

El Paso, Texas
Nov. 25th A, 1928

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

Dear Sir:-

I obtained your address from J. Marvin Hunter of Pecos Texas - who edits a magazine called the "Frontier Times" and who kindly loaned me, this summer, while I was on my vacation, your book entitled "The Old Sergeant's Story, Winning the West" I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed this book as it described Gen. McJannet's Campaigns in the early 70's on the North Plains of Texas against the Comanches and Kiowa Indians beginning in 1871 and lasting until 1874. I remembered several of the battles of these campaigns an account of which was published at the time in the San Antonio Express - and I especially remember the battle of Palo Duro Canyon and the capture and killing of the 2200 head of horses which horses were killed at the head of Tule Canyon - In 1880 - I was on the ground at the head of Tule Canyon where these horses

were killed and I saw and examined their
 bones - These bones covered two or three acres of
 ground, and all seemed to have been shot in
 the head, as every skull had a bullet hole in
 it. I was serving as a Texas Ranger in Co. "B" of
 the Frontier Battalion at the time I was on
 this ground - That part of Texas was entirely unin-
 habited at the time I was there, Also as a
 boy fifteen years of age I saw the 134
 squaws captured in Sept. 1872 - and held at
 Fort Concho that winter and taken to Fort
 Sill the following spring - spring of 1873 - These
 Indians were crossed over Red River at old
 Red River Station. The river was very high
 from heavy rains. I was on my way
 to Kansas with a large drove of cattle -
 we swam the river with the cattle and
 I was sent back to help the cook bring
 the wagon across on the Ferry boat and
 your troops were crossing these squaws
 some children and a few old men on
 the same boat on their way to Fort Sill - I
 learned the whole story from one of the
 soldiers guarding the Indian captives.
 These were a part of War-wis band of Coman-
 ches, captured about Oct. 1st 1872 - mentioned on
 p. 82 - et seq. - of your book. *Spining the West*

The ~~op~~ operations of General McKenzie in 1870 to 1874 - against the Comanches and Kiowas on the North Plains of Texas, the same that you mention in this book, were absolutely the only military operations against these two tribes of Indians in Texas that ever amounted to any thing - Our people suffered more from these two tribes of Indians than from all other Indians combined, they were the most merciless blood thirsty murders and thieves that ever infested any country - I know this because I went through it all - and many a time have I run like a deer over mountain hill valley brush and cedar brake to save my life and scalp from the "Red Devils" and in the early seventies when I heard of General McKenzie whipping - driving - crippling - killing and capturing any of these two tribes I threw up my cap and screamed for joy - I know that to Gen. McKenzie and his brave soldiers Texas owes a debt she has never paid, has never seemed to half way appreciate - I have never seen a single word about those campaigns in any Texas history - and can you imagine anything more important or more

interesting to the coming generation than a full account of those campaigns? Texas ought to build a granite monument on the site of each one of the battles you mention. Could you send me a copy of your book entitled - "Tragedies of Canon Blanco"? I am interested in this because when our troop of Rangers moved west in 1879 - we took up our new station in Canon Blanco about 10 miles ^{above} the mouth of that canyon I served there for ^{almost} three years -

Did you ever know a man in the 4th Cav. by the name of Geo. E. Mansfield? he enlisted at San Antonio, Texas. in 1866 - and was discharged at Laredo, Texas. in 1869 - was from Baltimore Md, was a Sergeant when discharged and is mentioned as a "faithful and efficient non commissioned officer".

Capt. Wilcox is one of the men who executed Mansfield's discharge certificate. Will you kindly write me if it is not too much trouble -

I am sincerely -

Address -

no. 3715 Rut. Ar. El Paso, Texas. J. B. Gibson

El Paso, Texas
Dec-15th 1928.

Capt. R. G. Carter.
Washington D. C.

Dear Capt. Carter:-

I received, to day - and read with deepest interest, your letter of the 10th inst. I was beginning to fear my letter had not reached you. I regret so much that I did not have the information ^{contained in} your letter and your book. "The Old Sergeant" when I first went out to Blanco Canyon in Sept. 1879. If I had had such information I certainly ^{would} have visited every one of the battle grounds you mention. I was stationed in Blanco Canyon nearly three years our headquarters were at Dewey Lake about 10 miles above the mouth of the Canyon - and from this point I as a non-commissioned officer led many scouts West. North west. North and East from our headquarters for hundreds of miles and it was on one of these scouts in 1880. that

me - by merest accident, discovered the spot where you killed the 2200-Indian ponies - when we were on that ground the bones of those horses had never been disturbed and lay just where they fell. I knew in a moment after looking at the skulls of dead ^{horses} ~~at~~ the head of Tule Canyon that we were on the McKenzie battle grounds. I would have been so glad to have known at that time the full history of those different campaigns.

I had never heard of the bronze tablet you speak of as having been erected on the Spur Ranch - but I am certainly glad that some one was so appreciative of your valuable services - Such a tablet should ^{mark} every spot where a battle was fought in those campaigns because McKenzie with his brave troops performed invaluable services to the State of Texas in killing capturing and driving out those blood thirsty savages the Comanches and Kiowas. Have you

a book or books containing a description of all those battles; If so, and it does not cost too much. I would be glad to have them. I would not mention the cost. but I am a man of limited means. I would especially like the history of the Blanco Canyon fight where you were wounded. I would be glad indeed to get a picture of the bronze tablet you speak of. Also, if you will send me one of your maps. I will be more than glad to pay you for it.

Now Captain I want to ask you a question. - My wife's father served three years with the 4th U.S. Cavalry. His name was Geo. E. Mansfield. - he enlisted in San Antonio Texas. in 1866 - and was discharged at Laredo, Texas at expiration of term of enlistment in 1869. During his service he was stationed at Fort Clark. Fort Quitman, Fort Davis, Fort McIntosh, and in fact most all of the west Texas posts. and

and was discharged as a First Sergeant naming his character as "Excellent" "A faithful and efficient Non-Commissioned Officer". He died in 1893 - at or near Fort Clark. while living he told his family he had been on many Indian scouts while with the troops in Texas. his discharge certificate is signed Capt. Wilcox and Capt. Cole. His wife, Mrs. A. A. Mansfield is still living and is 81 years of age. She still has the certificate of discharge and has filed two or three applications for pension. She has never remarried and is wholly dependent on others for a living.

Question? Is she entitled to a pension under any law that you know of? If so, would you please inform her how to proceed -

I fear this will tax your strength too much but I feel sure you must have known Mansfield - and if his wife is entitled to a pension she certainly is in need of it.

Captain please send me the following
 viz:— The picture of the bronze tablet on
 your Ranch— a copy of your map— and
 any book or books describing the
 battles of the McKenzie campaign
 and send bill, or you might send
 a list of prices on the above first,
 perhaps this would be best. Well I
 must close. Please answer my
 query about Mansfield and make
 any suggestions as to how his widow
 should make her prop.

With best wishes for your health
~~and~~ happiness and long life

I am sincerely yours,

J. B. Gibson

Address—

No. 3715 Mountain Ave,
 El Paso, Texas.

El Paso, Texas
Dec. 28th 1928.

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

Dear Capt. Carter:-

Your letter of the 22nd came duly to hand was read with interest and pleasure. We thank you sincerely for the information it contained. I will write Mr. Webb at once. I am receiving a pension from the Federal government under the Act approved March 27th 1927, the Leatherstock Bill. This is for my service in the Panhandle of Texas as a Ranger in 1879 to 1882. Our Co. "C" campaigned against the Apaches coming from North East New Mexico. The 10th Cavalry (Colored) U. S. Troops were stationed at Fort Elliott at the time and I used to meet them occasionally while scouting on the plain. I met ^{Quana} ~~Quana~~ Parker and a band of his braves and four squaws on the Texas side of Red River one time while I was out there. He could speak some broken English ^{Quana} ~~Quana~~ was at the time on the Comanche Reserve at

on near Fort Sill. I suppose you are aware that Old Quana has been dead some years.

The 10th Cavalry had some very trying experiences following the apaches from the east edge of the Staked Plain into the desert country west from around the mouth of Yellowstone and Blanco Canyons, along in 1876-77. of course you know all about that.

Captain whatever you send me in the way of books maps or photographs will be treated strictly according to your request. My Capt. was Geo. W. Arrington, and his photo and a brief history of a campaign or scout we made across the desert in the winter of 1879-80 - appeared in the "Frontier Times" for December. I presume you have seen it.

Well I fear my long letters will annoy you - so I am going to make this one short.

I am glad to have corresponded with you and should I ever visit Washington hope to see.

With kindest regards. Sincerely,
J. B. Gibson