

tion July 8, 1857, leaving its Atlantic connection with New Orleans by steamer across the Gulf of Mexico from Indianola, and its Pacific connection by Steamer from San Diego. When the Butterfield route was established in September, 1859, the San Antonio and San Diego mail made connections weekly at Fort Yuma and El Paso with this route. The trip had been made in twenty and one-half days from San Francisco to New Orleans.

The distance between New Orleans and San Francisco over the San Antonio and San Diego route was 2,450 miles. The time made was as follows: from New Orleans to Galveston by steamer, one day; from Galveston to Columbus by rail road, one-half day; by coach, 800 miles, from Columbus to El Paso, eight days; by coach, 850 miles, from El Paso to San Diego, eight and one-half days; by steamer, 505 miles, from San Diego to San Francisco, two days.

Thus they had twenty days to and from San Francisco and New Orleans. In addition to the fact that this route offered great facilities as a through mail route from the Mississippi River to California, it was worthy of notice that it carried a large local mail.

The following Military Posts in the department of Texas used it for their correspondence, both with the War Department and with the Headquarters in San Antonio of the Texas division of the Army:

Fort Inge; Leona River, Texas.

Fort Clark; Los Moras River, Texas.

Camp Hudson; Devils River, Texas.

Fort Lancaster; Pecos River, Texas.

Fort Davis; Limpia Creek, Texas.

Camp Comanche; Comanche Creek, Texas.

Fort Quitman; Rio Grande, Texas.

Fort Bliss; Rio Grande, Texas.

A large portion of the commerce of the north western section of Texas, the whole commerce of the rich Mesilla Valley, a large portion of the remainder of that territory, as well as the great bulk of the American trade with the Mexican State of Chihuahua, passed through San Antonio. The merchants of Chihuahua received silver in payment for their goods. This silver was coined into Mexican dollars at the mint.

The coin was sent to El Paso in large sums, and there exchanged for drafts on the sub-treasury at New York and New Orleans, and remitted to San Antonio and San Diego mail, in payment for the merchandise supplied to the whole section referred to.

Time passed, and the Trails of the west were worn deeper and deeper with the passage of heavy freight trains. Then came the war between the North and the South, and

the white men's thoughts were turned to the matter of killing each other. Forts were abandoned by the Federal troops as the confederates arrived.

#### FORT DAVIS AND FORT STOCKTON ABANDONED BY THE FEDERAL TROOPS

General Bliss states in his Civil War Notes:- "Mr. James Magoffin of El Paso, who had been appointed by the State to receive the property at Quitman from me, did not come in person, but sent his son, Samuel, who receipted to me for all the property, and with his team helped mover our supplies to San Antonio. He and his brother-in-law, Gabriel Valdez, went with us. After a long march of one hundred and forty miles, we reached Fort Davis, Presidio County, Texas, and found that a company of Confederates from San Antonio under command of Colonel John R. Baylor had already reached there, and that Captain E. D. Blake, of the Eighth Infantry, in Command of Fort Davis, had turned over all Government property to them. After a day or two we started again. The command at this time consisted of six companies of the Eighth Infantry, all under Captain I. V. D. Reeve."

For the first year of the war Presidio County, Texas was under Confederate Administration. The Indians realized that the white men were fighting among themselves, and they swarmed back to their strong holds in the Davis Mountains. They attacked freighting and mail parties with great daring.

This year, while the Confederate Troops were stationed at Fort Davis, Don Manuel Musquiz, who was ranching on rather a large scale, six miles east of Fort Davis in the canyon named for him, decided to visit relatives in Mexico, leaving servants in charge of the ranch. During his absence, old Chief Nicolas, with his Apache warriors, attacked the Musquiz ranch, killed three of the servants, and drove off all the cattle they could round up. The terror stricken people sent a courier to Fort Davis for aid. Lieutenant Mayes, with a few men, was there; at that time the main body of Confederate troops being stationed at Fort Stockton. James Dawson, a man who had acted as guard for the Overland Mail route and then belonging to the troops stationed at Fort Davis, was too ill to go and it was from him the story came. Lieutenant Mayes, with thirteen men and the Mexican guide from the Musquiz Ranch, took up the Indians Trail and over took them the next day. Mayes saw a few Indians in a steep rocky canyon ahead, and he and his men charged them. In a few minutes he realized his mistake. It was the usual trick of the Apaches to lead people into a place like that and ambush them. Retreat