

The Jacksboro Gazette

ESTABLISHED IN 1880

J. R. DENNIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

PRINTERS : PUBLISHERS : STATIONERS

JACKSBORO, TEXAS

March 23, 1929

Capt. R. G. Carter
c/o Army-Navy Club
Washington, D. C.,

My Dear Capt. Carter:

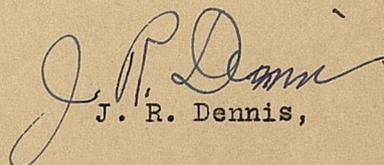
Have heard of you from your friend Mr. S. J. Osborne of Breckenridge, and he states that you were at one time an officer stationed at Fort Richardson, or what is now Jacksboro, Texas. I was glad to hear of some one who had served at this station in the early days. I believe that all of the living members of the army that served here have moved away.

Mr. Osborne suggested that you might be interested in seeing pictures of some of the remaining buildings. The fort is nearly gone with the exception of the old hospital building, one of the officers quarters, or residences, and the old commissary. I served with the army during the world war and upon returning home from France in 1919 and resuming civilian life I assisted in the reorganization of the Texas National Guard and was fortunate enough in organizing a battery of field artillery and secured the old fort as armory, and as captain I have used the buildings and have made some repairs but do not hope to ever rest ore it to its former state.

I am enclosing a few kodak pictures made at the fort a few weeks ago. There is not much to be seen but you will doubtless remember the scenes,

I would be very glad to hear from you and have the names of the officers and organizations that were stationed here at the various times.

Very truly


J. R. Dennis,

JAMES R. DENNIS
CAPTAIN 131ST FIELD ARTILLERY, T.N.G.
COMMANDING BTRY. "F"
JACKSBORO, TEXAS

May 25, 1929

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

Dear Sir:

I certainly did appreciate your letter of March the 29th, Some of the old-time citizens who were living here during the time you spoke of read your letter and were glad to hear of you, and hope that your health will permit your making a trip out here again.

The pictures were very interesting, especially the one showing a general view of the post from the north. I am wondering if the original of this picture is in existence and is clear enough to have an enlarged picture made from it. So far as I know the one you sent me is the only one here at Jacksboro and the photographer said it was too dim for an enlargement. I would appreciate any pictures of this (Fort Richardson) or any other of the early Texas posts, and will gladly pay all expenses of same.

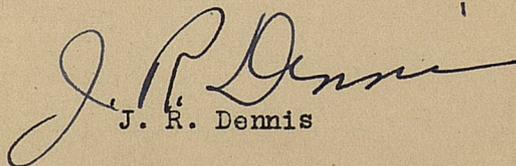
I would also like to have an autographed photograph of the Captain, which I would like to use in a small history of this post some time in the near future, and a short biography.

I am enclosing a few more photographs of local scenes that might be of interest to you and will have some more made soon that I will send also.

I would be glad to hear of any place that might have some of the early photographs of Fort Richardson or of any books that refers to it.

Your letter was greatly appreciated and we will be very happy to hear from you again.

Very truly,


J. R. Dennis

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J. R. DENNIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

PRINTERS : PUBLISHERS : STATIONERS

JACKSBORO, TEXAS

July 8, 1929

Capt. R. G. Carter,
c/o Army-Navy Club
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Capt. Carter:

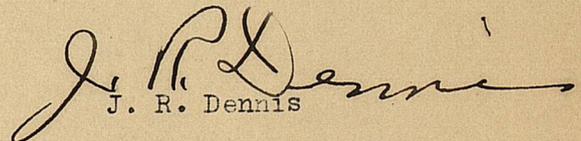
I am returning herewith the biographical sketch for which I thank you very much. I have copied several paragraphs which I hope to use next year when I publish the fiftieth anniversary edition of my paper (the Gazette). I am especially grateful for the photograph of the Captain.

Your biography is one of the most interesting that I have read of any person serving during the early days on the Texas frontier. It is indeed hard to realize that it has only been a half century since this part of the country was inhabited by the Indians.

It might be of interest to you to know that one of the Indians that was tried at Fort Richardson is now living at Fort Sill, Okla., or near that place. I believe his name is "Lone Wolf". One of his grandsons was here some two or three years ago. They seem to be prosperous and so far as I know are good citizens now.

I will try to send you some more photographs soon. Hope to have some of old Fort Belknap.

Very truly,


J. R. Dennis

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JACKSBORO, TEXAS

September 19, 1930

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

Dear Captain Carter:

A Mr. Hinton Caldwell of Dallas, Texas, was in my office a few days ago ~~discussing~~ mentioned having received a very interesting book, "The Old Sergeants Story," and named the Captain as the author. I immediately reached over on my desk and got your photograph and showed him one of your letters, and told him of your being in Jacksboro in the early days, which interested him very much. He sent me a copy of the book and I have enjoyed it very much.

You may not remember me, but I had a few letters from you some time ago regarding the early days of Fort Richardson. In addition to publishing the newspaper here I have been a captain of Field Artillery, Texas National Guard, here since I was discharged from the army shortly after the World War ended, and the old fort is used by my organization, Battery "F" 131st F.A. The hospital building is my armory. I also have the commissary building, which is in good condition. ~~xxx~~ The second floor is very much like it was left by the troops, with exception of deterioration of time. The clothing bins are still intact, and have the names of articles stenciled on the doors as they were, perhaps, when you were here.

It was a great pleasure to me to get your book from Mr. Caldwell, and I would like to purchase any other books that you have written, or those of any other writer ^{living at Fort Richardson} if you will be so kind as to give me the names of the books and where it can be purchased.

I do not wish to tire you because I am sure your correspondence is heavy, but I would appreciate learning where I can purchase more books on the early days here. We who have served our government the past few years realize that we cannot comprehend the hardships, and the difficulties of the soldiers here in the early days but we are appreciative and wish to learn all we can of the actions, traditions, etc., of the men who made the present circumstances possible.

Very truly


J. R. Dennis

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JACKSBORO, TEXAS

October 6, 1930

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

Dear Captain Carter:

I am very grateful for your letter of the 27th and in which you remarked that you "wondered if any vestige of the officers line or men's quarters exist now", etc. Will say that three of the officers quarters are still standing but they are in very bad condition. Only one is in a habitable condition. There is nothing left to show where the mens' quarters were located. The hospital building is in good condition and as I have stated before is now being used as our armory. There is a small stone building about forty feet in the rear of the hospital building (west), about 12x16, that has been called the morgue. I wonder if you remember what this building was.

I have been trying to buy the buildings, and ground, of the old Fort Richardson but have been unable to do so. It is owned by a Mr. Foscue, who lives in Alabama, a non compos mentus, that has been confined in a private sanitarium for many years. His mother, who is now about eighty-five years of age, is his guardian, and she objects to selling the property for personal reasons.

I would appreciate having the books mentioned sent to me by express as you mentioned and I will assure you that every effort will be made to return them in as good condition as they are when shipped. I would probably want to copy a part, or all, of the "Massacre of Salt Creek Prairie" if you do not object, and probably parts of the other booklets for future reference.

The marker erected by the men of Troop "F" Fourth Cavalry, was burned several years ago. There is an effort being made now to raise funds for a permanent marker to be erected at that place and I am sure that this will be done in the near future.

The public library of this place has no record of having received the books mentioned and the postmaster of 1919 is not in position to give any information so I fear that the books have been lost.

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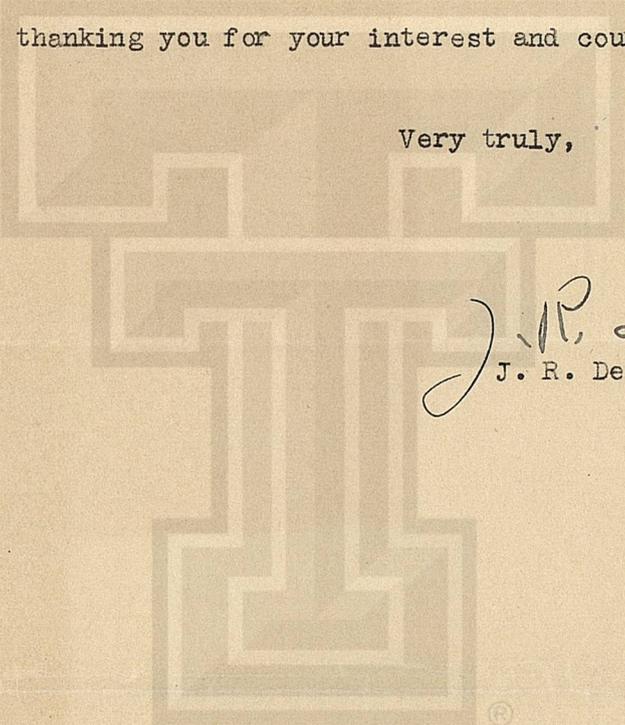
PRINTERS : PUBLISHERS : STATIONERS

JACKSBORO, TEXAS

I have a clipping of all that remains of the officers quarters that I am enclosing. This was taken from a newspaper story two or three years ago. Also, there is the latest picture of the hospital building.

Again thanking you for your interest and courtesy in writing me I remain,

Very truly,


J. R. Dennis
J. R. Dennis

The Jackshoro Gazette

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JACKSBORO, TEXAS

December 2, 1930

Captain R. G. Carter
c/o The Army and Navy Club
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:

I am returning your books "The Mackenzie Raid", Pursuit of Kicking Bird", "Massacre of Salt Creek", "The Art and Science of War" and "Tragedies of Canon Blanco", by express today.

I sincerely appreciate your kindness in sending these pamphlets to me. I would have returned them sooner but the school here is interested in the early history of the county and I let the superintendent use them in his classes for several days, and for use in compiling historical data. I wish there was some place that I could purchase copies of these books as I would like to have them in my library. I have purchased several copies of your book "The Old Sergeants Story". One copy was presented to the High School Library and one to the Public Library, putting one in my own library and giving two or three to some of my army friends.

Your stories of the indian fights and the dealings with the indians are very interesting to me for several reasons. In the first place I was intimately associated with them when a boy. My father moved to the indian territory when it was opened to settlers and homesteaded a claim. We lived on the Washita river between Cloud Chief and Mountain View for a time within a few miles of the home of Chief Big Tree. He was a "good indian" at that time. Then too, there was an indian company in my regiment during the war--the 142nd infantry, with an indian captain and lieutenant. The most impressive to me is your discussions of military training. It seems to me that a majority of the men will serve an entire enlistment and never realize that they are expected to learn to fight, and it is not their fault as the system of training seems to be for most any purpose other than training men to fight. I am also of the opinion that I would accomplish about as much butting my head against a brick wall as any one would trying to get any reforms in the army methods.

I am enclosing two stories that have been published in my paper this year that might be of interest to you. One is about Big Tree's death. The other is about Millie Durgan who was captured when two years of age. She visited here in October, with several of her indian relatives, spending some time with me at Fort Richardson.

The Jacksboro Gazette

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J. R. DENNIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

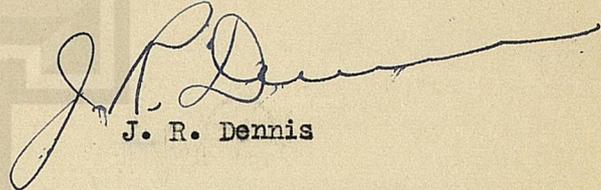
PRINTERS : PUBLISHERS : STATIONERS

JACKSBORO, TEXAS

I would be very glad if you will let me know if your books "Four Brothers in Blue" and "Revielle and Taps" can be purchased now,-- and where. Would like to purchase a copy of each.

Sometimes I wonder if so many writing you about your early experiences and asking for information does not worry you--and think perhaps I am imposing on you in writing and asking for so many favors, so I will make this letter short, but will in conclusion say again that I appreciate having the opportunity of reading the books listed in first paragraph.

Very truly,



J. R. Dennis

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JACKSBORO, TEXAS

January 16, 1931

Captain R. G. Carter,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Captain Carter:

I wish to beg your pardon for neglecting to acknowledge your letter of the 10th of December before this and thank you for the copy of "The Art and Science of War" which arrived some three or four days after the letter. I surely appreciate this autographed copy of your book. The delay was not because of a lack of appreciation, but the usual holiday rush and my oldest son took pneumonia, and all else was neglected for some time. The rush is over and the family has all recovered and I am now trying to attend to everything that has been neglected. I am also thankful for the Christmas greeting card that we received.

Replying to your inquiry concerning General McAlexander, will state that I did not serve under the general as he commanded the 90th division, or possibly a brigade of that division, and received decorations while with that unit. I served in Co. "G" 142nd Infantry, of the 36th division. General Greble commanded the division during the period training at Camp Bowie, Texas, and General Wm R. Smith, now commandant at West Point commanded in France. General John A. Hulen had the 71st Brigade. He is Major General of the the 36th division, which you will remember remember, was at that time, and is still the Texas National Guard division.

I am not equipped to print books, or rather bind them. I can get out pamphlets of any size up to about one hundred pages. I do not know whether a book would be profitable, but right at this time there seems to be a great interest in getting the early history of the state, especially by the state schools. The Texas State University and others are buying all of the old newspaper files that are for sale. A representative of the university came from Austin recently and wanted to buy all of my files of the Gazette for their library.

There are several of the stories listed that I would be very glad to publish in the Gazette and could use the same type in publishing pamphlets. If I had the manuscript I could list the subjects, make an estimate of the cost of printing, say 1000 copies, and get the cost of binding from a Dallas bindery, and write the various schools and see if there was a possibility of selling enough to pay the cost of printing, etc. Each story could be published in pamphlet form or all of them assem-

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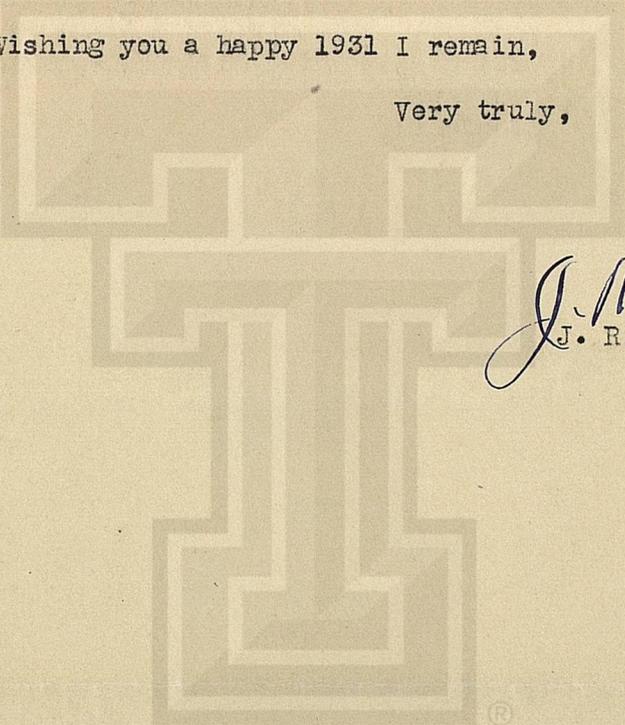
PRINTERS : PUBLISHERS : STATIONERS

JACKSBORO, TEXAS

bled when completed and bound into one book. This would be an economical way of having the printing done as I would not care to make a profit if I could only get the book in circulation. I would appreciate suggestions, or criticisms, of this plan. I feel quite sure that as time passes this book would sooner or later be appreciated.

Wishing you a happy 1931 I remain,

Very truly,



J. R. Dennis
J. R. Dennis.

The Jacksboro Gazette

ESTABLISHED IN 1890

J. R. DENNIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

PRINTERS : PUBLISHERS : STATIONERS

JACKSBORO, TEXAS

January 16, 1933

Captain R. G. Carter,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Captain Carter:

I surely appreciated the autographed Memorandum that you sent me Christmas. It was so very interesting that I re-produced the same in my paper, The Jacksboro Gazette, January 12th. Am enclosing herewith the first page of the issue. Several local people have told me they read the article and were glad to hear of you again. One lady in particular, Mrs. F. G. Huckabay, a daughter of the Lasater family sated that her grand parents knew you. Her grand parents are now deceased.

I am still in command of the battery of Field Artillery, of the Texas National Guard at the old fort (Fort Richardson). We have made some repairs the past year and hope that we can at some future time make arrangements to preserve the remaining buildings. Since the last time I wrote you I have leased the commissary building. It contains the old original floors. The second floor of the room on the south end still has the lockers as they were left by the troops when the fort was abandoned. The stenceling is clear---for instance on one door is gloves, another spurs, etc. I am trying to keep this as it is.

Again thankig you for the memorandum and hoping to hear from you, I remain,

very truly,


J. R. Dennis

29 March, 1929.

Mr. J. R. Dennis,
Jacksboro,
Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your very kind letter of the 23rd with valuable enclosures, was received with much pleasure and was most warmly appreciated. Please accept my cordial thanks for your generous thought.

It was my intention to visit West Texas last year, and take in the old posts where I was stationed over 50 years ago, especially Forts Concho, Griffin, Richardson, McKavett and Clark, but I became too ill to make such a long trip and the doctors advised that I should not attempt it.

I am now in my 84th year and probably am the only living officer who served at Fort Richardson during those early days. The post was built by Lieut. H. B. Mellen of the 6th Cavalry and occupied Nov. 26, 1867. It was abandoned May 23, 1879. It was originally intended for a 5 company post, but at various times there were 10 companies of cavalry and at least 4 companies of infantry; some of the cavalry being in camp up the creek in Lost Valley. Most of the officers' quarters were built of pecan pickets, cut near Decatur, there being but 5 frame buildings for the officers. The hospital and commissary buildings being of stone. All of the corrals, stables, non-commissioned officers and laundress quarters were of pickets, and there were many tents pitched at both the north and south ends of the post. The 4th Cavalry relieved a battalion of the 6th Cavalry under Major Arnold in April 1871 - the headquarters and balance of the 6th under Col. James Oakes having started on their long march overland to Kansas a few days before our arrival from Fort Concho.

I am enclosing two pictures of the post made in 1872 - one of a general view from Jacksboro, by a photographer from Weatherford. Two of my daughters were born there, - one on June 21, 1871 in a picket house, shown in picture, the other in the tent (north end) shown in the picture, on Nov. 14, 1872, during a howling "Norther", so

bad that I had to send over to barracks for some of my men to hold on to the guy ropes. From this post we made our first Indian expedition across the Red River, up the North Fork and the Sweetwater to near where Fort Elliott was later located. I was General Mackenzie's adjutant. Late, in 1872, 4 and 5 we scouted all over the Texas Panhandle and across the "Staked Plains" to Fort Sumner, finally succeeding in driving the Comanches, Kiowas, Cheyennes and Arapahoes into the Fort Sill reservation but not until we had had some 13 actions, destroyed all of their villages and captured all of their ponies - some 2200 - all of which we killed after driving them out of the Palo Duro Canyon across the plains to the head of Tule Creek where we shot them. Their bones are still there on what is now known as the "Rogers ranch".

I escorted Gen. Sherman into the post on May 17, 1871, the day before the "Salt Creek Massacre", about 4 or 5 miles beyond "Rock Station". We had Satanta and Big Tree - Kiowas chiefs - prisoners at the post in double irons from June until November and I was present at their trial in the court house at Jacksboro, for murder. They were convicted but upon recommendation of Gov. Daviss, the Fort Sill Indian agent, the Judge and Gen. Sherman, their sentence was commuted. The guard house was close to the creek and only a short distance southwest of the hospital. The settlers in Jacksboro had declared that they should not go to trial and they had resolved to kill them while en route across the creek to Jacksboro. I was post adjutant and in daily conference with the District Attorney who was a Mr. Lanham from Weatherford and was prosecuting the case. He later came here to Congress and became Governor of Texas. His son is here now.

Lanham was perplexed as to how we would get the prisoners from the guard house across the creek and to the courthouse. I suggested that I take two reliefs of the guard, about 30 men, and placing them between the prisoners and the guard house screen them all the way. The would-be killers did not want to kill any of the guard, so we landed them safely. Late in September 1872 I received these Indians at Dallas from the Huntsville penitentiary and took them to Atoka then in the Indian nation and the terminal of the M. K. & T. R.R. and turned them over to the Indian Commissioners for a trip to St. Louis and Washington. In 1878 Satanta killed himself and is buried in the cemetery at the Huntsville penitentiary.

27 September, 1930.

Captain J. R. Dennis,
Jacksboro,
Texas.

My dear Captain Dennis:

Yours of the 19th instant received. Was glad to hear from you again and to know that you had seen and read my last published book, "The Old Sergeant's Story".

I recall our correspondence with very great pleasure and of your thoughtful consideration in sending me picture of the Post Hospital and Commissary buildings, which I have filed away with my Fort Richardson memoirs of those days to which you refer -- "the hardships and difficulties in the early days" -- the frontier days of the covered wagon and of Indian campaigns. I served at Fort Richardson two years and two of my daughters were born there, - one in a pecan picket shack and the other in a wall tent during a howling "Norther", both shown in "The Old Sergeant's Story". I wonder sometimes if any vestige of the officers line or men's quarters exist now after the lapse of nearly 60 years.

You refer to my other books relating to those days and connected with those old posts -- Richardson, Concho, Griffin, McKavett and Fort Clark as bases.

In 1919 I wrote 5 or 6 monographs, all relating to our scouts and actions extending to the North Fork of Red River and the Sweetwater, the Fresh Fork of the Brazos, including our campaign in the Texas Panhandle, our raid into Mexico, etc. They were privately printed in small editions of 200, all of which I distributed to public and military libraries and to my brother officers in the regular service. I sent copies to San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Amarillo, and I am quite sure to the "Public Library at Jacksboro" -- (adding - "or to the postmaster at Jacksboro should there be no library"), and to other points in Texas -- Denton, Decatur, Weatherford, etc.

I never received any acknowledgments of these gifts, which, as you could readily see, was rather discouraging. They are as follows:- "Massacre of Salt Creek Prairie and The Cowboy's Verdict"; "Pursuit of Kicking Bird - A Campaign in the Texas Bad Lands"; "Tragedies of Canon Blanco, A Story of the Texas Panhandle"; "On the Trail of Deserters, A Phenomenal Capture" (this story you have read as the opening chapter of The Old Sergeant's Story); "The Mackenzie Raid into Mexico"; "The Art and Science of War versus The Art of Fighting"; etc. All of these stories are now, of course, out of print, and I have only retained my personal copies.

The massacre of Salt Creek prairie took place, as perhaps you know, about half-way between Jacksboro and Fort Griffin on the Belknap road -- say 24 miles from Jacksboro -- a few miles from "Rock Station", where I had met Gen. Sherman the day before with an escort of the Fourth Cavalry. Satanta Setank and Big Tree were arrested at Fort Sill by order of Gen. Sherman and brought down to Jacksboro, indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced to death. I was present at the trial in the old court house. We held Satanta and Big Tree prisoners at Fort Richardson until November. Setank having been killed by the "Old Sergeant" as we left Fort Sill.

The men killed were all Jacksboro freighters of Henry Warren's corn train. The spot was marked by Troop F, Fourth Cavalry, but I understand the wooden marker disappeared years ago. Can you give me any information as to whether any substantial marker has ever replaced it.

These books cost me to print from 70 cents to \$1.00 per copy. A few months ago I saw one of them catalogued by a New York dealer at \$10.00.

Now I would like to have you see and read these books since you seem to have manifested so much interest in the traditions and early events of those days in and about that locality of Jacksboro. They are, however, not for sale, since I would not know how to replace these personal copies. I would be willing, however, to send you the set by express, to be returned to me when you have read them at your leisure, and will do this as soon as I get a favorable response to this letter. I kept a diary; have spent a good deal of time in

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recording the events of those days, and am the only surviving officer of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry who has ever given any time to this work.

I have had many calls for these books, especially, "The Mackenzie Raid into Mexico", which the present generation of officers of our Army seem to know nothing about. In the meantime, will you please make some inquiries about "Jack" especially among past postmasters or at the library (?) to see if you can get trace of those copies I mailed there over ten years ago.

Thanking you for your nice letter which was most warmly appreciated, I am

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter,
Captain, U. S. Army, retired.

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10 December, 1930.

Captain J. R. Dennis,
Jacksboro, Texas.

Dear Captain Dennis:

The books arrived in good condition. I intended to present you with a copy of "The Art and Science of War" and an enclosing one now. The other books are out of print. I think I can secure you a copy of "Four Brothers in Blue", although it was printed in 1913 and is now, of course, out of print. "Reveille and Taps, or on the Border with Mackenzie" is in MS. It has never been published, although it has been in the hands of several publishers. Doubleday, Doran & Co. declare that it is "unique, valuable and interesting", but from a commercial point of view believe it would not justify the expense, as the sales would be too small, confined locally to Texas, Oklahoma, and parts of the southwest. It was last in the hands of Turner & Co., Dallas, Texas.

It contains all of the monographs you have read, including "On The Trail of Deserters", but much more relating to the campaign of 1872 to McClellan's Creek, and also the campaigns of 1874 and 1875, with the final wind up of the Indians in the Texas Panhandle, the actions in Canons Blanco, Tule and Palo Duro, and many other unpublished chapters of our service along that border, such as, "The Wedding Tour of an Army Bride"; "Recollections of an Indian Reservation (Fort Sill)"; "A Midnight Council on the Fort Sill Trail"; (Mrs. Forrestine (Cooper) Hooker in a story, "Cricket", published several years ago, credits me with saving the entire garrison at Fort Sill from massacre by disobeying my orders and taking the two Kiowa Chiefs, Satanta and Big Tree to Atoka in Sept. 1872, instead of Fort Sill where there were 3,000 well armed Comanches, Kiowas, Cheyennes and Arapaho Indians ready for war and only 300 men in the garrison); "An unwilling Witness"; "Garrison Life at a Frontier Post", etc., etc.

The chapter relating to our last campaign 1874-1875 has only been partially given in "The Old Sergeant's Story". The entire story is now given from my journals. I have now changed the title to "On the Border with Mackenzie or Winning the West".

Are you equipped to publish this book as outlined, -- a book of about 450 pages all relating to the period 1870 to 1875 inclusive. All the publicity necessary for its handling could be done through

the "Frontier Times" published at Bandera, Texas, and "Winners of the West" published by the National Indian War Society of the United States", at St. Joseph, Mo.

I was much interested in the account of Big Tree's death; also of Millie D^{ix}gan's captivity.

About a year ago I got a letter from the eldest of the German sisters who were captured by Grey Beards band of Cheyennes on Sept. 17, 1874 and recaptured Mar. 1, 1875 by Capt. Frank D. Baldwin, Fifth U. S. Infantry (Miles command) on McClellan's Creek. She wanted to know if I could tell her where they were taken at night into one of the Canons and in which they were kept several days.

Was your regiment in France under the command of Gen. U. G. McAlexander, whose regiment, the 38th Infantry, fought two German shock divisions for five days at the second crossing of the Marne, July 15, 1918, in their effort to push for Paris up to the Sourmelin Valley. They swarmed on his front and up both flanks and were driven back across the river with heavy losses in killed, wounded and prisoners. He was called the "Rock of the Marne" and later commanded a Texas brigade. His portrait hangs in the Capital at Austin. Later I will send you a correspondence I had with him, - after he had read my booklet "The Art of Fighting". He is now a retired major general, living in Oregon, and was decorated by all the allied countries and given the Medal of Honor by our government.

Mr. Powell writes me that he is very familiar with the Panhandle country around Spur Ranch, Canon Blanco, etc.; has seen the bronze plate in Spur Inn with my name on it as "deserving especially honor", etc., but never associated me with it until our correspondence. He has been on Soldiers Mound just north of Spur, but several years ago when Mr. C. B. Jones proposed placing the bronze memorial at Spur neither he nor any one in Spur knew what it was. We hauled all of our supplies from Fort Griffin 140 miles away on the Clear Fork of the Brazos, one wagon train going and one coming all the time from Sept. 1874 to January 1875. Seven companies of the 10th & 11th Infantry guarded these trains and the Supply Camp in command of Major (later Major General) T. M. Anderson, 10th Infantry. Everything was dumped at Soldiers Mound, although we

Honored.

The publisher of the Gazette has received a booklet, "Army and Navy Legion of Valor of the U. S.," with memorandum of Captain R. G. Carter, U. S. Army, retired.

Captain Carter is probably the only surviving officer who served at Fort Richardson during the time it was occupied by Federal troops, following the Civil War. As a young officer he came to this place with his of only a few months, living in a tent until officers quarters were built. He participated in a number of Indian fights and received numerous decorations for gallantry. He served as adjutant of the fort and was in command of the detachment that brought the Indians from Fort Sill to Jacksboro for the celebrated trial held here. He is now in his eighty-seventh year and resides at the Army and Navy Club at Washington, D. C.

The Memorandum of the Military services of Captain Carter is as follows:

I. Civil War—22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, August 5, 1862, to October 4, 1864—1st Brigade, 1st Division, 5th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. In all principal battles from Antietam up to and including Siege of Petersburg. Youngest of four brothers, two of whom served from First Bull Run to Appomattox Court House.

II. Graduate U. S. Military Academy, Class 1870.

III. Indian Wars—Congressional Medal of Honor for "Most distinguished gallantry in action" with (Qua-ha-da) Comanche Indians, Freshwater Fork, Brazos River, Texas, October 10, 1871.

IV. Brevet First Lieutenant for "Specially Gallant Conduct" in action with Indians, October 10, 1871. (Held several hundred Indians in check until the command came to my rescue, with five men—one man killed, two wounded; his horse shot, fell on him and crushed his leg. Rode five days on trail with leg in splints.)

V. Personal thanks and congratulations of General R. S. Mackenzie then commanding Fourth U. S. Cavalry, and General James A. Hardie, then Assistant Inspector General, U. S. Army, and confidential military aide to President Lincoln during the Civil War, who was then on a tour of inspection of the Western frontier, for the capture of ten deserters and three civilians.

VI. Special Letter of Thanks and Commendation from Major General Commanding Department of Texas, Jan. 4, 1872, expressing "Gratification and Special Commendation" for "zeal and ability" in capture of ten deserters and three civilians after a 200-mile march during a heavy sleeting "norther." (Record capture of any military department of the United States.)

VII. Joint resolution by legislature of State of Texas, called into extra session by the Governor, expressing "The Grateful Thanks" of its people for "prompt action and gallant conduct in inflicting well merited punishment upon these scourges (Indians) of our frontier," etc.

VIII. Thanks and congratulations for "Gallant and successful attack upon the combined camps of hostile Indians" at Remolina, Mexico (Coahuila) and for "the very handsome manner in which they accomplished this perilous and difficult work," published in G. O. 6, June 2, 1873. Headquarters Department of Texas.

IX. Report of General R. S. Mackenzie to Department Headquarters—"All the officers * * * acted handsomely" and "deserve consideration" after "the terribly hard ride" in attack upon hostile (Indian) camps and a march of 160 miles in 32 hours with pack train, wounded men, captured women and children, ponies, et cetera.

X. Brevet Captain for "gallant services in action" with confederated bands of Lipan, Kickapoo and Mescalero Apache Indians at Remolina, Mexico, May 18, 1873. (Note—In this action he is credited by eye witnesses with the killing of two Indians and saving the

life of a Captain just as one of these Indians brought his rifle down and shot at him from a distance of 15 feet; the shot throwing up his rifle as he pulled trigger.)

XI. Bronze plate voluntarily placed by the pioneers of the Texas "Panhandle" in the lobby of "Spur Inn," Spur, Dickens County (on the "Staked Plains," Mackenzie Trail) commemorating the events of campaigns of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry from 1871 to 1875 and citing Captain R. G. Carter as being "especially worthy of honor." Unveiled August 18, 1928.

XII. Silver Star Citation under provisions of G. O. No. 6, June 2, 1873, H'd Q's Dep't of Texas.

Capt. R. G. Carter Has Had A Colorful Military Career

Nat. Tribune, Dec 8, 1932

Few veterans have had a more colorful military career than Capt. R. G. Carter, U. S. Army, retired, who makes his home at the Army and Navy Club in Washington. Despite his advanced age, Capt. Carter is still quite active and delights in regaling his younger friends with reminiscences of the Civil War and expeditions against the Indians. A memorandum of his military career follows:

Civil War—22d Mass., Aug 5, 1862, to Oct. 4, 1864—First Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. In all principal battles from Antietam up to and including siege of Petersburg. Youngest of four brothers, two of whom served from First Bull Run to Appomattox Court House.

Graduate U. S. Military Academy, class 1870.

Indian Wars—Congressional Medal of Honor for "most distinguished gallantry in action" with (Qua-ha-da) Comanche Indians, Freshwater Fork, Brazos River, Tex., Oct. 10, 1871.

Brevet first lieutenant for "specially gallant conduct" in action with Indians Oct. 10, 1871. (Held several hundred Indians in check until the command came to my rescue, with five men—one man killed, two wounded; my horse shot, fell on me and crushed my leg. Rode five days on trail with leg in splints.)

Personal thanks and congratulations of Gen. R. S. Mackenzie, then commanding 4th U. S. Cav., and Gen. Jas. A. Hardie, then assistant inspector general and confidential military aide to President Lincoln during the Civil War, who was then on a tour of inspection of the western frontier, for the capture of 10 deserters and three civilians.

Special letter of thanks and commendation from major general commanding Department of Texas, Jan. 4, 1872, expressing "gratification and special commendation" for "zeal and ability" in capture of 10 deserters and three civilians after a 200-mile march during a heavy sleeting "norther." (Record capture of any military department of the United States.)

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Joint resolution by legislature of State of Texas, called into extra session by the governor, expressing "the grateful thanks" of its people for "prompt action and gallant conduct in inflicting well-merited punishment upon these scourges (Indians) of our frontier," etc.

Thanks and congratulations for "gallant and successful attack upon the combined camps of hostile Indians" at Remolina, Mexico (Coahuila), and for "the very handsome manner in which they accomplished this perilous and difficult work," published in G. O. 6, June 2, 1873, headquarters, Department of Texas.

Report of Gen. R. S. Mackenzie to department headquarters: "All the officers * * * acted handsomely" and "deserve consideration" after "the terribly hard ride" in attack upon hostile (Indian) camps and a march of 160 miles in 32 hours with pack train, wounded men, captured women and children, ponies, etc.

Brevet captain for "gallant services in action" with confederated bands of Lipan, Kickapoo, and Mescalero Apache Indians at Remolina, Mexico, May 18, 1873.

Bronze plate voluntarily placed by the pioneers of the Texas "Panhandle" in the lobby of "Spur Inn," Spur, Dickens County (on the "Staked Plains," Mackenzie Trail), commemorating the events of campaigns of the 4th U. S. Cav. from 1871 to 1875; and citing Capt. R. G. Carter as being "especially worthy of honor." Unveiled Aug. 18, 1928.

JACKSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

O. B. POWELL, SUPERINTENDENT
JACKSBORO, TEXAS

Dec. 1, 1930

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

Dear Captain Carter:

Your card and the pictures came to me Friday last. Merely writing my appreciation to you seems a bit meager for the favor that you have shown us in getting the pictures for our museum. I have not found any one in Jacksboro nor this community that even as much as knew that a picture of Old Fort Richardson was preserved. Capt. Dennis, of the local battery here, had learned of it through you and your books.

I am sending you my check for \$3.00, Captain Carter, which I understand from your memorandum covers the expense of the picture printing. I can't see how you got this done for so little cost. It costs me \$1.75 for an 11 X 14 enlargement from a negative and the work is not so good as the work you sent.

I have read each of your little booklets through the courtesy of Capt. Dennis. I agree with you and many other men who have sacrificed much without honors being awarded them while others waived undeserved honors before public acclamation. Forgetting this, however, Captain Carter, I imagine that it is great to have so many interesting things to while away memory when the end is near as it must be getting to be with you. I should rather have a mind thus filled with the memories of an active experience gained at an early day to enjoy when my life nears its end than any thing I can conceive of. Perhaps this is true with you. Anyway you have served this community again after a lapse of over half a century. One time as the soldier patriot; another, as a benefactor in assisting to acquaint the young of today with the hardships in giving them their opportunity. This is the way I think of it anyway.

Captain Carter, I have seen the memorial in the Spur Inn that you mentioned but never associated it with you till I have had this correspondence with you. My people have lived near Espula, or the old Spur Ranch since 1908. I have seen many of the marks left by McKenzie and his men. A few years ago I was present when the Legion dug up the remains of a soldier eleven miles west of Spur, on my brothers farm, and gave it a military burial. The soldier was one of McKenzie's men but I do not recall the name. I taught my first school eleven miles east of Lubbock and while

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O. B. POWELL, SUPERINTENDENT
JACKSBORO, TEXAS

passing away the time there in 1911 would often go with the old cowmen and listen to the tales they told of encounters on the Blanco Canyon where McKenzie watched the Indians leave. I have been on Soldiers Mound, just north of Spur, many times and tried to imagine just how it all took place. After reading your pamphlets, I want to return and think it all over again.

My grandfather fought Indians all through that country with settler leaders who were often outlaws but unknown as such by the citizens. He was with John R. Baylor on two different expeditions. This was in the early sixties as I recall. My father was a cow-puncher from Stevens County through the plains all during the seventies and sixties. He went with various parties who were surveying that region, assisted in carrying the chain, and was to receive land from Buckner and other surveyors for such service. As was usual he never received such land or could not establish his claim to such.

Pardon this lengthy acknowledgment. After you have been so kind to me and have mentioned so many things that I have wanted to know, I feel like that I am personally acquainted with you.

I deeply appreciate the photographs of yourself. They make the whole exhibit more realistic.

Again thanking you deeply for your kindness, I am,

Very truly yours,

O. B. Powell

JACKSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

O. B. POWELL, SUPERINTENDENT
JACKSBORO, TEXAS

Jan. 20, 1931

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

Dear Captain Carter:

I hate to be such an imposter on the good nature that I have found in you but there are two or three other things that I need from you in case you can be so kind as to furnish them. I am not there to take you around to some high stepping place and stand the drinks before you or to take in a good show or perhaps a fine smoke but I am inclosing a check for you to have a good smoke and take in the show besides. Do this on me.

What I want now is this. Do you know who bore the expense of trying Satanta and Big Tree here? I have looked the county records through and cannot find one single expense item allowed for this trial in any form. The early officers records contain accounts of trials both before and after this case. The clerk and treasurer paid out accounts to the sheriff, jury, officers at the old fort for guarding various prisoners, etc., all around this time but the records are as silent as the toms relative to any expense attached to this trial. The minutes of the commissioners court contain itemised accounts of expense allowed in cases just before and just after this case but they too, are silent about this case No. 224. I find a short and brief report of the case in the District Clerk's office but the original papers are gone. I thought perhaps the Government might have turned the case over to the civil courts for trial but have borne the expense themselves.

Another thing. In one of your letters to me you mentioned the fact that you had a picture of Weatherford made in about 1871. If you have that, I am wondering if you could have a copy made for me. Since beginning this study I find that my great-grandfather is buried in Weatherford, right on the court house lawn. When he first came to Weatherford, (or Parker County, there was no Weatherford) he took as his claim all of the territory on which Weatherford now stands. He was buried in the old cemetery and his grave was never moved when the town was laid out in lots in 1856. That makes that country sacred history to me. I did not know this till I talked with my last living Uncle a short while back. My great-grandfather came first to Parker County in about 1850. He was a veteran of some Indian war and was allowed to take up public land as a reward for his services and chose to come to Texas. He was from Georgia and I believe fought in some Indian war from that State. I have not worked this out.

I am sorry to bother you again but if you can give me something on either of the above points I shall appreciate it most thoroughly. Best regards.

O. B. Powell

P.S. You may not have a negative of the picture of Weatherford. If not I shall gladly loan the expense of having it made, also the print. I can send you a check to get this in, with a check for the expense of my conversation with you in the early days of Parker!

JACKSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

O. B. POWELL, SUPERINTENDENT
JACKSBORO, TEXAS

April 20, 1931

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

Dear Captain Carter:

I did not intend bothering you more but a recent trip brought back so much of what you have related in our correspondence that I wanted to write you again.

I was recently up near Plainview and came back through the Canyon south and east of Crosbytown and thence through the old "Es Pula" Ranch and to Spur. I think that I told you before that my grandfather was a pioneer scout and Indian runner during the early days in this territory. My brother now owns a considerable tract of land out eleven miles west of Spur on Dockum Creek. It was on his land that Kilpatrick, one of McKenzie's men, was buried and recently excavated and given a military burial by the American Legion at Spur. While out there we went up on Soldiers Mound and viewed the country from every direction. I did not know just the direction that Anderson built his ~~farm~~ from Soldiers Mound but in brousing around east and south for about a mile or more my brother and I ran onto old cans and rubbish that indicated early types of cans and on further prowling about I picked up a double handful of old long brass cartridge hulls, such as we find occasionally here about old Fort Richardson. These old hulls represented almost every type of pistol and rifle shell. Some rim fire and some center fire. We also found two or three old lead bullets and a half of an old brass bullet mould. I took them down to Spur and showed them to C. B. Jones, Jr., and he said they were of the same type and caliber that were being picked up by the boys further up the Canyon on the old "Es Pula" Ranch. I brought them home and have placed them in my exhibit here.

There are five or six soldiers graves right on top of Soldiers Mound, also one Indian grave with the inscription on a big rock over it, "A Indian is buried here, 1874." The soldier graves have all been dug into during time but if they have been exhumed Mr. Jones did not know about it.

From old records that my brother has preserved from my grandfather it is shown that he and a number of other men were hunting through that country when McKenzie made his expedition through there and joined McKenzie as scouts. My grandfather, *A. B. Powell* → Billy Powell, a man by the name of J. W. Elkins and another by the name of Henry W. Strong were among a hunting and scouting party from Erath and Parker County up in there and joined Mc-

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O. B. POWELL, SUPERINTENDENT
JACKSBORO, TEXAS

Kenzie and spent some time camping along with the soldiers. My grandfather, known as Uncle Billie Powell at the time, was a veteran of the Creek and Indian War and was with John R. Baylor on many of his Indian raids at an earlier day than when McKenzie routed the Indians in the 70's.

Do you recall any hunting parties that you men encountered up in there at any time. I have an Uncle still living that remembers this expedition as he heard my Grandfather recount it and he relates quite a deal of historical happenings that occurred along during this same time.

Captain Carter, are there any records in the archives at Washington in any form that trace the ancestry of the settlers in America? My Great Grandfather, Isaac Powell, seemed to have come from England of Scotch-Irish descent, along about the time of the coming of the Lees' and Randolphs' to Virginia and went on into Georgia and settled there about the time of the Oglethorpe settlements. He was married in Georgia or Virginia and my grandfather was married in Georgia in 1838. My Great Grandfather and my Grandfather came to Arkansas in the 40's thence to Texas and settled in Parker County in 1853. I should be very glad to have my family history if it could possibly be found. My Grandmother's people were named Jones on the male side and Horn on her side. Her husband was a veteran of the War of 1812 and was named Joseph or Henry Jones as best we can recall. My Grandmother was named Jennie Jones and she received a pension for quite a while before her death. *Her people lived at Jones Mills, Ala. after the Civil War.*

If there are any genealogies there giving the history of either of these two families, the Powell or Jones, I should like to learn of it.

Too, I noticed in the Frontier Times where a year or so ago you advertised a map of Texas that showed the early cattle trails and the stage routes and early Fortes in Texas. Would it be possible for me to get hold of one of those maps for our exhibit here?

Another thing. Captain Dennis had two or three pamphlets from you some time back, one dealing with MacKenzie's raids in the 70's. I did not have time to read that then. I wonder if it would be possible to get those pamphlets from you to read and study? I shall soon start my vacation and will have time to read them.

I assure you that I shall appreciate any attention that you can give to this letter. I trust that you are well and enjoying a share of life's pleasures.

Very truly yours,

O. B. Powell

*C. B. Jones, Jr. of Sp... said
send you his best regards
Powell*

18 November, 1930.

Mr. O. B. Powell,
Superintendent of Schools,
Jacksboro, Texas.

Dear Sir:

In your letter you asked me if I had any pictures of old Jacksboro, and to give you, if possible, a description of the town as it looked in those days when we first saw it. I never had any pictures made of the main street or of any buildings. The pictures of Fort Richardson, which I am sending you, were made for my wife by a travelling artist from Weatherford, and are probably the only ones in existence today. The 6x8 is a contact negative made from a fourth copy since the original negative was developed. I have taken great pains to preserve and reproduce this picture of one of the posts while serving in Texas, but more especially as the spot where my two oldest daughters were born.

Jacksboro was first occupied by our troops (6th U.S. Cavalry) after the Civil War on July 4, 1866, and were commanded by Major and brevet Colonel S. H. Starr, who was familiarly known throughout the Army as "Paddy" Starr. He has his headquarters in a tent at the northwest corner of the square, surrounded by a stockade. At that period there were only two tumbledown old buildings on the north side of the square, one of which was occupied as a grocery, in the rear of which was a stone building used as the Sutler store. A stuccoed building stood on the north east corner of the square, an old frame on the northwest corner, a dilapidated "rawhide" house on the west side, used as a court house, and a dozen or more log houses scattered around the edge of the town.

There was a rock building which stood on the south side of the square which had been originally used as a store below and a Masonic hall on the second floor. It was converted into a commissary storehouse for the command. There was a rude stone building south of the town, used as a jail -- not far from the creek -- and that was used as the Quartermaster's "depot" of supplies.

These troops were first quartered in "A" tents, some of them pitched on the square, - one company about the southeast corner of the square and the other in the rear of the west side

of the square. The cavalry stables stood on the south side of the square running south, the only other building on that side being the two story stone structure which stood until 1886 -- replaced by a new building.

This was all before Fort Richardson was built. In 1867 two or three log houses had been built on the square and then it was determined to house all of the command for the winter. Chopping parties were sent out and fine sets of quarters were put up. They were 14 x 20 feet in size, 7 feet high. Six huts for each troop. They stood in the middle of the square facing to the south and were originated and built by soldier labor. A trench, 1 foot wide and 1 foot deep, was dug; four extra sized posts were placed at the corners; then the remainder of the pickets (green pecans) from 4 to 6 inches thru, were sawed a proper length and set in the ditch or trench, side by side; a "plate" was spiked on top to hold them together; then a roof, slightly inclined, was made by laying poles side by side, the interstices filled with twigs and the whole covered thickly with dirt. The spaces in the walls were "chinked" with chips and freely plastered with mud. Doors were made from quartermaster packing boxes, hung with leather hinges; there was a huge fire place; the hut was quickly finished. It continued to rain 48 hours inside after the rain had ceased to fall outside.

When the Fourth U. S. Cavalry relieved the Sixth Cavalry in 1871, four years later, the post had been built, begun by Lieut. H. B. Mellon in December 1867 and finished the next spring, 1868. A court house had been built in 1870. A post office, frame building, was in operation; mail three times weekly via Weatherford, by stage. A frame store -- Eastburn -- opposite the post office was flourishing and much of the lawlessness soon subsided under General Mackenzie's firm guidance. In April 1867 Jacksboro as a military post had been ordered to be abandoned, two companies going to Buffalo Springs about 20 miles north of Jacksboro and four companies to old Fort Belknap, 40 miles due west, and on the line of the old Overland stage line to California, operated by Butterworth.

About December 1867 it having been found that there would be a scarcity of water at Buffalo Springs and at "Camp Wichita" -- just north -- a board of officers declared that Jacksboro should be selected for the site of the new post and having selected a site preliminary work was begun at once, one company having been sent in from Buffalo Springs, but it was not until about March following that construction had gotten

well under way and it was about this time or early in 1870 that a court house was built. The builder was D. W. Patton, who died in 1877. This was in the middle of the square and was the one in which the Indian chiefs Sa-tan-ta and Big Chief were tried in July 1871. The court house was replaced, I think, about 1886. The town filled up, saloons and stores were built, and while thousands of dollars were disbursed in the building of Fort Richardson, - it was about the liveliest town along that line of the Texas border.

The picket huts for the officers were shingled, and larger and better built than the log pickets in the square at Jacksboro, which, when the Fourth Cavalry arrived in 1871, had all disappeared. There were about 150 carpenters and mechanics employed in building the post who received from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day, and every available enlisted man was employed, when not on military service, on "extra duty", and paid 40 cents per day. When the confederated bands of Comanche, Kiowas, Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians were forced into the Fort Sill reservation in 1875-6 and the buffalo began to be slaughtered for their hides, thus removing any further incentive for the Indians to stay out in the field, there soon began to be no further use for any of these military posts, and nearly all were abandoned by 1883 -- Fort Richardson in 1879. Those included Fort Griffin, Stockton, Davis, Concho, McKavett and Bliss, - Fort Clark only being retained.

I left Fort Richardson in March 1873 for Fort Clark and was never again stationed there. Our service from that time on was in the Texas Panhandle and on the Staked Plains, where a bronze plate was placed two years ago over the fireplace in the lobby of "S pur Inn" at Spur, Dickens County, Texas, commemorating the events and service of the Fourth Cavalry directly on the "Mackenzie Trail", with a record of 13 actions on or near the "Spur Ranch" to the east of Canons Blanco, Yule and the Palo Duro.

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter,
Captain, U.S.A., Ret.

9 December, 1930.

Mr. O. B. Powell,
Superintendent of Schools,
Jacksboro, Texas.

Dear Mr. Powell:

Your letter received. I assure you it has afforded me the very greatest pleasure in furnishing you the material you asked for and for the objects you set forth, and at such slight cost.

The work was done by the Pictorial Division of the U. S. Signal Corps at cost, and those 11 x 14 enlargements were made for 40 cents from a contact negative of a fourth copy of the original, of which, as you state, I am the only survivor out of 45 officers then stationed at Fort Richardson, or who were with us on our many Indian expeditions, who possesses that picture. The Signal Corps does the best copy work in the country. It is said to be unfadeable. Many of their battle scenes in France are used in the battle films.

You say that you feel as though you were "personally acquainted" with me. In a letter recently received from C. B. Jones, jr., now Manager of the Spur Ranch, he says, "I feel now as though you were one of us and I have placed your picture over the bronze plate in the lobby of "Spur Inn" directly on your (the Mackenzie) Trail". I am glad that you have seen the memorial to our gallant officers and men of the old Fourth Cavalry who made that trail -- the first column of cavalry to cross the Staked Plains to old Forts Sumner and Bascom, New Mexico -- and while the killing of the buffalo was one of the determining factors in the settlement of the Indian question, I shall always feel that our success in destroying the Indian villages in Canons Blanco, Tule and the Palo Duro; the capture of their ponies and killing all at the head of Tule Canon, thus crippling them so that they could not hunt their game, was the real deciding factor and really what opened up that vast region to settlement, progressive civilization and material prosperity.

The coming of the railroads completed our task, but without our aid in guarding the railroad surveying parties even they could not have made much progress over that then wild and desolate region. The plains or pony Indian deprived of his

bunch of ponies -- and mount -- was about as helpless afoot as a land turtle. It deprived them of the means of hunting buffalo or any game. That is why in the surprise and destruction of their villages, and their food stores, especially in winter, and the killing of all their ponies, we sought to cripple them so that they could make no further raid upon the settlements, killing men, women and children and stealing stock. The killing off of the buffalo later contributed to the general plan or scheme we had in view. Until the pioneers followed in upon our trails and begun to settle the country -- railroads to follow -- schools, churches and factories to spring up, and historical societies were started, little or no credit was given to Mackenzie and his gallant followers for the great work they did in ridding North and West Texas of its savage scourges.

x
Progressive

I feel now standing, as I am almost alone of that group of devoted soldiers who put that region on the map, that you and the ~~professional~~ men -- Captain Dennis and many others like you, fully appreciate those services, and am expressing through my correspondence a sincere gratitude for the same. This is why I take so much pleasure in furnishing you the historical material which so many have been seeking through me, the only survivor.

I rejoice now in my old age that I was an humble instrument in accomplishing all this, and now in giving your young people an opportunity to go back and get a perspective of those days -- over 60 years ago -- is an added pleasure and will be as long as I live.

I am glad that you have been on "Soldiers Mound". When C. B. Jones, Sr., first wrote me several years ago that it was the thought of Swenson Sons to place some kind of a memorial in Spur Inn commemorating the events of our campaigns in that section covered by Spur Ranch and he mentioned "Soldiers Mound" -- saying that nobody there knew what it was, I gave him his first knowledge of that spot. We have had a most wonderful correspondence ever since. We hauled all of our supplies from old Fort Griffin on the Clear Fork of the Brazos, which was our main base -- one wagon train going and another coming from Fort Griffin, from September 1874 until January 1875. There were seven companies of the 10th and 11th Infantry to guard these supply trains. We (the Cavalry) had pack trains. Major (later Major General) T.M. Anderson of the 10th Infantry, commanded these train escorts.

Camp was pitched as "Soldiers Mound", although we had at different periods supply camps on Duck Creek, the Fresh Water Fork, and the Salt Fork. Everything was dumped then at the main camp and from there we loaded our pack mules for our many scouts after the hostiles. Anderson made a long rectangular fort there out of boxes, barrels, bales, sacks, etc., etc., so that in case the Indians should perchance slip by our flanks and attack he would have a good defensive position. It was a wise precaution. This then was called "Anderson's Fort". Several soldiers died and were buried there, hence the name of "Soldiers Mound". Nobody at Spur had ever known of it as "Anderson's Fort".

I get letters and pictures from Plainview, from Col. Smythe and Miss Mary Cox, - the pictures taken on our trail "looking north along Broadway", etc. Miss Cox says, "Your trail ran across the corner of my campus and is within a short block of my home, and is still used". All of this seems a marvel to me. About 22 miles from Jacksboro on the Weatherford road was "Crawford's Ranch". We generally camped there if we were not in a hurry. Mrs. Crawford's first husband (Brown) was killed by Indians. She made her escape and later remarried. She was always very kind to all us officers, furnishing us with fresh vegetables, etc., and to our families. About a year ago I placed a query in the Frontier Times asking if anybody knew what had ever become of her, if she was living, etc.. Much to my surprise I got a letter from Lubback from her daughter, Mr. Longinn, telling me all about her mother, her place, and date of death, etc.

So you see I am getting a great deal of enjoyment in securing all this information.

With my very best wishes,

Most sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter,
Captain, U. S. Army, retired.

P. S. Am glad you liked all of my booklets. I shall write Captain Dennis in a day or so. Have just received by express the books I sent him.

20 May, 1931.

Mr. O. B. Powell,
Superintendent of Public Schools,
Jacksboro, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Since writing you last I have been very ill with the influenza, complicated with arthritis (articular rheumatism). The hard, pounding, almost strangulating cough, left me very weak, as it affected my heart. Before I had fully recovered my strength I had all of my remaining teeth extracted, in the belief that this arthritis with which I have suffered almost constantly for three years, was due to infection from this source. I had to have my glasses changed also. Altogether I have had a hard siege, which unfitted me for writing and I had to neglect all correspondence.

Your letter was particularly interesting to me in the references to "Soldiers Mound" and what you discovered there during this last visit.

As our only contact with this supply camp ("Anderson's Fort") was at intervals when we went in to pack our mules for another scout, and there was a big guard of Infantry only -- 10th and 11th Infantry -- we knew but little of what was taking place there, and if an Indian or some soldiers were buried there when we had cut loose with our pack trains, we knew nothing of it. One of the few survivors -- whom I have not seen now for nearly 3 years -- does not recall Kilpatrick in the Cavalry and you do not say whether the body you buried belonged to the Cavalry or Infantry. Upon reburial the buttons on his blouse ("C" for Cavalry and "I" for Infantry) would indicate to what branch of the service he was in when he died. I do not recall the hunting party you refer to. Henry Strong was attached to our Indian scouts, but I do not recall "Billy" Powell or Elkins, and it does not seem probable that a small hunting party were in that country -- in advance of our cavalry column -- while so many Indians were in Canon Blanco, Tule and Palo Duro. If so, they were at big risk and we saw nothing of them. Strong wrote a book which I have, and boasted that he killed about all of the Indians in our various actions and also claimed that he had command of the scouts. This I know to be untrue.

The Library of Congress is full of genealogies and histories relating to thousands of families (3,000,000 books in library), but I have been unable to go there and do any research work for several years on account of the condition of my eyes. No doubt you could trace your ancestry back to the emigrant could you have access to these books, but it is a much harder task than I feel that I could undertake now at my age to make this research, requiring much time, infinite patience and good eyesight.

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My monographs are loaned out now but later when they are returned I will mail them to you. They are the only personal copies I have and are out of print, so that I have to be careful to preserve them.

Have just received an invitation to go to Plainview on May 23 to attend the annual gathering of the old pioneers, but of course it will be impossible, as I am nursing a sore jaw and trying to regain my strength.

I warmly appreciated your letter, and with all my best wishes,
I am

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter,
Captain, U.S. Army, retired.

Jackson Texas
March 7th 1933.

To R. G. Carter

Captain U.S. Army Ret'd

3320 17th N. W. Washington D.C.

Respected Sir

Pardon me for my boldness
but I am endeavoring to write a History of
Jack County a friend of mine placed in my
possession your Book "The Old Sergeants Story"
while thru of much assistance to me I see from
its perusal that more than likely your
Booklets particularly "Tragedies of Canon Blanco"
written in 1919-1920 would be of more help to me.
Will you kindly mail to me your Booklets
or any other Books you have containing anything
of occurrences in Jack County of such Tragedies
&c. If you are kind enough to send me
these Books or Booklets, please let me know
the cost of postage &c and I will promptly mail you
check to cover same. Of course I will mail
you Copy of my History as soon as printed. Will
you permit me to use such passages in your
Books as relate to Jack Co. Confidently expecting a
favorable Reply, I am your Truly
Jackson Texas Antelope Route; Thorne & Co. Horton