

was cut off in every direction, by the steep bluffs on the sides, and by the many warriors in the front and rear. During the wild excitement of battle, a man named Riley and the Mexican guide managed to make their way out of the canyon. Riley supposed the other men would escape as he had. When he saw that they were not out he asked the Mexican what he thought about the situation and the Mexican said:

"They are all dead by now; we were the only ones to escape."

Riley said: "Well, I am going back to see if I can help them." The Mexican urged him not to go, saying the men in the canyon were beyond the help of man. But Riley went back to his comrades, and to death.

The scene of this massacre was marked for years by the bleaching bones of human beings and animals. The Mexican made his way into

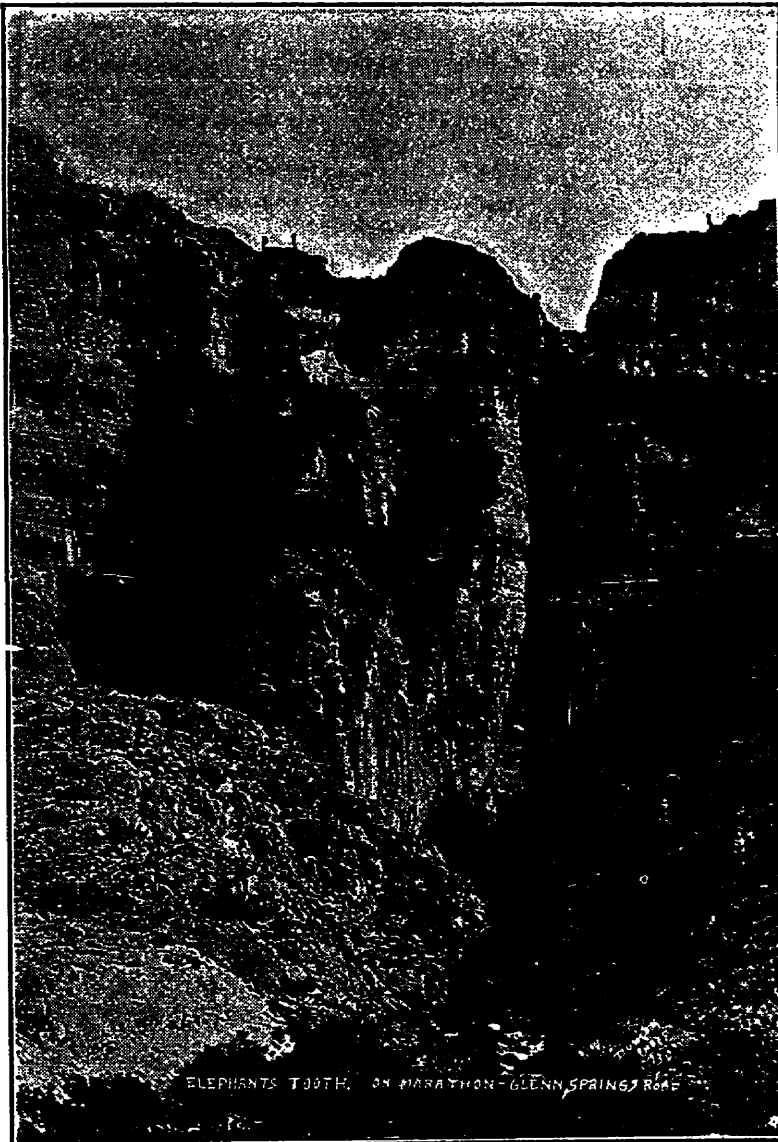
Presidio Del Norte with word of the tragedy and the news eventually reached Fort Davis, but the forces there were not sufficient to control the Indians.

Dawn of the second year of the Civil War saw Presidio County practically deserted except the settlement at Presidio. Presumably, the garrison at Presidio del Norte held the Indians in check in that vicinity. When Fort Davis was abandoned by the Confederate Troops, Deidrick Dutchover was left in charge of the adobe fort and what little equipment was left. Dutchover had always managed to get along with the Indians. Soon after the Confederates had marched away, Chief Nicolas, who had raided the Musquiz ranch and killed the troops that pursued him, entered the town with two hundred and fifty of his followers. Dutchover felt that the Indians were there to kill and plunder. He took his party, consisting of four Americans, a Mexican woman and two small children to the top of an adobe building, which had a parapet several feet high extending all around.

The sudden appearance of the Indians did not allow them time to make much preparation. They succeeded in getting two barrels of water and a sack of flour on the roof. For two days and nights, the refugees remained on the roof. By that time the Indians drifted away. The third night Dutchover, and party made their escape, and wandered for days through the mountains, until they reached Presidio in a starved and exhausted condition.

According to W. W. Mills' book, "Forty Years at El Paso, 1858-1898":

"Captain Henry Skillman had resided near El Paso for many years previous to the Civil War. He was a Kentuckian, a man of magnificent physique, over six feet tall, with long sandy hair, and a beard reaching to his waist. He had served in the war between the United States and Mexico with distinction, and earned his title of Captain. He had fought Indians from San Antonio to El Paso, when he had the mail contract between the two places. He



ELEPHANT TOOTH, ON PARATHON-GLINN SPRINGS ROAD

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