fort Davis early in August, taking the small garrison with them.

On August 27, 1862, a detachment of Federal cavalry from the California Column rode cautiously into Fort Davis. Apaches had burned some of the buildings and wrecked others. In the old Butterfield stage station the cavalrymen found the body of a Confederate soldier, pierced by bullets and an arrow. The United States flag flew again over Fort Davis for one day; then the Federals marched back to Fort Bliss, skirmishing with Apaches on the way. Fort Davis lay deserted for the next 5 years.





The Bursting of the Chrysalis and The Omnipotent Bugler, both by Frederic Remington. The figure at left is a cavalry officer in full dress.

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Although officers and enlisted men alike usually wore whatever suited their fancy on campaign, such was not the case in garrison. Dress blues were donned each day for guard mount and the evening retreat parade, and the frequent social events brought the men out in the full glory of blue and gold. The uniform adopted by the United States Army in 1872 reflected a Prussian influence dramatized by the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. Gold cords and epaulettes adorned a navy blue blouse. The spiked helmet bore a large metal eagle device and supported a horsehair plume identifying the wearer's branch of service—yellow for cavalry, blue and later white for infantry, and red for artillery. Stripes running down the seams of the sky-blue trousers repeated the color of the plume. Such martial display made up in a small measure for the drab and often unmilitary life of the typical frontier post.

## Dress Blues

## A New Fort

# F

OR NEARLY 2 YEARS AFTER THE

Confederate surrender at Appomattox, the Texas frontier and the road to El Paso lay exposed to Comanche and Apache raiders. The Reconstruction policies that followed the war kept Federal troops in Texas too occupied to devote much attention to the Indian menace. Attacks on frontier settlements and the El Paso road, however, finally brought about the reactivation of the frontier defense system. The 9th U.S. Cavalry, one of two newly organized mounted regiments composed of Negroes with white officers, was assigned to Fort Davis. On June 29, 1867, four troops of the regiment under Lt. Col. Wesley Merritt, distinguished Civil War general, marched into the wrecked post on Limpia Creek.

On the prairie at the mouth of the canyon, Colonel Merritt began building a stone post such as Colonel Seawell had planned in the years before the war. A row of 19 sets of officers' quarters with separate kitchen buildings would face, across a 500-foot parade ground, a row of 6 barracks, with offices and other utility buildings fronting the parade ground at each end. Although only a few structures were finally built of stone and some originally planned never emerged from the drawing board, the post that took shape proved commodious and vastly more comfortable than its predecessor.

About 200 civilian carpenters, masons, and laborers went to work on Fort Davis. By March 1869, nearly 2 years later, they had finished about half the buildings and begun work on the rest. On March 20, however, the department quartermaster inspected the post and, probably for reasons of economy, ordered all work halted. Thereafter, the fort expanded sporadically as limited construction funds became available. Not until the middle 1880's did it assume its final form. During the period of active field operations, therefore, the garrison occupied 10 sets of officers' quarters and 2 barracks and discharged the routine duties of the post in limited office and utility space. Most of the structures were built of adobe bricks, in the manufacture of which the Mexican laborers who lived in the neighborhood were experts.

During the decade of the 1880's, even though the Indian menace had been eliminated, the garrison was increased beyond any previous number, and new buildings were therefore necessary.

Band barracks, infantry barracks, and two new cavalry barracks were built in this period, together with additional quarters for officers. A new 12-bed hospital had been erected in 1874–75 to replace the temporary structure in use since 1868, and in the eighties this was enlarged by the addition of a second ward. The installation of an iceplant, gas street lamps, and a water system added a touch of civilization to the remote frontier. By 1890, the number of buildings at Fort Davis had risen to more than 60.

text continued on page 24



*A troop of the 9th Cavalry arrayed in dress uniform.* NATIONAL ARCHIVES

*At the close of the Civil War Congress authorized the formation of Regular Army units composed of Negro soldiers with white officers. There were to be two cavalry and four infantry regiments, but in the reorganization of 1869 the number of infantry regiments was reduced to two. Recruited from southern plantations and from the ranks of the Negro volunteer units that had fought in the war, the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry served continuously on the western frontier throughout the remaining three decades of Indian hostility. In Indian Territory, the Dakotas, Colorado, Montana, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, the Negroes clashed with Cheyennes, Sioux, Arapahos, Kiowas, Comanches, Utes, and Apaches. Observing the kinky hair of their adversaries, the warriors dubbed them "Buffalo Soldiers." With a pride in the uniform, an individual morale, and a unit esprit surpassed by few regiments, the Buffalo Soldiers compiled a notable record on the Indian frontier.*

## Buffalo Soldiers

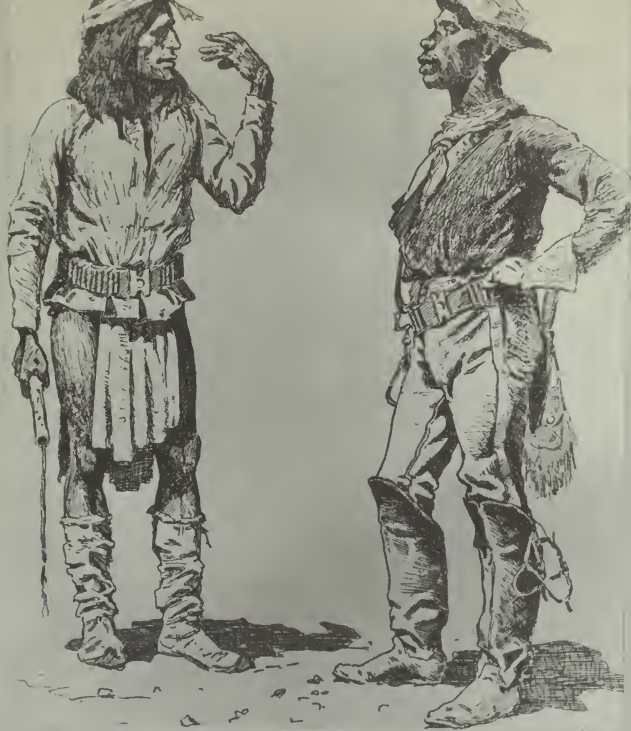


A Campfire Sketch

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Artist Frederic Remington was fascinated by the Buffalo Soldiers, as these illustrations reveal. Campaigning with them in Arizona, he wrote:*

*The Negro troopers sat about, their black skins shining with perspiration, and took no interest in the matter at hand. They occupied such time in joking and in merriment as seemed fitted for growling. They may be tired and they may be hungry, but they do not see fit to augment their misery by finding fault with everybody and everything. In this particular they are charming men with whom to serve. Officers have often confessed to me that when they are on long and monotonous field service and are troubled with a depression of spirits, they have only to go about the campfires of the Negro soldier in order to be amused and cheered by the clever absurdities of the men. . . . As to their bravery: "Will they fight?" That is easily answered. They have fought many, many times. The old sergeant sitting near me, as calm of feature as a bronze statue, once deliberately walked over a Cheyenne rifle pit and killed his man. One little fellow near him once took charge of a lot of stampeded cavalry horses when Apache bullets were flying loose and no one knew from what point to expect them next.*



The Sign Language



**A Study in Action**

*In these sketches for the Century Magazine, April 1889, Remington has vividly recorded the life of Negro troopers in the Southwest.*

## Garrison of Fort Davis, 1867-81

**T**HE 15 YEARS FROM 1867 TO 1881 spanned the period of active operations against hostile Indians in West Texas. The history of Fort Davis during these years is the history of four regiments, all Negro with white officers—the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry.\* Gradually the garrison grew from 4 companies of both infantry and cavalry to 12—from 8 officers and 200 enlisted men to 30 officers and 600 men. The 9th Regiment supplied the cavalry until 1875, when the 10th took over and served until 1885. The infantry were drawn from the 24th until 1870, from both the 24th and 25th until 1872, and from the 25th from 1872 until 1880.

Organized shortly after the Civil War, these regiments were composed largely of former slaves, and many in the Army and out watched them closely to see how the experiment would work. Like all other regiments, they had their share of bad soldiers. Led by some capable officers, however, the Negro units soon won a secure place in the frontier Army and for nearly three decades participated creditably in Indian campaigns all over the West. The troops stationed at Fort Davis compiled an impressive

\*The first infantry complement came from the 41st Infantry, which in 1869 was consolidated with the 38th to form the 24th.



record in the late 1860's and the 1870's and played a significant role in destroying the Indian barrier of West Texas.

Like the enlisted complement, the officer corps of Fort Davis usually contained a few men poorly equipped for the difficult task of presiding over the destinies of the troops they were supposed to lead. But most were capable professionals. Except for second lieutenants recently graduated from West Point, the



*The 25th Infantry garrisoned Fort Davis during most of the 1870's. These photos were taken about 1883, after the regiment had transferred to Fort Snelling, Minn. In the officer group above, Col. George L. Andrews, commanding officer, is seated in the center. Below is a company of enlisted men of the regiment in dress uniform.*

BOTH: NATIONAL ARCHIVES





*Fort Davis in October 1867, as it is being constructed. The view is from the slope north of the post. In the center are the roofless shells of the old stone barracks built in 1856 by Colonel Seawell. At the right are the scattered ruins of the first fort and the camp of the 9th Cavalry; between the rows of tents are temporary stables made of poles and thatched roofs. To the left of the barracks, work is beginning on officers' row.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

officers were veterans of the Civil War. Some had commanded regiments, brigades, or even divisions in ranks much higher than the shrunken peacetime Army could now offer. Many held brevet ranks awarded for gallantry in action during the war, and it was not unusual for a first lieutenant or captain at Fort Davis to be addressed as major or colonel in recognition of his brevet grade.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



*Lt. Col. Wesley Merritt, 9th Cavalry, reactivated Fort Davis in 1867 and commanded the post until 1869. This photo was made about 1864, when he led a division of Sheridan's cavalry in the Civil War.*

As at all frontier forts, post commanders rotated with great frequency. Several in particular stand forth as unusually attentive to the condition of the post, the welfare of the troops, and the active prosecution of operations against hostile Indians. Lieutenant Colonel Merritt, who laid out the new post and built most of it, served from July 1867 until August 1869. He had been one of General Sheridan's most brilliant cavalry leaders during the Civil War, later made an impressive reputation against the Sioux on the northern Plains, and finally rose to command United States forces in the Philippine Islands after the Spanish-American War. Bvt. Maj. Gen. Edward Hatch, colonel of the 9th Cavalry, commanded the post from November 1869 to December 1870; 10 years later he played an important part in the war against Victorio's Apaches. Lt. Col. William R. Shafter, 24th Infantry, replaced Hatch and served until June 1872. One of the most colorful officers ever assigned to Fort Davis, "Pecos Bill" Shafter later led the United States Army in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Other notable commanders were Maj. Zenas R. Bliss, one of Colonel Seawell's officers at Davis in the 1850's, and Col. George L. Andrews, who commanded for 4 years in the 1870's.





## LIFE AT FORT DAVIS DIFFERED

## Life at Fort Davis

little from life at other frontier posts of the time. Scouts, patrols, escort duty, and campaigns were part of the life throughout the period of Indian hostility. For most, these were welcome diversions, for the routine of garrison existence accounted for the greater share of one's service. Day after day, official activities followed the same monotonous pattern: mounted and dismounted drill, target practice, care of weapons and stock, fatigue labors, guard duty, inspections, parades, and a variety of other tasks.

Under the post commander, each officer and man had his part to play. The post adjutant and the sergeant major were the administrative voices of the commanding officer, with whom they shared offices at post headquarters on the north edge of the parade ground. Most of the commander's orders were transmitted through these men. The post quartermaster officer and sergeant were responsible for clothing, housing, and supplying the garrison, the post commissary officer and sergeant for feeding it. They occupied offices and warehouses south of the corrals during the 1870's, then moved to new buildings north of the corrals in the 1880's. The post surgeon, aided by the noncommissioned hospital steward, presided over the hospital behind officers' row and also looked after the sanitary condition of the fort. Each company was supposed to have a captain and two lieutenants, but this was an ideal rarely achieved. Company officers could be found supervising their units in the field or occupied with paper work in the company orderly room in the barracks. Sergeants and corporals of the line usually stayed with the troops. Numerous enlisted specialists—blacksmith, farrier, saddler, wagoner, wheelwright—worked in shops that formed part of the quartermaster and cavalry corrals. At specified times of the day, an infantry bugler or cavalry trumpeter blew the appropriate calls that regulated the routine of the military community.

The troops ate their meals in buildings housing kitchen and messroom adjoining each set of barracks. Staple fare had changed little since the 1850's. In 1877 the meat ration consisted of three-tenths bacon and seven-tenths fresh beef. Beans and flour were purchased locally, and bread came daily from the post bakery. Scurvy swept the garrison in the spring of 1868, and the surgeon, Dr. Daniel Weisel, stressed the necessity of including plenty of fresh vegetables in the diet. In 1869 he



*These views show Fort Davis in 1875, by then a post tolerably comfortable for the times and place. At top is the commanding officer's quarters. The two officers in the foreground are 2d Lt. Charles G. Ayers, 10th Cavalry, and 1st Lt. H. B. Quimby, 25th Infantry. Standing in the left lattice opening is 2d Lt. James C. Ord, 25th Infantry, and in the right is 2d Lt. Henry H. Landon, 25th Infantry.*



*Just above is officers' row, and to the left of it is the roofless ruin of stone barracks built in 1856. The photo below surveys the post from the southwest. In front are barracks and behind are the quartermaster and cavalry corrals.*

ALL: NATIONAL ARCHIVES



persuaded Colonel Merritt to start a post garden. Two were planted, one of 4 acres on Limpia Creek for the post and one of 3 acres at the spring southeast of the corrals for the hospital. These gardens flourished year after year until abandonment of the fort in 1891. Some of the officers' wives kept chickens, but Major Bliss thought that they made the post look unmilitary, and he decreed that "On and after Feb. 1, 1874, no fowls will be kept within the limits of this garrison." Dr. Weisel thought it worth noting that, unlike white troops, Negro soldiers customarily ate their entire ration.

Water for all purposes was hauled from the Limpia in water wagons. The troops suffered from chronic dysentery, and everyone blamed the water. Dr. Weisel, however, insisted that it was pure and that "the water is made a shield of carelessness and neglect in enforcing necessary hygienic and sanitary measures." Nevertheless, in 1875 the spring was substituted for the Limpia as the source of water. By 1878 the drainage ditch leading to the spring had become "the resort of pigs" (chickens were probably back, too, now that Major Bliss had been transferred), and the water took on impurities. Finally, in 1883, construction began on a new water system, with a well and a steam pump on the Limpia and pipes leading into the post.

The state of sanitation was a constant worry to the post surgeon. Dr. Weisel complained that the squad rooms in the barracks were "very untidy, dirty and disorderly," that the kitchens and messrooms were equally dirty, that the sinks were "in a very bad condition," and that "offal and slops" were not hauled away as often as necessary. The doctor also tried to get orders issued requiring every soldier to bathe in Limpia Creek at least twice a week during the summer, but he appears not to have been successful. "The difficulties of a medical officer . . . at a frontier post," he wrote, "can only be fully estimated by actual and trying experience." And, he added, "much more might be said."

For diversion, the troops had a band, a library, a chapel, and a school, the last usually presided over by the chaplain. But the chief off-duty pastimes were gambling, drinking, and sampling the pleasures of the village of Chihuahua, just off the reservation. Boasting a population of about 150 Mexicans and 25 Americans, all dependent on the Army or the stage line for a living, Chihuahua was the scene of frequent violence. In October 1870, for example, someone shot Pvt. Anderson Merriweather with an army pistol. The bullet tore up his stomach, and Dr. Weisel could not save him. Several months later Pvt. John Williams got into a scrap with a comrade and was killed instantly with a butcher knife. Similar incidents occurred regularly. Diversions took their toll on officers, too.

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



*William R. (Pecos Bill) Shafter commanded Fort Davis in 1871-72 and again in 1881-82. Remington did this portrait in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.*

The regimental band provided entertainment as well as martial inspiration at the frontier post. The 9th Cavalry band served at Fort Davis in the 1870's. Here it is shown in the plaza of Santa Fe, N. Mex., about 1885.



LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY, SANTA FE

On January 16, 1870, a captain died "of acute inflammation of the stomach produced by intemperance." Major Bliss tried to put a stop to some of this sort of trouble. In November 1873 he issued two general orders, one forbidding gambling on the post, the other forbidding enlisted men from "carrying concealed weapons of any description, especially knives, razors, slingshots and pistols."

There were also wholesome forms of amusement. Especially did the garrison look forward to the annual Fourth of July holiday. After the ceremonies commemorating American independence, the men played baseball and organized competition in foot racing and wheelbarrow racing. An accident marred the celebration of 1873. A soldier fired the salute gun before Pvt. John Jordon had withdrawn the rammer. Jordon received severe powder burns on the face and was speared in the arm by the broken rammer.



West Texas Trails 1850-60

Many of the officers had their wives and families at the fort, and the women took an active lead in organizing social diversions. Balls, charades, dinner parties, and weddings were frequent and well-attended events. The arrival of official visitors from other posts or from department headquarters in San Antonio always prompted parties of one kind or another; and such occasions as the inspection of Fort Davis in 1882 by General of the Army William T. Sherman and staff were highlights of the continual war on monotony.

# W

**HEN THE TROOPS RETURNED TO** Fort Davis in 1867, they found the Indians marauding unchecked through West Texas and northern Mexico. Raiding parties of 10 to 15 Mescalero Apaches struck southward from their homes in the Guadalupe and Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico. Although the Davis Mountains Mescaleros seem to have moved elsewhere, other bands lived in the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, a rugged wilderness that few white men had penetrated. They committed depredations on the settlements around Presidio del Norte and in northern Mexico. After a raid they found safety from pursuit simply by crossing the Rio Grande, which was the international boundary. Kiowas and Comanches, too, still found their way south from Indian Territory to prey on the El Paso road and the Mexican villages beyond the Rio Grande.

## Field Operations, 1867-79

text continued on page 34



## The Apaches

The Mescalero and Warm Springs Apaches against whom the Fort Davis troopers campaigned were but two of a dozen Apache tribes scattered from the Pecos to the middle Gila River as shown on this map. Before crushed and confined to reservations by the advancing American frontier, they roamed the Southwest and parts of northern Mexico. They were a nomadic people, subsisting on game, roots, and berries and living in brush shelters easily erected by the women at each stopping place. Although possessing common cultural traits, the various tribes had few political or social bonds, and each normally acted independently of the others.

The warriors formed compact bands of raiders that regularly struck at the settlements of northern Mexico for stock, captives, and other plunder. Lightly equipped, highly mobile, each man possessed of courage, endurance, and complete mastery of guerilla tactics, Apache raiding parties proved the most formidable foes the Army encountered on the Indian frontier. The problem was not to defeat them in battle—although when cornered they were



Apache Homelands

dangerous and ruthless adversaries—but to bring them to battle at all. Their habit was to avoid engagements where the odds were not overwhelmingly in their favor, and this they did skillfully and almost effortlessly. For soldiers of the Southwest, the Apache wars consisted mainly of endless marches under the desert sun, with rarely a chance to come to grips with the enemy.

Under such leaders as Victorio, Nana, Cochise, Mangas Coloradas, and Geronimo, the Apaches rose against the swelling tide of American immigration much as their fathers and grandfathers had risen against the Spaniards. The Apache wars began in New Mexico in the early 1850's and ended in Arizona with the surrender of Geronimo in 1886. The conquest was finally brought about more by psychological than by military means. Hounded persistently by army columns and confronted on every hand with evidence of the white man's numbers, power, and determination to take what he wanted, the Apache tribes, one after another, perceived the futility of continued resistance.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



*Col. Edward Hatch, 9th Cavalry, dispatched three expeditions against the Apaches in the Guadalupe Mountains during the year he commanded Fort Davis, 1869-70.*

The first responsibility of Fort Davis was to protect the El Paso road. With the Civil War ended, the flow of traffic resumed its prewar level. Ben Ficklin provided scheduled stagecoach and mail service between San Antonio and El Paso. Units from Fort Davis regularly patrolled the road and at times furnished escorts for trains and coaches between Forts Stockton, Davis, and Quitman. Detachments guarded the mail stations at Barilla Springs, El Muerto, Van Horn's Wells, and Eagle Springs.

Apache war parties often ran off stock belonging to the Army or to the stage company. A detachment usually went in pursuit, sometimes recovered the stolen animals, and occasionally killed one or two of the thieves. An unusually successful pursuit occurred in September 1868. About 200 Indians raided a train near Fort Stockton and headed south toward Mexico with the stock. Colonel Merritt sent Lt. Patrick Cusack and 60 men of the 9th Cavalry, together with 10 civilian volunteers, to chase the Indians. In the Santiago Mountains of the Big Bend, Cusack overhauled his quarry and attacked. Although badly outnumbered, the soldiers won a decisive victory. The Apaches lost 25 killed and as many more wounded, 200 head of stock, and all their camp equipment. Cusack recovered two Mexican children, captives of the Apaches, and returned to Fort Davis.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



*Col. George L. Andrews, 25th Infantry, commanded the post for 4 years during the 1870's.*

Colonel Hatch, who relieved Merritt in 1869, believed in offensive action: seeking out the enemy in his home country. During the single year of 1870, he mounted three separate expeditions against the Mescaleros hidden in the Guadalupe Mountains. Only once did his troops succeed in closing in a serious contest. On January 20, Capt. F. S. Dodge surprised a ranchería, killed about 25 Apaches, and captured their stock and camp. The other expeditions involved no battles, but they demonstrated to the Indians that these mountains were no longer a sanctuary.

Colonel Shafter, who followed Hatch, made the same demonstration in another portion of country hitherto regarded as a sanctuary. In the summer of 1871 he turned a routine pursuit of raiders into a remarkable exploration of the virtually unknown southern reaches of the Staked Plains. On June 17 a party of 15 Comanches stole 41 army mules and 3 horses at Barilla Springs. Shafter mounted 63 troopers of the 9th Cavalry and took the trail to the north. For 2 weeks, following first one trail and then another, he marched back and forth in the vast emptiness near the southeastern corner of New Mexico. He penetrated the rolling dunes of the Monahans Sands, which travelers had always avoided. The horses grew weak and gaunt from the wearing service, but the colonel refused to give up. On one very long day the command marched 70 miles without water. Once a village of about 200 Indians was discovered, but the inhabitants scattered before the tired horses could carry their riders within attacking distance.



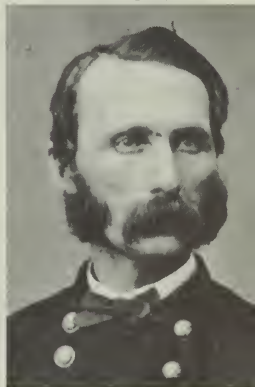
His horses on the verge of collapse, Shafter reluctantly turned back to Fort Davis, arriving on July 9 after 22 days in the field. He had killed no Indians but had done important service. For the first time since the Civil War, a military column had penetrated the heart of the Staked Plains. Shafter had shown the Army that troops could campaign there and had brought back the geographical knowledge necessary for future operations. And, perhaps more importantly, he had shown the Indians that no longer could the Staked Plains be counted upon to afford refuge from pursuing bluecoats. Three years later, the Army put five columns into this country. In the Red River War of 1874–75 the Kiowas and Comanches were crushed for all time. Fort Davis troops did not participate, but no more would they have to chase the Plains raiders from the north.

Shafter believed that extensive scouting, even though no engagements were fought, produced valuable results. "My experience has been that Indians will not stay where they consider themselves liable to attacks," he informed his superiors, "and I believe the best way to rid the country of them . . . is to thoroughly scour the country with cavalry." In October 1871 he led two troops of the 9th Cavalry and a company of the 25th Infantry out of Fort Davis to apply the technique to the Big Bend. Like the Staked Plains, the area of the present Big Bend National Park had not been "thoroughly scoured" by military expeditions. Again Shafter killed no Indians. But he found abundant evidence of their presence in the Big Bend and added considerably to knowledge of the country.

The extensive military activity in the haunts of the Mescalero Apaches of New Mexico had its effect. The principal bands turned up at Fort Stanton, N. Mex., in September 1871 and agreed to settle there in peace. For about 4 years, West Texas enjoyed a security previously unknown. Occasional thefts were committed by the Mescalero bands ranging the border country, and a few warriors from New Mexico may have dropped into Texas for similar diversion. But the troops at Fort Davis, commanded for most of this period by Colonel Andrews, enjoyed a respite from Indian duty interrupted only rarely.

Then, suddenly, the quiet was broken in 1876. Depredations increased. In May and again in July Apaches killed Mexicans within pistol shot of Fort Davis. The story was the same in 1877. Mutilated corpses of travelers were found along the road from Fort Davis to El Paso. By 1878 petty thievery had given way to a state verging on open war. No longer were the Indians content to steal. Now they also killed whenever possible. Time and again troops from Forts Davis and Stockton trailed raiding parties directly to the Fort Stanton reservation. But the agent contended that his Indians were innocent, and the Army had no authority on the reservation.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



*One of the most colorful officers to command Fort Davis (1879-80, 1880-81) was Maj. Napoleon Bonaparte McLaughlen, who enlisted as a dragoon private in 1850 and during the Civil War rose to the rank of brevet brigadier general.*



Col. Benjamin H. Grierson commanded the 10th Cavalry from its organization in 1866 until his retirement in 1890. He played a significant role in the Victorio war of 1880, commanded Fort Davis from 1882 to 1885, then settled near the post after retiring from the Army.

In April 1878 the department commander, Brig. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord, took steps to meet the growing menace. He formed West Texas into the District of the Pecos, with headquarters at Fort Concho. To command the district he appointed Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, famed Civil War general who now commanded the 10th Cavalry. Following General Ord's instructions, Grierson blanketed his district with a network of temporary subposts. Troops stationed at these subposts were to control Indian movements by watching the principal waterholes, to protect the mail route and travelers, and to gain knowledge of the country making up the district. Fort Concho staffed two such posts, Forts Stockton and Davis three each. Those maintained by Fort Davis were at Eagle Springs, Seven Springs, and Pine Springs, the last an abandoned Butterfield station at the southern tip of the Guadalupe Mountains.

Three companies of the 25th Infantry and three troops of the 10th Cavalry, Grierson's regiment, garrisoned Fort Davis. The three cavalry captains, Louis H. Carpenter, Charles D. Viele, and Thomas C. Lebo, were unusually aggressive and capable officers with long records of frontier service. Operating mainly from the subposts, their troops earned Fort Davis the highest scouting mileage for 1878 in the Department of Texas, 6,724 miles. They occasionally skirmished with a raiding party but more often simply marched great distances. The knowledge of the country thus gained was to prove extremely useful in the test to come.

text continued on page 38

CENTURY MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 1891



Frederic Remington's portrayal of a charge by 9th Cavalry troopers illustrates several actions in which the Fort Davis soldiers engaged, notably Lt. Patrick Cusack's attack on Apaches in the Santiago Mountains in 1868.



*Two aspects of Apache strength: a typical Mescalero warrior of the 1870's (above), and a Mescalero medicine man of a decade later (right). This tribal savant was named Na-buash-i-ta*



*The role of the medicine men in the western tribes was assessed in these words by Capt. John G. Bourke, frontier army officer and ethnologist whose observations ranged from the Apaches of the southwestern deserts to the Sioux of the northern plains:*

## Medicine Men

*The medicine-man of the American tribes is not the fraud and charlatan many people affect to consider him; he is, indeed, the repository of all the lore of the savage, the possessor of knowledge, not of the present world alone, but of the world to come as well. At any moment he can commune with the spirits of the departed; he can turn himself into an animal at will; all diseases are subject to his incantations; to him the enemy must yield on the war-path; without the potent aid of his drum and rattle and song no hunt is undertaken; from the cradle to the grave the destinies of the tribe are subject to his whim.*



MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

*Victorio, chief of the Warm Springs Apaches, led his own people and some of the Mescaleros in the outbreak of 1879-80. After Grierson drove him from Texas, he was killed by Mexican troops.*

## Victorio Brings a New Challenge

**I**N THE YEARS SINCE THEIR SURRENDER, the Mescaleros on the reservation near Fort Stanton had been ringed by white settlements. Mutual suspicion between the two races led to occasional bloodshed. The cattlemen's war in neighboring Lincoln County in 1878 produced an anarchy that had its effect on the Indians. And finally, factional quarrels among the Apaches themselves created further unrest. Some of the more restless people left the reservation and joined their kinsmen in the Guadalupe Mountains and the Texas Big Bend. Others simply used the reservation as a base and a refuge for raids into Texas and Mexico. All that was needed to transform the uncoordinated raids into a full-scale outbreak was a leader. In June 1879 Victorio appeared on the Mescalero reservation.

A dynamic and aggressive chief, Victorio ranked most other Apaches in leadership ability and skill in the arts of Apache warfare. He had learned from the great Mangas Coloradas. Victorio and the core of his following were not Mescaleros but Warm Springs Apaches whose homeland lay in New Mexico west of the Rio Grande. For 2 years officials of the Indian Bureau had been trying to colonize the Warm Springs people on the San Carlos reservation in Arizona. Victorio had alternately resisted and yielded to these attempts. In April 1879 he took to the mountains and 2 months later turned up at the Mescalero agency with a plea to settle there. His people, however, fomented discord among the Mescaleros and treated Agent S. A. Russell with contempt. The agent called for troops, but before they arrived Victorio and Nana, joined by the wilder Mescaleros, fled the reservation. Leaving a trail of death and destruction

through southern New Mexico, they found safety from pursuit in old Mexico.

In September 1879 Victorio recrossed the border and again wrought havoc in New Mexico. Military columns laced the country but were powerless to stop him. At Ojo Caliente, N. Mex., he successfully made off with all 46 horses of a troop of the 9th Cavalry. With soldiers closing in from all directions, he again crossed into Mexico. Inspired by these triumphs, Mescaleros flocked to his standard. In November a volunteer party of citizens from Carrizal, Chihuahua, took Victorio's trail. The chief set up an ambush in a mountain pass and annihilated all 15 of his pursuers. A relief party of 14 men reached the scene of the tragedy; while burying the bodies they were shot down to a man by Victorio's concealed warriors.

The favorite Indian crossings of the Rio Grande lay between Fort Davis and El Paso. During the winter of 1879-80, Captains Carpenter and Viele, operating from the subpost at Eagle Springs, systematically patrolled the river looking for signs that Victorio had again entered the United States. Capt. George W. Baylor and a detachment of Texas Rangers based at Ysleta assisted. But Victorio stayed in Mexico all winter.



*These three warriors illustrate the division that plagued the last Apache resistance to the white man's advance. Ka-e-tay (left), Victorio's son-in-law, survived the battle in which Victorio's power was shattered and later aided the Army in*

*securing the surrender of Geronimo. Nana (center), the aged Warm Springs Apache chieftain, aided Victorio in the outbreak of 1879-80. After Victorio's death at Tres Castillos, Nana fled west and fought with Geronimo in the last Apache*

*warfare. San Juan (right), the Mescalero chief, remained on the Fort Stanton reservation during the Victorio outbreak and exerted his influence to keep his people at peace.*

LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY,  
SANTA FE



unduly, only one company of infantry be sent into the Indian camp to receive the arms. The Apaches could not bring themselves to give up their weapons, and they began slipping out of the village and up a nearby mountainside. Seeing that the Indians were breaking for safety, Hatch unleashed Grierson, and the 10th Cavalry charged. Part surrounded the village, and the rest, carbines banging, swarmed up the slope. The Mescaleros scattered in small parties, but each found troops in pursuit. About 250 people gave up and were returned to the agency under guard. Between 30 and 50 made good their escape and probably joined Victorio. Hatch took the field in search of Victorio, while Grierson, after combing the Guadalupe Mountains for a week, returned to Texas. Again, Victorio took refuge in Mexico.



## Grierson's Operations Against Victorio 1880



**The March Out, by Rufus Zogbaum.**

*During the Victorio campaign of 1880, supply trains with cavalry or infantry escorts shuttled between Fort Davis and the troops campaigning in the deserts to the west.*

## The Fight at Quitman Canyon

**T**HE MILITARY AUTHORITIES KNEW that Victorio would soon enter the United States once more and probably head straight for the Mescalero country of southern New Mexico. Colonel Grierson was determined that West Texas would not serve as the pathway. He concentrated eight troops of the 10th Cavalry at Fort Davis and went there himself. Also at his command were the four companies of the 24th Infantry under Lt. Col. John E. Yard already stationed at Davis, a troop of the 8th Cavalry, and a detachment of Pueblo scouts recruited at the old Indian towns of Socorro and Ysleta, below El Paso. Captain Baylor's Texas Rangers, based at Ysleta, stood ready to help. As it had in 1855, Fort Davis was to serve as a supply center and communications link with San Antonio. The infantrymen organized wagon and pack trains to shuttle supplies from Fort Davis to the cavalry columns lacing the deserts to the west.

Grierson strengthened the subposts along the Rio Grande at Viejo Pass, Eagle Springs, and old Fort Quitman, which had been abandoned as a permanent post 3 years earlier. On July 27 he was at Quitman, and the next day he learned that Victorio



was headed north toward the Rio Grande. Determined to block the way with troops summoned from the subposts, the colonel and a small escort rode eastward from Quitman on July 29. They crossed the Quitman Mountains and dropped into Quitman Canyon. At a waterhole known as Tinaja de las Palmas, a courier from Capt. John C. Gilmore, commanding at Eagle Springs, rode up with word that Victorio and 150 warriors had crossed the river, fired on two patrols, and were riding up Quitman Canyon. Grierson knew that they would have to stop at Tinaja de las Palmas the next day for water. His escort—an officer, six men, and his teenage son Robert—fortified the waterhole and waited. That night Victorio and his warriors camped in the canyon 10 miles to the south.

Stagecoaches passed in the night, the drivers taking word to the subposts at Eagle Springs and Quitman to send reinforcements at once. At 4 a.m. Lt. Leighton Finley and 15 cavalrymen reached Grierson. Captain Gilmore had sent him to escort the colonel to Eagle Springs. "As I had no thought of being escorted there, or anywhere else," Grierson later wrote, "I immediately sent two of these men back with peremptory orders that all available cavalry be at once sent to my support." Twenty-three men now held the rock fortifications that had been erected.

At 9 on the morning of July 30 the Apaches approached the waterhole and, seeing the troopers, attempted to bypass it on the east. At Grierson's order, Lieutenant Finley with 10 men charged. The Indians stopped to return the fire. After a skirmish lasting about an hour, Captain Viele with Troops C and G of the 10th Cavalry charged down the road from Eagle Springs and joined the battle. His advance, however, mistook Finley's detachment for Indians and opened fire, forcing it to withdraw to the waterhole. The Apaches followed in a wild charge. "We then let fly from our fortifications at the Indians about 300 yards off," wrote young Robert Grierson in his diary, "& golly you ought to've seen 'em turn tail & strike for the hills. . . . As it was the sons of guns nearly jumped out of their skins getting away." In another hour of skirmishing, Viele fought his way through to Grierson. Again the Apaches tried to break through to the north; again the cavalry cut them off and forced them back. At this moment Capt. Nicholas Nolan and Troop A of the 10th, riding from Quitman in response to the colonel's summons, charged into the fight. The Indians gave up the struggle and scattered southward toward the Rio Grande.

Grierson had lost one man killed and Lt. R. S. Colladay wounded. The fight had cost Victorio seven killed and a large number wounded. It also turned him back to Mexico. But Grierson knew that his adversary would soon return, and he went to Eagle Springs to wait.

## The Battle at Rattlesnake Springs



**O**N AUGUST 2 VICTORIO CROSSED the Rio Grande and collided with a cavalry patrol. Grierson took two troops and rode east to Bass Canyon, near present Van Horn, to intercept the Indians. They doubled back, however, and on August 4 slipped through the screen of soldiers and rode northward on the west side of the forbidding Sierra Diablo range. Grierson found out at once. He raced northward on the east side of the mountains, marching 65 miles in 21 hours, and camped at Rattlesnake Springs. Here Captain Carpenter and two more troops joined him. Posting the entire force under Carpenter a short distance south of the springs, Grierson waited. At 2 in the afternoon the Apaches made their way down Rattlesnake Canyon toward the springs, only to find four troops of cavalry barring the advance. The warriors attacked, but a few volleys from the cavalry carbines scattered them back into the canyon.

By 4 o'clock the Indians had gathered in the mountains west of the springs. To the southeast, about 8 miles distant, they spied a string of wagons rounding a mountain spur and crawling onto the plain separating the Sierra Diablo from the Delaware Mountains. It was a provision train from Fort Davis guarded by Captain Gilmore and a company of infantry. At once the Apaches rode out of the mountains and attacked. Gilmore met them with a destructive volley. Carpenter, sent by Grierson to help, took the attackers in the rear. They fled in confusion to the southwest and lost themselves in the Carrizo Mountains.

On August 7 Captain Lebo with Troop K reached Rattlesnake Springs. He had cut off a band of Mescaleros from the Guadalupe Mountains riding to join Victorio and forced them back to the north. The next afternoon Captain Baylor and 15 Texas Rangers rode in. Grierson now had most of his command assembled. He divided it into three squadrons of two troops each and set them to combing the mountains for sign of the hostiles. Carpenter and Nolan picked up the trail on August 11, but their horses were too tired and thirsty for rapid pursuit. Nolan's men reached the Rio Grande on August 13. Victorio had crossed the night before.

But not before a parting salute. At Quitman Canyon the Apaches ambushed a stagecoach and killed the driver and the passenger, J. J. Byrne, a Union general in the Civil War, later U.S. Marshal in Galveston, and at the time of his death em-



*An infantryman of  
the 1880's, by Rufus  
Zogbaum.*

ployed to locate lands in West Texas assigned to the Texas and Pacific Railroad. The bullet struck him in the thigh, reported Ranger Captain Baylor, "within an inch of the wound he received at Gettysburg. We buried him (a mixed crowd of Confederates, citizens, and U.S. soldiers) and fired a couple of volleys over his grave."

Colonel Grierson had not destroyed Victorio. But he had out-generated the greatest of Apache generals and—an accomplishment few others could boast—had prevented him from going where he had planned to go.

**V**

**ICTORIO WENT BACK TO HIS STRONGHOLD**

in the Candelaria Mountains of Mexico. Grierson's command returned to the monotonous but exacting duty of patrolling the Rio Grande frontier. Troops from Arizona and New Mexico formed an expedition under Col. George P. Buell that, with Mexican permission, drove deep into Chihuahua. But it was to be the Mexicans themselves who destroyed Victorio. On October 14, 1880, Col. Joaquin Terrazas with a large force of volunteers and Tarahumari Indian scouts caught the Apaches at Tres Castillos. For a day and a night the adversaries waged a bitter and bloody battle. A Tarahumari sharpshooter dropped Victorio, abruptly ending the career of this remarkable leader who had terrorized New Mexico, Texas, and Chihuahua for 2 years. His following was all but annihilated. Most of the survivors, including the aged Warm Springs Apache chieftain Nana, joined Geronimo in the Sierra Madre, to the west, and carried on the traditions of Victorio for another 5 years.

### Victorio's Last Stand

A few survivors—12 warriors, 4 women, and 4 children—returned to Texas. In January 1881 they stopped a stagecoach in Quitman Canyon and killed the occupants. Baylor's Texas Rangers took the trail. It twisted and turned through mountain and desert, but Baylor hung on. He was reinforced on January 24 by Lt. C. L. Nevill and a detachment of Rangers who had been stationed at Fort Davis operating against outlaws. At dawn on January 29 the Rangers surprised the Apache camp high in the Sierra Diablo. Four warriors, two women, and two children fell in the first fire; the rest, most of them wounded, scattered. With this action, the Indian wars of Texas drew to a close.

text continued on page 47



## Noncommissioned Officers

*The noncommissioned officers were the backbone of the Regular Army. This group, photographed at Fort Davis in 1887, includes (left to right) sergeant and corporal of the 16th Infantry; Hospital Steward Jacob Appell; a first sergeant of the 16th Infantry; the post quartermaster sergeant; 1st Sgt. Harry Sinclair, 16th Infantry; and Commissary Sergeant Thomas H. Forsyth.*

*Sergeant Forsyth typified the best of the old-line non-coms—intelligent, conscientious, faithful, seasoned by long experience, and devoted to the Army. Enlisting in 1861 at the age of 18, he served in an Ohio Volunteer regiment through 4 years of Civil War and after Appomattox joined the Regular Army. As first sergeant of Troop M, 4th Cavalry, he fought hostile Indians from Texas to Montana. When the regiment attacked the Cheyenne camp of Dull Knife in Wyoming on November 25, 1876, Forsyth's troop commander, Lt. John A. McKinney, went down with mortal wounds. With two other noncoms, the first sergeant protected the body from charging warriors intent upon a scalp. A bullet wound in the temple sustained here, together with another in the spine received in the Civil War, would plague Forsyth the rest of his life. Fifteen years later, on July 14, 1891, he was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor "for distinguished gallantry" in this engagement.*

*Appointment to staff duty was one means of rewarding outstanding noncommissioned officers, and on the recommendation of his regimental commander, Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie, Forsyth received such a post. Throughout most of the 1880's he served as commissary sergeant at Fort Davis, and here, too, he and his wife, who had followed him from one outpost to another since 1871, reared their eight children. On December 20, 1898, in his eighth enlistment, Sergeant Forsyth retired from the Army after 37 years of service. He died in San Diego on March 22, 1908.*

# A

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN against Victorio in the summer of 1880, General Ord had created the District of the Bravo out of the southern half of Grierson's District of the Pecos. The 1st Infantry had just arrived in Texas, and Ord appointed its colonel, William R. Shafter, to command the district. By the time Shafter reached Fort Davis, however, the campaign had ended. He once more took command of Fort Davis and stationed troops at a line of subposts along the Rio Grande from the mouth of the Pecos to old Fort Quitman. They occupied themselves in patrolling the frontier to discourage remnants of Victorio's followers from entering the United States, built a new and shorter road (route of present U.S. 90) between San Antonio and Fort Davis, and protected construction parties of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

## Peace Comes to West Texas

The Texas and Pacific and the Southern Pacific Railroads destroyed the Trans-Pecos frontier. Settlers and cattlemen arrived in increasing numbers. Indians no longer endangered the region. Outlaw gangs committed occasional robberies and murders, but these were the responsibility of the Texas Rangers. For its last decade as an active post, Fort Davis afforded its garrison a tranquil, routine existence of drill and instruction.

*A staple of training during the peaceful years was the practice march. Here a company of the 5th Infantry sets off from the post. Officer in the center is Capt. Frank D. Baldwin.*



CUSTER BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, MONT.



Colonel Grierson spent 3 pleasant years, 1882 to 1885, as post commander, occupying himself largely with a long campaign to win promotion to brigadier general. With his departure, the 18-year association of Negro regiments with Fort Davis drew to a close. The 3d Cavalry came in 1885 under Col. Albert G. Brackett, a veteran officer well known for his book, *The History of the United States Cavalry*. Under Col. Elmer Otis, the 8th Cavalry followed the 3d in 1887, to be succeeded in turn in 1888 by the 5th Infantry.

The railroads had both bypassed Fort Davis, and its utility increasingly failed to justify its expense. In June 1891 the order arrived. "Fort Davis had outlived its usefulness," wrote the department commander, Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley. "And yet it is to be regretted that it was discontinued, owing to its salubrious climate and its usefulness as a government sanitary hospital, to which enfeebled soldiers could be sent."

Across the road from Fort Davis a recently arrived rancher was building his new home. He probably watched Company F, 5th Infantry, turn over the post to a caretaker and march down the road to Marfa, to entrain for San Antonio. Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, U.S. Army Retired, had come back to Fort Davis to take up the life of a cattleman.



*By 1887, when these photographs were taken, the fort was at the peak of its development. The top view is from Sleeping Lion Mountain. The T-shaped buildings are barracks, the enclosed yards on the right are stables and corrals. The bottom view is from the north; officers' row, on the right, and barracks flank the parade ground. In the center photo appears the hospital and, left, the hospital steward's house.*



## Fort Davis Today

**A**FTER THE ABANDONMENT OF FORT DAVIS civilians resided in the quarters for a number of years and maintained them in reasonably good repair. In the 1930's D. A. Simmons purchased the property and performed much repair and maintenance work. For these reasons, Fort Davis was spared the rapid deterioration that befell most abandoned frontier forts. And although some buildings have since collapsed, and others have suffered the ravages of time and weather, Fort Davis is today one of the most complete surviving examples of the typical western military fort to be found.

As part of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, the National Park Service studied Fort Davis in 1960 and recommended that historical significance coupled with extensive remains made it a site of exceptional value meriting preservation as part of the National Park System. Authorizing legislation was introduced in Congress in 1961 by Senator Ralph Yarborough and Representative J. T. Rutherford of Texas. The bill was enacted on September 8, 1961, and following acquisition of the property from the heirs of D. A. Simmons, Fort Davis National Historic Site became part of the National Park System.



*Lt. Col. Melville Cochran and family before CO's quarters in 1889.*



# FORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## About Your Visit

lies on the northern edge of town of Fort Davis and can be reached by Tex. 17 or 118, which link U.S. 90 and 290, both major transcontinental routes. Accommodations are available in the town of Fort Davis. The nearest large communities are Alpine and Marfa, respectively 25 miles to the southeast and southwest of Fort Davis.



## Administration

**F**ORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, established on July 4, 1963, and containing 447 acres, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

A superintendent, whose address is Fort Davis, Tex., 79734, is in immediate charge of the area.

*This view of Fort Davis was made in 1924, before rapid deterioration began.*





*These quarters north of the parade ground survived largely intact.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



## America's Natural Resources

**C**REATED IN 1849, THE DEPARTMENT of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.



*Shorn of its earlier dignity, the commanding officer's quarters presented this view in 1960.*



*Officers' Row as it appeared after restoration by the National Park Service in 1963.*



*The adobe barracks were among the first buildings to require attention when the National Park Service's rehabilitation program began in 1963. Here a workman shores a weak wall.*

**I**NCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM are other important areas connected with various periods of American history. In addition to Fort Davis National Historic Site, those commemorating related phases of western history are Fort Union National Monument, N. Mex.; Jefferson National Expansion Memorial National Historic Site, St. Louis, Mo.; Homestead and Scotts Bluff National Monuments, Nebr.; Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyo.; Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Colo.; Fort Smith National Historic Site, Ark.; Custer Battlefield National Monument and Big Hole National Battlefield, Mont.; Whitman Mission and Fort Vancouver National Historic Sites, Wash.; McLoughlin House National Historic Site and Fort Clatsop National Memorial, Oreg.; Lava Beds National Monument, Calif.; and Pipe Spring National Monument, Ariz.

## Related Areas

# A PPENDIX 1

## Commanding Officers of Fort Davis

[Brevet ranks were awarded for gallantry in action or other forms of meritorious service. If authorized by proper authority, an officer could command by virtue of his brevet rank. This was a rather common practice before the Civil War but was rare after the war, when more high ranking officers were available. An officer was entitled to be addressed by his brevet rank.]

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Period served</i>
WASHINGTON SEAWELL <sup>1</sup> ---	Lt. col.	8th Infantry	Oct. 7, 1854- Aug. 30, 1856.
ARTHUR T. LEE-----	Capt.	8th Infantry	Aug. 30, 1856- Mar. 31, 1857.
WASHINGTON SEAWELL----	Lt. col.	8th Infantry	Mar. 31, 1857- Nov. 17, 1859.
THEODORE FINK <sup>2</sup> -----	1st lt.	8th Infantry	Nov. 17, 1859- Apr. 26, 1860.
WILLIAM MCE. DYE <sup>3</sup> -----	1st lt.	8th Infantry	Apr. 26, 1860- May 17, 1860.
WASHINGTON SEAWELL----	Lt. col.	8th Infantry	May 17, 1860- July 10, 1860.
JAMES V. BOMFORD <sup>4</sup> -----	Capt. and bvt. lt. col.	8th Infantry	July 10, 1860- Sept. 18, 1860.
JAMES J. VAN HORN <sup>5</sup> -----	2d lt.	8th Infantry	Sept. 18, 1860- Nov. 10, 1860.
JOHN G. TAYLOR-----	2d lt.	8th Infantry	Nov. 10, 1860- Jan. 23, 1861.
EDWARD D. BLAKE-----	Capt.	8th Infantry	Jan. 23, 1861- Apr. 13, 1861.
REUBEN E. MAYS-----	Lt.	2d Texas Mounted Rifles, C.S.A.	June 1861- August 1861.
W. P. WHITE-----	Lt.	2d Texas Mounted Rifles, C.S.A.	August 1861- August 1862.
WESLEY MERRITT <sup>6</sup> -----	Lt. col. and bvt. maj. gen.	9th Cavalry	July 1, 1867- Nov. 29, 1867.
JAMES F. WADE <sup>7</sup> -----	Maj. and bvt. col.	9th Cavalry	Nov. 29, 1867- March 1868.
GEORGE A. PURINGTON----	Capt. and bvt. col.	9th Cavalry	March 1868- May 1868.
JAMES G. BIRNEY-----	1st lt. and bvt. capt	9th Cavalry	May 1868- June 1, 1868.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Period served</i>
WESLEY MERRITT-----	Lt. col. and bvt. maj. gen.	9th Cavalry	June 1, 1868- Sept. 3, 1869.
WILLIAM BAYARD-----	Capt. and bvt. maj.	9th Cavalry	Sept. 3, 1869- Oct. 10, 1869.
JAMES F. WADE-----	Maj. and bvt. col.	9th Cavalry	Oct. 10, 1869- Nov. 26, 1869.
EDWARD HATCH <sup>8</sup> -----	Col. and bvt. maj. gen.	9th Cavalry	Nov. 26, 1869- Dec. 15, 1870.
JOHN W. FRENCH-----	Capt.	25th Infantry	Dec. 15, 1870- Feb. 12, 1871.
ANDREW SHERIDAN-----	Capt. and bvt. maj.	24th Infantry	Feb. 12, 1871- May 18, 1871.
WILLIAM R. SHAFTER <sup>9</sup> -----	Lt. col.	24th Infantry	May 18, 1871- June 18, 1871.
JOHN W. FRENCH-----	Capt.	25th Infantry	June 18, 1871- July 9, 1871.
WILLIAM R. SHAFTER-----	Lt. col.	24th Infantry	July 9, 1871- Oct. 5, 1871.
CHARLES C. HOOD-----	Capt.	24th Infantry	Oct. 5, 1871- Nov. 1, 1871.
WILLIAM R. SHAFTER-----	Lt. col.	24th Infantry	Nov. 1, 1871- Nov. 12, 1871.
CHARLES C. HOOD-----	Capt.	24th Infantry	Nov. 12, 1871- Jan. 1, 1872.
WILLIAM R. SHAFTER-----	Lt. col.	24th Infantry	Jan. 1, 1872- May 26, 1872.
GEORGE L. ANDREWS <sup>10</sup> -----	Col.	25th Infantry	May 26, 1872- July 31, 1872.
FRANK T. BENNETT-----	Capt.	9th Cavalry	July 31, 1872- Aug. 8, 1872.
GEORGE L. ANDREWS-----	Col.	25th Infantry	Aug. 8, 1872- Mar. 4, 1873.
ZENAS R. BLISS <sup>11</sup> -----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	25th Infantry	Mar. 4, 1873- Aug. 23, 1873.
DAVID D. VAN VALZAH-----	Capt.	25th Infantry	Aug. 23, 1873- Sept. 1873.
ZENAS R. BLISS-----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	25th Infantry	Sept. 1873- Apr. 14, 1874.
DAVID D. VAN VALZAH-----	Capt.	25th Infantry	Apr. 14, 1874- Sept. 8, 1874.
GEORGE L. ANDREWS-----	Col.	25th Infantry	Sept. 8, 1874- Apr. 25, 1876.
ZENAS R. BLISS-----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	25th Infantry	Apr. 25, 1876- Oct. 29, 1876.
JOHN W. FRENCH-----	Capt.	25th Infantry	Oct. 29, 1876- Nov. 26, 1876.
GEORGE L. ANDREWS-----	Col.	25th Infantry	Nov. 26, 1876- Aug. 30, 1878.
LOUIS H. CARPENTER <sup>12</sup> -----	Capt. and bvt. col.	10th Cavalry	Aug. 30, 1878- May 29, 1879.
MICHAEL S. COURTNEY-----	Capt. and bvt. maj.	25th Infantry	May 29, 1879- June 13, 1879.
LOUIS H. CARPENTER-----	Capt. and bvt. col.	10th Cavalry	June 13, 1879- July 27, 1879.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Period served</i>
DAVID B. WILSON-----	1st lt.	25th Infantry	July 27, 1879- Aug. 7, 1879.
CHARLES D. VIELE-----	Capt.	10th Cavalry	Aug. 7, 1879- Sept. 14, 1879.
LOUIS H. CARPENTER-----	Capt. and bvt. col.	10th Cavalry	Sept 14, 1879- Oct. 20, 1879.
NAPOLEON B. MCLAUGH- LEN <sup>13</sup>	Maj. and bvt. brig. gen.	10th Cavalry	Oct. 20, 1879- June 18, 1880.
JOHN E. YARD-----	Lt. col.	24th Infantry	June 18, 1880- Oct. 15, 1880.
NAPOLEON B. MCLAUGH- LEN	Maj. and bvt. brig. gen.	10th Cavalry	Oct. 15, 1880- Mar. 12, 1881.
WILLIAM R. SHAFTER-----	Col.	1st Infantry	Mar. 12, 1881- May 13, 1882.
ALFRED L. HOUGH-----	Lt. col. and bvt. col.	16th Infantry	May 13, 1882- Aug. 5, 1882.
ANSON MILLS <sup>14</sup> -----	Maj. and bvt. col.	10th Cavalry	Aug. 5, 1882- Nov. 20, 1882.
BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON <sup>15</sup> __	Col. and bvt. maj. gen.	10th Cavalry	Nov. 20, 1882- Sept. 20, 1883.
FREDERICK VAN VLIET-----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	10th Cavalry	Sept. 20, 1883- Nov. 3, 1883.
BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON---	Col. and bvt. maj. gen.	10th Cavalry	Nov. 3, 1883- Oct. 30, 1884.
ANSON MILLS-----	Maj. and bvt. col.	10th Cavalry	Oct. 30, 1884- Nov. 3, 1884.
FREDERICK VAN VLIET-----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	10th Cavalry	Nov. 3, 1884- Dec. 21, 1884.
BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON---	Col. and bvt. maj. gen.	10th Cavalry	Dec. 21, 1884- Apr. 2, 1885.
WILLIAM H. CLAPP-----	Capt.	16th Infantry	Apr. 2, 1885- May 12, 1885.
ALBERT G. BRACKETT <sup>16</sup> ---	Col.	3d Cavalry	May 12, 1885- Oct. 9, 1885.
DAVID R. CLENDENIN-----	Lt. col.	3d Cavalry	Oct. 9, 1885- Nov. 2, 1885.
ALBERT G. BRACKETT-----	Col.	3d Cavalry	Nov. 2, 1885- Jan. 28, 1886.
CALEB H. CARLTON-----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	3d Cavalry	Jan. 28, 1886- Feb. 2, 1886.
ALBERT G. BRACKETT-----	Col.	3d Cavalry	Feb. 2, 1886- July 22, 1886.
CALEB H. CARLTON-----	Maj. and bvt. lt. col.	3d Cavalry	July 22, 1886- Aug. 2, 1886.
DAVID R. CLENDENIN-----	Lt. col.	3d Cavalry	Aug. 2, 1886- Oct. 18, 1886.
ALBERT G. BRACKETT-----	Col.	3d Cavalry	Oct. 18, 1886- Mar. 22, 1887.



Name	Rank	Regiment	Period served
DAVID R. CLENDENIN-----	Lt. col.	3d Cavalry	Mar. 22, 1887– Oct. 20, 1887.
ELMER OTIS-----	Col.	8th Cavalry	Oct. 20, 1887– May 9, 1888.
WILLIAM N. WILLIAMS-----	1st. lt.	19th Infantry	May 9, 1888– June 28, 1888.
MELVILLE A. COCHRAN-----	Lt. col.	5th Infantry	June 28, 1888– Nov. 13, 1889.
PHILIP H. REMINGTON-----	Capt.	19th Infantry	Nov. 13, 1889– Dec. 15, 1889.
FRANK D. BALDWIN <sup>17</sup> -----	Capt.	5th Infantry	Dec. 15, 1889– Feb. 25, 1890.
MELVILLE A. COCHRAN-----	Lt. col.	5th Infantry	Feb. 25, 1890– Aug. 10, 1890.
SAMUEL OVENSCHINE-----	Maj.	23d Infantry	Aug. 10, 1890– Oct. 14, 1890.
WILLIAM R. KELLOGG-----	Lt. col.	5th Infantry	Oct. 14, 1890– Nov. 28, 1890.
SAMUEL OVENSCHINE-----	Maj.	23d Infantry	Nov. 28, 1890– Dec. 25, 1890.
WILLIAM R. KELLOGG-----	Lt. col.	5th Infantry	Dec. 25, 1890– May 18, 1891.
GEORGE P. BORDEN-----	Capt.	5th Infantry	May 18, 1891– June 30, 1891.

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



*A captain of infantry in field rig, by Frederic Remington. On a long march the infantry could make better time than the cavalry, whose horses easily tired when grass and water were scarce.*

<sup>1</sup> WASHINGTON SEAWELL. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, the man who built Fort Davis was a veteran of 33 years in 1854. Except for distinguished service in the war with the Seminole Indians of Florida, his career was unspectacular. He had been lieutenant colonel of the 8th Infantry since 1852, and he retired in 1862 as colonel of the 6th Infantry. In 1865 the Government recognized his "long and faithful service" with a brevet of brigadier general. He died in 1888.

<sup>2</sup> THEODORE FINK. A German immigrant, Lieutenant Fink enlisted in the 8th Infantry in 1841 and worked his way up from the ranks. While sergeant major of the regiment in 1848, he was commissioned second lieutenant and by 1859, when he commanded Fort Davis, he was a first lieutenant. Promoted to captain in 1860, he died in 1861.

<sup>3</sup> WILLIAM DYE. An 1849 graduate of West Point, Lieutenant Dye secured a volunteer commission when the Civil War broke out. As colonel of the 20th Iowa Infantry, he distinguished himself at Vicksburg, in the Red River campaign, and in the operations against Mobile, Ala. Brevetted brigadier general at the close of the war, he was assigned to the Regular Army as major of the 4th Infantry and was discharged at his own request in 1870.

<sup>4</sup> JAMES BOMFORD. Bomford was a veteran of more than 30 years in 1860 and had been at Fort Davis for most of the time since its establishment. His record bore brevets for gallantry in three battles of the Mexican War, and he was to win another for gallantry at the Battle of Perryville during the Civil War. In 1865 he was brevetted brigadier general for "faithful and efficient service." He was colonel of the 8th Infantry from 1864 until his retirement in 1874 after 46 years of service. He died in 1892.

JAMES VAN HORN. Like Bomford, Van Horn rose to command the 8th Infantry; he served as its colonel from 1891 until his death in 1898.

WESLEY MERRITT. Graduating from West Point in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, Wesley Merritt rose spectacularly during the war years. Promoted from captain to brigadier general in 1863, he commanded successively a brigade, a division, and a corps of cavalry while still in his twenties,

and fought brilliantly in most of the major campaigns of the East. Emerging from the war a major general of volunteers, he reverted to a Regular Army rank of lieutenant colonel and as such commanded Fort Davis. He was promoted to colonel of the 5th Cavalry in 1876, to brigadier general in 1887, and to major general in 1895. Following service in the Philippine Islands, he retired in 1900 and died in 1910.

<sup>7</sup> **JAMES WADE.** A son of the powerful Ohio Senator Benjamin F. Wade, James Wade made a notable record as an officer of Negro cavalry during the Civil War and after the war secured an appointment in the Regular Army. He served as major of the 9th Cavalry from 1866 to 1879, when he rose to lieutenant colonel of the 10th Cavalry. When Wesley Merritt was made brigadier general in 1887, Wade succeeded him as colonel of the 5th Cavalry. A major general of volunteers in the war with Spain, Wade became a major general in the Regular Army in 1903, retired in 1907, and died in 1921.

<sup>8</sup> **EDWARD HATCH.** An officer of Iowa volunteer cavalry during the Civil War, Hatch in 1867 received brevets of brigadier general and major general for gallantry at the Battles of Franklin and Nashville in 1864. He was colonel of the 9th Cavalry from its organization in 1866 until his death in 1889.

<sup>9</sup> **WILLIAM SHAFTER.** An officer of Michigan volunteers in the Civil War, Shafter applied for a regular commission at the close of the conflict. As lieutenant colonel of the 24th Infantry, he commanded Fort Davis in the early 1870's and returned in 1880 as colonel of the 1st Infantry. As major general of volunteers, he led the U.S. Army in Cuba during the war with Spain and in 1901 was placed on the retired list with the rank of major general of the Regular Army. He died in 1906.

<sup>10</sup> **GEORGE LIPPITT ANDREWS** secured a Regular Army commission at the outbreak of the Civil War and rose to lieutenant colonel of the 13th Infantry. He remained in the Army after the war and in 1871 was appointed colonel of the 25th Infantry, a position he retained until his retirement in 1892. Colonel Andrews commanded Fort Davis for 4 years in the 1870's; of all post commanders, only Colonel Seawell had a longer tour at Fort Davis. Andrews' son, 2d Lt. George Andrews, served under his father in the 25th Infantry at Fort Davis and later rose to general officer rank.

<sup>11</sup> **ZENAS BLISS.** An 1855 graduate of West Point, Bliss served under Colonel Seawell in the 8th Infantry at Fort Davis before the Civil War. After an outstanding career as a volunteer officer in the war, he came to Fort Davis as major of the 25th Infantry and commanded the post during the absences of Colonel Andrews. Promoted to lieutenant colonel of the 4th Infantry in 1879 and to colonel of the 24th Infantry in 1886, he retired a major general in 1897. The next year he was awarded a Medal of Honor for heroism at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862. He died in 1900.

<sup>12</sup> **LOUIS CARPENTER.** One of the most distinguished Indian fighters of the frontier period, Carpenter brought an outstanding Civil War battle record to the West in 1866. He was a captain and troop commander in the 10th Cavalry until 1883 and retired a brigadier general in 1899. To brevets for gallantry at Gettysburg and Winchester in the Civil War, he added another, of colonel, "for gallant and meritorious service in the engagement with Indians on Beaver Creek, Kans., Oct. 18, 1868." In 1898 he was awarded a Medal of Honor "for distinguished conduct during the Indian campaign in Kansas and Colorado, September and October 1868, and on the forced march Sept. 23-25, 1868, to the relief of Forsyth's scouts." He died in 1916.

<sup>13</sup> NAPOLEON BONAPARTE MCLAUGHLIN worked his way up from private to sergeant in the old 2d Dragoons between 1850 and 1860 and was commissioned a second lieutenant when the Civil War broke out. He emerged from the war the colonel of a Massachusetts volunteer regiment and with a brevet of brigadier general. He retired a major of the 10th Cavalry in 1882, shortly after leaving Fort Davis, and died in 1887.

<sup>14</sup> ANSON MILLS' career was closely associated with West Texas. After 2 years a cadet at West Point, he was found deficient in mathematics and, resigning, went to Texas. A pioneer resident of El Paso, he laid out the first plat of the city and in 1859, when sentiment favored changing the name from Franklin, proposed El Paso. As district surveyor for the State of Texas, he surveyed much of the Trans-Pecos country, including the military reservation of Fort Davis. At the outbreak of the Civil War Mills secured a commission in the 18th Infantry and ended the war a captain with a brevet of lieutenant colonel. He fought in every battle in which the regiment engaged from 1861 to 1865. As a captain of the 3d Cavalry, he played a notable part in the Sioux War of 1876-77 and came to Fort Davis as major of the 10th Cavalry, a rank he held, under Colonel Grierson, from 1878 to 1890. Promoted to colonel of the 3d Cavalry in 1892, Mills retired a brigadier general in 1897 and served for the next 20 years as a member of the Mexican-American boundary commission. He invented the Mills woven military cartridge belt which became standard equipment in the U.S. Army and in most European armies as well; the basic pattern is still in use. He died in 1924.

<sup>15</sup> BENJAMIN GRIERSON. A volunteer officer in the Civil War, Grierson is best remembered for "Grierson's Raid" through Mississippi in 1863, for which he received brevets of brigadier and major general. In the Regular Army, he served as colonel of the 10th Cavalry from its organization in 1866 until his retirement in 1890. Two months before retiring, he was promoted to brigadier general. He took up ranching near Fort Davis and died in 1911. Anson Mills, who served under Grierson for 12 years, wrote this estimate of him:

A big-hearted man, the only experience Grierson had in military affairs was as a general of volunteers, with which he was successful. With no experience in the regular army, even the best intentions did not fit him for the required discipline. He left the details of the post and regiment entirely to me, signing only papers which went to his superiors. He was too prone to forgive offenses and trust to promises for reform, which rendered the discipline and reputation of the regiment poor.

<sup>16</sup> ALBERT BRACKETT. A volunteer officer in the Mexican War, Brackett won a captaincy in the Regular Army when the 2d Cavalry was organized in 1855. His *History of the U.S. Cavalry*, published in 1865, was a popular book in its time and is still used as a source by historians. He retired a colonel in 1891 and died in 1896.

<sup>17</sup> FRANK BALDWIN. Like Carpenter, Baldwin compiled an impressive record as a line officer in the Indian wars. He played a significant role in the Red River campaign of 1874-75, which broke the power of the Kiowas and Comanches, and in the campaign against Sitting Bull's Sioux in Montana in 1876-77. In 1890 he was awarded medals and brevets for gallantry at Peach Tree Creek in the Civil War; at the battles on Red River and McClellan's Creek, Tex., in 1874; and at the battles at Red Water and Wolf Mountain, Mont., in 1876 and 1877. Later, in the Philippines, he won further honors in engagements with Moro tribesmen. He retired a brigadier general in 1906 and died in 1923.

# A

PPENDIX 2

## Regiments Serving at Fort Davis, 1854–91

1st U.S. Infantry (1881–82)  
5th U.S. Infantry (1888–91)  
8th U.S. Infantry (1854–61)  
16th U.S. Infantry (1881, 1882–85, 1886–88)  
19th U.S. Infantry (1889)  
23d U.S. Infantry (1890–91)  
24th U.S. Infantry (1869–72, 1880)  
25th U.S. Infantry (1870–80)  
41st U.S. Infantry (1868–69)<sup>1</sup>  
3d U.S. Cavalry (1885–87, 1890–91)  
8th U.S. Cavalry (1887–88)  
9th U.S. Cavalry (1867–75)  
10th U.S. Cavalry (1875–85)  
2d Texas Mounted Rifles, C.S.A. (1861–62)

<sup>1</sup> The 41st Infantry was consolidated Nov. 11, 1869, with the 38th Infantry to form the 24th Infantry.

*Officers of Fort Davis in June 1887. At far left is Capt. Daniel H. Appel, post surgeon, and at far right is Brant C. Hammond, chaplain. The post commander, Lt. Col. David R. Clendenin, 3d Cavalry, is seated second from right.*



ESTATE OF DAVID S. SIMMONS





NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORICAL HANDBOOK SERIES

---

(Price lists of National Park Service publications sold by the Government Printing Office can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents Washington, D.C., 20402.)

Antietam  
Aztec Ruins  
Bandelier  
Chalmette  
Chickamauga and Chattanooga Battlefields  
Custer Battlefield  
Custis-Lee Mansion, the Robert E. Lee Memorial  
Fort Davis  
Fort Laramie  
Fort McHenry  
Fort Necessity  
Fort Pulaski  
Fort Raleigh  
Fort Sumter  
Fort Union  
George Washington Birthplace  
Gettysburg  
Guilford Courthouse  
Hopewell Village  
Independence  
Jamestown, Virginia  
Kings Mountain  
The Lincoln Museum and the House Where Lincoln Died  
Manassas (Bull Run)  
Montezuma Castle  
Morristown, a Military Capital of the Revolution  
Ocmulgee  
Petersburg Battlefields  
Richmond Battlefields  
Saratoga  
Scotts Bluff  
Shiloh  
Statue of Liberty  
Vanderbilt Mansion  
Vicksburg  
Whitman Mission  
Wright Brothers  
Yorktown

