



**FRONTIER TIMES MUSEUM BUILDING at Bandera, Texas. Erected 1933, by J. Marvin Hunter and over 300 of his loyal friends who purchased copies of a book he printed to raise funds to erect building.**

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A Merry Christmas  
And many more  
A Happier New Year  
Than ever before!

Mr. and Mrs. J. Marvin Hunter

Capt R. G. Carter  
Army & Navy Club  
Washington, D C



With Sincere Christmas Greetings  
and all Good Wishes  
For the New Year



Mr. and Mrs. J. Marvin Hunter

# FRONTIER TIMES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY—\$1.50 PER YEAR

J. MARVIN HUNTER, PROPRIETOR

*Devoted to Frontier History, Border Tragedy, Pioneer Achievement,  
Texas Ranger Stories, Trail Drivers' Reminiscences*

BANDERA, TEXAS

December 27, 1926

Captain R. G. Carter,  
Army and Navy Club,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:-

I received your very interesting letter several days ago, but due to the holiday rush I have been unable to reply.

A few days ago I received from your publisher a copy of "The Old Sergeant's Story," which you so kindly had sent to me. I sat up half the night and read a greater portion of the book, and I find it very interesting, and it made me feel that I had known you and Sergeant Charlton all of my life. I very much appreciate your kindness in sending me this book, and in my next issue (February) of Frontier Times I am going to give the book a review. I want to secure from time to time copies of the book for distribution among my readers. Will write your publisher in regard to this.

It would give me the greatest pleasure to publish the book you mentioned in your letter. It should be published and that soon, but I am not equipped to get out the kind of a book it should be—cloth binding and neatly printed. Most of the book work I have done in my establishment here has been in pamphlet work. True, I published and bound the second volume of "The Trail Drivers of Texas," but the work was such a miserable botch that I was ashamed of it, and was glad when Mr. Saunders turned the republishing over to the Cokesbury Press on a royalty basis and the two volumes were combined into one. I have been thinking perhaps we could interest the ~~Cokesbury~~ Cokesbury Press, (Nashville) in your book. With your permission I will write them, or you can write. We had a great deal of difficulty in getting out the Trail Drivers' book. Had no funds, so we had printed at first only 1500 copies, first volume, at a cost of around \$3300. That was during 1920, when printing

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prices were sky-high. Then Mr. Saunders decided that a second volume was needed, because so many of the old trailers had failed to get sketches in the first volume. Still had no funds with which to issue the book, and as I had purchased a small country printing plant Mr. Saunders insisted that I do the printing. I had in the meantime written and printed a "Pioneer History of Bandera County," doing the cloth binding myself, and he thought because I did that that I could print a book for the trail drivers. I thought so too, and so undertook it. But the job was a larger undertaking than I anticipated, and I "fell down" on it. Since which time I have confined my work to pamphlet printing, and until I add the necessary equipment to turn out books properly I would not risk another failure. But I do want to see your book brought out, for I believe it will sell well. There seems to be a turning of the public mind to ~~fix~~ frontier history. You will note that the newspapers and magazines are devoting more space to articles of this character, and the public mind seems to be demanding it. For that reason I cannot understand why Doubleday Page & Co., who are in the best position to feel the public pulse on such literature, should take the view they do.

The Yale University Press has turned out a splendid book by Capt. Cook, "Fifty Years on the Old Frontier," which seems to have met with fine success, and other historical works have been placed on the market and proved good sellers. Your book will equal, if not surpass, any of them.

I am going over to Austin before long and I want to see what can be done there, so, if you do not object, I would like to keep the outline you sent as to contents and illustrations of your book, in order to help me in getting an estimate on the cost of publication and it may be that I can interest a publishing house there.

I have had letters from several of your friends since the January issue of Frontier Times came out, among them Mr. Donald F. McCarthy of Montrose, California, and Mr. W. E. Wrather of Dallas, Texas; also Mr. E. A. Brininstool of Los Angeles. They are very anxious to see some of your experience published in Frontier Times.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a happy New Year for you and yours, I am

Sincerely yours,

*J. Marvin Hunter*

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**BANDERA, TEXAS**

January 22, 1927

Capt. R. G. Carter, U.S.A., Retired  
Army and Navy Club,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:-

Your card received a day or two ago, after I had sent you several copies of the February issue of Frontier Times, which I trust you received all right. I am today mailing you ten more copies of this issue, which I would be pleased to have you pass to your friends. There is no charge for these copies, and if you want more let me know and I will send them. I have at the present time a pretty good supply remaining on hand.

Our friend, Mr. W. E. Wrather, of Dallas, Texas, is a regular subscriber to Frontier Times, and I hear from him occasionally. He mentioned you in a recent letter; also Mr. Donald F. McCarthy mentioned that he knew you and was glad Frontier Times had found you. Mr. McCarthy resides at Montrose, California.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*J. Marvin Hunter*

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**BANDERA, TEXAS**

January 26, 1827

Capt. R. G. Carter, Retired,  
Army and Navy Club,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:-

Your letter of the 21st inst. just received. I will gladly insert the notice you sent, in the next number (March) of Frontier Times. It was very careless of me to omit that most important thing in republishing the review, and there will be no charge for the insertion. I would like to see several hundred copies of that book, "The Old Sergeant's Story," placed throughout Southwest Texas, and will announce that Frontier Times will receive orders for them also.

I have just secured a copy of McConnell's "Five Years a Cavalryman," published in 1888, dealing with his experience at Jacksboro, Fort Belknap, Buffalo Springs, and other frontier posts and camps in the late sixties. The book is small but the price was \$5.00, and I obtained it from the Von Blon Book Co. of Waco, Texas.

I fear it will be difficult to learn just what became of Old Cloud, the scout. My father made diligent inquiry at San Angelo for some information concerning the fate of this man, but if he ever learned anything, I do not know it.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*J. Marvin Hunter*

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BANDERA, TEXAS

February 27, 1927

Captain R. G. Carter,  
Army and Navy Club,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:-

I am sending you a few kodak prints of old Fort Concho and Ft. McKavett, taken quite recently. Col. M. L. Crimmins, Retired, and Mr. W. D. Smithers, my "staff photographer," made a trip to old forts, Territt, Lancaster, <sup>Chadbourne,</sup> Concho and McKavett, and secured a lot of pictures, and Friend Smithers was kind enough to make a lot of them for me, so I am passing some of them to you as souvenirs. Perhaps you may be able to recognize some of the spots, particularly the old sun dial at Concho. Nearly all of the old post quarters at Concho have been converted into elegant residences, some torn down entirely and rebuilt, and others remodeled.

At McKavett very little remodeling has been done. The old hospital building has been thoroughly repaired and is well preserved. It now looks better than when I first saw it in 1886. But most of the other buildings there are dilapidated, and many of them are now in ruins. When my father taught school at Fort McKavett in 1886-7 we lived for awhile in the two-story house now known as the old Bobbie Robinson place. It looks very much as it did when we

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lived there forty years ago. The band stand, which was built of lumber, has long since been removed. The cemetery there has grown up in weeds and bushes, but is still used by the present population. I am sending a picture or two of it.

Mr. Smithers informs me that there is but little left of old Fort Chadbourne, and it is sadly neglected. Only a few chimneys and heaps of stone mark the site of Lancaster now.

~~With~~

Mr. W. B. Krempkau of San Antonio, intimates that he knew Old ~~se~~ Cloud, the scout, and it is quite probable that we can learn through him what became of Cloud.

I will probably see Krempkau within the next few days, and will ascertain. He told me that Cloud came to San Antonio from Concho, and lived there many years. I will take pains to learn all I can and write you.

With kindest regards, and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*J. Marvin Hunter*

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BANDERA, TEXAS

July 29, 1928

Captain R. G. Carter,  
Army and Navy Club,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:-

I was pleased to receive your letter of the 17th inst., with photo of the Memorial to the MacKenzie Trail. I am sending this photo away today to have cut made for the next issue of Frontier Times, and will use the material in your letter for story to be run in connection with it. It was indeed a happy thought of Mr. C. A. Jones to place a bronze tablet in the Spur Inn on the Mackenzie Trail, and shows that there are still some people in Texas who appreciate the work done by the Indian fighters of the 70's.

I assure you that I very much appreciate your kindness in sending me this photograph, and the material to be used in connection therewith.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, I  
beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

*J. Marvin Hunter*

17 July, 1928.

Mr. J. Marvin Hunter,  
Editor & Manager, The Frontier Times,  
Bandera, Texas.

My dear Mr. Hunter:

I am enclosing to you this day under separate cover a very interesting bit of Indian War history intimately connected with the operations of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry during the years 1870 to 1875, over a large portion of West and Northwest Texas, including the "Staked Plains" and the Texas "Panhandle".

In September 1926 I received a letter from a Mr. C.A. Jones - with Swenson Sons, 61 Broadway, New York City, sent to me through a friend of his, an ex-member of Congress from North Carolina. Mr. Jones is connected with an extensive land development company in the Texas Panhandle, formerly a large cattle ranch, of which his son, C. A. Jones, Jr., is now the manager.

This tract comprises 673 square miles on and about what is now on the maps as the town of Spur in Dickens County. It is called the "Spur Ranch" and is on the Wichita Valley Railroad, southwest of Wichita Falls, and covers much of the area included in our Indian operations during the period referred to. It has townships, churches, schools, hotels, ranch houses, oil wells, and cotton, alfalfa, cereals, fruits, cattle, horses, hogs; in fact, nearly everything is raised there under an economic system of irrigation, where over 50 years ago there was not a human habitation within 150 miles; Fort Griffin, 130 miles distant, was the nearest military post. An illustrated booklet shows an almost amazing transformation.

Mr. Jones is also connected with this same company, Swenson Sons, in the great sulphur works at Freeport, Texas, one of the largest sulphur plants in the world.

He wrote that it was his "thought" to place some kind of a suitable memorial at Spur on what has been known in Texas almost as familiarly as the Clark and Lewis explorations, as "The Mackenzie Trail", and on reading my latest published book "The Old Sergeant's Story", he felt quite sure that I could

give him the necessary information regarding the localities in and about this great ranch, Canons Blanco, Tule, Palo Duro, Boehm's, etc., and the hills, valleys, mountain peaks, streams, etc., - as would give him material for the legend which he proposed placing on the memorial; especially, "Soldier's Mound", which was our supply camp 1874-1875, and was known as "Anderson's Fort" - named after Major Thomas Anderson, Tenth U.S. Infantry, and later a major general, who commanded the Infantry guard at this camp, from which we packed our mules for the many scouts and punitive expeditions in search of the wily savage foe. It was a wild country and only Indians, buffalo, wolves, jack rabbits, prairie dogs, rattlesnakes, were in existence there at that period. All this information I gave to Mr. Jones.

After many delays - illness, etc., intervening - this memorial - voluntarily offered by its generous donor as a belated testimonial to the old Indian fighters who did so much to open up that country to settlement - has become an accomplished fact and, as seen by the enclosed photographic copy, is in the form of a bronze tablet, cast in Los Angeles, Calif., 30" x 30". It was placed in May 1928 over the fireplace in a handsome hotel of the Spanish style of architecture, called "Spur Inn" and which is built directly on our trail - "The Mackenzie Trail", which we made and used in 1871-2-4 and 1875. The actions which took place on or near the Spur Ranch are given on the tablet.

I am nearly 83 years of age; served as the youngest of four brothers during the Civil War. After graduating at the U. S. Military Academy in 1870 I served on the Texas border. I was Field Adjutant on Gen. Mackenzie's first Indian campaign in 1871 and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for action with Comanche Indians at the mouth of Canon Blanco, October 10, 1871, in which I received an almost fatal injury, which proved to be permanent, resulting in my early retirement.

I thought that this matter ought to go on record and that your valuable little paper would prove to be the most direct medium for conveying these facts to most, if not all, of the surviving soldiers of the old Fourth Cavalry and the Tenth and Eleventh U. S. Infantry, so that after the lapse of more than 50 years their gallant services in that once wild, remote section of the "Staked Plains" of Texas, had, at last, been

recognized and their hard work, dangers, hardships and almost unparalleled sacrifices in ridding West Texas of those murderous bands of savages and in advancing this almost astounding era of civilization in that Panhandle desert to a point where the settler could drive his stake, had now been most gratefully appreciated by that hardy band of pioneers represented by such a benefactor as Mr. Jones, resulting in the placing of such a beautiful and enduring bronze tablet in their honor.

The motto of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry is "Paratus et Fidelis" - "Always Prepared and Faithful". To the faithful has come their regard.

Most sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter,  
Captain, U.S. Army, retired,  
Formerly Fourth U.S. Cavalry.