CALIFORNIA MILITARY DEPARTMENT HISTORICAL PROGRAM
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Fort Tejon State Park: An Interpretive History

By George R. Stammerjohan

Extracted 16 March 2019 from *The Dogtown Territorial Quarterly*, Paradise, CA, Nos. 31 (Fall 1997), 32 (Winter 1997) and 33 (Spring 1998)

Fort Tejon State Historic Park An Interpretive History

By George R. Stammerjohan

Introduction

This is the story of a little place, in a canyon named by Spanish soldiers for wild grapevines; a rugged, isolated place, walled by steep, beautiful, forbidding ridges that blocked the view but preserved its ambience. This place was along the banks of what was a gentle ditch of a stream, so peaceful it was called a "Cienega," even by the Anglo-Saxon American soldiers, who gave it most of its history. This place had many names: teamsters in the early 1850s called this little resting spot of deep grass, beautiful oaks, and clear bubbling springs "Traveler's Rest," or "Bear Camp Springs." In 1854, a headstrong U.S. Army Brevet Major, James L. Donaldson, called it "Camp Cañada de las Uvas," the Camp of the Grapevines Canyon, honoring the Spanish soldiers who first saw the wild, rugged, twisting canyon in 1772.

But other forces were at work. In Benicia, an equally headstrong New Yorker, Major General John E. Wool, looked at the large open blanks of an unmarked map of southern California, his fingers tracing around the spot where a new army post was being located, 20 miles away from where it was supposed to be...on Tejon Creek...and declared with historic finality, with that imperial knowledge all generals possess: "This post will be called Fort Tejon!"

Then, Brevet Major General Wool must have looked again at his Assistant Adjutant General, Captain Edward Townsend, and quietly formed the words: "Where is it?"

Many men, officers of the army and civilians alike, must have wondered aloud about generals in Benicia versus soldiers who stood on the ground. No one, not one, picked the Cañada de las Uvas as the site for a new army post. No one, except sickly Major James L. Donaldson, who did not want to be in California, and was already plotting his escape from this barren, overheated, uncivilized wilderness. He located the new post, and then retreated off stage, to be forgotten by local and professional historians. Many people would write of Fort Tejon, but none knew, or failed to understand, what Major Donaldson had done: he had altered and corrupted the truth.

And the early historians never located the plea of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin L. Beall, First U.S. Dragoons, who arrived on October 3, 1854, 21 days after Wool had declared that the little place in Grapevine Canyon, on the banks of Grapevine Creek, would forever more be known as "Fort Tejon." Beall considered the fort's name and saw the poor logic, for "Fort Tejon" was nowhere near "Tejon Creek" or "Tejon Pass," and then he offered an outrageous alteration. He suggested, in writing, that General Wool change his feisty mind. Beall proclaimed the post should be called "Fort Le Bec," after the grave of Peter Lebeck who was buried beneath a massive oak tree at the northeastern edge of the proposed parade ground. General Wool did not even deem it necessary to reply to Major Beall's suggestion. So the little place, on Grapevine Creek, 20 miles southwest of Tejon Creek, where everyone who had seen it agreed was a perfect site for an army post, passed into history as Fort Tejon.[1]

The "Republic of the North," the United States of America, took California by military force from the United States of Mexico in 1846-1847. It was not much of a military conquest, as nationalistic conquests go, except for those who fought, suffered, and died in the small unit actions of conquest. The United States did not even use much of its first-line force. The majority of the California action saw U.S. sailors and marines, volunteers, and a small honor guard of 1st Dragoons accomplish most of the fighting. Shortly after the occupation of the province and the end of formal war-

fare, a regiment of New York Volunteers arrived as soldier-colonists. They were preceded, by just a few weeks, by a single company of the 3rd U.S. Artillery, which garrisoned Monterey. Three of the New York companies went off to Baja California, and on to the central coast of Mexico. Aided by the U.S. Navy, they captured and held several Mexican port cities, but did little else. This does not denigrate what the New Yorkers accomplished, for anyone who fights, suffers the terrifying fears of combat, and dies for his country has fought the good fight.

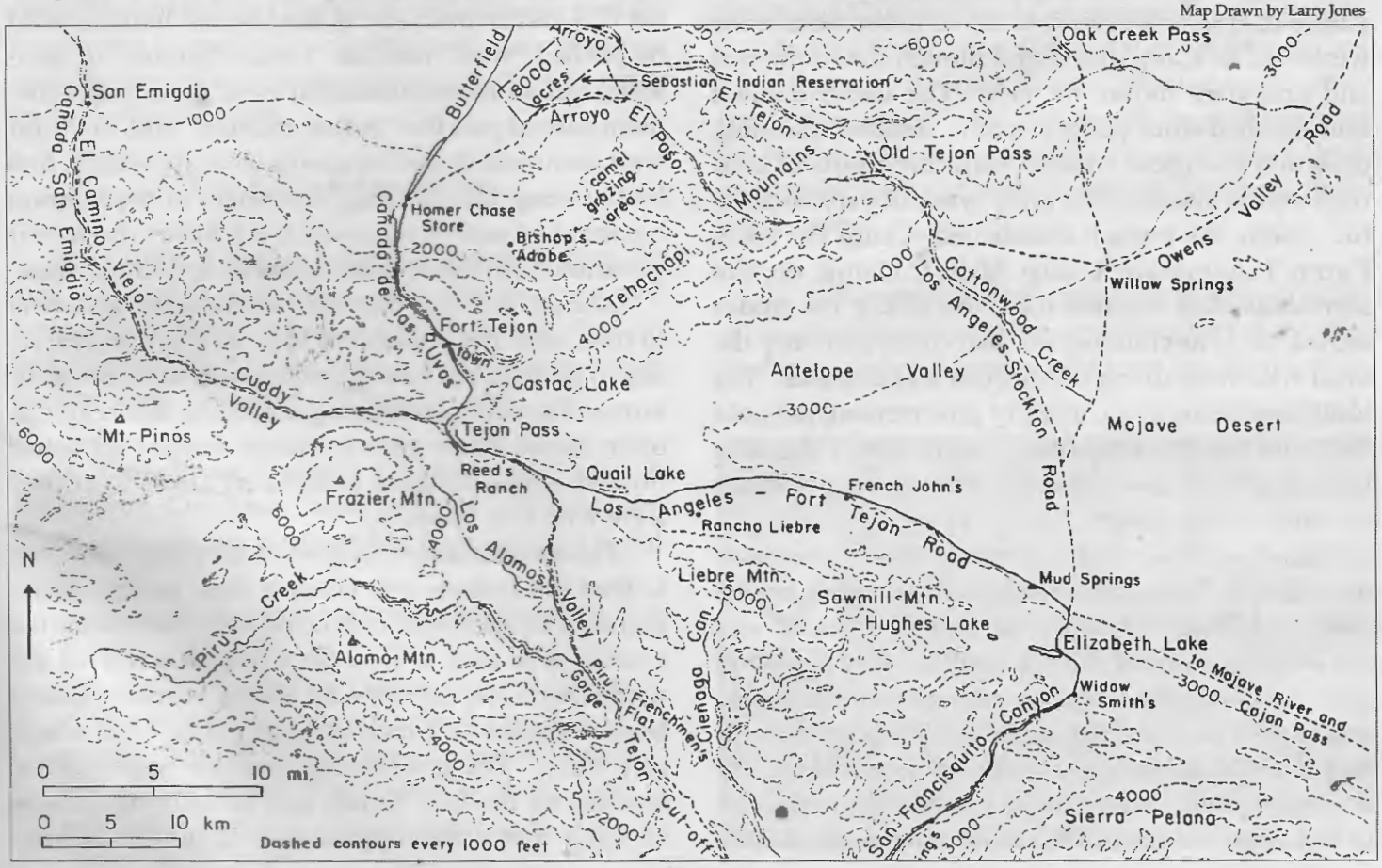
Baja California military actions were ignored when the peace treaty was signed. Alta California became United States territory, while the country south of the new (undefined) line returned to Mexico. The U.S. sent more troops to hold Mexican California. Elements of the 1st and 2nd U.S. Draoons marched to southern California from Monterrey, Mexico, in the winter of 1848-1849. The 2nd U.S. Infantry, after returning from Vera Cruz, reorganized in New York Harbor, and then, in 1849, sailed for California. Among the men of the 2nd U.S. Infantry was the first "Ordnance Sergeant" assigned to Fort Tejon in the late winter of 1856: John E. Kelly.

While the primary duty of the U.S. troops sent to California was to guard and pacify the country, daily expecting a rumored major Mexican-Californian outbreak; the true facts were that while they were resentful of the change of government and the invasion of the "Yankee Hordes," most Californios hoped the new government would be better. How, in heaven's name, could it be worse than the old Mexican government?

The discovery of gold changed the whole balance of the story. The quest for gold, even when renounced by Californios as "a Yankee trick," nevertheless converted the existing Hispanic populace to seekers of riches. The hordes of Argonauts who flooded the country upset the possible union of the small Californio population with the small Anglo population. The majority of the gold seekers were American-born; they brought their racial attitudes with them. The Californios were soon pushed into resentful ghettos, unable to resist the flood of the "Yankee miners."

Unfortunately, for the majority of Indians in California, they lived in the gold belt, or they existed in the future agricultural lands wherein the American

Map Drawn by Larry Jones



farming class wished to settle. Quickly, the army, rent by desertions to the gold fields, found itself forced to play the role of punisher and protector of the Native Americans caught in the path of the flood of gold seekers who swarmed into the lands of the Indians.

The U.S. Army and the government had no real policy for dealing with the Indians. These people had been considered citizens by the Mexican government, and the Hispanic Natives of California viewed them as a cheap labor source. The Anglo-Americans viewed them, however, as vermin in the way, uncivilized savages to be moved or destroyed, or at best, an untrustworthy labor force to be exploited and then tossed aside.

The Indians fled, tried to adjust to the white miners by learning their skills (which infuriated the miners, who deemed the Indians competitors), or were deemed sneaky savages waiting to kill unsuspecting gold diggers. There were enough trumped-up incidents (often based on outraged Indians defending themselves) to call for militant action. White militia groups, based on the frontier racial skills of frontier Kentucky's "dark and bloody ground" or the campaigns of Horseshoe Bend, or the rumored fears of the westward trek, organized and hunted down the real and imagined Indian menace. The undermanned army rushed from point to point, suffered alarming desertion rates, and tried to blunt the efforts of gold rush militia attacks. The army was not very successful. Often, the posts it established--Camp Far West, Camp Fredericka, Camp Miller, Camp on the Stanislaus--had too few men, too sickly, too under armed, to do anything more than count and bury the dead who were dying of Mexican war diseases. The California occupation, military government, the gold rush and the Indian problem all occurred within a framework of a government which had no precedent to handle the problem.

What is surprising in all of this, when one views the muster rolls and regimental returns of the 3rd Artillery, 1st Dragoons, 2nd and 4th U.S. Infantry, and the one company of the 1st Artillery that served in gold-era California, was the number of men who held true to their oath and flag, despite what popular writers of California history contend. They carried the flag when and where ordered to go and held the faith. Part of this story is the wisdom of General Persifor Smith, military governor of California in 1849-1850, who encouraged an illegal statehood movement, and tolerated a state government when none should have, by law, existed. His wise policy of granting furlough to gold-hungry soldiers allowed them to discover the reality of backbreaking, uncertain gold hunting, compared to three square meals a day and a warm bunk at night that went with an enlistment. Most men discovered the get-rich-quick myth, and returned from their furlough wiser and better soldiers. Nevertheless, even the most wise "old soldier" tried his hand at gold digging. Almost all returned to their companies. They might later desert, but it was not the siren call of gold that drove them out of their crude barracks and into the night.

Without an Indian policy, the government floundered toward a solution. The answer came from Washington, D.C. A Department of the Interior bureaucrat conceived of an idea long in the making and long his pet idea. Through pure patience and perserverance, Charles E. Mix placed the concept of military reserves for Indians into the minds of those in governmental power who were groping for some method to solve the U. S. Indian problem. In the past, the Indians could be pushed "west" into the "Indian country" or territorial Indian reservations; but now, American settlement rushed past the "Indian country," and, in the far west, occupied it. Indian agents were appointed, first by the army, then by the Department of the Interior; but they had neither funds nor much force to back their government's vague instructions or their own ideas.

The government then dispatched commissioners to treat with the Indians, to implore them with treaties to go onto the newly created idea of reserves, or farms. The commissioners, guarded by U.S. regulars, often found home-grown militia companies better funded with California promissory notes than they were with U.S. funds.

The commissioners worked on the proposition that to feed the Indians was cheaper than to fight them. Eighteen treaties were concocted with various Indian groups, who may or may have not known what the white man's papers were all about. Various Indian leaders signed and then promptly forgot the whole silly thing. The government treaties were quietly rejected by the U.S. Senate and secretly filed away to keep down the opposition of newly minted

Anglo-Californians; who suddenly discovered that every piece of ground set aside for Indians was valuable farm, timber, or grazing land.

Although these treaties were never approved the government acted as if they existed legally. A reservation system was created and reserves were founded. A reserve was to be placed on each army post. When a reserve was planned for the future Kern County (established 1866), the groundwork for the story of Fort Tejon was first plowed.

The 1850s were a period of Americanization of California following the conquest of 1846. "Americanization" means the process through which a land that had been occupied by Native Americans and Hispanic Californios was converted to ownership and use by American newcomers. The demands and expectations of these new immigrants were incompatible with continued Native American or Hispanic Californio control of traditional territories or Mexican ranchos.

Though few of the newcomers questioned the righteousness of appropriating Native American lands, the best moral sense of Americans recoiled from outright genocide. Between these two needs--the demand for American expansion in California and the imperative to operate by minimum standards of morality by the United States government--the U.S. Army found its historic role.

The Native Americans

Four distinct Native American groups lived in the area adjacent to Fort Tejon, or in the territory over which it exercised a general influence, including the Indian reservation in the southern San Joaquin Valley, known as the Sebastian Military Reserve.

1. Emigdiano (Castac): Considered a branch of the Interior Chumash, these people are little known. Their approximate territory has been defined as follows:

> *Roughly, it lies in the extreme southwest corner of Kern County. On the north it is defined by a line drawn roughly from Grapevine to the Mount Abel road and including all the north-flowing streams from the Mount Abel-Tecuya Mountain region. On the east it is marked by Castac Lake and on the south by a line somewhat south of the Cuddy Valley Road.* [1]

One Emigdiano settlement, called Lapau, was at the mouth of the Cañada de las Uvas (Canyon of the Grapevines), in which canyon Fort Tejon was later to be built.

There are some rock paintings (pictographs) in Emigdiano territory.[2]

2. Tataviam: This Native American group consisted of up to 1,000 members at the time of European contact. Its territory has been noted as follows:

> *The Tataviam lived primarily on the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage east of Piru Creek, although their territory extended over the Sawhill Mountains to the north to include at least the southwestern fringes of the Antelope Valley.*[3]

The last Tataviam-speaking person died in 1916, and little knowledge of this culture is preserved. Evidence suggests strong similarities in social organization to the Chumash and Gabrielino. Tataviam pictographs are also similar to those of surrounding groups.

Primary foods were "buds of *Yucca whipplei* (which were baked in earth ovens), acorns, sage seeds, juniper berries, and berries of islay (*Prunus ilicifolia*). Small mammals, deer and perhaps antelope comprised the major animal foods.[4]

3. Kitanemuk: These people were a small group of mountain dwellers who ranged southward into arid lowlands at cooler times of the year. Modern anthro-

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pologists guess that the total pre-European contact population was between 500 and 1,000. Their homeland was mainly the Tehachapi Mountains, south of the San Joaquin Valley. Their territory touched very near the location of Fort Tejon. Indian peoples adjacent to them were Yokuts to the north, Tataviam to the south, and Chumash to the west.

Very little is known of their settlements or culture. No artifacts are known to exist. Apparently, most of the Kitanemuk were assimilated into the Spanish mission system.

Kitanemuk "were certainly present at Fort Tejon during the 1850s," and in later years, were employed by the ranches in the area.[5]

4. Southern Valley Yokuts: The Yokuts are the predominant group associated with Fort Tejon. The total population of the groups comprising the Yokuts in the pre-contact period has been estimated between 5,250 and 15,700. The Southern Valley Yokuts were divided into at least 15 autonomous tribelets, and had been evolving their culture for perhaps several thousand years prior to European incursion. The following describes their territory:

> *The Southern Yokuts homeland comprised Tulare, Buena Vista, and Kern lakes, their connecting sloughs, and the lower portions of the Kings, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern rivers. Adjacent to all these waters lay an extensive swamp or tulare, which expanded seasonally.*[6]

The Southern Valley Yokuts are much better known than the Tataviam and Emigdiano (also Castac) Chumash. Their lifeways form the basis for the Native American exhibits found in the visitor center at Fort Tejon State Historic Park.

Food: Fishing was important most of the year. Drag and hand nets, spears and basketry traps were used to catch fish from the rivers and lakes of the area. Waterfowl such as geese, ducks and mud hens were taken with snares put up among the tules. Long-handled nets were also used to pull them out of the air while they were flying close to the ground. The Native people also developed sophisticated technology for catching the many types of birds which inhabited the area. Wild seeds and roots made up a great portion of the daily diet. Pounded tule roots were used as a flour for a mush. Tule seeds and other grass seeds were used in meal form. Acorns were not widely available in the Yokuts territory, but were obtained by trade. Birds and land mammals constituted a relatively small portion of the usual food supply. The Yokuts used mass hunting techniques for jackrabbits, hunted antelope and elk with arrows from lakeside blinds, and used nooses set on spring poles to entangle the horns of prey.

Shelter: The land was sufficiently rich to encourage permanent residences. Two main types were found in Yokut villages for use as family dwellings. Small, single-family structures, oval-shaped, were made of wooden framework covered with tule matting. A much larger communal residence, which housed 10 families or more, was also constructed of tule mat-covered frameworks covered by a steep roof. Inside, families were apportioned separate spaces, doors and fireplaces.

Basketmaking: Tule stems were the main sources of basketry materials. Yokut basketry included "bowl-shaped cooking containers, conical burden baskets, flat winnowing trays, seed beaters and necked water bottles."[9] The usual technique for manufacturing a basket was twining.

History: Both Spanish Army Captain Pedro Fages and Franciscan Padre Francisco Garcés passed through Yokut territory in the late 18th century, but little impact was felt from Europeans until an epidemic in 1833 may have destroyed up to 75 percent of the population.[10] Total disaster followed the American conquest, as land-hungry settlers pushed the Native Americans aside, and took their lands. The surviving remnant of the Southern Valley Yokuts formed the basis for Indian occupancy of the Sebastian Military Reserve (also known as the Tejon Reservation) that figures prominently in the history of Fort Tejon.

However, not all of these people settled on the Tejon Reservation. Many fled after a year or two to live on the outskirts of the reserve or in their mountainous homeland. Some took refuge with "sympathetic" white settlers who protected them, but also used them as vaqueros or farm laborers. Other Indians eked out an existence in little villages growing garden plots.

One village (rancheria) which never relocated existed at the bottom of the Cañada de la Uvas. The

villagers worked small truck crop gardens and sold their produce and their labor to the U.S. Army. The army, or storekeeper Homer Chase, who settled nearby, in turn, protected them to a degree. When the army withdrew, the village was absorbed by the emerging Tejon Rancho.[11] The location of an Overland Mail Company relay station at Chase's store, known as "Grapevine Station," brought numerous undesirable whites whom Chase was hard put to control. The army at Fort Tejon occasionally helped Chase, but at other times was ambivalent. It was the agent's problem to support the Indians.

In expanding westward, the American nation increasingly confronted the basic dilemma of how to reconcile the nation's ideological precepts with the unquestioned assertion of white settlers' rights to possess and use the land. Despite the theoretical belief that all men were endowed with natural rights to life, liberty, and property, Americans convinced themselves of the morality of appropriating Indian territories. This was accomplished by conditioning the natural rights on the basis of land use. As John Quincy Adams, President of the United States, rationalized in 1802:

> *But what is the right of the huntsman to the forest of a thousand miles over which he has accidentally ranged in quest of prey? Shall the liberal bounties of Providence to the race of man be monopolized by one of ten thousand for whom they were created?*[12]

This rationalization, coupled with racism and the image of white superiority, left the way clear to dispossess Native Americans of any land white people wanted.

Though American settlers in California reacted to Indian resistance with calls for their removal to the east side of the Sierra, or extermination on the spot; the federal government sought a morally palatable remedy which was applied first in the southern San Joaquin Valley at the Sebastian Military Reserve. (The terms Sebastian Military Reserve, Sebastian Reserve, Sebastian Indian Reserve, Tejon Indian Reserve, Tejon Military Reserve, and Tejon Reserve are synonymous.)

The federal remedy consisted of several policies:

1. Facilitate removal of Indians from lands wanted by white people.

2. Prevent or restrain Indian resistance to loss of territories.

3. Minimize points of friction between Indians and whites by limiting direct contacts.

4. Protect Indians from genocidal attack.

5. Provide the means of immediate and long-term Indian survival through emergency rations and opportunities to convert from hunting-gathering to agriculture.

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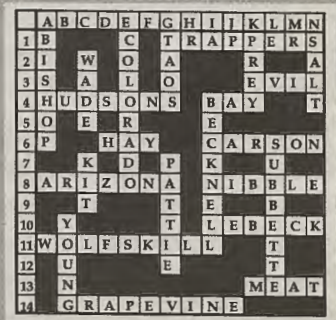
Solution to Trivia/Doodler from page 28

1. Manuel Armijo
2. Echeandia
3. Ewing Young
4. Kit Carson
5. Old Spanish Trail
6. 100
7. Almira Wade
8. Took shortcut
9. David S. Terry
10. October 1861
11. March 15, 1863
12. The army
13. April 15, 1865
14. Ballot box
15. James Donaldson



These federal policies were to be implemented by stationing troops at suitable locations in California and by creating reservations for Native Americans on land not coveted by settlers.

The army, often trapped between squabbling government agencies, discharged its duties by facilitating white settlement and restraining Indian resistance. The other side of the Indian policy, which looked toward amelioration of the Indians' plight in a reservation setting, was a dismal failure. The failure resulted from the differences between Indian policy rhetoric and actions. No commitment was ever made sufficient to the need. As the experience of the Indians of the southern San Joaquin Valley would show, the first priority of the government--reflecting the sentiments of its citizens--was the welfare of the Euro-American newcomers, not the Native Americans.

In sum, the dilemma of the federal Indian policy in California was that the plan to solve the Indian problem within an acceptable moral framework received very weak support, in contrast to the policy of opening all lands to white settlement and removing the Indians by force, if deemed necessary.

The Sebastian Military Reserve

The Sebastian (or Tejon) Reserve presents an excellent case study in the failure of federal Indian policy in California.

In 1853, the federal government considered a budget which should have provided $250,000 to solve the Indian problem in California by moving Indians out of areas the whites wanted, and onto five "military reservations" to be carved out of the public domain in the state. The funds were earmarked only for removal and subsistence costs, not for the purchase of land which might be held in private hands. Edward F. Beale, the Indian Superintendent for California at the time, had the responsibility for putting the program into effect.

A major problem facing Superintendent Beale, a former Naval lieutenant and veteran of the Mexican War, was that the land, much of it in California, that was suitable by eastern American concepts, was already claimed by Mexican land grants now moving into federal courts for settlement, or had been claimed, rightfully or after the fact, by American settlers. Everywhere he looked, Beale found claimants who considered the land theirs, or who had recently staked a claim, hoping the government would be forced to buy them out at a tidy profit. If the government did not want to purchase the land, then these settlers were ready to rent at outrageous amounts.

The congressional appropriation was inadequate for the job. Beale found no suitable federal land, so he situated the first of these reserves on land in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley that was already included in Mexican land grants, but seemed empty. By October 1853, he had spent half of his total appropriation moving a small number of Indians to the reserve, and buying expensive livestock and equipment necessary to get it started. None of the other four reservations contemplated in the 1853 appropriation were established. In 1854, Beale named the reserve in honor of U.S. Senator William K. Sebastian of Alabama, chairman of the important Indian Affairs Committee. Hopefully, this would help the project, especially if Senator Sebastian was flattered, and took an active interest. The senator was not flattered and he took no interest in California's Indian problems.

Beale planned a reserve which would cover about 75,000 acres, in part on the following land grants: Rancho el Tejon, Rancho Castac, Rancho la Liebre and Rancho los Alamos y Agua Caliente. The reserve was probably intended to be ultimately divided into two or perhaps three reservations, but in conformity with the 1853 appropriation, it was reduced to about 25,000 acres and later was scaled back to include only 8,000 acres. Finally in 1859 the proposed reserve was abolished without ever being legally established. By that time Beale owned the land of Rancho La Liebre and was considering expansion into other land grants of the area. An adjoining land grant, Rancho Castac, was owned by Beale's business partner, Samuel A. Bishop.

The following historic quotations explain the motivation behind the reservation system with respect to moral concerns for treatment of the Indians:

> *I...endeavored to make them sensible of the difference between a certain and realiable means of support by the produce of their own labor and the exceedingly precarious one of dependence upon the spontaneous productions of the soil; and that even*

this mode of existence, precarious as it is, was becoming still more uncertain by the rapid increase of our white population. Beale was making a report on a meeting he had with chiefs of the San Joaquin Valley at which he argued the case for their moving into the Tejon reserve.

By the encroachment of the white man they have been driven from their habitations and their means of living entirely cut off. There seems then to be no alternative which humanity would sanction but to provide them with the necessary tools and implements and suitable instruction to enable them to obtain a support by their own labor on your lands reserved for that purpose.[14]

The plan contemplated (under the 1853 Act) is in my opinion the only practical one for preserving the Indians of this State from destruction. Unless they can be gathered together and placed under military protection we shall have a bloody war which will result in the extermination of the race. John B. Miller responded to a request from Beale for his opinion of the military reserve plan.[15]

The location of the reservation is, in my judgment, a good one—the best that could have been made. The soil is good and will adapt to the cultivation of such products as are necessary for Indian subsistence. There is an abundance of oak timber at a convenient distance and plenty of red-wood and pine in the mountains at accessible points within fifteen miles. The lake within the limits of the reservation affords an abundant supply of fish of a good quality. Game is plenty, and a hunter, at ordinary wages, will furnish meat as cheaply as the beef that is now issued to the Indians. It is more remote from the present settlements of our citizens, and will not, I think, for a long time to come be a barrier even to the progressive and laudable spirit of our people in the settlement of new and remote portions of our territory.

If the Indians are to be allowed any resting-place within the limits of the state, no attention, in my opinion, ought to be given to the clamor that might be raised against this location, as tending to embarrass the settlement and prosperity of the state.[16]

Despite the high hopes and optimistic reports of Superintendent Beale which accompanied the creation of the Sebastian Reserve, a combination of government neglect, poor funding and dishonest agents set the reserve on a downhill course. Beale's poor and haphazard bookkeeping of government money allowed critics to swarm after him until he was dismissed.

Beale had at first anticipated thousands of Indians flocking voluntarily to the reserve, lured by the prosperity he thought the Indians would achieve through stock raising or farming. A period of drought years in the latter half of the 1850s contributed to consistently disappointing harvests. The following table shows the stagnation, at best, of the reserve's history:

1854: 2,500 Indians on the reserve; 2,000 acres in wheat, 500 acres in barley, 150 acres in corn.[17]

1854: 700 Indians on the reserve; 1,500 acres in cultivation.[18]

1854: 600 Indians on the reserve.[19]

1856: 693 Indians on the reserve; 475 acres in wheat, 200 acres in barley, 156 acres in corn.[20]

1858: 650 Indians on the reserve.[21]

1859: 600 Indians on the reserve.[22]

Furthermore, the agents' reports to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. over the years indicated that Beale's initial reports of the size of the Indian population were exaggerations and that at the time the reserve was established, only about 350 Indians were living there and were already growing food crops in small plots. No schools were ever built on the reserve. The number of government workers, many useless, was not cut back and all attempts to successfully increase tillable acreage failed in the face of the continuing drought.

The agents, such as "Colonel" James Vineyard, took the best land for their own farms. The lack of legal title to the land severely restrained investment in construction and development, except that which benefitted the agent; leaving the reserve and the Indians living there in a state of constant uncertainty.

The ideal of converting the Indians from seasonal

food gathering to settled agriculture was never realized. Only their skill in gathering foods off the reserve or finding other work enabled the Native American occupants of the Sebastian Reserve to live there through the decade. Also, the failure of the Indians to produce large amounts of surplus food and forage caused the army to look elsewhere for supplies. The expected income for the reserve failed to materialize as the army sought out white suppliers of commissary rations, such as beef or mutton, or quartermaster forage for public animals.

In mid-1864, many of the remaining Indians of the now defunct Sebastian Military Reserve were removed to the Tule Reservation, while others proceeded to work for the area's American owners and operators, of whom Edward F. Beale was now predominant. Indian Affairs Superintendent Austin Wiley wrote in 1864 concerning the reserve:

> *I have...directed him (the local agent) to collect as many of the Indians from the vicinity of Fort Tejon and from the Tejon farm as practicable, and take them to the Tule River farm, which appears to be the only place in the district where anything is being raised for their subsistance, and the only place where they can live in peace.*[23]

Many of the Indians directed to the Tule River farm were not locals to the valley and had not lived in the area very long. The Indians of which Superintendent Austin Wiley spoke were in reality survivors of the prisoners who had been tricked into surrendering in the Owens Valley and had been forced-marched over the Walker Pass-Kern River trail in 1863 by federal troopers of the 2nd Cavalry, California Volunteers, a U.S. government organization. This had been a tragic betrayal of the terms by which the Owens Valley Paiutes had submitted to superior white military forces. Many of the Indians had died; others had survived only because they quickly fled homeward, or were fed by merciful white army officers who stuck their necks out against army bureaucracy. As one agent put it: "The Indians fled faster than they could starve under government control."

End Part One. See the winter issue #32 for Part Two of "An Interpretive History of Fort Tejon."

About the Author:

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End Notes

End Note to Introduction:

1. The above is based on Correspondence, Letters Sent and Letters Received in the U.S. Army files, Department of the Pacific, Adjutant General's Office for 1853-1854, in Record Group 94 and Record Group 393, U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C. Original notes in the Stammerjohan Collection. The individual correspondence files are by Thomas Jordan, Captain, Quartermaster Department, Brevet Major James L. Donaldson, Quartermaster Department, Brevet Major General John E. Wool, U.S. Army, and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin L. Beall, 1st U.S. Dragoons. Also, Correspondence and Field Reports of 1st Lt. Thomas F. Castor, Company A, 1st U.S. Dragoons, Brevet 2nd Lt. Alfred T. Latimer, 4th U.S. Infantry, and Brevet Major Edward D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General (AAG), Department (or Division) of the Pacific in LR and LS, Department of the Pacific, Record Group 393, U.S. National Archives.

The vast majority of popularly written histories of Fort Tejon have almost no foundation in truth. They have used hearsay, popular stories, newspaper articles (usually garbled and marred with error), family folk lore (unsupported by research), and numerous other broomstick stories to cover historic fabric as truth. A few of the books do throw in one or two official pieces of government correspondence, but the authors never tested them for historical veracity. The conclusion of the author is that, without fail, the earlier histories of Fort Tejon are "junk." Unfortunately, generation after generation of "supposed historians" have used these mindless pieces as fact, without once ever questioning their validity, or seeking elsewhere for primary material.

This interpretive history draws almost exclusively on contemporary period correspondence. While the results of the research, primarily by Mr. Stammerjohan, have rendered an account different from the "accepted" published works, it is nevertheless an interpretive history, shortened for this series of articles, from the thousands of pages of correspondence examined by the author.

Fort Tejon State Historic Park An Interpretive History, Part 2

By George R. Stammerjohan

Part One of "Fort Tejon State Historic Park, An Interpretive History" can be found in the Fall issue #31 of the Dogtown Territorial Quarterly.

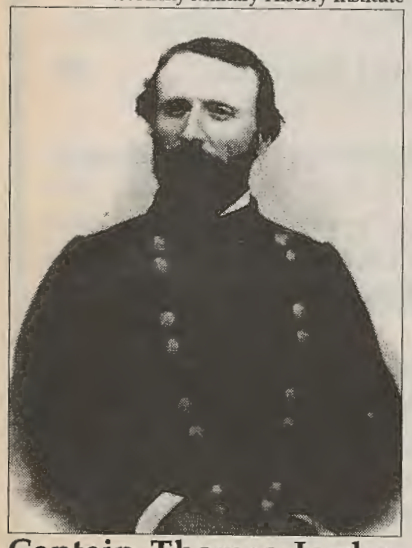
Establishing Fort Tejon

Two separate but convergent needs led to founding of Fort Tejon: the U. S. Army was interested in finding a better location for a military post than isolated Fort Miller, located on the upper San Joaquin River, and the federal Indian policy put into effect by E. F. Beale when the Tejon Reservation was set up in 1853 envisioned an important role for U.S. troops.

Better Post Site than Fort Miller Needed

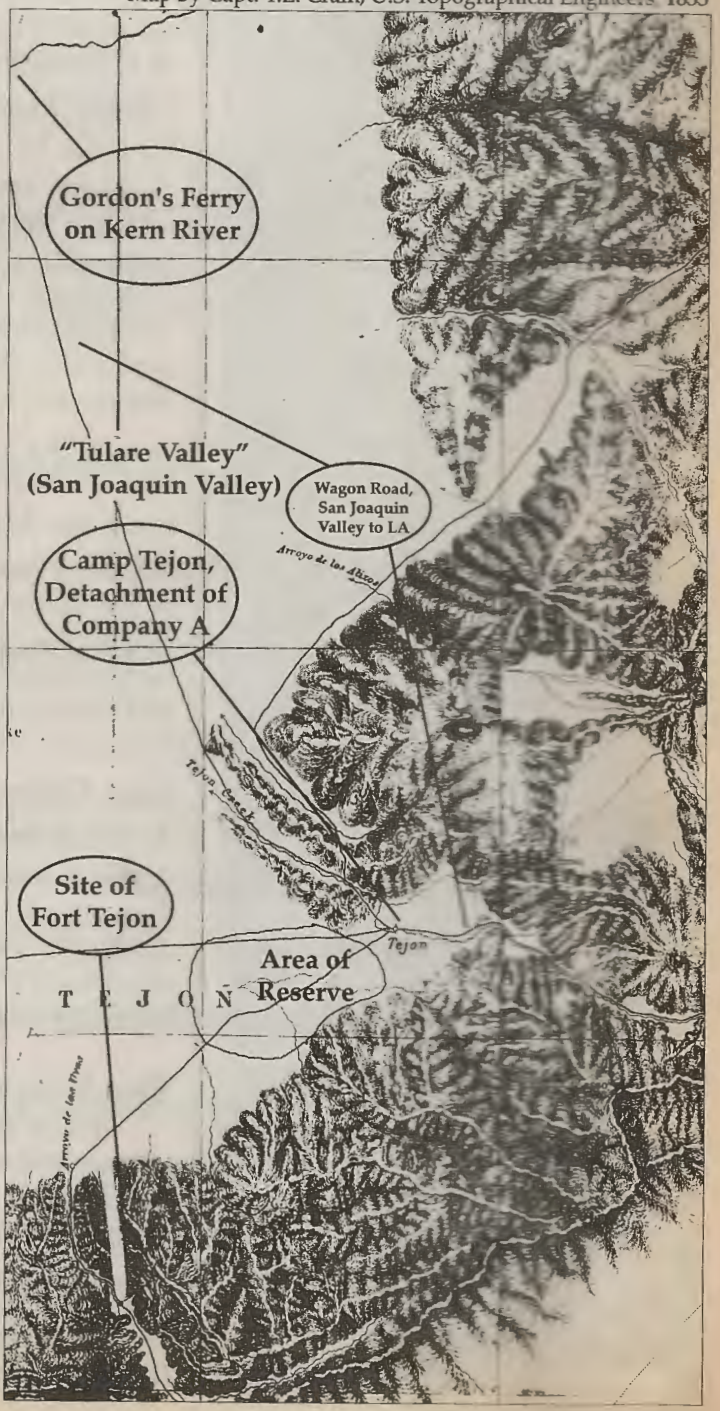
In 1851, the army established Fort Miller in the foothills of the Sierra on the San Joaquin River to control Indian-white confrontations in the middle San Joaquin Valley and surrounding foothills. But the location presented extreme difficulties. It was 140 miles from its nearest supply depot at Stockton and not in the vicinity of any "hostile Indians," or near the Indian reservation ("the Fresno Farm") that it was supposed to protect. Spurred by the recommendations of Captain Thomas Jordan, Assistant Quartermaster at Fort Miller, the army

Courtesy Massachusetts Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the U.S. Army Military History Institute



Captain Thomas Jordan pictured in civilian style overcoat or frock coat with U.S. Staff Officer's buttons.

Map by Capt. T.L. Cram, U.S. Topographical Engineers. 1855



sent Jordan looking for an alternative site further south where the need for troops was expected to be greater.[24]

Protection for the Sebastian Reserve

Federal Indian policy as instituted by the U. S. government called for Indians to be placed on military reserves. In effect, this meant that the reservations would be directly under the supervision of the army, with the Indians concentrated there for ease in controlling and protecting them. Each of the contemplated reservations in the 1853 legislation for California (of which the Sebastian Reserve was the only one created) required a military presence. By the summer of 1853, the army was investigating the feasibility of a new post in the Tejon Pass (Tejon Creek Pass) vicinity. Superintendent Edward F. Beale was also busy looking for a site at the same time.

By early summer 1853, the army was seeking a site in the southern San Joaquin Valley to replace Fort Miller. With confirmation of Beale's plan for Native American reservations in southern California, the Department of the Pacific also sought a location for an army post to guard the reserve. In the early spring of 1854, the military wheels were put into motion. A very small dragoon (cavalry) company was moved out of Oregon, reinforced at Benicia and relocated at Fort Miller. Meanwhile, Captain Jordan selected a site at the foot of Tejon Pass and prepared for movement of massive amounts of freight from Benicia to Stockton to Fort Miller and onto the new site on Tejon Creek. Brevet Major James L. Donaldson, a very sickly man suffering from chronic diarrhea, replaced Captain Jordan and was assigned the task of creating the new post. As the military effort gathered speed, Beale was voicing his opinion that he did not need the military at the new reserve. What Beale was not aware of was that he had been replaced as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California. The new superintendent, Thomas J. Henley, a former San Francisco postmaster, was also opposed to the army post. The Sebastian Reservation was then reduced to a proposal to encompass land amounting to 25,000 acres near the modern city of Arvin, California. It was never legally established, however.

When Donaldson arrived at the reserve, he found a small, deserted army camp already established just west of the mouth of Tejon Pass. He listened to the

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Captain James Lowery Donaldson in Major General's uniform after the Civil War.

concerns of Superintendent Henley; considered that a second reserve was planned about 20 miles northwest of the Sebastian Reservation; considered the tremendous expense of freighting everything the army would need from Stockton; considered the reports he had read from the Williamson Railroad survey of 1853 and decided against the selected site for the post at Tejon Pass. This created an immediate, futile protest from Captain Thomas Jordan, the quartermaster at Fort Miller, who had selected the "Camp Tejon" site. Major Donaldson looked elsewhere and found his site 17 miles away, up the narrow, twisting Cañada de las Uvas, at a location know as "Travelers' Rest," or "Bear Springs Camp." Here, he established "Camp Cañada de las Uvas," now known as Fort Tejon. Donaldson had convinced himself that Tejon Pass was not the road of the future. He wrote that he had developed the idea that this "Pass de las Uvas" was "directly on the emigrant trail from Santa Fe to the Colorado and thence through to Los Angeles and Tulare Valley to Stockton and the northern and southern mines." It was a perfect position from which to "check outbreaks of the Indians on the Sebastian Military Reserve: to overawe neighboring thieving tribes: to prevent collisions between them and the emigrants." Building materials were close at hand, as was suitable grazing and the fort would be much closer to the "sea coast either at Santa Barbara or San Pedro from whence supplies must be drawn." And it was obvious that through this pass "the Pacific Rail Road will enter into the Tulare Valley" (San Joaquin Valley).

Donaldson had located his new camp in early August and he then diverted the detachments of Company A dragoons from their assigned destination at Tejon Creek to the Cañada de las Uvas. On August 10, 1854, 1st Lieutenant Thomas F. Castor led the first detachment into camp and established a garrison.

By the time Brevet 2nd Lieutenant Alfred E. Latimer, 4th Infantry, led his detachment of dismounted dragoons into Camp Cañada de las Uvas five days later; Donaldson, in a frenzy of energy, had drawn up plans for a post and issued contracts for supplies, building materials, forage, beef and labor. That same week, he oversaw preparations to alter the freight route from Stockton to the canyon, to a route connecting the camp to Santa Barbara. Then, he departed the post, leaving a civilian as superintendent of construction. He reported himself sick at San Francisco, had his case reviewed by an army doctor, obtained a medical sick leave and departed for Baltimore, Maryland. He had been in California only six months.

At a later time, writers unaware of Donaldson's reasons for putting the post in the current location, assumed that the location of Fort Tejon was rationally chosen to guard a pass that Indian livestock rustlers and horse thieves frequented, or that the Grapevine Pass was the connecting link between the Central Valley and Southern California. They often prepared detailed written editions of why the fort was put where it then existed. These writers, failing to examine government documents in the National Archives, then produced erroneous decisions on the location of the post and why it was garrisoned.

Today, Grapevine Canyon forms a part of the main highway linking northern and southern California, so it is undersandable that visitors might assume that Fort Tejon was located at a strategic crossroads or mountain pass. It was not.

The following quotations, the first by former Los Angeles *Star* editor William Wallace in 1858, who first visited the fort site in October 1854, and the second from Colonel Joseph Mansfield in his 1859 report as Inspector General, demonstrates a view that Fort Tejon was not sited to control a strategic mountain pass. In fact, its placement baffled them. Mansfield had visited Camp Tejon site in July 1854 and expressed his displeasure with the Fort Tejon location.

"I shall never be able to understand why the Government located this valley for a permanent Post. It is a hundred miles from anywhere in a mountain gorge where the variations of temperature are killing to the most healthy constitution."[25]

"The establishment of a Military post at the Tejon reservation, so-called, was designed in 1854, at the time I made an inspection of this Department, desired me in connection with the Indian Agent at that time Mr. Beal [Beale], and Assistant Quartermaster Captain Gordon [Jordan], to select a suitable site for the post,

and we fixed on a site some 20 miles from this point, in the Valley, near the Indian reservation; which was deemed a strategic, as well as a pleasant, and a comfortable, and suitable place. At that time I could see no valid objections to it, and I have since my arrival at Tejon, visited it again, and am of the same opinion still, and I believe it a much more suitable location than the present site. The road through the canon there is better and nearer to Los Angeles. Why it was not adopted as originally selected I cannot say."[26]

Fort Tejon joined the roll call of military posts, both permanent and temporary, that were established by the 1850s-1860s in California. Together, these posts served to protect the army's influence over Indians and the Indian "problem" in the first two decades after the American conquest.

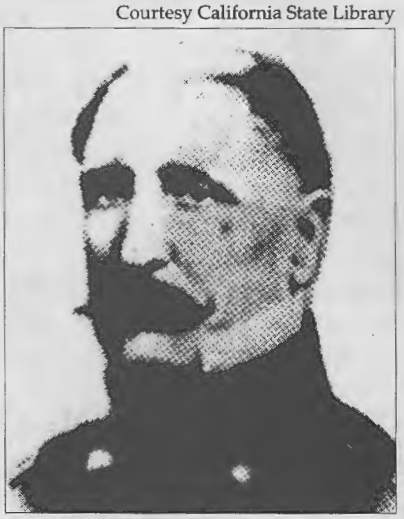
There was some early confusion over what to call the new army post. Some transferred the name of the camp on Tejon Creek to Cañada de las Uvas (i.e., "Camp Tejon") and occasionally spelled it "Camp Tehone" and "Camp Tehon". Others used the title "Camp Cañada de las Uvas," given by Major Donaldson. This location name was used in official correspondence during the first several months of the post's existence. The issue was resolved by feisty, diminutive Brevet Major General John E. Wool, Department of the Pacific commander, who on September 12, 1854, named the post in no uncertain terms: "This post, situated at the Cañada de las Uvas, will be called Fort Tejon."

Courtesy U. S. National Archives

General John E. Wool, Department of the Pacific Commander.

Shortly thereafter, in early October, Brevet Lt. Colonel Benjamin L. Beall, the senior Major of the 1st U. S. Dragoons and the second post commander, suggested that Fort Tejon was a confusing name, since it was not anywhere near the Tejon Reserve, pass, or creek and that "Fort Le Beck" would be a more suitable title. General Wool's response has yet to be found, but obviously, Beall's suggestion was not followed.

Courtesy California State Library



Lt. Colonel Benjamin L. Beall, Senior Major of the 1st U. S. Dragoons.

During the next six years, construction of the post proceeded through a series of starts and stops. Weather at times curtailed construction, as did changes in governmental policies, financial crises, hiring and funding freezes, and occasional military activity. The vast majority of the work was accomplished by civilian labor contracted on a monthly basis. The income from governmental labor, contracts and payroll was a major boost for the local American economy. Rumors of suggested moves or closure of the post usually caused an economic panic to affect both the surrounding agriculturists and the little civilian community of "Fort Tejon" that sprang up to the south, off the projected Fort Tejon military reserve. This townsite is located about three-quarters of a mile south of the park and is today mostly paved over by the freeway. The proposed Fort Tejon military reserve was considered to be one square mile. Lt. Col. Beall suggested that it be two miles wide by eight miles long to keep liquor dealers away from the fort, but a military reserve was never declared by the government. Fort Tejon, the military post, became a little island squatting on civilian-owned land. The post commanders, however, acted as if a reserve had been declared and kept civilians at arm's length. Even Samuel A. Bishop, who bought Rancho Castac in 1859, acted as if a true military post had been legally created by the U. S. Government.

Just exactly when the army came to an agreement with the landowners (the army was squatting) is unknown. A copy of the agreement and its terms has yet to be found. What is known is that the owners--in this case Samuel A. Bishop, the owner of Rancho Castac--received the developments and improvements as part of the rent .[27]

Ultimately, more than 40 military buildings graced the post, plus two or more structures belonging to the post sutler (trader), George C. Alexander. Many of these structures had associated outbuildings, such as privies, woodsheds, pigeon and chicken coops, etc. The

Overland Mail Company established a station at the fort in 1858. The station was at Alexander's store. Not identified, but mentioned in period literature, were the sheds, barns and stables associated with the Overland Mail at Alexander's store. Alexander's store also housed the telegraph relay point once the line was completed from San Francisco to Los Angeles in October 1860. The fort was then connected electrically with the outside world.

The Army Garrison of Fort Tejon

The regular army garrisoned Fort Tejon with various companies of the 1st U. S. Dragoons and, for a brief period in 1857 and early 1858, by a detachment from the 3rd Artillery, serving as infantry. In July 1856, headquarters of the 1st U. S. Dragoons was ordered to Fort Tejon from Fort Union, New Mexico. It arrived in mid-December 1856, after a long, dangerous desert march. During the dragoons' nearly seven-year stay, they served in various routine and not-so-routine duties. Primarily, Fort Tejon was designated to protect the Indians of the Tejon (Sebastian) Reserve and serve as a police force for the Indian agent. The dragoons also served as enforcers of civil law when their presence was requested by the local Los Angeles County authorities and they attempted to block the horse-stealing forays of the eastern desert Indians.

On several occasions, the dragoons were called upon by department headquarters at Benicia or San Francisco to campaign against the Indians. In the spring of 1856, attacks against hungry Indians by local American ranchers in the area east of modern-day Visalia caused the natives to fight back. A small half company of foot artillery was called to the scene from Fort Miller. Dragoons assigned to a patrol of the Mojave Desert were recalled, sent to the Tejon Reserve, recalled again and then marched to the area of conflict known as "the Four Creeks Region." The "war" was over by the time the dragoons arrived. While scouting for "hostiles" who had fled to the mountains, one dragoon trooper drowned. It was the only military casualty of the conflict known today as the Tule River War.

Between January 1 and 16, 1859, dragoons were sent to the Colorado River to escort a Major William Hoffman, who was attempting to locate a site for a new army post. On reaching the river, the troops were confronted by a large number of "war-like" Mojave Indians in the area of the Beaver Pond, or slough, near the site known as "Beale's Crossing." Hoffman unleashed his dragoons onto the Mojaves. The troopers, veterans of the Indian wars in New Mexico, armed with new rifled Sharps carbines, knocked 12 to 14 Mojaves down before the Indians withdrew into the brush along the river. Since the troopers ultimately withdrew and departed the next day, the Mojave may have considered themselves the victors. It was, however, the first time they had contested regular troops. It would not be the last. Hoffman would be back with a full-scale campaign of foot troops, originating at Fort Yuma. Hoffman's compaign was bloodless and he established "Fort Mojave" on the Arizona side of the Colorado River.

In the spring of 1860, Brevet Major James Henry Carleton took his Company K, 1st Dragoons, reinforced by part of Company B, out onto the Mojave Road to break up suspected groups of Native American horse thieves. The Paiutes had grown bold, attacking emigrants and mail carriers and raiding the fringes of the Los Angeles Basin for horses. Several whites had been killed and Carleton had been told to put an end to it. During the first few days of scouting, five or more Indians were killed, while four troopers were wounded, one very seriously. In the excitement of one chase, one Company B dragoon had shot another in the shoulder with his pistol. The dragoons built several earthen redoubts along the Mojave and Salt Lake routes, did a tremendous amount of scouting across the desert, one patrol going as far as Las Vegas, and finally held peace conferences with Indians who came in to treat with Carleton. The campaign ended in early July 1860.[28]

Other duties included suppression and control of Indians outraged by white aggression on or off the Tejon Reserve. One such incident occurred early in the fort's existence, in November 1854, when a former government teamster killed an Indian on the Tejon Reserve, then fled to Gordon's Ferry on the Kern River.

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Gordon's Ferry was a short distance upstream from the modern Bakersfield-Oildale highway bridge. Indians from the Tejon Reserve followed and "attacked" the shack where the teamster was hiding. Another Indian was killed. The natives on the reserve threatened mutiny, and while the teamster fled to the army post for protection, Brevet Lt. Colonel Beall sent 2nd Lt. Alfred E. Latimer and 40 dragoons to the reserve to quell the problem. Short of horses, the troops had to borrow mules from the quartermaster, the very same Lt. Latimer, for their ride to the reservation. Lt. Latimer put down the revolt without further bloodshed.

Several times more in the next seven years troopers rode or marched on foot to the reserve to rescue the agent from belligerent natives or to arrest thieves or murderers. There were also unproductive pursuits of horse and cattle thieves, dreary escorts of quartermaster trains supplying desert outposts, an escort to a paymaster bound from Los Angeles to Utah and, on one occasion in 1858, escorting E. F. Beale and his camels on Beale's return to the Colorado River from Cajon Pass. The real purpose for the escort was to examine Mormon activities along the Mohave Road. It was a time of pending war with the colony in Utah. The dragoons discovered there was "no dangerous" Mormon activity along that route. The remainder of the time, the troops spent in garrison, busy and bored with the mundane routines of daily army life, which included building and repairing the post structures.

The Camel Experiment

Spurred by a hope for improved and economical transport across the arid west after the territorial expansion of the Mexican-American War, the U. S. Army imported camels in the mid-1850s. Fort Tejon played a small role in this experiment after some of the camels were taken to its vicinity in 1857, used by Samuel A. Bishop and eventually placed directly in the post's care in November 1859. While the truth about them is interesting enough, fanciful legend has usually overshadowed the story. It is, therefore, appropriate at this point to examine briefly the myth and the reality of the camels and the army at Fort Tejon. Long-standing romantic fiction has the army using the camels to haul freight, to regularly carry the mail and for active patrols against bandits and hostile Indians. Reputedly, Fort Tejon was the headquarters of the "Camel Corps." In reality, very little of this actually happened.

The documentable facts are: Edward F. Beale, former Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California, and his partner, Samuel A. Bishop, used the camels to re-explore, survey and construct the "Central Wagon" (35th parallel) route under contract with the U. S. Government. Beale lost three camels but never reported the fact. Bishop used the majority of the camels to haul freight for this project. On one occasion east of the Colorado River, he and his civilian packers mounted a camel charge to route Mojave warriors that were interfering with the road building crews. On another occasion, early in 1858, a reinforced company of dragoons did escort Beale's return to the Colorado River. Beale used ten of the camels to haul supplies but sent them back to Bishop's ranch after he crossed the Colorado River. The army, on the other hand, used six-mule wagons to haul its supplies and forage, and traveled one day ahead of Beale's party. They reached the river 28 hours before Beale and stopped a river steamer exploring the Colorado. Beale later took credit for all that transpired.

On November 17, 1859, the army at Fort Tejon took charge of the camels from Bishop. The post quartermaster quickly discovered that most of the camels were in poor physical shape, with sore backs and that it was very expensive to feed 28 camels on hay and barley. In early March 1860, they were moved to a rented grazing area twelve miles from the post under the care of two herders, Hadji Ali and Georges Caralambo, known respectively as "Hi-Jolly" and "Greek George."

One of the government projects for the western experiment of the camels was to see if they would breed and procreate in the far western territory. The camels, with males and females intermixed, proved to the army that they could procreate and produce young, strong, healthy camels. The herd continued to grow, although slowly. There is a great deal of nonsense written about the brutality of army camel herders to their charges. Camels were supposedly shot dead or bludgeoned to death by their herders or packers. The army took a dim view of herders or packers destroying government property. Camels were expensive and if a herder or camel packer would have killed a camel, he would have paid for it by stoppages against his salary. An examination of herder's and packer's salaries in government employment records revealed no such incident. The death of each camel (those few that died before 1864, when they were sold) is documented in government quartermaster records in the National Archives.

There is also a great deal of undocumented storytelling on how army camels frightened and routed herds of government horses, overturning wagons or

dumping troopers on the hard ground. Attempts to confirm these stories have not proven fruitful. Rather, army reports indicated how regularly the animals blended together in the same corrals or fields and tolerated each other with natural ease. When the camels were introduced to the government mule corrals at the Fort Tejon Depot in November 1859, the quartermaster reported no panic, no tumult. In fact, he was surprised at how easily the animals adapted to one another. The camels, showing effects from hard labor, primarily wanted to eat and they consumed expensive oats, barley and hay at alarming rates.

Brevet Major James H. Carleton of Company K, 1st Dragoons, refused to use the camels for his Mojave River expedition in the spring of 1860. The camels, having only joined the army in November 1859, and moved to a grazing camp in March 1860, had not yet recovered from the hard usage of Samuel Bishop, who had worked them to haul supplies to Beale's road expedition, his ranch and to merchants in the civilian town of Fort Tejon from New San Pedro and Los Angeles. The camels remained at the grazing camp 12 miles east of the fort under the care of two civilian herders and a small detachment of soldiers to protect the herders.

The first official test by the army in California for camels was conducted by Captain Winfield S. Hancock, Assistant Quartermaster in Los Angeles (see picture on page 43), in an attempt to cut the expense of messenger service between Los Angeles and the recently established Fort Mojave on the Colorado River. This trial, in September 1860, featured the camel herder Hadji Alli ("Hi Jolly") riding a camel like a pony express rider, carrying dispatches for Fort Mojave. One camel dropped dead from exhaustion at the Fishponds (modern-day Daggett), while a second attempt to use an "express camel" killed it at Sugar Loaf (modern-day Barstow). It was also noted that while camels died, and it was cheaper, the camels were no faster than the two-mule buckboard in service under contract to haul the mail for the army. At the end of September 1860, Hadji Alli and Georges Caralambo were dropped from army payrolls, and two former soldiers were hired as "camel herders" at Fort Tejon, at a higher salary.

The second experiment, during the early months of 1861, was again by a government-contracted civilian party. They were to survey the California-Nevada boundary, under J. R. N. Owen. Under Owen's supervision, or "Hi-Jolly's" care (Hadji Ali on October 1, 1860 had been discharged from army employment at Fort Tejon), the three camels worked successfully. At the end of the survey the three camels were returned to Los Angeles. On June 17, 1861, the camels, 31 in number, of which three were still at the Los Angeles Quartermaster Depot, were transferred from Fort Tejon to Captain Hancock at the Los Angeles Depot. There is no further documentable association of camels with the later Civil War period at Fort Tejon.[29] (See "The Camel Experiment in California" by the author in issue #18 of the *Dogtown Territorial Quarterly*, page 10.)

Keeping the Fort Open

The army was aware that Fort Tejon guarded little that was strategic. Indians had ambushed cattle trains in the Cañada de las Uvas before the army came, but then moved their raiding routes southward, striking through San Gorgonio, Cajon Pass and Soledad Canyon. Officers new to the fort, often wrote "San Francisco Canyon" for Soledad due to the close location of Rancho de San Francisco, whose owner considered himself a prime target for thieves. Army patrols did little to stop this traffic. By the time the dragoons heard of these Indian incursions, organized themselves for field duty and got to the scene, the raiders were long gone and dispersed. The romantic image of "the dragoons to the rescue" would have to wait for a later day. In real life, it just did not happen that way. The dragoons caught no horse-stealing Indians, deterred no horse-stealing Indians and generally, when they did pursue, found no horse-stealing Indians. On occasion, the army did strike, but made no real effort to determine if the Indians caught in their path were horse thieves or just native people they happened to find in their way. In the spring of 1860, Brevet Major J. H. Carleton, frustrated by empty patrols, declared any Indian found in his path to be guilty. Five (or more) Mojave Indians paid the price for being found along the trail of the patrolling troopers. The Indians, how-

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ever, did not die easily. They fought back and three soldiers were badly wounded. In the excitement, one dragoon shot another across the shoulder blade with a pistol, while one nervous veteran dragoon, at the end of the campaign, accidentally shot himself in the chest with his own carbine. He survived to become a sergeant during the Civil War.

Closure of Fort Tejon Debated

Through the whole history of the post, closure was often debated. The army was determined to find a post which could allow "worthless Mission San Diego" (then an army post) and Fort Tejon to be replaced. As early as 1856, Brevet Major General John E. Wool, who authorized and named Fort Tejon, began to seek a way to close it and move the troops to the San Bernardino area. Wool was unsuccessful. His inspector, Captain O. C. Ord of the 3rd Artillery, rejected the proposed location. Wool allowed the project to drop. But, in January 1857, an earthquake nearly wrecked Fort Tejon and the search began all over again. A struggle developed between the post commander, Lt. Col. B. L. Beall, who wanted a comfortable army post and the department commanders, who wanted it closed. Ultimately, Beall and the weather saved Fort Tejon. Colonel Beall pushed construction to meet his image while he was at the post and when he returned from a long sick leave of absence, he found that the post had not grown to his anticipation and pushed construction once again. He was not distracted by government economy drives or lack of money. Beall wanted a suitable post for himself and his dragoons.

Ironically, when Lt. Col. Beall became acting Department of California (formerly the Pacific) commanding officer in October 1860, it was he who demanded that all construction work stop at Fort Tejon along with every other army post under his command. Work on all the buildings stopped, except where it could be done by soldiers on daily duty without buying any additional construction material.

The second factor, the weather, also saved Fort Tejon from closure by default. In 1855, Southern California entered a period of drought. In many areas, the crops failed. The seed barely sprouted before it withered and died in the blistering heat. There was rain and snow but not enough water, except along the creeks and streams of the lower San Joaquin Valley; the very northern end of the Southern California district. The Army in California conceived a plan to move the fort southward to San Bernardino or San Gorgonio Pass on the gateway to the central Mojave desert but the rainless weather made it too expensive. Only at Fort Tejon could feed for several hundred horses and mules be procured at anything like a reasonable price.

Brevet Major General John E. Wool, Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy, 1st Dragoons, and Brevet Brigadier General Newman S. Clarke, Colonel, 6th Infantry, all tried to close the post. Wool's attempt was short-lived. Ill health and military problems in Oregon detracted him. Colonel Fauntleroy's command was short-lived. He was only temporarily holding the office. Nevertheless, he got the motion going and he was aided by the earthquake of January 9, 1857. What hurt his effort was his attempt to move his entire regiment of 1st Dragoons to Winchester, Virginia, his home town, for a total reorganization.

General Clarke was the most definite proponent of closing the fort. Clarke was panicked by earthquakes, which he called "volcanic disturbances," and knew that if he kept dragoons at the fort, falling buildings would kill the expensive American horses used by the troopers. But Clarke took command of California in the midst of a severe drought, already two years old. There were no dams or reservoirs which would relieve later 20th-century generations from the true effects of drought. It was Clarke who favored moving his dragoons to "the wooded, grassy plains of San Bernardino," a phrase he had acquired from a book written by a biologist who visited the area in the wettest spring in memory. When Clarke pointed at the map of San Bernardino, his department quartermaster shook his head, "No." Like it or not, Fort Tejon was the only area where fodder and barley for the numerous horses and mules needed for operation could be purchased from productive farmers. Even grain for animals, bought in from Los Angeles by returning patrols, was actually grain grown in the lower San Joaquin Valley along its watered river bottoms.

General Clarke kept up his demand, sending inspector after inspector into the San Bernardino area and refusing to believe their reports. Finally, in mid-1859, during the Colorado River campaign, Clarke visited his "wooded, grassy plains," near San Bernardino and saw for himself the truth. His plans to move Fort Tejon died and the post was allowed to continue-- for a little while.

Army Civilians

A large and varied group of civilians worked at Fort Tejon. The majority were employed by the Quartermaster Department while a much smaller number

worked for the Commissary of Subsistence. The numbers of men fluctuated between three or four and a high of 69. They performed various tasks in construction of the fort buildings. There were also Indian and Mexican adobe makers and common laborers who dug foundations of the buildings and carried and set heavy stone blocks. One group of Indian laborers helped to construct several corrals in the depot area of the fort, while another group worked as teamsters on a seasonal basis, cutting and hauling hay to the fort.

The majority of the men were white Anglo-Saxons of American or European origin. Their work was both technical and common "grunt work." The quartermasters hired carpenters, plasterers, masons, blacksmiths, teamsters, wheelwrights, herders, expressmen and laborers. In the more senior positions, the employees were chief herders, wagonmasters, superintendents, forage masters, storekeepers and clerks who worked directly with the quartermaster, as accountant, secretary, inventory manager and general assistant. Surprisingly, only a few civilian cooks were hired. Most of the civilians who drew army food in bulk (a ration per day) at the fort were expected to shift for themselves.

Living conditions and camp locations are seldom mentioned in period communications. The men must have lived at first in tents and often, for years, groups of workers continued to live under canvas. In 1859, a group of Mexican and American adobe makers lived in a tent cluster near or in front of the bakery. As the village of "Fort Tejon" grew beyond the one-room tent saloon that first marked its existence, civilian employees must have moved the three-quarters of a mile south and taken up residency in either the hotels or the various one-room shacks which often dotted the outskirts of this type of town. Each morning the men walked, or "commuted," to work. Some of the civilians lived at their work sites. Haying crews lived in the meadows rented from Samuel A. Bishop. Herders of government livestock, mules, horses, commissary beef cattle and later the camels, lived in tent camps overlooking the pasture land also rented from John F. Cuddy or Sam Bishop. At first, these grazing camps were in or near Cuddy Valley and local settlers like James Gorman (founder of the village of modern Gorman) and John F. Cuddy, who settled "Cuddy Valley" and surrounding uplands, were the senior herders. They had graduated from common laborers and teamsters into the rank of herder. At the grazing camps, there were also small detachments of troopers or artillery doughboys who guarded the civilians and their herds from thieves and grizzly bears, but also tended their own company horses and mules. At the sawmill on "Pinery Mountain," what is most likely today the ski recreation area on Mount Pinos, was located a tent camp to house the loggers, teamsters, bullwhackers (oxen drivers), mechanics, carpenters and sawyers who operated the horse-powered Pages' sawmill. Once again, the camp had to provide its own cook, even though each man received one ration (three meals) a day in government-issued food as part of their salary.

The Pages' Sawmill of Fort Tejon

On July 20, 1854, Captain Thomas Jordan, Asst. Quartermaster at Fort Miller, California, transferred to Brevet Major James L. Donaldson one complete Pages' sawmill. This government property had been forwarded by wagon to Fort Miller and was delivered to Captain Jordan by receipted invoice of quartermaster stores received. When Major Donaldson prepared to leave Fort Miller on his way to Tejon Pass to establish the new army camp, he took possession of the property, which included one separate inventory for the sawmill. Donaldson, plus his escort, transferred from Fort Miller on July 20, but did not actually take up the march until July 22.

Inventory of Sawmill

"Pages" Circular Sawmill	
44 inch saw blade	1
50 inch saw blade	1
Cant hooks, pair	1
Cast steel files	12
Wrenches	1
Punches	1
Lone rollers with revolving wedges	
Lace leather, sides 1/2	
Rack pinions	


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Spur wheels	1
Studs and rollers	3
Horse powers with round frame	
Nine inch belting	40 feet
Feed pinions	3
Doubletrees	6

Plus added on to the inventory was:
73 1/2 yards of duck canvas.

Later, Donaldson acknowledged a certificate of contract from Alexander ("Alex") Ball, an operator of a sawmill on the upper San Joaquin River and authorized pay on October 5, 1854 for six oxen to haul timber to the new mill. At the same time, Donaldson had acknowledged a series of contracts for a second delivery of adobe bricks at two cents each for 15,500 adobe bricks. Donaldson signed these receipts after his return to San Francisco in September 1854.

Donaldson was only at Fort Tejon a few days and probably departed on August 12 or 13, 1854. He hired Patrick Fitzpatrick to drive him, via "ambulance" (a term for light wagon, not a medical vehicle), to Santa Barbara. Fitzpatrick drove Donaldson to Santa Barbara in good time to catch the northbound steamer (San Diego-San Pedro-Santa Barbara to San Francisco) for Donaldson reported at Department Headquarters on September 2. However, Fitzpatrick tarried at Santa Barbara, for on September 5, 1854, he purchased 400 pounds of hay from Mr. T. Moore of Santa Barbara to feed the "government mules attached to the ambulance." William Black, the Donaldson-appointed government shipping and receiving agent in Santa Barbara for the army at Cañada de las Uvas, approved the purchase.

By January 1855, the mill was in full swing, producing about 800 board-feet of lumber daily. It had been moved to a better location about 12 miles from the fort according to Captain Thomas Jordan, overall supervisor of construction, with "easy access" and there was a "very large quantity of very fine timber." Captain Jordan wished to convert the sawmill from horse power to water power. The mill operated on "Pinery Mountain" until January 1859. The timber was cut by soldiers and a few civilians. Two to six teamsters hauled the timber to the mill, and then hauled the rough-sawn lumber, planks and studs down the mountain to the labor gangs at the fort. A millwright supervised the sawmill and controlled four to eight laborers or soldiers working at the mill, producing and stacking lumber for shipping.

In early February 1859, the sawmill was moved to the fort and a civilian millwright reestablished the machinery somewhere along the course of Grapevine Creek (the location is unknown). Here, the millwright Garrett Durland, who was also a carpenter, put the sawmill back into operation. There was another attempt to convert the mill to water power but the quartermaster office at Benicia refused to approve the funds. The mill continued to convert timber hauled on wagon chassis by oxen to the fort into lumber for construction and repair. In the spring of 1861, the mill closed once and for all and ultimately was sold to local rancher John F. Cuddy, a former fort employee. Cuddy moved the machinery back to Mount Pinos and for years produced sawn lumber for the neighborhood.

The Civil War Re-Opens the Closed Fort

The prospects of civilian sectionalism between North and South tore at the Union of the United States for many years and divided and worried the officers of the army. Some of these officers quickly decided their course of action. One young Georgia officer, 2nd Lt. T. Leroy Napier, Jr., resigned in February 1860 and journeyed home. He soon joined a Macon militia unit and was one of the first to go to war. The majority of officers attempted to remain apolitical and kept in their hearts the strain of approaching disunion. As the news reached Fort Tejon of the departure of South Carolina from the Union and the secession of other southern states, the pressure grew. A few began to court the new Confederate government in Montgomery, Alabama. First Lt. Henry B. Davidson, the regimental quartermaster, opened correspondence with the rebellious government seeking a staff appointment, advising that all mail be directed to his unsuspecting relations in San Francisco, but he did not resign his commission in the U. S. Army until June 11, 1861.

Others, even those of southern birth, resolved to stay with the Union, such as Captain J. W. Davidson, and 1st Lt. Benjamin F. "Grimes" Davis. Then came word of the firing on Fort Sumter.

With the certain news of armed rebellion by the southern states and the rumored threats of violence to Union factions in the Los Angeles basin in 1861, the government ordered closure of Fort Mojave on the Colorado River and a few days later, of Fort Tejon. The Fort Tejon garrison was moved to guard Los Angeles and later was transferred to the east. The date of abandonment is usually listed as June 15, 1861, but military activity continued for several weeks thereafter as the civilian population attempted to scare up an In-

dian threat. Finally, the Quartermaster Department closed the post. With the closure of the post, the civilian town of Fort Tejon died and turned to dust.

With the first closure of Fort Tejon, the post passed into the temporary hands of S. A. Bishop, who apparently used the structures but also neglected them. Bishop was soon involved in developing a ranch in the Owens Valley. The U. S. Army, in the form of federal California Volunteers, reoccupied the fort in the late summer of 1863 and a garrison remained at the post until final abandonment on September 11, 1864. There is evidence of only minor repair work by the California Volunteers who really did not want to be there in the first place.

In the summer of 1863, the U. S. Army gained the upper hand in conquest of the Owens Valley over the Paiutes' determination to retain their valley and stop Euro-American encroachment. The forces used by the U. S. Government (California-recruited federal volunteers) were numerically larger than any military force used in the valley before. Troops from Fort Tejon had visited and inspected the valley in 1859 but they did not remain. The California Volunteers of 1862-1863 came to conquer. At times, their course was marked by brutality. In the spring of 1863 a California cavalry unit moving to reinforce the garrison in Owens Valley took prisoner a band of Native Americans who willingly gave up their few arms and placed themselves under the protection of the California troops. These Indians were suspected of ambushes and depredations along what is now the route between Mojave and Red Rock Canyon. No proof of this suspicion was available. None was really needed.

The troopers of the 2nd Cavalry, California Volunteers, yearned to be known as "Indian-fighters." Teamsters across the mountains had been fired on. Reputed Indian ringleaders were singled out--almost all the grown males of the band--and they were shot or sabered to death. The company commander, Captain Moses McLaughlin, reported this as an "engagement in Kelso Canyon." It was not long before it was more commonly called the "Massacre of Kelso Canyon." It did not stop the sniping at teamsters traveling the sandy road of Fremont Valley east of modern-day Mojave. (See "José Chico: Bearing a Bi-Cultural Burden" by Dr. Robert J. Chandler on page 54.)

Meanwhile, the Owens Valley Paiutes were brought to bay. They surrendered conditionally. The conditions were ignored. Approximately 1,000 Indians, Paiutes from the Owens Valley and native people from the Coso and Panamint Mountains, were rounded up at Camp Independence and ordered to be moved to the southern San Joaquin Valley. The army did not want to continue the expensive maintenance and resupply of faraway Camp Independence. No government Indian agent was willing to take charge of the Indians nor did the returning settlers want any Paiutes in the Owens Valley. The Indians were marched in forced drives out of the Owens Valley, around the southeastern edge of the Sierra, across Walker Pass and down the Kern River canyon to the hot plains below.

Part of a company of cavalry was dropped off at Kelso Canyon to watch over the "wild Indians" in the area and to block escaping Paiutes eager to go home. Already, nearly 100 Indians had either slipped away to walk home or had died along the track. When the caravan reached the San Joaquin Valley floor, there was a question of where to put them. Edward F. Beale, owner of Rancho Liebre, on which was situated the old Tejon Reserve, wanted "no wild Indians" on his ranch. He would, however, tolerate them for a sizable rent per head. Ultimately, 300 were sent to the Tejon Reserve, 300 went into camp down canyon from the decayed Fort Tejon, which was regarrisoned and 300 more were sent to the area of the future Tule River Reserve east of Porterville.

The question now at Fort Tejon was how to feed these people. The Indian agency pleaded an inability due to lack of funds. No agent was available to take charge of any of these Native Americans and none showed an interest if assigned to take charge. The army officers at Fort Tejon evinced some humanity and offered to feed their 300. Headquarters in San Francisco reminded the officers that the army, except in rare emergencies, did not feed Indians--the Indian Bureau fed Indians. Then, the army relented. Since these people could be considered as "prisoners of war," they could be fed to keep them from becoming unruly and desperate. By this time, the garrison at Fort Tejon was already giving the prisoners a basic (scanty) ration to keep them in place. To keep from starving, the Indians were fleeing and walking home.

The Paiutes continued to leave. The federal soldiers did not want to be at Fort Tejon and their times of enlistment were growing short. They, like the Paiutes, wanted to go home. By the summer of 1864, the remaining Indian survivors had been transferred to Tule River. Then, the army decided that since Fort Tejon guarded no Indians, there was no longer a reason for Fort Tejon. It was abandoned.

Civilian Use of Fort Tejon

In 1866, the Castac Rancho was purchased by Edward F. Beale and became part of the Tejon Ranch. A very small civilian settlement appears to have existed at the former post, but by the 1870s the civilians had shifted to Gorman's Station, now Gorman. It would also appear that with the first closure of the post the earlier relocation of the Overland Mail to a more northerly route and the demise of the civilian Fort Tejon settlement, the main road through the canyon reverted to the old Antelope Valley route, out to the new gold discoveries in the Coso and Argus Mountains of the northeastern Mojave Desert and to the new army post (Camp Independence) and civilian settlements of the Owens Valley. Travelers to the San Joaquin Valley would turn off the desert route at Willow Springs to cross over the old Tejon Pass-Tejon Creek route. From the mid-1870s the Tejon Ranch used the old fort as a sheep station. Fort Tejon as a military post passed from memory.

Local citizens of Bakersfield developed an interest in the preservation of old Fort Tejon and calling themselves the "Foxtail Rangers," began to visit the site. They received permission from the Tejon Ranch to see if anyone was really buried under the aging LeBec oak tree. In 1890, the Rangers dug open the grave and found a mauled skeleton. Satisfied, they reburied the remains and pondered who he had been. The story of Peter LeBeck or LeBec can be historically traced back to the early 1850s when the LeBec Tree marked the site known as Teamster's Rest, but no one has ever produced a shred of evidence on who LeBec was, except a man killed by a grizzly bear. Legend, repeated often, has it that he was a fur trapper; but that is conjecture. Fantastic stories have been created, would-be relatives have given interviews and books have been printed. Whoever LeBec was remains unknown and his skeleton still remains buried in its shallow grave.

Out of the interest of the grave of LeBec came the first efforts at protecting the buildings and the historic site. The Foxtail Rangers had little success as buildings were altered or torn down. But their efforts developed interest concerning the old fort in future generations of Southern California.

Nearby is another burial, but this man's exact grave site is lost to history. On September 8, 1855, 1st Lieutenant Thomas F. Castor, who is given erroneous historical credit for locating Fort Tejon, died of tuberculosis. His death saved him from a black footnote in history. Castor, suffering from his disease, was also a compulsive alcoholic--possibly to kill the pain of the disease that was killing him. The young officer, a graduate of West Point, a veteran of the Mexican War and duty at Fort Spelling in Minnesota Territory, had come to California with his newly married bride in 1852. He had served in northern California and Oregon Territory in conditions which had not helped his sickly constitution. He was a good officer and his first sergeants, inherited and selected, often ran his company for him for months. In February 1854, he had been ordered to California to reorganize his company, gain replacements and prepare to go to the southern San Joaquin for duty. While on a visit to San Francisco, Castor fell off the wagon. He got drunk and then violently obnoxious. Fellow officers reported him and he was drawn up on General John E. Wool's carpet. His wife prepared an apologetic letter for him, he offered Wool his resignation, undated, but signed, stating that if he ever strayed again Wool could date it and force him from the army. Under this cloud, Castor came to Fort Tejon and garrisoned the new camp.

Junior lieutenants operated the company while Castor struggled against the disease. He performed only one instance of field duty—a road survey in the early winter of 1854. In the summer of 1855, the Castors fled their tent home pitched near the Lebec oak and escaped to San Fran-

Old Adobes of Forgotten Fort Tejon

The Foxtail Rangers exhuming the skeleton of Peter Lebeck, killed in 1837 by "a X Bear." Photo taken in 1890.

cisco seeking additional medical help. They failed and in August 1855 the Castors returned to Fort Tejon. A few weeks later, Castor died. He was buried a hundred feet or so behind his tent in a specially constructed coffin. Mrs. Castor had a wooden headboard erected and hoped to move the body to Franklin, Pennylvania when she departed. Mrs. Castor lingered about Fort Tejon for more than a month, though she no longer had any privileges or rights under army custom. When she did depart, she could not afford to move her husband's body and Thomas' remains were left at the post. In time, the officers of the regiment raised a fund, and from Los Angeles, procured an inscribed marble stone for the deceased lieutenant. An iron fence was constructed and put up around the grave.

As the decades passed following the army's abandonment of the post, the marble stone remained over Castor's grave. In time, the iron fence disappeared,

Old Adobes of Forgotten Fort Tejon, 1949

Lt. Castor's marble stone was encased in this rock cairn by a civic group in the 1940s. It was moved again in 1988 to the military cemetery.

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and as the years passed the stone itself was moved to the military part of the old fort's cemetery, which accidentally caused the disappearance of the actual grave site of Lieutenant Castor. In the 1940s, a well-meaning civic group repaired the stone which had been split and encased it in a rock cairn. Then, they moved it behind the newly reconstructed officers' quarters at the top of the parade ground. A misinformed plaque honoring the enlisted soldiers still buried in the old post cemetery was also moved and attached to the cairn. The plaque gives an erroneous listing of the men buried there. In 1988, Castor's stone was once again placed in the military cemetery to mark the site until the day when Castor's forgotten last resting site is once again found.

In 1916, the local Native Sons of the Golden West bolstered the walls of the remaining buildings, which then numbered at least four. The real movement to save the fort began with the Fort Tejon Historical Research Committee of Bakersfield, chaired by local architect Edwin Symnes. Symnes encouraged research, studies and fund drives to stimulate interest in the fort. The National Park Service showed brief interest in the mid-1930s. Finally, in 1940, the then-California Division of Beaches and Parks accepted five acres as a gift from

the Tejon Ranch. It was not until after World War II that the first staff was assigned to the park. Two hundred more acres were acquired in 1950 to protect the western viewshed of the unit.

Historic Structures and Sites

The primary existing facilities at Fort Tejon State Historic Park are the restored adobe buildings constructed by the army, the reconstructed officer's quarters along officer's row and the archaeological sites of the former garrison structures and features of this army post. It should be noted that historic Fort Tejon consisted of three zones:

1. The garrison of Fort Tejon, currently owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation, minus the second guard house.

2. The Quartermaster Depot of Fort Tejon.

3. The Sutler's Store Complex of George C. Alexander.

The last two areas are archaeological in nature and are located on private property. The site of the second guard house and the western portions of the depot of Fort Tejon are beneath the right-of-way of modern Interstate 5. And it should be remembered that Fort Tejon was a small island on top of a privately owned civilian land grant with Mexican origins. No military reserve was ever declared for Fort Tejon.

The Department of Parks and Recreation owns the majority of the area associated with the garrison portion of the Fort Tejon complex. The garrison structures surrounded the approximately 400-foot by 400-foot parade ground. Fort Tejon was planned by Brevet Major James L. Donaldson and used predominantly existing concepts of U. S. Army architecture in vogue throughout the frontier movement of the 1820s-1840s period. There seems to be nothing of radical experimentation in Donaldson's plan. His original concept for the post layout was not followed due to changes in estimated troop strength. Captain Thomas Jordan, who loved to dabble in architectural experimentation and who supervised construction from October 1854 until June 1855, made no apparent changes in Donaldson's plans. Captain Ralph W. Kirkham, the last quartermaster department officer at Fort Tejon (June 1855 to March 1857) made internal alterations and converted the use of several buildings. He did not seem to make any radical changes either. Adobe building construction was basically a new experience to all three, though Jordan had at least an introduction to it at Fort Yuma and Fort Miller. The task of actual construction supervision was left to two civilians, D. M. Kingsbury and Gabriel Allen. Other officers, such as Lieutenant William T. Magruder, Benjamin F. Davis and Henry B. Davidson, all of the 1st Dragoons as acting post quartermasters, were also involved in repair, reconstruction and construction. They also made no radical changes in Donaldson's original plans.

The structures of Fort Tejon are basically of adobe or are wooden-framed. They are rectangular in shape with wooden-framed gable roofs using a mixture of mortise and tenon joint construction and nailed lathing to make a ceiling. The lath and furring strips were then plastered with a burnt lime putty plaster. The roofs were shingled either with San Francisco Bay area redwood or with local pine. In the adobe buildings, the floors of planks rested on joists inserted into the adobe and pinned in place with wooden pegs. The adobe bricks were supplied by either civilian contractors, employed Indians or soldier-laborers. All the remaining labor, such as masonry, carpentry, painting, etc., was performed by both civilian employees and extra-duty soldiers employed by the Quartermaster Department. The wooden structures were probably finished by nailing planks to the wooden frames. Lumber was supplied by a government-owned Pages' circular sawmill installed on modern-day Mount Pinos. All of the structures rested on stone foundations of either cut stone or rubble which was hauled from quarry sites located off department property in Johnston Canyon to the west of the park. The army hired professional civilian masons to dress and lay the stone foundations.

Not listed, but obviously located on the grounds surrounding the many residences at the fort, were outbuildings made of wood. These would include storage sheds, small wood sheds and stables for chickens, pigeons, or a milk cow. Privies were associated with the officer's homes and the hospital and latrines for the enlisted men. In the late spring of 1857, Lt. Magruder, post quartermaster, reported that many backyard fences and buildings had not yet been built. Some officer's quarters did not yet have their own latrines.

While a few contemporary sketches of Fort Tejon exist (i.e., Brevet Major E. D. Townsend, October 1855) only one map exists from the fort's army period. In February 1859, Colonel Joseph K. F. Mansfield, Depart-

ment of the Inspector General, visited Fort Tejon for a biannual inspection. His inspection report was accompanied by several sketch maps showing the basic layout of Fort Tejon and the surrounding countryside. The map of the fort, not drawn to scale by Colonel Mansfield, is reproduced on page 20. The map on page 21 shows this map updated to 1860 and numbered to correspond to the following building descriptions.

Beginning at the current visitor center, the following is an examination of the building sites and the restored and reconstructed structures which outline the parade ground.

1. Officer's Quarters. This is the site of a captain's duplex quarters, an adobe house, which apparently was nearly finished in 1856. The building was one and one-half stories with two three-room apartments separated by a hall with a wide porch facing the front of the house and a connecting porch on the rear. There were on each side two rooms downstairs, separated by a narrow hallway and two upstairs rooms, half with a sloping front and rear ceiling. The building was made of adobe brick resting on a stone foundation, with locally sawed pine framing for doors, windows and ceiling. The ceiling was covered with laths and was to be whitewashed as work progressed using locally produced lime putty mixed with water. The hip roof was framed with wood and covered with pine or cedar shingles. Both type of shingles were produced by local contractors. Each house had a full length porch stretching across the front with wooden flooring and wooden steps leading to the porch and doorway.

The structure was damaged in the January 1857 earthquake and was rebuilt. In 1857, Captain R. W. Kirkham lived here and in 1861, 2nd Lieutenant Samuel McKee, his recent bride and 1st Lt. and Mrs. Chapman, occupied the structure. Also in 1861, a large gray cat lived under the porch. All that remains of the building is a line of foundation stones along the front of the structure. These stones are a schist-like metamorphic, typical of the rough-quarried stones used throughout the garrison area. The remaining stones are almost flush with the soil surface. Identification of this structure is based on the Mansfield Map and reports of damage caused by the January 1857 earthquake. This is also the approximate site of a cabin used to house seasonal employees during the early period of Department of Parks and Recreation management at the fort.

2. Kitchen. At least four of the structures in the garrison area at Fort Tejon had associated detached structures used as kitchens. Started at the same time as the house noted above, this unfinished structure was also damaged in January 1857. It was repaired. The only evidence of the detached kitchen associated with structure 1 is the low ridge of earth about 70 feet south of the front foundation line of structure 1.

The original kitchen was designed as a two-room adobe building with a wooden framed roof of local shingles, either pine or cedar. It apparently had an open fireplace for cooking. This kitchen was identical to building (kitchen) No. 4. The kitchens were directly behind each quarters and were connected by a shed to the back hallway door of the house. The second room in the rear provided living space for a maid-cook or servant.

3. Headquarters and Band. This adobe building, built in 1855-56, was originally used as officer's quarters and then, in early 1857, was repaired and converted to an office for regimental headquarters and the quarters of the regimental band. Intending to return the structure to officer's quarters, the post commanding officer, Lt. Col. B. L. Beall, ordered construction of new band quarters and an adjutant's office during the years 1859-60. This relocation never took place. Building 3 is identified by a ridge averaging 18 inches high and about 3 feet wide along the front (side toward the parade ground). Foundation stones similar to those noted for structure 1 can be seen protruding from this ridge. Such stones can also be seen along the sides of the building with a low soil ridge along the rear. This structure is noted on the Mansfield Map and is referenced in army records. It is also reported that this is the approximate location of a later house used by the resident ranger during the early Department of Parks and Recreation management period at the post.

4. Kitchen. This detached adobe kitchen is identified by a ridge of soil with occasional foundation stones. The ridge is in line with the ridge noted for structure 2 and is about 70 feet south of the front ridge of structure 3. The detached kitchens at Fort Tejon were connected with the residences by a shed covered with shingles. This building was originally built as an officer's kitchen and then was reconstructed as a mess hall-kitchen for the regimental band after the earthquake of January 1857.

5. Officer's Quarters. Although incorrectly noted on the Mansfield Map, no remains or foundations for this adobe structure have been found on the surface. The officer's quarters noted here was a two story adobe building and the home of Lt. Col. B. L. Beall at the

time of the 1857 earthquake. Beall was in bed on the second floor when the entire wall fell away giving him an excellent view of the parade ground. The house was badly damaged overall and continued to receive additional damage by the aftershocks that rumbled under the post. Shortly after the main quake, it was determined to save and repair the quarters and its detached kitchen, but the continuous aftershocks threw its walls further out of plumb and cracked its walls. By March 1857, First Lieutenant Wm. T. Magruder, regimental and post quartermaster, decided the building must go before it fell on someone. In June 1857, the building was torn down and materials were salvaged, including the stone foundation which was dug up and used elsewhere.

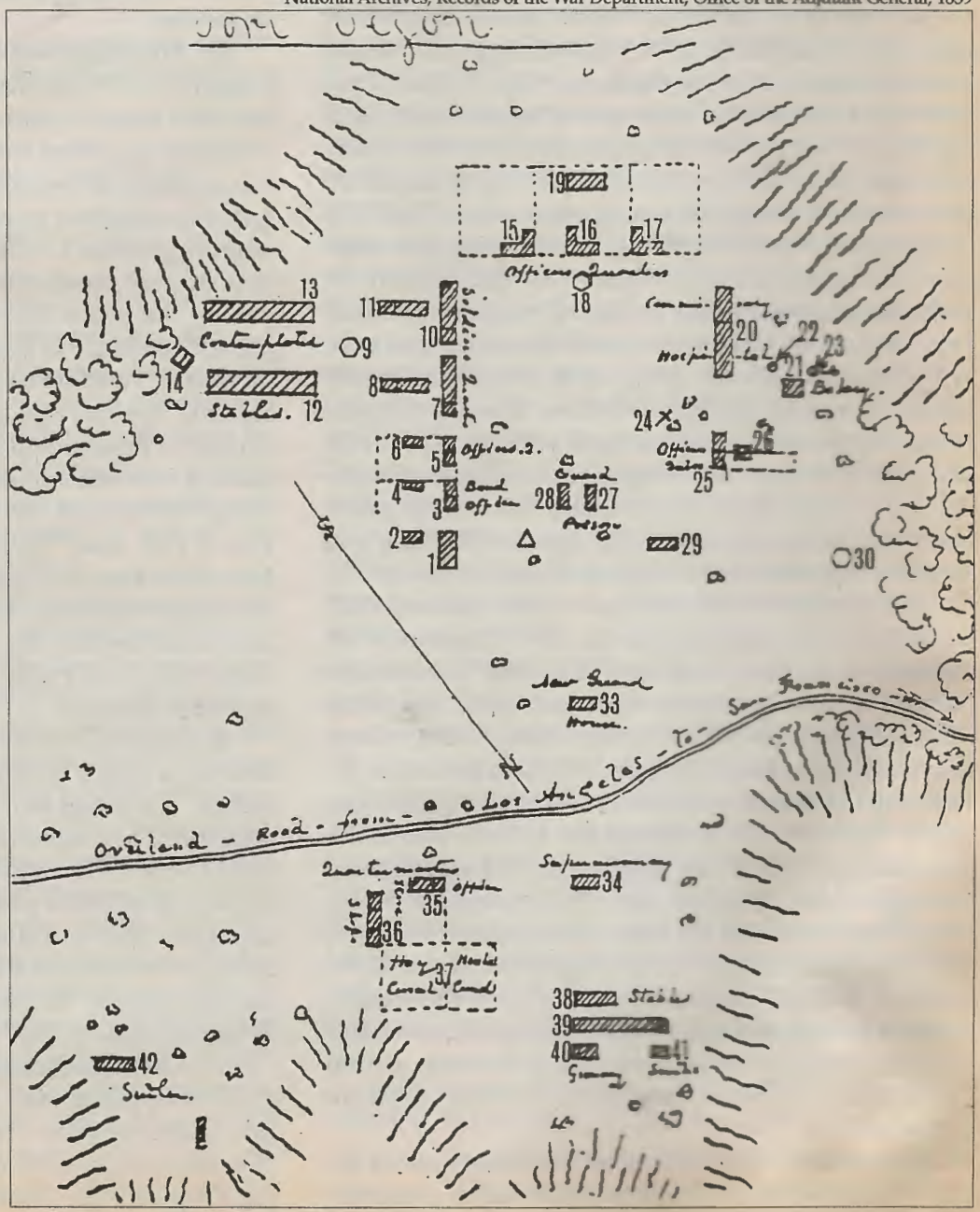
6. Kitchen. Again, there are no noted remains and the location of the adobe structure is based on interpretation of data in the earthquake reports in Army Quartermaster records in Record Group 92 of the National Archives (see No. 5 for explanation).

7. Barracks 1. This building is one of only two standing structures at Fort Tejon which can be attributed to the period of army occupation, thus constituting a restored, not reconstructed, structure. The other restored structure is a suspected additional officer's quarters (#19).

The adobe structure (112 feet long by 31 feet wide) was registered with the Historic American Building Survey in 1937. It was restored in 1948. The roof was raised and pine shingles replaced the corrugated metal roof of the Tejon Ranch ownership. The gabled roof framework was saved and repaired. Approximately 40% of the western end was removed and replaced with modern adobe bricks manufactured from the remains of barracks 2. Floor planking was installed on the original joists in the east end and on replacement joists in the west end. Windows and doors were located and installed and new stairs and landings were constructed. The interior plastering was repaired and repainted.

The original barracks was built in 1854 and consisted of 900 square feet of living space; that is, two rooms 18 by 25 feet and they may have been available for limited occupancy for the winter season of 1854. The majority of the troopers, however, remained in tents that winter. The structure of adobe sits on a foundation of stone quarried from modern-day Johnston Canyon. This building probably had imported red-

National Archives, Records of the War Department, Office of the Adjutant General, 1859



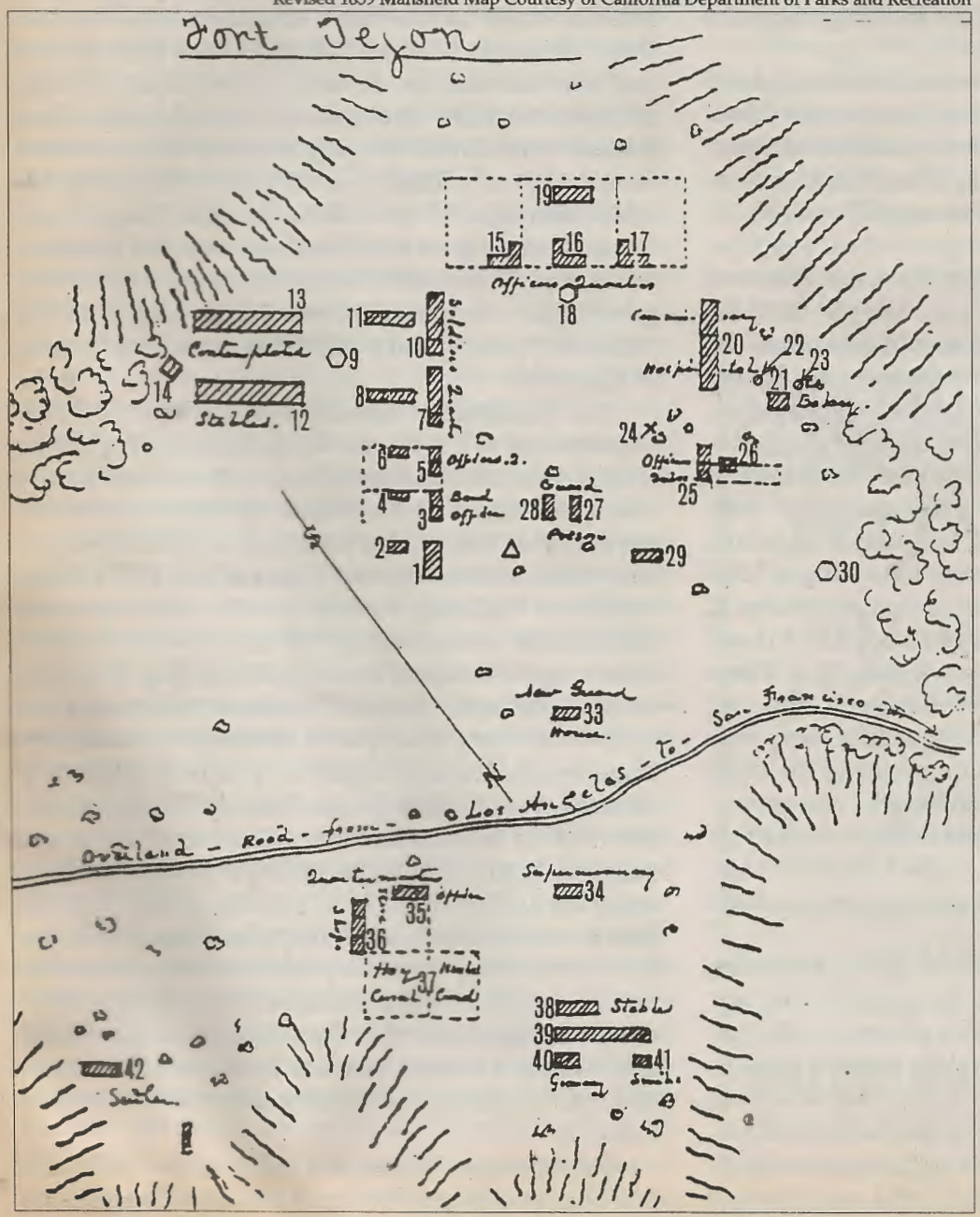
wood shingles placed on a gabled framework of local pine. For economy reasons this structure and the other adobe buildings at Fort Tejon were never truly finished. While the interiors were completed with lath and plaster in what is termed a "hard finish," the exterior adobe walls were unfinished and were never whitewashed. The structure as historically finished was completed in the fall of 1855 to accommodate an enlarged Company A, 1st U. S. Dragoons.

The wood for trim and framing was cut locally, and was installed uncured, causing shrinking and warping. The wood had to be replaced as the structure was completed. Paint used on the wood was probably a burnt cream or Prussian blue color. Doors, windows and fixtures which would have been supplied by the quartermaster's depot in Benicia were generally finished in dark Prussian blue paint.

The barracks is now refurbished to the period of Dragoon occupation of the fort after 1857 and constitutes a principal portion of current interpretation of the U. S. Army occupation of the site. The current bright white paint scheme is not accurate for the army period of occupation but is a modern interpretation of 1850s colors caused by department economy measures.

8. Kitchen/Mess. This structure consisted of a kitchen with a metal range and a mess (or dining) room. The stone foundation was laid in 1856 and the adobe-walled, wood-shingle-roofed structure was completed in 1857 after minor damage in the January 9 earthquake. The only surface remnant of this adobe structure is an amorphous mound of soil. This was the second detached kitchen/mess for barracks 1. Based on an incomplete topographic survey conducted in 1932-35, the stone foundation corners of this building show that it measured about 21 feet by 71 feet. These dimensions fit with the Mansfield Map and other military and civilian descriptions.

Revised 1859 Mansfield Map Courtesy of California Department of Parks and Recreation



Company cooks, detailed on daily duty for a number of days, slept in the kitchen, either on a single bunk or on blankets unrolled on the floor of the kitchen room.

9. Kitchen/Mess. In September 1854 a pine log cabin with a canvas roof was constructed by Company A to serve as its kitchen and mess room. When the neighboring structure, barracks 2, was converted into a barracks from temporary use as a mess hall in the fall of 1856, the log cabin kitchen was again put

in use. There are no known remains of this structure and the location is approximate.

10. Barracks 2. Begun in 1854 as an officer's apartment of five individual 12 x 14 foot rooms, this structure was altered into a kitchen/mess in the spring of 1855 and realtered into a barracks in the fall of 1856 when the army decided to station two companies of troops at Fort Tejon. The structure survived into the 20th century, the west end becoming the Tejon Ranch blacksmith shop because of its brick floor. The west end of the building survived until it collapsed during the 1956 earthquake. The foundation lines for the roughly "U"-shaped building are clearly seen on the surface and two small adobe wall stubs can be seen along the front (north) side of the building, near the west end.

11. Kitchen/Mess. This mess was constructed and reconstructed in 1858-60 (see #12-13) and was finished late in the summer of 1860. The remains of the structure are identical to structure 8. The 1932-35 survey also identified this building as having a 21-foot by 71-foot foundation.

12-13. Stables. Construction of the two stables was to begin in December 1854 but was delayed until the summer of 1859. The army employed Indian labor. The walls were erected, as were the framework for the roofs, which were not shingled. During construction, one of the structures was altered to become a barracks for the regimental band. Heavy winter rains and an earthquake in late November 1859 destroyed both structures along with the mess hall under construction (#11). Work began again during the spring of 1860. The mess hall was finished. The fate of structures 12 and 13 is uncertain. The band quarters appears to have been finished, ready for occupation by late 1860. These structures are known from the Mansfield Map and Quartermaster correspondence regarding their construction. Recently, the foundation of one of the walls of building 12 (at least 100 feet in length) was uncovered and possible remains of other walls of both structures were identified. As shown on the Mansfield Map, these were long buildings, indicated as contemplated stables.

14. Cellar or Privy. The remains of this structure, which is immediately outside the garrison historic zone, consist of a 16-foot by 17-foot pit lined with typical foundation stones and cut slightly into the hillside. The existence of this pit has been known for at least 15 years. It was identified as a health and safety hazard, and was filled in 1982. Before filling, it was noted that the pit was rock-lined throughout and was about 8 feet deep. Though this "cellar" may date from the ranch period, it is possible that it is the remains of an enlisted men's privy. Recent (August 1988) minimal excavations to uncover the foundation perimeter resulted in discovery of the remains of adobe bricks adhering to the foundation surface. Careful removal of the 1982 fill and subsequent archaeological excavation could result in a use determination for this structure. If it is a privy, it would be the first discovered at Fort Tejon. Because they were often used for disposal of garbage, privies often offer archaeologists the most complete set of material culture remains for a historic site.

15. Officer's Quarters. This appears to be the southernmost of the three structures on "Officer's Row." These three adobe buildings were probably one and one-half stories or two stories, with attached kitchen structures and roofs of pine shingles. These houses were started in early 1855 as one-room structures and finally finished in 1857 after the earthquake, which damaged all three along this line. There is some debate centering on whether these were full two-story structures. These officer's quarters appear to have begun life as one-room adobe buildings and were then expanded into typical post officer's quarters by order of Col. Beall.

The building on this site was constructed by the Department of Parks and Recreation during the period of restoration of barracks 1, 1948-53. Based on the Mansfield Map and the 1932-35 incomplete survey, it appears that the current structure sits on the original stone foundation footprint. Based on the 1937 Historic American Building Survey (HABS) photograph of structure 16, the current adobe structure is a fairly accurate reproduction of the original building. It is a two-story adobe with a partially finished-cellar and a covered wood front (east) porch. Although attached by a shared wall, the kitchen can only be entered through an exterior south-facing door. This building is currently refurnished as an officer's residence and, along with barracks 1, constitutes the principal interpretation of army life at Fort Tejon. In its historic period, this residence would furnish quarters for two captains or four first lieutenants, no matter whether they were married or not. Due to the consistent shortage of officers at Fort Tejon and the fact that all of the senior officers had usually left their spouses in the east, a house of this type might well be used by only one married captain.

Brevet Major William N. Grier and his wife moved into this unfinished structure in December 1856 and

lived here until May 1857, when he departed the post to later join his company in the Washington Territory. Captain John W. Davidson and his family (wife and children) lived in this structure between July 1858 and June 1861 when he was actually at the post. At other periods, Brevet Major James H. Carleton, the Captain of Company K, lived in this house.

16. Officer's Quarters. By historic documentation, this was the post commanding officer's quarters. Planned as a captain's quarters of two rooms upstairs and down, it was transformed into a six-room adobe with attached kitchen by wilfull, determined Lt. Col. Benjamin L. "Ol' Ben" Beall, who wanted quarters fitting his rank and his wife's comfort. Defying army orders, the headstrong colonel badgered his quartermaster into rebuilding a house suitable to his rank, privileges, rights and wishes. The house was badly damaged in the 1857 earthquake but was elaborately rebuilt when Beall learned that the regimental commanding officer, Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy, was slated to join the post in mid-1857. Prior to Fauntleroy's arrival, Lt. Col. Beall used the house after the earthquake. Fauntleroy arrived at the end of May, unaccompanied by his wife, who remained in Virginia, and lived in the newly completed quarters for just two months before moving headquarters to San Diego. When Beall returned from a leave of absence in early 1859, he moved himself, his wife and one son into the stately but unfinished adobe and pushed further construction plans of his residence and of the fort.

When Beall was gone from the post for extended periods the acting post commander would generally move into the central officer's row quarters. Brevet Major James H. Carleton moved his family into the structure in October 1860 when Beall was assigned temporary duty at San Francisco. When Beall returned in April, to remain only a month, the post officers were disturbed by the process known as "bumping," because each officer claimed suitable quarters by status of rank. Only Major George A. H. Blake, while serving as post commandant, refused to use Structure Number 16; he preferred No. 17.

The remains of this building consist of easily identified lines of stone foundations and ridges of adobe soil. Possibly constructed as a mirror image of structure 15, this building was added to during the ranch period. The south wing, a small porch foundation on the east (front) side, and the west cellar are the most evident additions. There are several photographs of this building taken during the ranch period and one in the Historic American Building Society (HABS) nomination. The building accidentally burned in December 1935 before the HABS nomination was prepared in 1937. At the time of the HABS survey, only the walls and several chimneys stood.

17. Officer's Quarters. The remains of this building are also easily seen in the form of stone foundations and adobe soil ridges. Along with 15 and 16, this building formed the upper or west end of the parade ground. The existing foundations are probably very close to the size of structure 15 before the ranch additions. It is probable that both structures 16 and 17 had detached shared-wall kitchens similar to structure 15. There is only one poor 1875 photograph of this structure. It is noted on the Mansfield Map and in the incomplete 1932-35 survey.

During his several stays at Fort Tejon, Major George A. H. Blake, in his role as post commanding officer and acting regimental commanding officer, usually chose to acquire this whole house as his quarters, allowing himself several more rooms than a major was entitled to. The house was divided into two apartments suitable for two captains, or as many as four lieutenants. Blake chose to live alone with plenty of rooms to himself.

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At the time of the January 9, 1857 earthquake, Major Blake shared the house with Lieutenants Ogle and Magruder after their arrival on December 16, 1856 from New Mexico. Blake "bumped" Captain Ralph W. Kirkham, post quartermaster, his wife and several children, one a sickly female infant. The Kirkhams settled in Quarter No. 1 and were there when the earthquake struck. A few weeks later the little girl died. As the house was repaired, Blake removed Magruder and Ogle and held the house to himself, all the while attempting to get away from Fort Tejon to establish his own command.

Quarters 15, 16 and 17 each had an attached kitchen which could be reached by a rear doorway off the central hall, or from the rear. A porch roof protected the walkway from the house to the kitchen outward facing door. The kitchens contained an open fireplace or a sheet-iron range. A small room at the rear furnished space for a cook which was usually a civilian hired by the occupants. Single female cooks and servants were hard to keep, since they were quickly married to enlisted soldiers.

18. Flagpole. This is the approximate traditional location of flagpoles erected by the army. There are no surface remains. The post's original flagpole was so decayed by 1861 that it was determined to cut a new pole. Company B's 1st Sergeant was sent out to Pinery Mountain (currently Mt. Pinos) on June 12 to cut a new pole. Apparently, the 1st Sergeant and his detail returned in time to dump the pole on the ground, so the wagon chassis could be used to move company property to Los Angeles.

19. Officer's Quarters. This is a small standing adobe which is commonly called the "Orderly's Quarters." Recent research indicates that this two-room adobe with central fireplace was more likely junior officers' quarters and was possibly the last adobe building erected during the U. S. Army period at the post. The building had a wood frame addition during the ranch period and the stone foundation from that addition can still be seen north of the adobe. It is not known whether the framed portion dates to the army period. The structure has been stabilized several times during state ownership, the most recent addition being external adobe buttresses after the building sustained earthquake damage during the 1950s and 1960s. It is currently screened off and contains no interpretive displays.

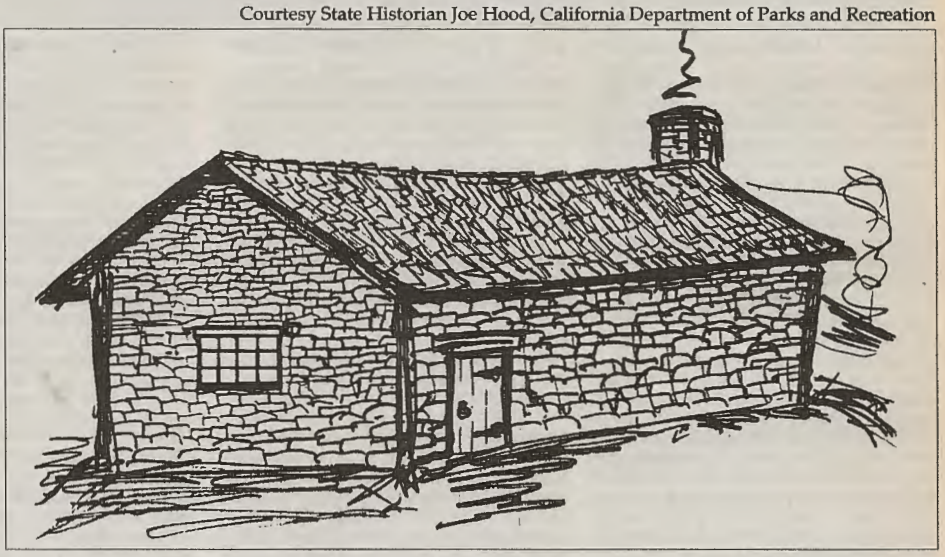
In January 1861, if the house was then finished, no officer lived there, but the building is too elaborate for soldier's quarters.

Just to the north of this structure was a small one-room adobe smokehouse which has repeatedly been associated with the army in oral tradition. Legends collected for book-length manuscripts by several authors have further misidentified the structure by statements that hired meat hunters filled this small building with game for the army. All of this is nonsense. The smokehouse was built in 1895 by ranch manager J. J. Stitt, who lived at this location in the last decade of the 19th century and the first few years of the 20th century. Army Commissary of Subsistence records indicate that while the government purchased beef and sheep on the hoof, a soldier employed as a butcher performed the slaughtering. Officers may have purchased game from local hunters, and these same hunters may have supplied the needs of civilian employees frustrated by government-issued rations, and there was the civilian community of "Fort Tejon," located one-half mile or more south of the fort. But current evidence shows that no game hunters were employed by the army's commissary. There was no need. Too many bored enlisted men or officers were ready, willing and raring to go hunting for their company or private tables.

20. Hospital. This adobe structure housed the post hospital, commissary, ordnance storage and was 133 feet long by 33 feet wide. There were long verandas along both the north and south sides of the hospital portion (eastern three quarters) of the building. There are photographs of the east end of the structure taken while it was used as a residence during the ranch period. Archaeological research conducted on the hospital foundations in 1982 revealed a footprint which agrees with the incomplete survey of 1932-35 but disagrees with the Mansfield Map. The difference can be attributed to large wood-framed porch / veranda structures on three sides of the building. Unfortunately, no report of the State Park Foundation contract excavations in 1982 has ever been submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Commissary of Subsistence warehouse portion of the Commissary-Hospital building consisted of a large room with a large door on the west side and a large door on the north side. A wagon road semi-circled the building at the rear (or north side). The inside of the room featured a partitioned clerical space and a long counter facing the front (or south-facing) door of the structure. Generally, a six-month supply of government-approved foodstuff was maintained. Flour and vegetables were purchased from California-based wholesalers. Some rations came into the post

Courtesy State Historian Joe Hood, California Department of Parks and Recreation



Artist conception of the adobe brick, pine-shingled bakery at Fort Tejon.

by ship from eastern markets while beef and mutton were purchased on the hoof by the Subsistence Officer, who contracted with local ranchers. The commissary also kept a limited supply of canned items which did not compete with the sutler's store and were available for purchase by officers. Economy was a watchword for the Commissary Officer. Several days a week, regimental Sergeant Major S. R. I. Sturgeon served as the Commissary Officer's clerk, at extra duty pay, after his arrival in March 1857.

The ordnance section, storing artillery and post small arms ammunition was located in a loft just above the entrance to the commissary public area, i.e., the south door and counter. In addition to ammunition, such items as canteens, some horse equipment and post small arms were stored in this area, and were the charge of the fort's Ordnance Sergeant, John E. Kelly. When Kelly transferred east, newly appointed Ordnance Sergeant Nathaniel J. Pishon, formerly a first sergeant with Company B, 1st Dragoons, took his place.

The hospital had two stories. The upper rooms and veranda were reached by stairs at the end of the building on the south side. Upstairs was a ward room, a surgery and the office of the post doctor. Sick call was held at the office at 8:00 a.m. each morning. The post doctor may have resided in the office at times. Medical supplies were partially stored in the surgery and a six-month supply was kept on hand. Medical supplies requisitioned by the doctor or his hospital steward under the doctor's signature were acquired by the Medical Purveyor (who was also the Department of the Pacific Chief Surgeon) and were transported to Fort Tejon by the Quartermaster Department. The upstairs ward room featured four iron beds for patients. The downstairs portion of the hospital consisted of a second small ward room for isolation, several store rooms, one of which was used by the post hospital steward as living quarters and a kitchen-mess hall. Besides the hospital steward, who also directly supervised the bakery next door, a hospital cook and ward attendant were assigned from one of the garrison companies and were paid an extra duty stipend by the Medical Department. The cook seemed to have slept in the kitchen while the residency of the attendant is unknown.

Behind the hospital were the latrines and at least two chicken coops, one belonging to the hospital steward and one belonging to the hospital or the post doctor. The Assistant Surgeons assigned to Fort Tejon were all college-educated, veteran doctors and each held the rank of captain.[30]

21. Bakery. The post bakery was a two-room adobe structure built in 1854-55 with the oven in the interior room. The front room featured storage for flour and freshly baked bread, which had to cool for one whole day before it could be issued. Bread was baked in the morning and issued the following afternoon. The issue room would contain, along with mixing equipment and supplies of yeast and salt, cleaning equipment and a scales for weighing the bread. Each soldier was entitled to a one pound daily of ration bread. It was expected that each baker could produce a maximum of 250 pounds of bread per day. Normally, the post population fell short of this need. However, when a large number of civilian employees worked at the post, their

Continued page 31

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salaries often consisted of one full ration of government food per day, which could be issued raw or as a finished product — such as bread. If most selected to draw the bread ration, the post baker was a busy man. When two companies were at the post, depending on their muster roll strength, each company supplied a post baker and they took monthly turns as senior and assistant baker. Each baker was paid a stipend of approximately 18 cents daily from the company fund to perform the detail.[31] There are no known photographs of the Fort Tejon bakery.

The building was 16 feet by 27 feet on a stone foundation with the brick oven on a raised stone foundation. Although the perimeter foundation was clearly identified in the incomplete 1932-35 survey, only the brick oven foundation can today be seen in a field of nettles.

22-23. Cisterns (Spring Boxes/Wells). One of the reasons Major Donaldson chose this site for construction of Fort Tejon was the well-watered flat known as "Traveler's Rest" (circa 1853-54). Near the hospital are two wells or improved springs. These two circular mortared brick and stone enclosures are of indeterminate origin. The notes from the 1932-35 survey indicate that the surveyors dug out these boxes and found them to have rock-lined bottoms covered over with sand. They could be army period or later in origin. The earliest known identification of them is in the 1932-35 survey.

24. Lebec Tree and Monument. This memorial to mountain man Peter Lebec (surname spelling variable) killed by a grizzly bear and buried near the tree in 1837, is interpreted in the Visitor Center.

25. Officer's Quarters. Based on the damage report of the 1857 earthquake, the Mansfield Map and the 1932-35 survey, this adobe structure was probably a junior officer's duplex with each half containing two rooms with two hearths on a single flue. The structure is described as about 36 feet wide and 66 feet long. The 1932-35 survey supports these dimensions. All that remains today is a single line of foundation stones imbedded in an adobe soil ridge along what would have been the south side, or front of the building.

Apparently, at times, Doctor Peter TenBroeck lived in one of these two apartments and when Assistant Surgeon Jonathan Letterman arrived to replace TenBroeck, he chose the eastern apartment for his quarters. At one time, January-April 1861, 1st Lt. Benjamin F. Davis lived in the other apartment.

It is possible but undocumented that this house was built to be shared by the regimental Sergeant Major and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant. Each of these senior non-commissioned officers were entitled to a private room away from the barracks of the company enlisted men. Senior non-coms were expected to socialize only with other senior sergeants and the company first sergeants (called "Orderly Sergeants" during much of the 1850s).

Courtesy Massachusetts Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the US Army Military History Institute

Captain Peter G. S. TenBroeck, Assistant Surgeon at Fort Tejon, Jan. 1855-Feb. 1860. Pictured (1866-1871) in Lt. Colonel uniform. Probably taken at Fort Preble, Mass.

There were also several Hospital Stewards (equal to a Quartermaster Sergeant) but they appear to have roomed in the hospital, except for Steward Tierney, who mar-

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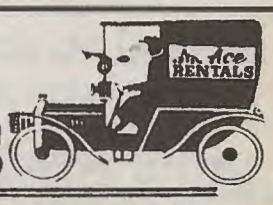

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buried" somewhere near the Lebec Tree. His fellow officers erected the marble memorial stone on his grave. Much later, the stone was moved to the cemetery. After the property was acquired by the state, the broken headstone was encased in a mortared rock cairn and moved to a better viewing location near structure 15. The recent re-identification of the cemetery location resulted in removal of the memorial to that site. The grave of Lt. Castor has been lost over the years but is in the area of site 25-29 (see above).

While structures #9, 29 and 31 are noted in this summary, none of the other small outbuildings, such as privies, chicken and pigeon sheds, cow sheds, wood sheds, wash racks, clothes lines, yard fences, etc., have been mentioned due to the difficulty of positively identifying their locations. Col. Mansfield, in March 1859, recorded the locations of none of the temporary buildings, even though there is frequent mention of them in quartermaster correspondence.

Buildings 33-42 are not on Fort Tejon State Historic Park property and are sited either beneath Interstate 5 or on property across the freeway belonging to the Tejon Company. They are listed here as an attempt to complete the description of historic Fort Tejon.

33. Guardhouse. A new adobe guardhouse (guardroom and cells) was under construction in 1859. Its completion date is currently unknown. It was located about 125 yards east of the current visitor center and its site is under the northbound lanes of Interstate 5. Portions of the building were removed to the Gorman area at the turn of this century and were used as part of a creamery or cheese-making facility. Some years ago, the creamery was demolished and two of the original windows of the guardhouse were given to the park. This building is shown on both the Mansfield Map and the 1932-35 survey. There are differences, however. The 1932-35 survey recorded the foundation's long axis running east-west rather than north-south as noted on the Mansfield Map. The building was not in use in January 1861, just six months before the post was closed for the first time.

34. Quartermaster's Warehouse. This structure (site approximate), built in 1855, was still unfinished following the earthquake of January 1857. It needed major repair to one of the gable ends and was in need of a floor of wooden planks. Colonel Mansfield indicated the structure as "supernumery," or extra, in early 1859. It is possible, though not documented, that the post laundresses may have lived here.

In early 1857, the enlisted men of Companies H, I and regimental band formed a theatrical company and

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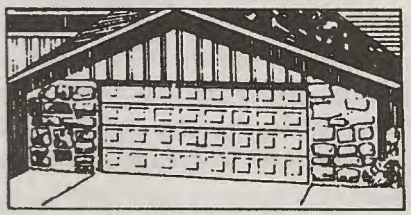

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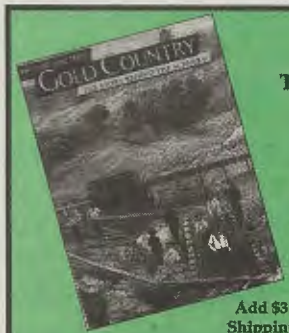

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produced a series of entertainments, comedies, farces and musical plays. Descriptions of the "theater" puts the site in the empty quartermaster warehouse by noting it had a dirt floor and an empty barn-like loft above. Officers brought chairs and hard wood benches were constructed for enlisted men and local civilians who came to enjoy the performances.

35. Office and Storehouse. This is the site of the office and storehouse of the quartermaster depot at Fort Tejon. It was apparently constructed in 1855-56. This was an adobe structure with a wood-shingled roof. It would appear that the post quartermaster, after 1858, lived in this building. In mid-1861, Lieutenant H. B. Davidson was ordered to return to the garrison portion of the fort and find quarters.

36. Quartermaster's Shops. This is the site of the blacksmith, wheelwright and carpenter's shops for the quartermaster depot. The three-room, wood-shingled adobe structure was built in late 1857 or early 1858.

37. Mule Corral and Hay Storage. These adobe-walled corrals were built by hired Indian labor. The hay storage corral was finished first and the mule corral was built by prisoners-soldiers and Indian labor in 1858. In November 1859, when the army took possession of the camels, they were first placed in the mule corral with the government mules. Despite romantic nonsense to the contrary, the mules and camels adapted to each other and got along famously. In March 1860 the camels were moved to a grazing camp east of the fort and remained there until transferred to the Los Angeles quartermaster depot by civilian herders in June 1861. The camels never returned to Fort Tejon.

38. Company Stable. The structure on this site may have been the first stable constructed. It was built of wooden slabs set upright in a mud sill trench with a framed canvas roof. This stable was built as "temporary" in 1854, was noted as having a rotten canvas roof in 1857 and as being wood-shingled in 1859. It served as company stables until the post was closed in 1861 and again during the Civil War for the 2nd Cavalry, California Volunteers.

39. Stable. This wood-framed planked and wood-shingled stable was probably built in 1857-58 and served as company stables, much like structure No. 38.

40. Company Granary and Saddle (Tack) Room. This building was a small wood-framed, wood-shingled structure. It was used for grain, saddle and tack storage. The building was probably the work site for the company saddler(s). A saddler was responsible for maintaining and repairing saddles and other horse gear. He also supervised storage of like equipment. When two companies were present, it appears that both saddlers used the facility.

The saddle tack room of Company B, 1st U. S. Dragoons, was reputedly the scene of the company's historic, never-ending poker game - a company tradition. Regimental folklore said that in 1859, the game was 20 years-old and had never ended, even during the Mexican-American War.

In October 1859, a new man, Edward Powell, an old sergeant from the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen and the dragoon training detachment at Carlisle Barracks, enlisted as a private in Company B and was appointed a sergeant the next day. Sergeant Powell attempted to stop the ongoing poker game, demanding that the men attend to their horses and saddle gear instead. Some of the old Company B troopers, mostly Irish and all having held former positions as sergeants and teamsters, organized "a combination" around Private John Hand, the company's wagoner, to get Sergeant Powell. On October 31, 1859, the conspiracy struck. After evening roll call, with darkness covering their action, the men attacked Powell on the steps of the barracks (No. 2) with fists, rocks and clubs of wood. The company sergeants did nothing to protect Sergeant Powell, who was resented as a newcomer. Company K's non-commissioned officers broke up the incident, with the arrival of Company K's 2nd Lieutenant Leroy Napier. The suspected ringleaders were arrested by Captain John W. Davidson, Company B's commanding officer, and were hauled up before a general court martial. A conspiracy of silence and blindness fell over the dragoons. No one saw or heard anything and the men were found not guilty. General Clarke, the Department of California's senior officer, was livid with anger but could only sputter in rage. All of the enlisted men directly involved were later arrested on some company charge, spent time in the guard house and then were released. All of these troopers of Company B went on to serve honorably during the Civil War. All of the Company B sergeants lost their stripes for failing to aid Sergeant Powell. Most of them gained their rank back. Shortly after "the Halloween incident" of 1859, Sergeant Powell was promoted to the rank of Ordnance Sergeant and was sent to Taylor Barracks, Key West, Florida, possibly the worst assignment in the U. S. Army of the time. Shortly thereafter, he gained an early discharge and left the army.

This was the only mutiny experienced by the Fort Tejon garrisons.

41. Company Blacksmith Shop. Each company of mounted troops had an enlisted specialist called a "farrier/blacksmith" who was responsible for shoeing and fitting spare shoes for the company's horses. There are currently no known descriptions of this building. However, the interior would have been similar to any small blacksmith shop of the period.

42. Sutlery and Overland Mail. This is the approximate site of two or more structures. The two main buildings were adobe and are noted as the only hard-finished (plastered inside and outside) structures associated with the post. The sutlery was started by Phineas T. Banning of San Pedro and operated by George C. Alexander who took over as the licensed sutler, or post trader, of Fort Tejon in 1856. This was also the Overland Mail Company station, post office, justice court and, after October 1860, the telegraph office.

The building closest to the Stockton-Los Angeles Road was the store and station for the mail company. It probably featured a billiard parlor and drinking room for officer use and also contained living quarters for Alexander and his several clerks. The telegraph office, managed by a fifteen year old boy (unidentified at present), was situated in the store. The store offered civilian goods at semi-regulated prices and luxury items at very inflated prices. Many eastern officers and their families found the prices unbelievably high. The sutler had a monopoly and was charged usually five cents per man in the garrison as his fee to do business. On occasion, he served as a substitute paymaster, a process which raised the ire of the Inspector General who visited the Department of the Pacific who believed the paymaster should visit the troops himself and in a timely fashion. Alexander himself had competition from the town of Fort Tejon located three-quarters of a mile south of the post.

The second building found on the map was a ten-pin bowling alley and drinking saloon primarily for the enlisted men. White wine and beer were the only beverages to be sold to enlisted men. It's obvious from court martial records that hard liquor of dubious quality could also be purchased there. Captain John W. T. Gardiner, Company A (June 1855 to December 1856) repeatedly tried to close or restrict the hours of this establishment. Easy-going Lieut. Col. Benjamin Beall repeatedly thwarted Gardiner's designs. Beall liked his bottle of whiskey too.

When the Overland Mail Company (often seen in print as the "Butterfield Stage Company") selected the Alexander store as the coach stop, a set of small

Courtesy Massachusetts Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the US Army Military History Institute

Captain John W. T. Gardiner, 1st U. S. Dragoons, commanding Fort Tejon, June 15, 1855-Dec. 17, 1856. He tried to close the off-post saloon.

wooden buildings were erected for use as a hay barn, tack room, living house and kitchen. The company also built several corrals for the company's horses and forage. Horses were changed at this station. Usually, four coaches arrived each week, two northbound for San Francisco and two bound for Los Angeles. The actual sites of these structures around the sutler store are today unknown. No known graphic illustration indicates their location. Paintings of this station in popular books are not historically accurate.

The location of one other feature of the fort, a small dairy farm operated by Mrs. Dominick Stark (her first name is unknown), the wife of one of the veteran members of the 1st Dragoons regimental band, is currently not identified. The author suspects that this dairy site is located far up Donaldson Canyon, beyond the post military and civilian cemetery and beyond the boundaries of the state park property. Only casual mention of this dairy is found in records of court martials concerning unmilitary behavior by members of the band. Beyond the department's fence, in Donaldson Canyon, is an area now greatly disturbed by erosion and modern-day use which is large enough and has the ability of producing grass pasturage that would allow a small dairy to exist. A survey of the area was allowed in 1988 by the then-owner of the property. This same physical survey of the area also allowed the discovery of a faint road in Johnston Canyon that led to the government quarry sites, again outside the park's boundary.

Two other locations remain a mystery. Each company which served at Fort Tejon was allowed employment of three to four laundresses. Stoppages (money withheld) on soldiers muster rolls (today they would be called payrolls) have allowed identification of soldier or civilian wives who served as laundresses. Company, or band laundresses were entitled to charge a flat fee per month for washing the soldier's clothes.

Army regulations allowed them also one ration (equal to three meals per day), one room and access to a kitchen. While at many western posts, laundress' quarters are specific, usually one-room shacks or an apartment of rooms, each laundress living in one room sharing a common kitchen. No such facilities are identified for the Fort Tejon laundresses. Mrs. William Nery of Company A lived at the bakery with her husband. She went on to be an early pioneer ranching woman in Shasta County. Mrs. Dominick Stark, wife of a bandsman, lived at her dairy. But where did Mrs. Carl Cieb, the wife of the 1st Dragoons senior musician and chief bugler, live? They were entitled to one room and a fuel allotment. Mrs. Cieb did laundry for the regimental band, as did Mrs. Stark. This mystery has not yet been resolved.

A second mystery of the post is living quarters for the regimental senior non-commissioned officers: the sergeant major, the regimental quartermaster sergeant and the Post Ordnance Sergeant. These seniors of the enlisted staff were granted quarters as established by the army. Two sergeant majors served at Fort Tejon, as did several regimental quartermaster sergeants, and at different times two Ordnance Sergeants. These men did not live in the barracks but were entitled to a room and a fuel allotment by War Department general orders. But where did they reside? The question, while being searched in government records, has not produced an answer (see previous, No. 19)

Part Three of "An Interpretive History of Fort Tejon" will appear in the 1998 Spring issue #33.

About the Author:

George Stammerjohan is a native Californian, a graduate of California schools, holds an M.A. in Social Studies from California State University, Sacramento and is a State Historian II with the California Department of Parks and Recreation in Sacramento, a position he has held for well over twenty years. George will be retiring in January 1998 from the department and tells us that he plans to continue researching and writing about the history of the military in California. He also serves as a Historical Advisor to the *Dogtown Territorial Quarterly*. George and his wife Judy, an educator, live in Sacramento.

End Notes

24. Stammerjohan, 1985:1, pp. 15-16.

25. William Wallace, Los Angeles *Star*, May 29, 1858, in Stammerjohan, 1985, p. 79.

26. Colonel Joseph Mansfield, Inspector-General, "A Report on Fort Tejon, 1859," in Letters Received, 1859, Adjutant General's Office, War Department AGO, M-567, R-603. A short version of Mansfield's 1859 report was prepared by Stammerjohan in April 1987, Resource Protection Division, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento. A much longer, detailed, annotated version of this report is in preparation by Stammerjohan.

27. Army correspondence discussed the issue of ownership of the Fort Tejon site in 1855 and again in late 1860 and early 1861. See Letters Sent and Letter Received, Hdqtrs., Department of the Pacific, RG-393, U. S. National Archives. The correspondence presented no conclusion as to ownership, except that the army recognized that Fort Tejon was on private land and a settlement would have to be made with the legitimate owner the property.

28. The campaigns are based on field reports from the officers commanding the various details. 1st Lt. Benjamin Allston in the Tule River War, 1st Lt. Benjamin Chapman and Major William Hoffman during the January 1859 scout to the Colorado River and Brevet Major Carleton's campaign of April-July 1860 in Letters Received 1856-1860, Hdqtrs., Department of the Pacific (or California), RG-393, U. S. National Achives. Hoffman's report was published in the "Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1859," while much of

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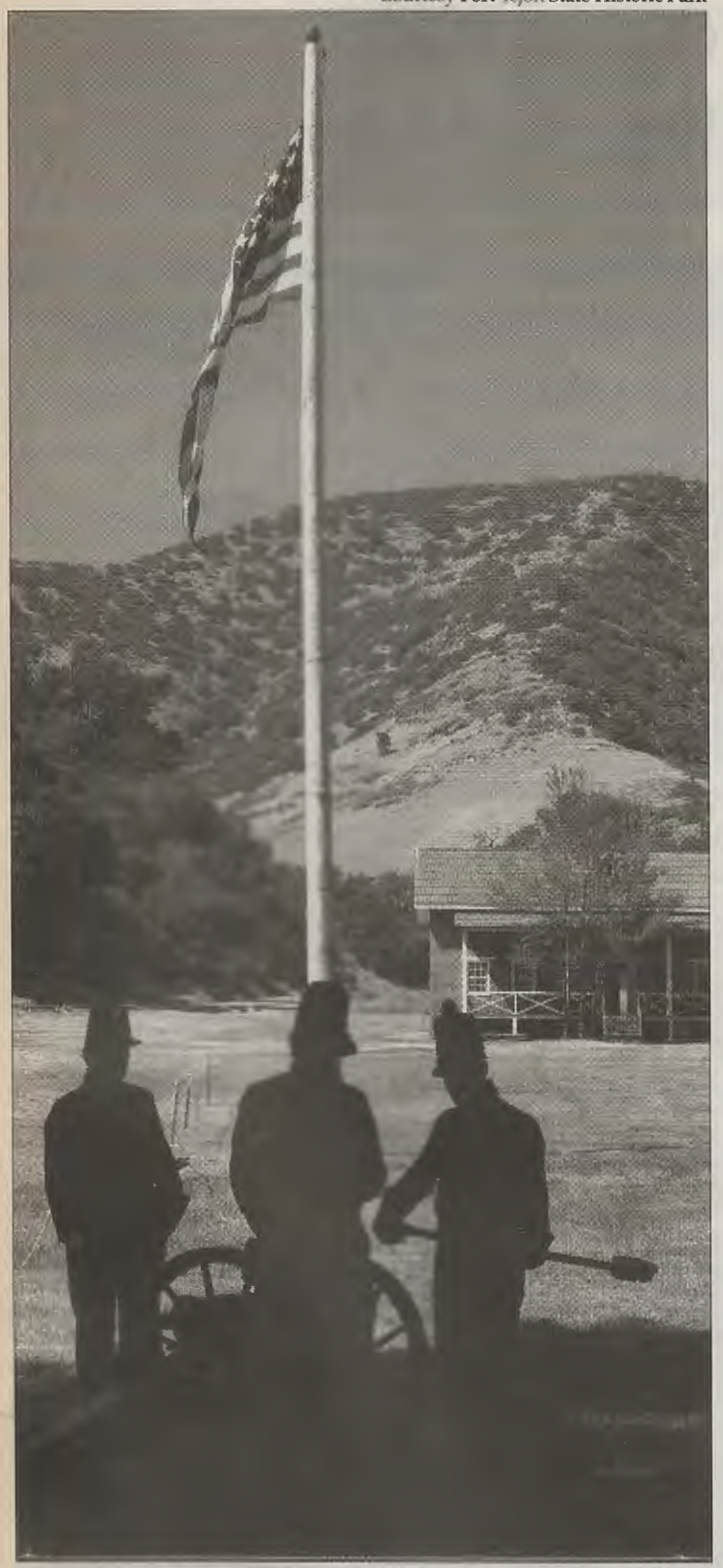

Ceremonial flag raisings and other living history programs are regularly scheduled throughout the year at Fort Tejon. Fort Tejon is located in Grapevine Canyon on Interstate Highway 5, the main route between California's great central valley and southern California.

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Carleton's reports were published in Dennis Casebier's, *Carleton's Pah-Ute Campaign*, Norco, Cal, 1972.

Information about dragoon activities, such as escorts, patrols and police work at the Tejon Reserve is also from the Post of Fort Tejon correspondence to the Department of the Pacific's Asst. Adjutant General (AAG) or from Post Orders, in Record Group 393; Quartermaster Employment Records are in Record Group 92; and the Medical Officer Correspondence, Fort Tejon, to Department of the Pacific Chief Surgeon in Record Group 94. See Stammerjohan, George R., "The Historical Directory of Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader, No. 1, MS, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1992.

29. The camel story is condensed from Stammerjohan, "The Camels of Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader series, a manuscript in progress and from the Government's Camel File, in Quartermaster Correspondence, plus Persons and Articles Employed and Hired, Fort Tejon and Los Angeles QM Depot, Record Group 92, U. S. National Archives.

30. See: Stammerjohan, "Medical Department at Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader, Number Four, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1992

31. See: Stammerjohan, "One Pound Daily, The Bakery at Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader, Number Two, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1990. (Manuscript currently under revision.)

32. See: Stammerjohan, Chapter on the Post Cemetery in the "Medical Department at Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader, Number Four, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1992, manuscript in progress.

Visitors to Fort Tejon are Welcome

For information about dates and times of historical demonstrations and special events, or to make arrangements for guided tours for schools and other groups, please contact the friendly park staff at: Fort Tejon State Historic Park, P. O. Box 895, Lebec, California 93243 or call (805) 248-6692.

Fort Tejon State Historic Park An Interpretive History, Part 3

By George R. Stammerjohan

Parts one and two of "Fort Tejon State Historic Park, An Interpretive History" can be found in the 1997 fall issue #31 and winter issue #32.

The Esthetics of Fort Tejon

The primary esthetics at Fort Tejon State Historic Park are the settings for the military post. The esthetics suffer from many handicaps. The park is bounded on the east by a modern, busy highway (Interstate 5), and is affected by the noise of traffic. Overhead, commercial airliners cross the park several times each hour. Over the years, the Department of Parks and Recreation has encouraged development of a city park atmosphere, promoting growth of a lawn on the parade ground and the placement of picnic tables. Only five buildings of the military era recall the nearly forgotten past and give no idea of the extent of the once busy army post that was Fort Tejon. Several new wooden structures have been developed to interpret activities found outside the garrison portion of the fort.

The park is nestled in a small side canyon of the Castac Valley. The gently sloping canyon floor is wooded with mature valley oaks. Each of these roughly 300-year-old botanical matriarchs is uniquely gnarled and picturesque. Together with the oaks, the surrounding open space of the steep canyon walls helps the imagination picture the historic landscape.

Grapevine Creek once meandered through the eastern portion of the unit. Its narrow floodplain supports riparian vegetation which gives shade to summer visitors.

Wildlife contributes to the beauty of the park's mountain setting. Wildflowers grace the slopes in spring and a wide variety of butterflies are commonly observed during summer.

Weather and the seasons add another dimension to the area's beauty. Ephemeral winter snow dusts the area. Spring brings lush, green mountain slopes. The summer sun bakes the slopes to a golden color. And in fall, the deciduous trees of the riparian woodland turn autumn colors.

The highway, parking lot and buildings across the highway are somewhat obscured by the trees and foliage growing along the banks of Grapevine Creek. The noise of the highway does create a constant awareness of the 20th century and its proximity. Despite this audible intrusion, scenic values create a setting for the historical past. Escape from the noise can be found in portions of Donaldson and Johnston Canyons, which are partially within the park's boundaries.

Courtesy Fort Tejon State Historic Park

The Soldiers of Fort Tejon

The 1st U. S. Dragoon Regiment provided the companies that garrisoned Fort Tejon from 1854 to 1861. The dragoons had been established as part of the army in 1833. In the European military tradition, dragoons combined the attributes of cavalry and infantry, in that they traveled on horseback, but fought as infantry at the scene of battle. In the American adaptation, the dragoons were virtually indistinguishable from cavalry and were prepared to fight while mounted. At the time of their organization, there were no "cavalry" troops in the U. S. Army, because in the popular mind, "cavalry" was thought of as agents of repressive political regimes, designed to ensure a submissive populace. In August 1861, under the pressure of civil war, the army reorganization resulted in the 1st U. S. Dragoons becoming the 1st U. S. Cavalry. Excepting the Civil War, the role of these troops--whether called "dragoons" or "cavalry"--was to pacify the west and create the conditions of domestic tranquility necessary for American occupation and settlement.

The following troops of the 1st U. S. Dragoons garrisoned Fort Tejon:

1st Dragoons, Regimental Headquarters, December 1856 to August 8, 1857. Moved to Mission San Diego, but returned on February 10, 1858; removed to San Francisco on October 18, 1860, and returned April 1861. Departed June 15, 1861.

Company A	August 1854 to December 1856
Company H	December 1856 to August 1857
Company I	December 1856 to May 1857
Company F	September 1857 to July 1858
Regimental Band	December 1856 to July 1857 February 1858 to June 1861
Company B	July 1858 to June 1861
Company K	July 1858 to May 1861

For a brief period in 1857-1858, a detachment of Company I, 3rd U. S. Artillery, sent from the Post of Mission San Diego, was part of the garrison of the fort.[33]

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In 1863-1864, the post was reopened and garrisoned by companies of the 2nd Cavalry, California Volunteers, and later also by companies of the 2nd Infantry, California Volunteers. The post was finally abandoned by California Volunteer troops on September 11, 1864, when their enlistments were about to expire.

Uniforms and Weaponry

In colorful historic tradition the United States Dragoons were the most fashionable, well-dressed and best-armed of all the forces of the United States in the period before the American Civil War. In reality, the dragoons of the 1st U. S. Regiment were no better dressed or equipped than any other unit of the Army during the antebellum period. The Mexican War had filled warehouses with surplus clothing while changes in weaponry were slowly developed

or purchased and delivered to the units in the field. New improved firearms were purchased, but packed away in ordnance depots to be issued in limited numbers for testing. No cavalry arm was considered "Standard" except the government manufactured 1847 musketoon. When Company A reached Benicia Arsenal in February 1857, after two and a half years service at Fort Tejon, it turned in its old single-shot musketoons and received M-1841 rifles for service in northern California. It was not expected to serve as cavalry in the rugged, mountainous, wooded countryside along the watersheds of the Pit and Klamath rivers, but as mounted infantry. For "experimental testing," ten Sharps carbines were also turned over to the company and it was allowed to keep ten musketoons for game hunting. Most new equipment and clothing were not issued until units had worn out the old while the new was crated for future issue.

The dragoons of Company A were reduced to rags before new uniforms of the pattern of 1851 were issued in December 1854. The new dress uniform was already obsolete, superceded by a totally new one (pattern of 1854). Nevertheless, the dragoons in California continued to receive long-tailed frock coats with orange-colored collars and cuffs and the first model (1851) dress cap with brass eagle, orange facing and orange pom-pom. For fatigue wear the men received old-style dragoon and infantry jackets. It would not be until mid-1856 that the first deliveries of the pattern 1854 uniforms were issued to Company A at Fort Tejon. This consisted of new sky-blue mounted trousers and the new shell jacket with orange piping. The button style of the old type featured a letter D on the chest of the eagle but that was suspended in 1855. Only officers' buttons featured the letter D after that date. However, since large stocks of the eagle D button jacket were available for enlisted men, the jackets continued to be issued with the old style button for years.

Some companies, such as F, were issued only the sky-blue fatigue jackets reputedly stripped of their former piping of white or yellow for infantry or artillery, and continued to wear such "degrading" ex-infantry uniforms until pattern 1854 clothing was received in 1858 when the company traveled on to Fort Crook in northern California. By order of the Army, the surplus sky-blue jackets were issued to all troops until stocks were depleted in 1858 or 1859.

Other companies had trouble receiving complete issues of new uniform patterns. Changes were authorized in early 1858 for a modified uniform that featured dark blue trousers and a new hat to replace the older model 1851 / 1854 cap. Brevet Major James Henry Carleton of Company K was outraged when the Benicia Quartermaster Depot sent him ten hats for eighty men and then added insult to injury by sending sixty pairs of old-style gray-blue infantry trousers. When Carleton asked for an issue of the new fatigue blouse (a loose flannel sack coat) he received about 30 and was told that the quartermaster would not make a full issue since the coat was considered experimental. By the time the dragoon companies departed Fort Tejon for the last time they were still not dressed in a uniform manner. Company K had the complete uniform as authorized in 1858 of dark blue jacket with orange piping and brass shoulder scales while all the men had the dark blue trousers and the regulation hat, commonly called a "Hardee Hat." All the K troopers were equipped with matching 1851 accoutrements and "Navy" Colt revolvers, Sharps carbine and Model 1840 saber. Company B, on the other hand, commanded by Captain John W. Davidson, while dressed in the all dark blue uniform of 1858, were wearing the tall dress cap of 1854. They also still wore the old 1850 white buff belt and straps dyed black (more like a muddy brown) and carried the old-style Ames 1833 cavalry saber. They were armed with Navy Colt revolvers and the Sharps carbine.

The two uniform items that remained in constant use by the dragoons of the 1st Regiment were the off-white wool flannel shirt and the old pattern 1839 forage cap. The shirt was long in the tails (the Army did issue drawers of wool and knit cotton flannel after 1838) with a fairly full body and tight sleeves. The neck was a shallow V with just one button at the throat. It did have a small stand and fall collar. The collarless dark gray salt and pepper domestic wool shirt seen in some illustrations is an experimental shirt issued in 1875.

From most accounts, except Captain Bracket's history of the U. S. Cavalry to 1863, the troops and officers detested the 1851 / 1854 dress cap. Even when reduced to a forage cap by steaming out the felt starch (when it was unofficially known as "Forage Cap No. 1" which is why the new forage cap of 1858 is known

as "No. 2."), the men did not like it and preferred the old forage cap. The cap was well-liked and since Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy tried to get the cap banned from the regiment and substitute an orange-banded forage cap, the men continued to wear it and request it. And, since there were large stockpiles of the cap in stores, the Quartermaster Department continued to issue this last version of the 1839 forage cap even though it did not appear in the uniform regulations of 1851 or 1857 nor does it appear on QMD cost-price lists. However, the clothing reports required in the Department of the Pacific for every deserter indicate that the "pattern 1848" forage cap was very much in use.

Mythology, and many gun books, tell us that by the mid-1850s all the dragoons of the U. S. Army were armed with the breech-loading Sharps rifled carbine. Unfortunately, the statement just is not true. Company A had no Sharps carbines while they were at Fort Tejon, 1854 to December 1856. The company was issued the Model 1847 musketoon (a type of "shortened" musket) in .69 caliber. It was a graceful weapon, well made but of very limited range of less than 75 yards. It did make a frightening shotgun when double-charged.

Company A was also armed with the single-shot .54 caliber Model 1842 pistol--at first only three for sixty-five men. Later more pistols were delivered. In late 1856, twenty-five Second Model Colt Army-caliber (.44) revolvers reached the post ordnance officer. The revolver was considered experimental and was issued in limited numbers. Known as the "Dragoon Revolver," three were stolen by deserters before the Company marched away on December 22, 1856.

The three companies from New Mexico which reached California in December 1856 were all armed with the Model 1847 musketoon, mostly single shot pistols and the pattern 1840 cavalry saber, known commonly as "Old Wristbreaker." Companies H and I received a few Dragoon Colt revolvers from Benicia before they departed for the Oregon country and field duty. Company F, which relocated from Mission San Diego in 1857 was armed with musketoons, 25 Colt Army revolvers, about 60 M-1842 single shot pistols and the Model 1840 saber.

Companies B and K arrived in early July 1858. Company K had left their few Sharps behind at Fort Buchanan, New Mexico Territory (now Arizona), as had Company B. The troopers of K were armed with M-1841 .54 caliber rifles and musketoons, along with mostly older single shot M-1842 pistols. Company commander J. H. Carleton did not like and would not have his men carrying the Dragoon Colt. He felt only teamsters should be armed with it because they had a wagon to carry the revolvers. Not all officers felt this way and a great debate raged between the heavy .44 caliber revolver fans and those who preferred the small .36 caliber "belt revolver," the 3rd Model 1851 "Navy" Colt.

Company B was armed with musketoons, pistols and the Ames 1833 saber with old pattern (1833 and 1850) belt leather. A few dragoon Colt revolvers were on hand along with a few dozen rifles for hunting or arming a sharpshooter.

In May 1858, there transpired a battle north of the Columbia River which changed the weaponry picture for all the mounted units on the Pacific slope. The eastern Washington Indians ganged up on a small field force of dragoons and infantrymen marching uninivited across their territory. The dragoon's short range musketoons could not keep the Indians at bay in a running fight over many miles. When the column forted up on a hilltop it was the few infantry muskets that kept the Indians from swarming over the besieged blue force.

This embarrassing battle sent a shockwave through Department of the Pacific headquarters and old, grandmotherly Brevet Brigadier General Newman A. Clarke pointed his finger at the Ordnance Department which sat on dozens of boxes of state-of-the-art modern arms. Beginning in July 1858, Ordnance quickly uncrated, cleaned and shipped out dozens of Sharps carbines and Navy Colt revolvers to the units in Oregon-Washington Territory. Then with the troops prepared for the campaigns against the Indian encampments, the Ordnance Department could turn to reasonably quiet areas. Weapons could then be delivered to places like Fort Crook and Fort Tejon. By early December 1858, all companies of the 1st Dragoons under the control of the Department of California and the Department of Oregon had been fully supplied. The dragoons of the west coast departed for the eastern seat of the War of the Rebellion in November 1861, uniformly armed and fairly well clothed, though still not totally matched in the standard uniform.

The artillery detachment at the fort wore primarily the red collar and cuff frock coat, gray-blue foot trousers and the 1851 pattern caps. Accoutrements seem to have been those approved in 1851 and first issued in late 1854. The musket was the model 1842 smoothbore in .69 caliber with the pattern 1835 iron bayonet. Sky-blue shell jackets piped in the old yellow markings or the same old jacket reissued with deep red markings were issued for field and fatigue duty. The artillerymen of Company I, 3rd U. S. served primarily as infantry and proudly called themselves the "Marching 3rd."

The Local Economy

Establishment of Fort Tejon in 1854 directly affected patterns of land use in and of itself. The presence of the post changed transportation route preferences and led to development of a local civilian economy, including a small town in the vicinity of the post.

The army post was established far from sources of supply; a fact difficult for visitors traveling over modern superhighways to truly appreciate today. When the post was still new, the army explored the possibilities for getting supplies efficiently and at reasonable cost. The following report by 1st Lt. Thomas Castor reveals how different transportation was in southern California in the mid-1850s from how it is today:

> *We proceeded to examine the road from this post to SanPedro, with a view of comparing it with the one to Santa Barbara as a route for obtaining supplies for this post, and have the honor to report as follows....The harbor of San Pedro is better sheltered than that of Santa Barbara and goods can be landed at all times in safety. The* (supply) *train can accomplish the trip between this post and San Pedro in about 12 days, giving an advantage of 4 days in time of transit in favor of the San Pedro road.*[34]

The main route of travel from Los Angeles to the San Joaquin Valley was not along the line that the modern I-5 freeway follows to cross the Tehachapi Mountains today, and did not go past Fort Tejon in the Grapevine Canyon. The preferred route took a road to about present-day Saugus, where it then went easterly to about where Palmdale is today, very roughly paralleling modern Route 14. At Palmdale, the road angled to Willow Springs, where it then headed northwest and passed through the Tehachapi Mountains at what was then called "Tejon Pass." Today, "the Grapevine route" is known as "Tejon Pass," and the original 19th century pass is today known as "Tejon Creek Pass." After the establishment of Fort Tejon in Grapevine Canyon, traffic began shifting to a different route into the San Joaquin Valley via the Fort Tejon location. A few miles west of Palmdale, the newly popular route headed toward Lake Elizabeth, roughly paralleling modern Road N2 to Sandberg and Road 138 to its present junction with I-5 near Gorman (then known as Reed's Ranch). A look at a map of these routes shows clearly how routes of travel in the days before modern technology adhered more closely to the dictates of nature than such a marvel of engineering as Interstate 5 does today.

The building and garrisoning of Fort Tejon stimulated economic development in this isolated area from 1854 to 1861. Contractors and workers in the building trades, sawmill workers, carpenters, roofers, brickmakers, teamsters, merchants and others were drawn to the area by government expenditures for construction, supplies and the post's payroll.

A small town, called "Tejon," or "Fort Tejon," sprang up one-half mile outside the post grounds. The U. S. Census of 1860 showed it to consist of at least four stores and two saloons. There was also at least one house of ill-repute, with several cabins servicing the army post.[35]

In addition to the merchants and workers, local ranchers benefited from selling beef, wheat, barley, hay and other supplies to the post. Though Fort Tejon may have participated in little Indian warfare during its existence, its presence exerted a continuously stimulating effect on the local economy. When news circulated in early 1861 that the army again was seriously contemplating closing the post, local civilian leaders petitioned in protest on the dubious grounds that they would be left defenseless before "ruthless savages."

> *We, the subscribers, having heard the removal of Fort Tejon is in contemplation, desire to enter our earnest protest against the intention. People are settling and developing the resources of a new coun-*

try, with the implied assurance from the location of Fort Tejon, of protection for their lives and property. If this protection is to be withdrawn, those who have under its promises made their homes in the wilderness will be left to the mercy of the ruthless savages....[36]

Surprisingly, one of the last acts of the garrison, then reduced to Company B, 1st Dragoons, was the dispatch of a detail under the command of 1st Sergeant Harrison Moulton, soon to be an officer in the 1st U. S. Cavalry, to Mount Pinos, to locate a very straight pine tree as a new garrison flagpole. Sergeant Moulton returned to the post with the new pole to find that the post would be closed the next day. The pole (or tree) was unloaded on the parade ground and forgotten.[37]

When the garrison withdrew in June 1861, the town of Tejon quickly collapsed and disappeared. The road through Grapevine Canyon lost its primacy as the route from southern California into the Central Valley to the older route, through what is today known as "Tejon Creek Pass."

Once closed, the post itself underwent decay. A visitor reported in April 1863:

The buildings, some fifteen or twenty are neatly arranged, all built of adobe, but many are already falling to ruin. The old stables are crumbling, the corrals are down.[38]

The reasons for closing Fort Tejon parallel those for termination of the camel experiment. It was expensive, of questionable value and the Civil War crisis required all energies to be diverted from "insuring domestic tranquility" in the settlement of the west to "help form a more perfect Union" out of disintegration in the east.

Total dollar figures for the government's investment in constructing and garrisoning Fort Tejon are not available, but the costs from 1854 to the 1861 closing must have run into many hundreds of thousands, and perhaps near a million dollars. For example, during the first four years, partial costs associated with construction (possibly materials only, and for less than the entire post) ran to nearly $62,000. Civilian payrolls at times ran into the thousands of dollars monthly.[39]

Rancho el Tejon

Edward Fitzgerald Beale (1822-1893), a reputed hero of the Battle of San Pasqual in California during the Mexican War, founder of the Sebastian Reserve and the government surveyor who brought the camels to California, also had another connection with the history of Fort Tejon. He eventually owned it.

The properties Beale consolidated under his control in the Tejon area were mainly four Mexican-era land grants:

a. Rancho la Liebre: Granted by Governor Pio Pico to Jose Maria Flores, April 21, 1846, consisting of about 49,000 acres.

b. Rancho el Tejon: Granted by Governor Micheltorena to Jose Antonio Aguirre and Ignacio del Valle, November 11, 1843, consisting of about 98,000 acres.

c. Rancho los Alamos y Agua Caliente: Granted by Governor Pio Pico to Francisco Lopez, Luis Jordan, and Vicente Batello, May 27, 1846, consisting of about 35,000 acres.

Purchase	Date of Deed	Acres	Price per Acre	Total Price
Rancho la Liebre	August 8, 1855	48,825	$ .03	$ 1,500
Willow Springs	December 10, 1862	80	$1.25	100
Section 32	June 8, 1863	40	$1.25	50
Rancho el Tejon	February 9, 1865	97,617	.21	21,000
Rancho Los Alamos	May 1, 1865	34,560	$ .05	1,700
Rancho Castac	October 13, 1866	22,195	$2.93	65,000
Totals		$203,317		$89,350

d. Rancho Castac: Granted by Governor Micheltorena to Jose Maria Covarrubias, November 22, 1843, about 22,000 acres.

The original reserve (to be located in two parts) was to consist of 75,000 acres (or 25,000 acres) and had been judged suitable by then Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California and Nevada, Edward F. Beale. Beale knew the reserves would be, at least in part, on private lands, but hoped the government would purchase the land. In Washington, D.C., the day Major Donaldson approached old Tejon Pass, the government reduced the acreage to 25,000 acres, and later reduced it again to 8,000 acres. And, since the agency was on private land, the government never declared the Sebastian a legal reserve. In the same vein, the War Department never declared Fort Tejon a military reserve. The Sebastian Reserve was located on Rancho la Liebre, while Fort Tejon was on Rancho Castac.

Between 1855 and 1866, Beale amassed one of the great landholdings in California, through purchase of these four former land grants and some additional purchases. This he accomplished at an average cost of under 50 cents an acre, through purchase of legally clouded titles, through intermediaries and with the advantage he got from being for a time the federal Surveyor-General of California. However, Rancho El Castac had legally cleared the courts, and belonged to Samuel A. Bishop when he sold the property containing the fort.[40]

After consolidating these holdings, Beale called them collectively "El Ranchos Tejon."[41]

Beale, who was basically an absentee landowner, was interested in controlling a landed empire in order to make money. The ways the land could be used for this purpose varied with changing economic or environmental conditions. First cattle, then raising sheep for wool were the major activity in the earlier years. By 1872, Beale was grazing more than 100,000 sheep in bands consisting of up to 2,000 sheep each. His shepherds were Spanish, Chinese, Scotsmen, Indians and perhaps others.[42] The Indians of the former Sebastian Reserve provided the main source of labor for Beale's operations.

Drought and a declining wool market made Beale turn to cattle ranching once again as his main economic activity. By 1890, there were 25,000 head of cattle being raised on the properties and only 7,500 sheep remained.

Beale adopted the "Cross and Crescent" brand, which he recorded in Kern County in 1868. According to the historian of the Tejon Land Company, there is an interesting story behind the brand.

Sometimes referred to as "Tejon's Mission Bell" brand, it was actually the "Cross and Crescent" brand which appeared on cattle imported from Spain and were purchased by the Sebastian Indian Reserve. It originated about the year 1212 in Old Spain (Asturias Section) and is a combination of the Christian Cross and Arabian Crescent, and was created when an Arabian married into a Spanish family.[43]

Beale's ranch headquarters were maintained at Rancho la Liebre. When he gained ownership of Rancho Castac in 1866, he used the abandoned Fort Tejon post buildings to house shepherds and vaqueros, for offices, a blacksmith shop and building materials. Some of the old fort buildings were torn down for construction materials. Others were allowed to collapse and melt back into the landscape or were used as residences until 1935, when fire burned out the last house. The barracks were used as hay barns.

Meanwhile, a diversified agriculture was also being introduced. In 1891, Tejon Ranch had 45 acres of alfalfa, 20 acres of orange trees, 20 acres of figs and a vineyard.[44]

Beale relied on his ranch managers to operate the vast holding in a profitable manner. His most well-remembered manager was Jose Jesus Lopez, who served as mayordomo for Beale and Beale's son from 1885 to 1912. Lopez remained on in his position under the new ownership from 1912 to 1926, and then served until his death in 1939 as a special ranch consultant for the new owners.

The fact that Beale was able to build a fortune for himself and his heirs from his Tejon holdings is attested by the $3 million for which the ranch was sold in 1912. This was exactly the dream come true, amassing wealth from the land, that Fort Tejon had been established to make possible.[45]

Tejon Land Company

In 1912, Beale's son Truxtun negotiated the sale of the Tejon Ranch to a group of Southern California in-

vestors for $3 million. (With additional holdings, the property by then totaled 270,000 acres.) Harrison Gray Otis, publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*, headed the syndicate. The Tejon Ranch Company was incorporated in 1936 and today is publicly traded on the American Stock Exchange.

The modern ranch has ties to the past as well as new possibilities. Cattle raising continued, with scientific breeding producing more profitable and trouble-free animals. The ranch has about 12,000 cattle on the range at any one time. Agriculture continues. Farms established on the rich alluvial soil at the edge of the San Joaquin and Antelope valleys produce cotton, grain, potatoes and alfalfa. New crops include pistachios, wine grapes, walnuts and vegetables. The Tejon Land Company pursues other interests as well. It leases commercial facilities along its length of the Interstate 5 highway, has developed petroleum since 1936, Portland cement manufacturing and other activities. Many of these are conducted by lessees who pay the company a royalty.[46] With urbanization of the lower San Joaquin Valley radiating out of the Bakersfield area, the future prospects for profits from the land go far beyond the wildest imaginings of the 19th-century entrepreneur who put it all together.

Reflections

The imagination can play tricks on visitors. One can visualize an aging dragoon, in ragged uniform in mid-November of the first year, sitting at the bottom of the old, narrow, twisting trail which once led northward from Cañada de las Uvas, on his borrowed government mule, musketoon hanging at his side, following an infantry lieutenant to put down "trouble" at the Tejon reserve. Far off to the northeast is where his post should have been, on Tejon Creek, and he is bound for the Sebastian Reserve--18 miles of cold, dusty sand. The Indians are upset over the cold-blooded murder of one of their tribesmen. As the dragoon rests, does he hear the sound of the future--the future he partially will make possible; the grinding of truck gears as they start up the "Grapevine;" the groaning clatter of huge, lumbering caterpillar tractors cultivating the land; the "ohm-shmm" of the oil pump or the whine of traffic on Interstate Five? He turns on his saddle, blind to the future; but maybe ... just maybe he can dream what man can do--for already he has seen great ocean steamers, big cities with seven-story skyscrapers and eastern railroads stretching ever westward. Maybe he sees just a part of the future dream. But not now. It's time to follow that lieutenant of infantry--to death or duty. It is what he was paid forty cents a day to accomplish.[47]

The enlisted dragoons of Fort Tejon, those regulars "in dirty shirt blue," fought no great battles and they chastized few Indians. For the most part, they lived their daily lives and ate the scanty government rations given them. When the paymaster came, they collected their due, to save or squander as was their temperment. Some went on to glorious careers--23 enlisted men served as Union officers in the great Civil War looming on the horizon; others served as drillmasters and combat non-coms. Some invested in the


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land and became farmers and businessmen. One was the district attorney of Santa Barbara County; another became a leading grower of oranges in future Redlands. Some vanished, swallowed up by the clouds of historical obscurity. Others left their mark--a sheriff, a sutler in New Mexico, a rancher, a founder of his own family of army doctors, a farmer, a bandit, a German butcher, a wagon master in Nevada and a perennial deserter who performed honorable duty in the Mexican War and the Civil War. They all served. Some of the officers were outstanding and rose to high rank in the American Civil War. Seven of the 33 officers became federal generals by the end of that war, while nine more of various attributes became leaders in the Confederate cause. Some died prematurely--killed in combat--never realizing their true potential. Others sickened and died while still young or despaired of the future, limited by ill-health from gaining their highest ground. One, of talent, died before the war and another--agonized by the choice--resigned so he could serve no one but himself. He became a famous lawyer, a district attorney and an early orange grower. He and a former Ordnance Sergeant-Captain of Cavalry, helped to create the future of California as a citrus growing empire. Whatever they became, they were all dragoons at the old army post of Fort Tejon.[48]

About the Author:

George R. Stammerjohan is a native Californian, a graduate of California schools and holds an M.A. in Social Studies from California State University, Sacramento.

George retired as a State Historian II from the California Department of Parks and Recreation in January 1998, a position he held for over twenty years. He plans to continue researching and writing about the history of the military in California and will continue to serve as a Historical Advisor to the *Dogtown Territorial Quarterly*. George and his wife Judy, an educator, live in Sacramento.

End Notes

33. Stammerjohan, Fort Tejon State Historic Park, "Historic Analysis and Siting and Construction of Fort Tejon," Ms., Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1984. This manuscript is currently under revision, 1991.

2nd Lt. Henry V. DeHart, the one artillery officer stationed at Fort Tejon in 1857-1858, later became a captain in the newly organized 5th U. S. Artillery, and served in the Peninsula Campaign in Virginia, April-June 1862. He was mortally wounded on June 27, during the last moments of the Battle of Gaines Mill, and died near Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York, on July 13, 1862 (DeHart Biographical File, Stammerjohan collection).

34. First Lieutenant Thomas Castor, Company A, to Brevet Lt. Col. B. L. Beall, December 19, 1854, Hdqtrs., Department of the Pacific, RG-393; a duplicate can be found in the Fort Tejon Consolidated Quartermaster File, Record Group 92, U. S. National Archives, in Stammerjohan Files.

35. Los Angeles County Census, 1860, Microcopy 653, Roll 59, unpaginated. Tejon Township is the last section in the Los Angeles County enumeration. See also, Stammerjohan, "Historical Directory of Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader, Number One, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, 1992.

36. Citizens Petition to Brevet Brigadier General Albert Sidney Johnston, February 28, 1861, Letters Received, 1861, Hdqtrs., Department of the Pacific, RG-393. This petition was filed three months before the first company was withdrawn from the post. This petition concerning Fort Tejon can be found printed in *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, Series 1, Vol. 50, and in Carl Briggs and Clyde F. Trudell, *Quarterdeck and Saddlehorn: The Story of Edward F. Beale. 1822-1893*, Glendale, CA., The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1983. Briggs and Trudell present a somewhat inaccurate history of Fort Tejon in their account.

37. See "The Last Detail," in Stammerjohan, "Historical Directory of Fort Tejon," Fort Tejon Reader, Number One, Sacramento, 1992.

38. Farquhar, 1949, pp. 383-384, quoted in Stammerjohan, 1985, p. 92.

39. See Stammerjohan, "Historical Directory of Fort Tejon," 1992, and Stammerjohan, 1985, pp. 51, 82 and 75. Post employment records are in Record Group 92, Quartermaster Files, under "Men and Articles Employed and Hired" by post quartermaster name, then month and year.

40. Briggs and Trudell, 1983, p. 249.

Courtesy Massachusetts Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the U. S. Army Military History Institute

Captain Thomas Jordan, Asst. Quartermaster at Fort Tejon, later served as a Brigadier General in the Confederacy.

Courtesy Massachusetts Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the U. S. Army Military History Institute

Brevet Major James L. Donaldson, Quartermaster Dept. at Fort Tejon, later served as Brevet Brigadier General for the Union.

41. Ibid., p. 248.

42. Thompson, Gerald, *Edward F. Beale and the American West*, Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1983, p. 190.

43. "A Brief Chronological History of the Tejon Ranch Company," an insert in the Tejon Ranch Company Brochure, no date.

44. Briggs and Trudell, 1983, p. 270.

45. Ibid., p. 279.

46. Tejon Ranch Company Brochure, no pagination.

47. This reflection is based on Brevet 2nd Lt. A. E. Latimer's ride to the Tejon Reserve in November, 1854.

48. The following were officers who served or were attached for duty at Fort Tejon who became generals during the American Civil War. A definite distinction is made between officers "assigned to Fort Tejon" and "casual officers" who came to Fort Tejon escorting recruits, or on inspection tours, or duty concerning a general court martial (GCM). If the "casual officers" were considered as part of the Fort Tejon garrison, then the number of future general officers would be much higher, but this would be a false historical evaluation of the term "who served or were attached for duty at Fort Tejon." Captain Thomas Jordan A.Q.M. was assigned at Fort Miller, but supervised construction at Fort Tejon during the period September 1854 to June 1855. Jordan was often at the developing camp, but was never listed as part of the garrison in Post Returns, M-617. However, because of his involvement with construction, he is counted as one of the officers assigned.

For the Confederacy:

Colonel Thomas Turner Flauntleroy, 1st Dragoons:
Brigadier General, Virginia State Forces

Captain Thomas Jordan, Assistant Quartermaster:
Brigadier General, Provisional Army Confederate States (PACS)

Second Lt. John Pegram, 1st Dragoons:
Brigadier General and unconfirmed Major General, (PACS)

First Lt. Henry B. Davidson, 1st Dragoons:
Brigadier General, (PACS)

Second Lt. William Dorsey Pender, 1st Dragoons:
Major General, (PACS)

Fauntleroy resigned his state commission in October 1861 and saw no more service. John Pegram and Wm. Dorsey Pender were killed due to combat (actually, Pegram was killed in February 1865 at Burgess' Mill near Hatcher's Run, Va., while Pender received a leg wound at Gettysburg, Pa. on July 2, 1863 and died in the military hospital at Staunton, Va. on July 18, 1863.

Jordan and Davidson survived the war, both surrendering in North Carolina in 1865.

For the Union:

Brevet Major (Captain) James Henry Carleton, 1st Dragoons: Brigadier General and Brevet Major General; commanding Department of New Mexico.

Brevet Major (Captain) James L. Donaldson, Quar-

Continued on page 61

Fort Tejon From Page 25

termaster Department: Brevet Brigadier General for defense of Nashville, Tenn. and held brevet prior to end of war. Donaldson, due to the brevet rank, is not listed in Ezra Warner's *Generals in Blue*.

Captain John Wynn Davidson, 1st Dragoons: Appointed Brigadier General and brevetted Major General of Volunteers and Regular U. S. Army.

Second Lt. David McMurtie Gregg, 1st Dragoons: Brigadier General of Cavalry and Brevet Major General, commanding 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac.

On several occasions, Colonel Benjamin Allston, CSA, and Colonel Benjamin G. Davis, USA, were each mistakenly identified by the other side as a "General."

Major George A. H. Blake, 1st Dragoons, was brevetted Brigadier General for wartime service in 1866. Blake failed to gain a brevet as Major General in 1869, by direct action of President U. S. Grant.

Brevet Major (Captain) William N. Grier, 1st Dragoons, was brevetted Brigadier General for wartime service in 1866

Captain Ralph W. Kirkham, Quartermaster Department, who guided much of the post construction, was brevetted Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier General to take date from March 13, 1865, for wartime service on the Pacific Coast.

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Regimental Returns, 1st U. S. Dragoons, Microcopy 744, Roll 3, 4, and 5.

Company Bi-Monthly Muster Rolls, Companies A, B, F, H, I and K, 1st U. S. Dragoons, 1854-1861, Record Group 94

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Asst. Surgeon Peter G. S. TenBroeck

Asst. Surgeon Jonathan Letterman

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Sources for Uniforms & Weaponry:

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All the above are from the Military Record Collection of the U. S. National Archives, in the Stammerjohan collection.

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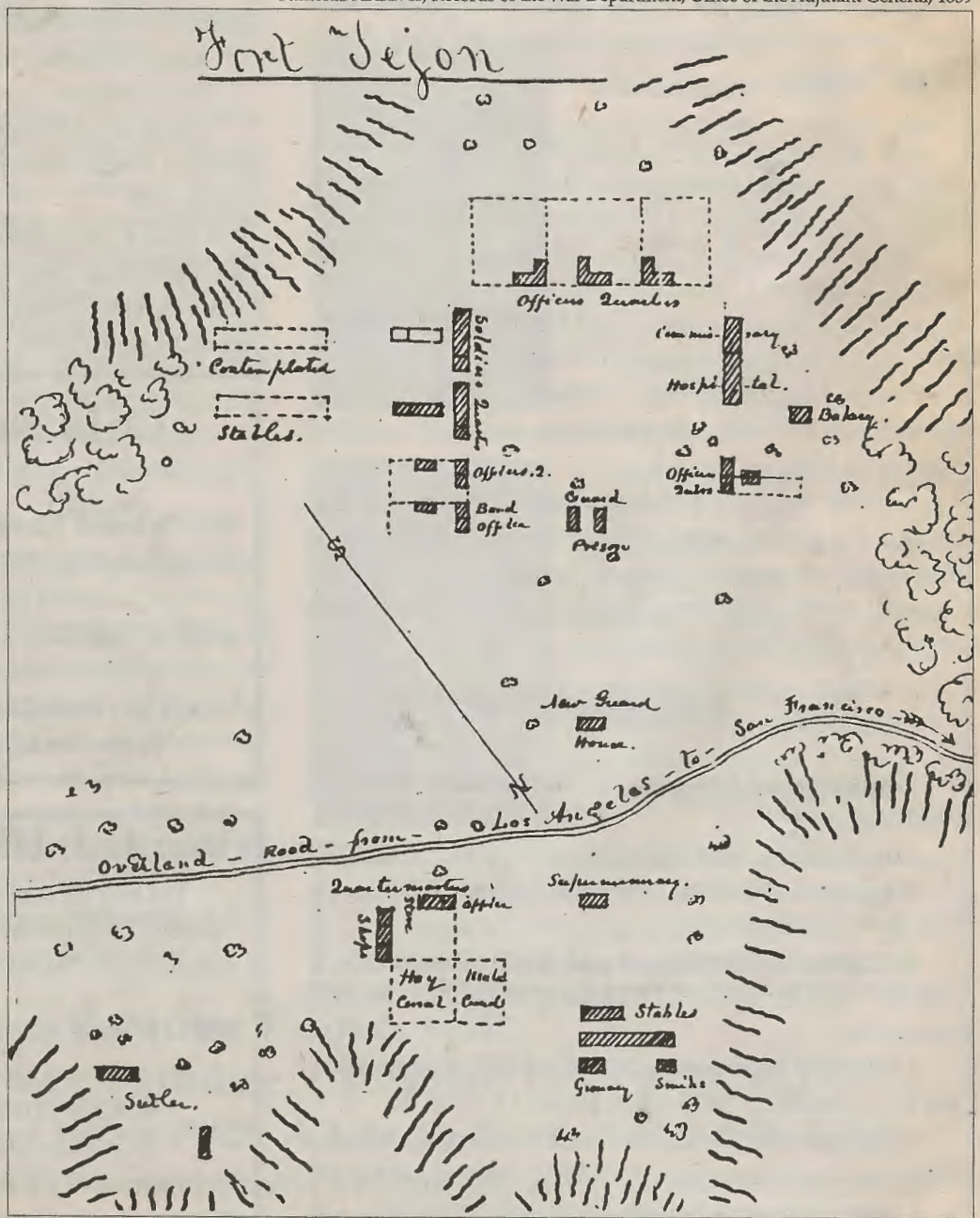
Corrections to Part 2 in Winter Issue #32:

On page 16, second column, 3rd paragraph, "Fort Spelling" should be spelled "Fort Snelling."

On page 35, photo caption of Captain John W.T. Gardiner reads "commanding Fort Tejon." It should be "Commanding Company A, Fort Tejon"

On page 20, map of Fort Tejon is same as page 21. The correct 1859 map is pictured at right.

National Archives, Records of the War Department, Office of the Adjutant General, 1859



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