

# Excerpts from "The Frontier" by Roy Betzer, 1978

## Early U.S. Military Presence in Texas

### Fort Martin Scott

The purpose of the frontier post was to push forward the line of military protection, allowing the establishment of new communities, farms, ranches, mines, etc. To accomplish these goals, both mounted and non-mounted soldiers would, if at all possible, garrison frontier posts. The soldiers at these posts were to patrol and maintain the security of the area.

Once an area was secure and communities established, the smaller posts and camps would be decommissioned and the military line would be pushed further out onto the frontier. Usually this resulted in an increase in white settlers, which in turn resulted in increased Indian raids followed by a period of increased troop movements to the new frontier posts. A viscous cycle condoned in the 1830s by the executive branch of the Government of the United States of America in opposition to a ruling of the judicial branch. This constant movement of the line of military posts was a constant reminder to the Native American Indian that their world was being squeezed into an ever smaller and more restricted space.

After the War of 1812, the U.S. Army had rid itself of mounted troops saying they were too costly to maintain. Then in the early 1830s, with the prosecution of the Seminole Campaigns, the Army found they needed mounted troops and they raised, with the approval of Congress and the Commander in Chief Andrew Jackson, a regiment of dragoons, and within a few more years a second regiment of dragoons. The mounts for the Dragoons at this time would be mules not horses.

In 1836 Major William Harney, then Paymaster of the U.S. Army, secured from his friend President Jackson the command of the new regiment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons that was being formed for duty in the Seminole Campaign. In 1838 Lt. Col Harney, on his own initiative, had his 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons field test Colt's Patterson Revolving Carbine. He considered the test a success, and he tried to have his 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons equipped with Colt carbines when the regiment was posted to the Texas Frontier following the Mexican War. However Colonel Craig, Commander of the new Ordnance Department, would not approve his request. Colonel Harney also wanted a more practical forage cap for use in the field, and by circumventing the normal channels; he was able to obtain (from surplus supplies) 445 of the Volunteer's wide brimmed hats (a precursor to the later campaign hat).

In 1848, the year that the first Army Troops arrived in the Hill Country to establish a military camp there were a total of 1,560 U.S. Army troops stationed in the State of Texas. For the most part those troops were stationed at the following

sites: Galveston, San Antonio, Fort Polk, Fort Brown, Davis' Landing, and the Post on Median River.

The federal troops destined for posts in Texas would need to be supplied with clothing, weapons, food, etc., so two Quartermaster depots were established. The main depot would be located in San Antonio, and a smaller depot would be located in Austin. Both depots would be less than 150 miles from the entrepot for the Quartermaster Department, and the Commissary Department. This entrepot was located at Indianola, and would by the early 1850s have five storage structures (60x30), a stable (30x70), a blacksmith shop, and a 250-foot wharf.

In 1849, the year when much of Fort Martin Scott was built, there were a total of 1,488 U.S. Army troops stationed in Texas. The military headquarters had been moved from Galveston to San Antonio and the Departmental Commander was Colonel G. M. Brooke. Stationed in San Antonio were two companies of the Eighth Infantry under the command of Major P. Morrison.

Some of the posts in Texas would be manned by only one Arm of the y, either the Dragoons or the Infantry. However, a few did have an Artillery unit on site. One company of the Fourth Artillery under the command of Major G. Porter was stationed at Fort Polk, and a detachment of Fourth Artillery personnel and a company of the Eighth Infantry were stationed at Ringgold Barracks under the command of Captain J. H. LaMotte.

Fort Brown was manned by three companies of the First Infantry under the command of Lt. Col. H. Wilson, while two more companies of the First Infantry were stationed at Laredo under the command of Captain J.H. King. Another four companies of the First Infantry were stationed at Eagle Pass under the command of Captain J. M. Scott. El Paso had six companies of the Third Infantry under the command of Captain J. Van Horne, and the Post on the Leon River had two companies of the Eighth Infantry under the command of Captain W.R. Montgomery. The Post on Hamilton Creek had a compliment of one company of the Second Dragoons under the command of Captain G. A. H. Blake.

Both Infantry and Dragoons manned many of the posts that were not on the Mexican Border, but which were Located on what the Army referred to as the Indian Frontier. The Post on the Leona River - under the command of Captain W. J. Hardee, had a compliment of one company of Second Dragoons and one company of Eighth Infantry. One company of Second Dragoons and one company of Eighth Infantry under the command of Lieutenant J. Longstreet manned the Camp on the Rio Seco. The first troops to occupy the new post of Fort Martin Scott were a company of soldiers of the Eighth Infantry; a company of the Second Dragoons would join them by the second month of the new-year (1849). Fort Graham had a compliment of one company of Second Dragoons and one company of Eighth Infantry under the command of Captain J. V. Bomford, and a company of Second Dragoons and a company of Eighth Infantry

under the command of Captain R. A. Arnold would man the new post of Fort Worth.

In the following years the number of Army personnel in Texas would continue to grow. In 1853 the year in which Fort Martin Scott was decommissioned there would be 3,294 soldiers stationed in Texas. The standing Army of the United States in the 1830s hovered around a compliment of 8,000 men. In the 1840s companies of dragoons, infantry, and mounted riflemen were each allowed the following number of commissioned and non-commissioned officers: 1 Captain, 1 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants and 4 Corporals. A dragoon company was authorized 1 farrier/blacksmith, 2 buglers, and fifty privates, while a company of mounted rifles was authorized 2 farrier/blacksmiths and 64 privates. An infantry company would have 42 privates and two musicians instead of buglers.

In the early 1840s many frontier troops were still equipped with flintlock weapons. By the very late 1840s the dragoons were finally equipped with the Colt Walker model revolver and the Hall Percussion Carbine. In the early 1850s dragoons received a smaller model of the Walker - the Army Dragoon, and a new model of the musketoon replaced the Hall Carbine. In the 1850s the Army would on two occasions increase the number of privates per company. This would lead to an increase in the size of the Army to 12,000 men by the later part of the 1850s.

A private of this period (1840s) received six dollars a month plus one dollar set-aside in a special fund for his mustering out pay. Corporals received nine dollars a month. A Lieutenant earned a base pay of thirty-three dollars a month, while a Major, with all allowances included, would receive one hundred and eighty dollars a month. Allowances could include the cost of a horse, horse equipment, the care of a horse, travel allowance, quarters allowance, clothing allowance, servant allowance, etc. A Lieutenant was allowed one servant while a Captain was allowed two servants, a Major was allowed three, and Colonels and Generals were allowed four. Most officers serving in the South and Southwest chose to keep or rent black slaves as servants, for which the Army would reimburse them at a rate of fifteen dollars a month per servant. If slaves were unavailable the officers might avail themselves of the services of special duty enlisted men (strikers). Strikers were not limited to the 15 cents a day extra duty pay that enlisted men received for extra duty as a laborer, blacksmith, farrier, muleteer, artificer, etc. A striker could make at least 25 cents a day performing the duties of a servant for an officer and/or his family.

The recruit of this period would have been lucky to receive three to six weeks of training at a recruit station before being assigned to an Arm of the Army and to a post. If he was lucky and there were no active campaigns he might receive further training in his assigned Arm before being assigned to a post. If such were the case the recruit would have been ordered to Carlisle Barracks or to Jefferson

Barracks. The Civil War would necessitate the establishment of additional training facilities at Fort Riley and Fort Monroe.

Although the main purpose of the recruit station was to school the recruit in the performance of his general and specific duties for the Arm of the Army to which he had been assigned, most recruits during the period of 1840 to 1870 were lucky if they received more than the most elementary instruction in drill (marching) and the manual of arms. The recruits were expected to learn the skills of their trade on the job.

A recruit who stayed in the Army for twenty years and who never advanced beyond the rank of private would have gone from \$6.00 a month during his 1<sup>st</sup> enlistment to \$10.00 a month during his 3<sup>rd</sup> re-enlistment. If he decided not to re-enlist after 10 years in the Army he would receive approximately \$300.00 in mustering out pay. If he stayed for a full 30 years he would be entitled to a bunk, ration and a small monthly allowance for incidentals in the "Old Soldier's Home" in Washington D.C. Enlisted men of this period did not receive a pension, they might however, if they were wounded or injured while in service, receive a disability payment.

A soldier's for the ration (daily was as sustenance allotment) remained much the same from the 1840s thru the 1870s. The basic ration for the field was as follows:

12 oz. of bacon	1 oz. of coffee beans	16 oz. of bread or hardtack
2 1/2 oz. of sugar	21 oz. of rice or 2 1/2 oz. of beans	

If contract beef were available the daily ration of beef would be 16 oz.

The ration for spices, candles and soap was issued by the 100-man count not as an individual ration.

#### Cost of Most Commonly Replaced Items of Issue

Jacket \$2.43	Boots \$1.15	Overalls \$1.97
Forage Cap 0.81	Haversack 0.22	Blankets \$2.00
Cotton Shirt 0.41	Underwear 0.66	Canteen 0.32
Flannel Shirt \$1.4.4	Waist Belt 0.21	Flint Rifle \$11.30
Socks 0.23	Spurs 0.71	Pistol \$15.00

The soldier of the 1840s and early 1850s would have received the following items as his clothing allotment:

Woolen coat — 1 per year	Uniform coat — 3 per enlistment
Woolen trousers — 2 per year	Uniform cap — 2 per enlistment
Forage cap — 3 per enlistment	Cotton jacket — 4 per enlistment

Cotton trousers —3 per enlistment  
Cotton shirt — 2 per year  
Flannel shirt — 2 per year  
Wool stockings — 2 pair per year  
Stable frock (dragoons) — 2 per enlistment

Company letter —1 per enlistment  
Laced boots — 4 pair per year  
Flannel underwear — 6 per enlistment  
Stock — 2 per enlistment

The U.S. Army had gained a lot of experience with the transportation of supplies during the Mexican War, and by the beginning of the 1850s General Harney (one of the first senior officers to extensively use a winter campaign against the Amer-Indian) was putting this experience to use on the American Frontier.

To facilitate the supply and movement of dragoons engaged in a frontier scout or campaign, Harney would adopt the use of the mule as a pack animal rather than as a draft animal. He realized that the pack animal could go places on the frontier that a wagon either could not go or could only go with a great deal of difficulty, and this difficulty would slow the movement of a dragoon force. The pack mules would have no trouble keeping up with the horses that the dragoons were now using as mounts.

The more weight a horse had to carry the sooner it would become jaded under the conditions of field use. Therefore the Mounted Arm of the Army preferred soldiers that weighed less than one hundred and forty-five pounds. Each man in a mounted company would be responsible for transporting his own items of clothing, equipment, etc. thereby cutting down on the number of mules needed in a pack train. The clothing the men would wear in the field might or might not be regulation issue depending upon the preference of the Commanding Officer. Harney at times did allow the men to wear civilian clothes, but usually he would require the men to use regulation issue. He also suggested that mounted troops in the field restrict themselves to one blanket (other than the saddle blanket), a greatcoat, one extra shirt, one extra pair of trousers, an extra pair of socks, and between one hundred to two hundred rounds of ammunition as their personal effects. Harney was among the first officers (after the issuance of colt revolvers to the mounted troops) to order the mounted troops to leave their sabers in garrison.

Harney advised that pack trains of the early 1850s be comprised of twenty mules and four muleteers. He felt this number to be adequate for companies comprised of fifty privates. The disposition of the mules would be as follows:

1. One mule for the use of company officers
2. One mule for the company tools and extra ammunition
3. One mule for salt for the equines
4. One mule for horseshoes and nails
5. Sixteen mules for subsistence for thirty days
- 6.

Not all officers would follow Hartley's lead or suggestions, but his ideas proved to be the most popular and the most effective for the Army of the Frontier for more than two decades.

The use of pack trains met with some success on the frontier during the 1850s, but they would serve as a second choice for logistical transportation on most fronts during the Civil War. It would remain for General Sheridan to revive Harney's "winter campaign" with its use of practical winter clothing (buffalo coats, overshoes and fur caps), the Sibley tent, and pre-sited supply drops, and for General Crook to revive and refine the use of pack trains during the later period of the Indian Campaigns.

#### Frontier Army Posts in Texas

Fort Marcy	Corpus Christi	Aug. 15, 1845
Fort Brown	Brownsville	Mar. 26, 1846
Fort Ringgold	Rio Grande City	Oct. 26, 1848
Fort Martin Scott	Fredericksburg	Dec. 05, 1848
Fort McIntosh	Laredo	Mar. 03, 1849
Fort Inge	Uvalde	Mar. 13, 1849
Fort Croghan	Burnet	Mar. 18, 1849
Fort Graham	Hillsboro	Mar. 27, 1849
Fort Duncan	Maverick County	Mar. 27, 1849
Fort Worth	Fort Worth	Jun. 06, 1849
Fort Lincoln	Medina County	Jul. 07, 1849
Fort Bliss	El Paso	Sept. 08, 1849
Fort Gates	Gatesville	Oct. 26, 1849
Fort Merrill	Live Oak County	Mar. 01, 1850
Fort Belknap	Young County	Jun. 24, 1851
Fort Mason	Mason	Jul. 06 1851
Fort Phantom Hill	Abilene	Nov. 14, 1851
Fort Terrett	Sutton County	Feb. 02, 1852
Camp Drum	Zapata County	1852
Fort McKavett	Menard County	Mar. 1852
Fort Ewell	LaSalle County	May 18, 1852
Fort Clark	Kinney County	Jun. 20, 1852
Fort Chadbourne	Coke County	Oct. 28, 1852
Fort Davis	Jeff Davis County	1854
Fort Lancaster	Crockett County	Aug. 20, 1855
Fort Hudson	Val Verde County	Jun. 7, 1857
Fort Quitman	Hudspeth County	Sep. 28, 1858
Fort Stockton	Pecos County	1859
Fort Concho	San Angelo	1867
Fort Griffin	Shackelford County	Jul. 29, 1867
Fort Richardson	Jack County	Feb. 1868
Fort Elliot	Wheeler County	Dec. 1874

## Commanders of the Military Establishment in Texas

Colonel William Harney	1845-1846
Brigadier General John Ellis Wood	1846-1847
Brigadier General W.J. Worth	1847-1848
Bvt. Brigadier General W. Harney	1849
Bvt. Major General George M. Brooke	1849-1851
Brigadier General Percifor Smith	1851-1852
But. Brigadier General W. Harney	1852-1853
Bvt. Major General Percifor Smith	1853-1855
Colonel Albert S. Johnson	1855-1857
Bvt. Brigadier General David E. Twiggs	1857-1860
Lt. Colonel Robert E. Lee	1860
Bvt. Brigadier General David E. Twiggs	1860-1861
Colonel Carlos E. Waite	1861
Merged into the Department of the Gulf	1865-1870
Bvt. Major General Reynolds	1870-1871
Brigadier General C.C. Augur	1871-1874
Brigadier General E.C. Ord	1875-1880
Brigadier General David S. Stanley	1880-1881
Brigadier General C.C. Augur	1881-1882
Brigadier General R.S. Mackenzie	1883
Major General J.M. Schofield	1883-1884
Brigadier General David S. Stanley	1884-1892

Synopsis of Items From Post Returns, Reports and Correspondence  
For  
Fort Martin Scott

The post on Barons Creek would have 20 buildings when completed: Commanding Officer's Quarters (log – 4 rooms & kitchen), six smaller officer quarters (log, adobe & weatherboarding), Sutler store & warehouse, hospital, bakery, laundry (all tog), a guardhouse (stone), four log barracks, a log QM warehouse, and adobe blacksmith shop and a frame stable with its box stalls. The life of Fort Martin Scott was typical for a frontier garrison post; it had a life span of just less than five years.

The flow and ebb of frontier service can be seen in the post returns, reports and correspondence of the period. A soldier's enlistment was for a period of five years and although the starting pay for a private was \$7.00 a month, when his clothing, food and housing were added in, he was (monetarily) as well off as a non-skilled civilian laborer.



The Commanding Officer of the 8th Infantry will designate 4 companies to relieve the command at Fredericksburg General Harney, ad Dragoons, will command

April 1849 Bvt. Lt. Col. Montgomery, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry becomes the Post Commander

8<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Officers	Bvt. Lt. Col. Screven 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Snelling 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dodge
Non-commissioned Officers	1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt. Woolcock Sgt. Gilligan Sgt. Halliday Cpl. Carr Cpl. Herman
Enlisted men	30 privates
Discharged	Wade – Pvt.      Died    Gorman
Deserted	Chalfant — Pvt. Richards — Pvt.

May 1849 Bvt. Major Gaten, 8th Infantry becomes Post Commander

Orders No. 13 (paraphrased)

The QM Depot (San Antonio) will dispatch property & stores for movement of 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry to Fredericksburg.

Orders No. 24 (paraphrased)

Company G, ad Dragoons under the command of Lt. Niell will march to Fredericksburg.

Lt Col Montgomery, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, will designate one of his 4 companies to remain at Fredericksburg. The other 3 companies will proceed to Austin. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Fink— Ft Martin Scott - will serve as the Asst. QM.

June 1849 Lt Blake, 8 Infantry becomes Post Commander

Orders No. 35 (paraphrased)

Company A 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons under the command of Lt Tyler will proceed to Fredericksburg.

Lt Steele commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Tree will have the added duties of Regimental QM Officer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons.

July 1849 Bvt. Captain Steele, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons becomes Post Commander

August 1849 Lt. Col Fauntleroy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons assumes command of the Post.

(Lt. Steele had been taken ill and was transported to the hospital in San Antonio)

Orders No. 55 (paraphrased)

Pack Mules will replace wagons for field use in supporting Dragoons in the field. Two mules per man will be the allotted number.

Orders No. 58 (paraphrased)

No letters of recommendation or of safe passage are to be given to any Indians in your area.

September 1849 Bvt. Captain Steele resumes command of Fort Martin Scott, and Lt Col Fauntleroy returns to his command at the Post at Austin.

October 1849 Captain Boardale, 8th Infantry becomes Post Commander

Orders No. 68 (Paraphrased selections)

Re: Court Martial of W Walters, Pvt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons

Presiding Officer: Bvt. Lt Col Montgomery

Charge: Desertion

Finding: Guilty

Sentence: Fifty lashes on bared back with a rawhide whip, forfeiture of pay and allowances for six months, ball and chain, and hard labor.

Orders No. 69 (paraphrased)

Re: Court Martial of Captain W. Saunders —Adjutant 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons

Charges:

1<sup>st</sup> Indecent exposure un-officer like conduct

2<sup>nd</sup> Misappropriation of Regimental Correspondence Record Book - threatening his Sgt Major

3<sup>rd</sup> Embezzlement of Public Funds — failure to respond to request from superior officer (Lt. Col. Fauntleroy)

Finding:

Guilty of indecent exposure

Guilty of misappropriation of records

Not guilty of embezzlement

Sentence:

Suspended from rank and command for two months and publicly reprimanded.

Orders No. 70 (paraphrased)

The northwest part of the Frontier District will include the following:

Eagle Pass	Camp Gates
Leona	Camp Graham
Camp Lincoln	Camp Worth
Fredericksburg	Camp Croghan
San Antonio	

November 1849

Orders No. 76 (paraphrased)

Re: General Order No. 35 of 1848 — the proper wearing of hair and beard — will be enforced

December 1849

Orders No. 8z (paraphrased)

All requests for arms, horses and equipments must be accompanied by supportive statement of facts demonstrating a true need for said items.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Hospital Report

Illness	Garrison Strength
13 wounds/injuries	
6 abscesses/ulcers	October 84
2 urinary/genital	November 84
3 brain/nervous system	December 94
9 respiratory	
25 digestive system	
34 fevers	
1 death - Typhus	

June 1850

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Hospital Report

Illness	Garrison Strength
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22 wounds/injuries  
5 abscesses/ulcers  
36 digestive  
3 respiratory  
18 fevers

April 100  
May 97  
June 96

Private John Dohal involved in a fight in Mr. Hunt's store in Fredericksburg. He was stabbed and died on the premises.  
Orders No. 17 (paraphrased)

There will be an extended (2 months) campaign against the Indians living between the lower Rio Grande and the Nueces. Lt. Col Hardee will be in command of said expedition Chief QM, Maj. Babbit will establish the QM depots required to support the expedition and Chief Asst. Commissary, Maj. Longstreet will establish supply drops for the expedition.

Post Compliment at Ft Martin Scott

100 enlisted men and officers  
4 officers' wives  
1 hospital matron  
9 laundresses            7 children

August 1850

Orders No. 35 (paraphrased)

Re: Mounted Infantry

Commanders, with extra equines, may designate infantrymen with riding skills to augment or to serve as a mounted arm, all such troops will receive drill and exercise in the manual of the Colt and the Harpers Ferry Pistol and Carbine. Said training to cover the use of said weapons on foot and mounted. At the end of each day's training the Colts pistols, being few in number, will be returned to the Orderly Sgts for safe keeping.

Captain Eastman will command the Mounted Infantry unit at Ft Martin Scott.

September 1850

Orders No. 39 (paraphrased)

With the successful completion of Hardee's expedition, it has been decided that intermittent scouts will continue throughout the Department. The country around Fredericksburg is to be scouted by Bvt Maj. Merrill

and his Company of Dragoons. Any signs of Indians will require immediate pursuit. If deemed necessary, the officer in command may requisition supplies and equipment from the nearest post to complete his mission.

Enlisted Personnel and others in Garrison at Time of Census (September 1850)

2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons - Company B

Rank	Name	Age	Place of Origin
Sergeant	Henry L Hall	28	Connecticut
Sergeant	John K. Scott	29	Pennsylvania
Sergeant	John F. Smith	26	Massachusetts
Sergeant	John Black	26	Ireland
Corporal	Richard Bangs	30	District of Columbia
Corporal	Daniel Hart	23	New York
Corporal	W.W. Davis	24	Kentucky
Corporal	Michael Donald	25	New York
Private	Philip Rivers	25	Canada
Private	John Delaney	28	Kentucky
Private	Thomas Langinen	26	Ireland
Private	Hutcheson	41	Ireland
Private	George James	33	Pennsylvania
Private	Frederic Fuchst	27	Germany
Private	William Simmons	27	Ireland
Private	John Murphy	35	Ireland
Private	Peter Holmes	26	Germany
Private	W.W. Kingsland	26	New York
Private	B. McManus	26	Ireland
Private	John Rider	25	Germany
Private	Charles Rose	22	Germany
Private	Owen Tyrel	22	Ireland
Private	John Hayes	28	Pennsylvania
Private	Michael Cunningham	24	Ireland
Private	Robert Ashman	29	New Jersey
Private	John Beatty	22	Ireland
Private	C. McCormick	23	Ireland
Private	P. Tracy	28	Ireland
Private	James King	34	Scotland
Private	Peter Mottenburger	32	Germany
Private	Jacob Haight	24	Germany
Private	John McMann	23	Ireland
Private	W. Buchanonn	21	Pennsylvania
Private	John Gross	26	Pennsylvania

Private	Issaac Kliski	28	Poland
Private	P. Murphy	23	Ireland
Private	C. Raynor	23	Connecticut
Private	Thomas Marshal	23	Ireland
Private	Henry B. Simms	31	New York
Private	John O. Brown	23	Ireland
Private	Patrick O. Gorman	32	Ireland
Private	Frederick Williams	33	Canaday

8 Infantry - Company K

Rank	Name	Age	Place of Origin
Sergeant	John C. Kennedy	36	Scotland
Sergeant	Peter Kelly	32	Ireland
Sergeant	John Hart	26	Ireland
Sergeant	John Fisk	39	Rhode Island
Private	William Gordon	29	Scotland
Private	Jacob Dickerman	26	New York
Private	Felix Burns	27	Ireland
Private	Thomas Ballentine	21	Scotland
Private	Henry Lewis	26	New York
Private	Martin Murphy	17	New York
Private	Andrew Alexander	27	Germany
Private	William Bernard	24	Ireland
Private	John Barnett	18	New York
Private	John Boston	28	Ireland
Private.	Colter	22	Ireland
Private	James Donmoing	21	New York
Private	John Engler	24	Germany
Private	Thomas Ferrelly	21	Ireland
Private	William Gaizr	22	Germany
Private	Thomas Gardner	24	Ireland
Private	William Gillmon	28	Illinois
Private	M. Gaffnay	24	Ireland
Private	James Harris	36	Ireland
Private	Robert Harris	13	Illinois
Private	Daniel Hughes	34	Ireland
Private	Edward Hughes	26	Ireland
Private	Richard Howlet	26	Germany
Private	Frederick Kottz	36	Massachusetts
Private	William Little	38	Ireland
Private	Patrick Muldowney	23	Ireland
Private	Thomas Menigan	23	Scotland
Private	John Morris	23	Germany
Private	Charles Papon	21	Ireland

Private	John Reppite	30	Ireland
Private	James Seely	32	Ireland
Private	Michael Shetty	38	Germany
Private	John Smith	23	Ireland
Private	Dennis Sullivan	27	Scotland
Private	Robert Tempary	32	Scotland
Private	John Totten	24	Ireland
Private	John Wilson	29	Norwa

Lt. Col. Staniford, his wife Jane, his sister Mrs. Mumford, and her son Thomas, occupied Officer Quarters A. Officer Quarters B was occupied by Maj. Merrill and Capt. Eastman. Officer Quarters D was occupied by Capt. Beardsley and his wife Mary. (Margaret Bockford and Lt Blake also shared Quarters D)

Sharing billets #232: through #236 were laundresses and their children:

Elizabeth Hellnor	22	Germany
Minna Height	23	Germany
Minna's daughter	3 months	Texas
Catherine Smith	17	Texas
Mary Simms	23	Pennsylvania
Rose Bangs	32	Ireland
Mary Duffy	4	Texas
Frances Garvy	10	Canada
Mary Ann Garvy	4	New York

October 1850

Fort Martin Scott is designated as the site for Courts Martial Board

Assigned board officers:

Colonel Staniford, Major Merrill, Major Longstreet, Captain Beardsly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Blake, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Meckling

November 1850

Orders No. 56 (paraphrased)

Court Martial of) Hays, Bugler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons

Charge: Desertion

Finding: Guilty

Sentence: 50 lashes, 4 months forfeiture of pay

Court Martial of E. Hughes, Pvt.

Charge: Habitual Drunkenness

Finding: Guilty

Sentence: Forfeiture of all pay, tattooed or branded with a one and one half inch letter D on his right hip and drummed out of the service.

Court Martial of J. Hart, Sgt.

Charge: Disobedience of Orders and Neglect of Duty

Finding: Guilty

Sentence: Reduced to the ranks and forfeiture of \$20

December 1850

4th Quarter Hospital Report

Illness

Garrison Strength

22 wounds/injuries  
4 abscesses/ulcers  
4 rheumatoid  
8 respiratory

October 92  
November 124  
December 125

Asst. QM Blake (Fort Martin Scott) (had been employing the following number of people: 1 Indian Scout, 12 teamsters, 3 foremen carpenters, 12 masons, 32 carpenters, and 24 laborers).

A partial listing for December by name, occupation and salary is as follows:

Name	Occupation	Monthly Salary
H. Hunt	Teamster	\$25.00
J. Smith	Teamster	\$20.00
I. Boyle	Teamster	\$25.00
I. Lang	Teamster	\$25.00
G. Harrel	Teamster	\$25.00
D. Towlaw	Teamster	\$25.00
J. Hall	Teamster	\$25.00
Jacob Medson	Mason	\$30.00
John Medson	Mason	\$30.00
J. Rigner	Mason	\$30.00
J. Wallsh	Mason	\$30.00

H. Stalp	Mason	\$30.00
P. Smith	Mason	\$35.00
F. Ostridge	Mason	\$30.00
H. Otho	Mason	\$30.00
C. Ripson	Mason	\$30.00
J. Conner	Indian Guide	\$40.00
J. Miles	Foreman/Carpenter	\$75.00
A Steines	Carpenter	\$45.00
H. Simpson	Carpenter	\$45.00
M. McCullogh	Carpenter	\$45.00
J. Dearing	Carpenter	\$45.00
F. Bluhm	Carpenter	\$45.00
F. Beck	Carpenter	\$45.00
L. Hafner	Carpenter	\$45.00
S. Ekins	Carpenter	\$45.00
G. Freeman	Carpenter	\$40.00
L. Ekert	Carpenter	\$30.00
Wm Ryder	Carpenter	\$30.00
F. Wingall	Carpenter	\$30.00
H. Wingall	Carpenter	\$30.00
C. Hamm	Laborer	\$30.00
S. Seckman	Laborer	\$30.00
S. Stanville	Laborer	\$30.00
J. Keller	Laborer	\$30.00
C. Liman	Laborer	\$30.00
M. Thomas	Laborer	\$30.00
C. Sleuth	Laborer	\$30.00
C. Hams	Laborer	\$30.00
E. Hoyer	Laborer	\$30.00
J. Wilson	Laborer	\$30.00
P. Bukenburg	Laborer	\$30.00
T. Connally	Laborer	\$30.00
J. Rippet	Laborer	\$30.00
J. Past	Laborer	\$30.00
J. Shupp	Laborer	\$30.00
Wm. Shewman	Laborer	\$30.00

April 1851

Fort Martin Scott will have a temporary compliment of five infantry companies. Post Gardens are to be planted at all posts in the Department The Posts will discourage any unlawful (unlicensed) traders from dealing with the local Indians

Orders No. 37 (paraphrase)

A Court of Inquiry will be convened re: the case of the destruction by fire of the store belonging to Mr. Hunt of Fredericksburg.

The presiding officers will be Hardee, Johnston, Smith and Benton

May 1851 Departmental Commander is General Garland  
8th Infantry

Officers	Bvt. Maj. Sprague 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt (QM) Crozet 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Jackson
Non-commissioned Officers	4 Sgts 2 Cpls
Enlisted	65 Pvts
Discharged: Buckley, Pvt	Deserted 3 PVt5

Orders No. 42 (paraphrased)

HQ for the 8th Infantry will be removed from San Antonio to Fort Martin Scott.

Orders No. 44 (paraphrased)

Re: Order No. 37 — Court of Inquiry

Finding: Charges against U.S. Army are disapproved

Fort Martin Scott will send two companies of 8th Infantry to Fort Croghan. Hardee and Merrill with their companies will establish Fort Mason. Fort Martin Scott will be the supply depot for the new posts. The number of Courts Martial begin to increase. Scouting parties from all posts will be dispatched weekly. Each post with mounted troops will be allowed one guide and interpreter and one muleteer per forty men. Wagon horses are to be replaced with mules and the horses will then be used for the mounted infantry units.

HQs for Infantry and Dragoons are to be removed from Fort Martin Scott.

June 1851

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Hospital Report  
Illness

Garrison Strength

29 wounds/injuries	April	141
19 abscesses/ulcers	May	269
13 rheumatoid	June	159
3 urinary/genital		
4 respiratory		
brain/nervous system		
46 digestive		
29 fevers		

December 1851

Bvt. Maj. Merrill is commanding Co B 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons, his 1<sup>st</sup> Lt is Macdonald and Tree is his 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt and QM

February 1852.

#### 8th Infantry

Officers	Bvt. Maj. Seldon Bvt. Maj. Longstreet 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dodge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Let. Smith
Non-commissioned Officers	4 Sgts 4 Cpls
Enlisted	63 Pvts

#### Under Charges:

Gremble, Pvt, reduced in rank— repeat offender (drunk)  
Maguire, Pvt, ball and chain—hard labor  
Gallagher, Pvt, ball and chain — hard labor  
Smother, Pvt, hard labor  
Williams, Pvt, hard labor

Forfeiture of pay — 6 privates

Discharged —1 Sergeant and / privates

March 1852

Orders No 17 (paraphrased)

All captives, trophies and spoils from recent expeditions against the Lipan Apache will be delivered to G.T. Howard, Indian Commissioner

Orders No. 12 (paraphrased)

All teamsters transporting supplies to military posts will be armed

June 1852

Gates — Commanding 8th Infantry and Ft Martin Scott dies; Captain Steele is ordered to Fredericksburg with B Company, ad Dragoons to assume command.

August 1852

Orders No. 22 (paraphrased)

Infantry will serve as escort for wagons and Dragoons will serve as scouts. Dragoons at the post will beheld in a state of readiness for pursuit should it be deemed necessary to discourage Indians from crossingthe line. The Post Commander may use infantrymen who are skilled riders to use reserve mounts toincrease the number of mounted troops he can deploy in the field.

Orders No. si (paraphrased)

Infantrymen assigned to mounted duties will exchange their muskets for percussion rifles or carbines. These will be supplied by the QM in the following ratios: Post with Dragoons will receive 1i rifles and pistols for the mounted infantrymen, and for posts without Dragoons that number will be increased to 25 rifles and pistols

January —March 1853

Final troop movements from Ft. Martin Scott to Fort Mason  
Medical supplies at Fort Martin Scott will be sent to Fort Mason  
Left at Ft. Martin Scott are 1 infantry officer (2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Fink) and 13 enlisted men

(None of the thirteen privates would have a full uniform, and their weapons would range from the older flintlocksto the current percussion weapons.)

March -1853

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Hospital Report

Illness

4 scurvy

5 wounds/injuries

5 abscesses/ulcers

Garrison Strength

January 151

February 91

1 digestive  
8 fevers

March 16

At this point in time the post was decommissioned as a garrison post, but the Post site would continue to be used by the Quartermaster Department for another 3 to 4 years.

Like many posts of this period there were no separate quarters for married non-commissioned officers and their families at Fort Martin Scott. Such families would have had to find their own quarters off of the military reservation. If the post commander required a strict interpretation of guidelines for the hiring of laundresses, then very likely there would have been some wives of non-commissioned officers serving in that capacity. This might explain why only five laundresses were listed on the 1850 Census. The others would have been living off the military reservation.

Not all posts would have a commissioned army surgeon, instead they might have a civilian surgeon who would contract his services to a given post or unit. Such a doctor — depending on his skills and experience — would be given the pay, perks and deference of social standing as that which was due a Lieutenant or a Captain. In such cases the doctor's office in the hospital would become both office and quarters for the contract surgeon.

Laundresses and Hospital Matrons were supposed to be selected, when possible, from among the wives or widows of the non-commissioned officers. Fort Martin Scott had nine laundresses and one Hospital Matron serving the post. As mentioned earlier in this manuscript, officers were allowed as part of their perks to have servants. Many of the officers at Ft Martin Scott were from Southern or Border States, and between them the officers at Ft. Martin Scott had twelve slaves performing the duties of servants.

Indian guides (scouts) of this period were farmer mountain men, breeds, or full bloods. Being civilians, scouts could sign on for six months or a year at a time. By the same token the Army could hire extra scouts for the term of a particular expedition. The post scout at Fort Martin Scott in the early 50s was John Connor a breed.

Army Teamsters could be hired for the duration of a move, or six months or a year at a time. A partial listing of the teamsters hauling to and/or out of Fort Martin Scott in 1851- is as follows: John Smith, Daniel Mahoney, Charles Austin, Henry Price, Ambrose Goff, and Henry Hunt.

In the normal course of frontier development it was more common for an Army Post to be established at a given site before a town would be built in the same proximity. However, in this case it was the settlers of Fredericksburg who arrived first, and it was they that achieved the pacification of the area before the Army

began building the Post on Barons Creek Army Posts usually needed skilled workers and fresh viands and the towns always needed market outlets and hard cash. The close proximity of the town to the Fort allowed for a symbiotic relationship to develop between Fort Martin Scott and the town of Fredericksburg.

The site for Fort Martin Scott was chosen for logistical reasons, being almost directly North of San Antonio where the Quartermaster Department had its headquarters. The post would serve as a supply post and an anchor post for General Harney's first line of posts in Texas, later it would serve as an assembly post for extended scouts in force, and it would also serve as the post for most of the Courts Martial for the posts of the first line.

The symbiotic relationship between the Fort and the Town declined in importance beginning in 1850 when Fredericksburg became an important stop on the Southern route to California and the sold fields- Fredericksburg was the last chance for supplies and repairs before one reached El Paso. With settlement of the area firmly established by 1851 the Army started building a second line of forts approximately ninety miles further north and forts west of the first line. This was the death knell for Fort Martin Scott and most of the other posts in the first line of forts.

The information presented here is taken from records that were kept by the commissioned and non-commissioned officers at fort Martin Scott and those records (suffering the ravages of times) are part of the National Archives. Regrettably not all the records and correspondence have been compiled, correlated and microfilmed. Further fleshing out for the Post was accomplished by referring to the Census of 1850.

#### Suggested Reading

*The Horse Soldiers*, Vol 1, R. Steffens; *The Fort in Fort Worth*, C. Perkins; *Five Years a Dragoon 1840-1854*, P. C. Love; *The March of the Mounted Riflemen*, R.W. Settle; *The Prairie Traveler*, K.B. Marcy; *The Old Army in Texas*, T.T. Smith; *The Frontier Army in the Settlement of the West*, M.L. Tate; *Texas Camel Tales*, Emmit; *Noble Brutes - Camels on the American Frontier*, E.J. Boyd; *Exploration and Empire*, W.H. Goetzmann; *Army Exploration in the American West*, W.H. Goetzmann; *Quartermaster Support of the Army 1775-1939*, E. Risch, Center of Military History