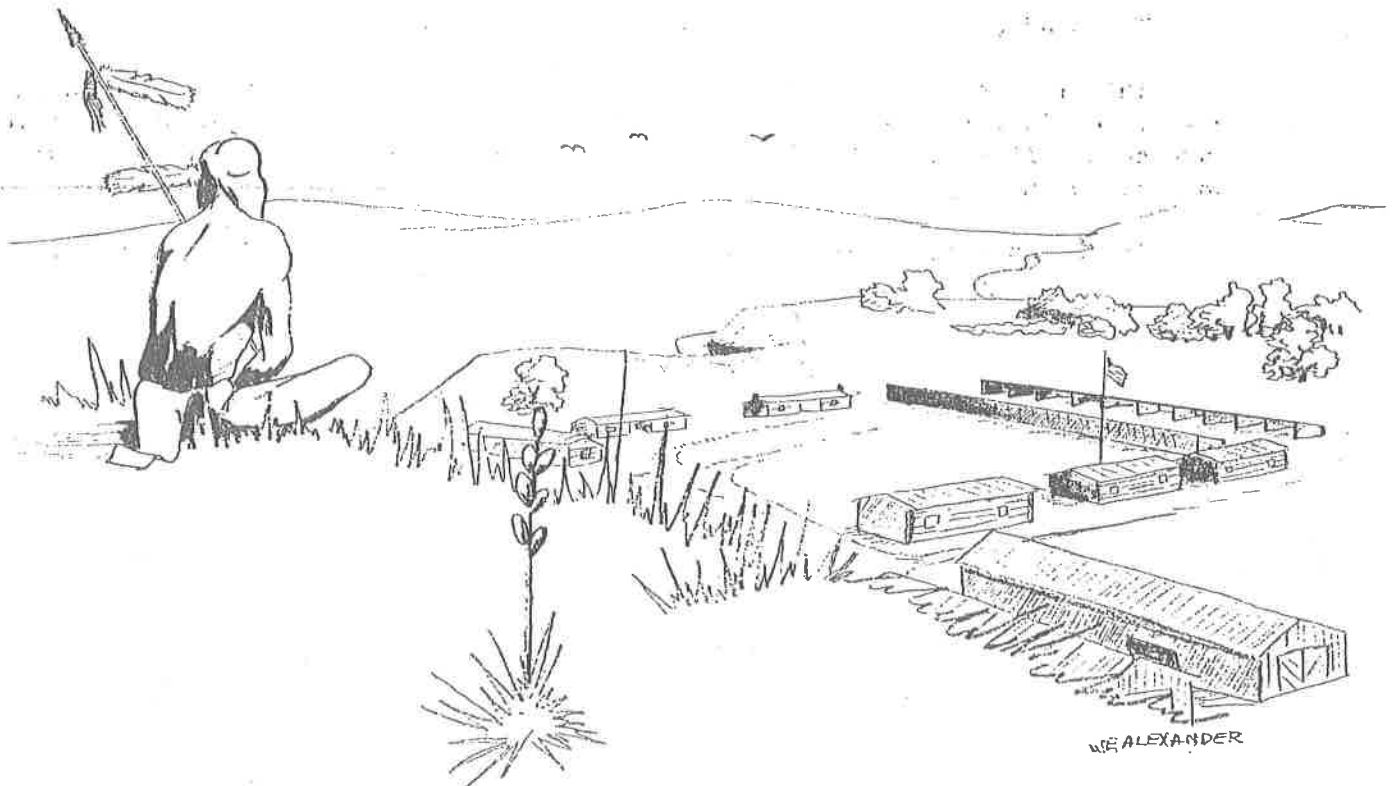


THE INDIANS
IN
THE HISTORY OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

By

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Fort Worth, Texas



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As the Indians in Tarrant County, Texas, used to say, "Thanks, yawl."

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INTRODUCTION

The area referred to in this paper as Tarrant County, Texas, was described as to boundaries in 1849 and organized in 1850.

History touches briefly on this area with the exploration of Moscoso, in the year 1542.

Tarrant County was then all but lost to history until the early nineteenth century. It was then on the eastern edge of the Comanche Territory. There was great unrest. The whites were determined to settle this frontier, and the Indians were not willing to give up their land without a struggle. There were numerous incidents of hostility, sometimes instigated by one group, sometimes by the other. A few times full scale battles occurred, as in the case of the Battle of Village Creek, in 1841.

Although this story develops no plot, nor presents any conclusions, we hope that those who read it will gain from it an appreciation of the Indians' role in the history of Tarrant County, and an inkling of their role in our future.

PART I

TARRANT COUNTY 1542-1839

There has not been very much early history written about the Indians of Tarrant County, Texas; however, one account argues whether Moscoso in 1542 traveled through Tarrant County in his travels in Texas.¹

Our story, therefore, shall begin in 1542 with Moscoso, who assumed leadership after De Soto died. Moscoso

decided to turn the course of travel toward the settlements in Mexico. Thus the frayed-out remnant of the well-trimmed De Soto expedition came into the land that we now know as Texas. Slowed to a snail's pace by the lack of horses and further impeded by a train of captured Indian slaves and burden-bearers, the party was able to travel little more than an average of six miles per day . . . For four months this strange party of white and red-skinned humanity moved westward and southwestward under the convoy of the few mounted men who still faintly resembled Spanish cavalry. Then fear seized them, fear of starvation if they went ahead, and the party returned to the mouth of the Arkansas, hoping to escape by water.²

There is more dissension than agreement concerning Moscoso's journey.

In the following pages we will try to prove that Moscoso passed through Tarrant County, and will present some recent collaborating evidence plus some of the various arguments presented.

The furthest west Moscoso traveled into Texas was the river Daycao, and he then turned back.³

At the river Daycao, Williams ("Moscoso's Trail in Texas") begins his narrative. Williams believes that Moscoso got as far west as Bone Bend, Brazos River, near Possum Kingdom Dam.⁴ Another account says that Moscoso's furthest western point was the Trinity River, Houston County, Texas.⁵ Also, another account points out that the Trinity is the Daycao, and that Moscoso followed the later known La Bahia road to the Trinity.⁶

Next Williams takes us backward to Guasco. "These Spaniards found corn in some measure wherever they went until they reached the village of Guasco; here there was enough corn to supply them on at least two occasions."⁷ Another account of the Spanish arrival at Guasco is as follows:

Arrived (Moscoso and his men) at a province called Guasco, they found maize, with which they loaded the horses and the Indians; thence they went to another settlement called Naquiscoca,

As the region thereabout was scarce of maize, and no information could be got of any inhabited country to the west . . . the Governor (Moscoso) went back to Guasco.⁸

At Guasco the Spaniards found turquoise and shawls of cotton, which the Indians "gave them to understand, by signs, were brought from the direction of the sunset; . . ."⁹ Furthermore in another article by J. W. Williams, which traces Coronado's route in Texas, he mentions these same articles of trade and that they were brought from the west by the Indians along what was later called the Fort Sumner-Fort Griffin Road to the vicinity of Fort Worth or Waco.¹⁰

After coming back to Guasco after an unsuccessful trip to Nacacahoz, Moscoso was told that

ten day's journey from there, toward the sunset, was a river called Daycao, . . . whither they sometimes went to drive and kill deer, and where they had seen persons on the other bank but without knowing what people they were.¹¹

Williams' reasons for locating Guasco on Village Creek, Tarrant County, is that it ranges about "sixty miles to ninety miles east of various parts of the Palo Pinto Mountains and, (because of) the slow speed of Moscoso's footmen, the two places were separated by a distance of about ten days travel."¹²

He, also, says that Guasco must have been isolated from similar groups toward the northeast. The probable reason for this would be that "the Trinity and its tributaries are subject to overflow" and this area "did not support a large population of corn-producing Indians."¹³

Mr. Chuck Shytles recently found part of a musket in association with a jaw and teeth of a white man, part of a skull, finger bones, other bone, and a copper bell in the area where the present Mansfield Highway crosses Village Creek.¹⁴ It is yet undetermined, at this writing, the age and country of origin of this musket. We believe, though, that if this musket can be put into its place in history, Mr. Williams will have further support to his theory.

As seen before, there is little agreement as to the location of Guasco. Woldert ("The Expedition of Luis de Moscoso in Texas in 1542") places Guasco on the east side of the Angelina River in the "extreme southeastern border of Nacogdoches County."¹⁵ Strickland ("Moscoso's Journey Through Texas") locates Guasco "southwest of the present site of Alto, .. ."¹⁶

Before arriving at Guasco, Williams has the Spaniards passing through the Northwest corner of Dallas County and crossing the Elm Fork of the Trinity in that County.¹⁷ Recent information has been found to support this theory.

In 1957 at the annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society held in Fort Worth, W. W. Crook and R. K. Harris, of the Dallas Archeological Society, reported that a "silver chain-mail gauntlet" had been found

north of Dallas on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River near Field City. . . . Gauntlets, Crook explained, were worn only when swords and spears were still being used.¹⁸

Also for further support, in the early 1950's two boys found an Indonesian battle ax (metal) on the river bank near Honey Springs. Crook says that the Spaniards brought it there, and he also believes that the De Soto Expedition reached the Trinity River in Dallas County.¹⁹

Williams continues to present his locations and their arguments to the rest of Moscoso's trip in Texas.

That route, . . . , crossed Red River not many miles above Texarkana, passed near Clarksville, Paris, and Greenville (Texas) and after some wandering about, reached the eastern edge of the lower cross timbers, possibly west of the site of McKinney. From here, following in a southward

direction along the margin of this timber belt, the trail reached Village southeast of Fort Worth, at the village known as Guasco. Here there was a detour southward up Village Creek, but the trail returned to Guasco and finally passed toward the west near the sites of Fort Worth and Weatherford. The route continued westward near Possum Kingdom Dam and came to a final halt in Bone Bend (on the Brazos) near the northwest corner of Palo Pinto County.²⁰

In view of this evidence we believe that Moscoso did pass through Tarrant County.

Tarrant County, like many other areas, has its legend of Spanish gold. Pioneer settlers of Mansfield, Tarrant County, Texas, frequently quote an existing legend concerning gold supposed to have been buried near there by a Spanish caravan. The legend places the treasure on the former Grimsley Homestead, now owned by the Collier Estate and located three miles north of town on Texas Highway #34. "To reach the spot, travel north from Mansfield to the first filling station on the right. The place is adjacent to the station and directly east. A great portion of the land is too rough and rocky for cultivation and has been left uncultivated. Many rocks, some measuring as much as twenty feet in diameter, lie on the surface. On one of these rocks are several inscriptions which are believed to have been placed there by the Spanish party." The origin of the legend is not positively known. The following is the legend as it is told today:

As a traveling Spanish caravan arrived in the territory now known as north Texas, it was attacked by a band of Indians on the warpath. The caravan's director realized that his party was hopelessly outnumbered, and not being familiar with the Indian method of warfare, he decided to break camp and head south, believing that the enemy would soon become discouraged and abandon the chase. To his surprise and disappointment, the Indians were persistent. Day after day the Spaniards were ambushed or attacked in the open, this causing the loss of a number of men each time.

The caravan director concluded that it was useless to continue the attempt to elude the Indians and decided to make camp on a spot that is now north of Mansfield, and there make a desperate attempt to defend themselves. The enemy's attacks then became severe and several of the party with considerable of their livestock were killed. The party soon realized their error. It was evident then that to remain would result in the loss of the treasure and total destruction of the party.

With the purpose of preserving the gold, the party provided a cache under a large rock and cut into the surface of the rock an inscription purporting to be information for future use in locating the cache. They then vacated their camp and started south, hoping they would succeed in reaching safety in some community. The Indians continued their pursuit and continuing their attacks which finally resulted in the complete destruction of the caravan, a short distance north of what is now known as the city of San Antonio.

A group of boys years later, while playing around an old farmhouse tenanted by the Gorman family, became interested in a large flat rock used by the family as a stepstone. Like most boys, they decided to investigate and ascertain just what was under it. On turning the rock over, they were attracted by some unusual marks on it and called Mr. Gorman. Mr. Gorman, a young man at the time, was fascinated by the queer marks and he decided to have them translated as he believed them to be inscriptions with a possible

value, perhaps a map to gold or some other treasure. Such as this had happened before, he reasoned. The exact means used in obtaining a translation is unknown. A short time later, Mr. Gorman possessed a map indicating that gold was buried near the location of this inscription.

After obtaining the map, Mr. Gorman considered himself in an awkward position. He didn't want to tell the landowners because he feared they wouldn't allow him to search for the treasure or would demand a major part. To surmount this difficulty, he decided to search at night without the formality of requesting their permission.

Mr. Gorman with a few of his friends, went to the spot where the cache, as they supposed, was located and started to dig. Some of the men stood watch while the others worked. After digging a few feet, they struck something that sounded like the rattle of old bones. The young men were already somewhat nervous and frightened by their act of trespassing, imagined that other sounds were coming from the trench or hole, they hastily gave up the hunt and fled.

Mr. Gorman stated in about 1930 that no one had returned to search for the gold.²¹

The names of Sid Gibson and E.J. Stone of Mansfield, and R. S. Noles of Venus, are given as references to the legend of Spanish gold in Tarrant County.²²

NOTES PART I

1. J. W. Williams, "Moscoso's Trail in Texas," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLVI (October, 1942), map. Cited in the text hereafter as Williams.
2. Ibid., p. 139
3. F. W. Hodge and Theodore H. Lewis (eds.), Spanish Explorers in Southern United States, 1528-1543 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970), p. 246.
4. Williams, op. cit., p. 155.
5. Rex W. Strickland, "Moscoso's Journey Through Texas," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLVI (October, 1942), 133.
6. Albert Woldert, "The Expedition of Luis de Moscoso in Texas in 1542," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLVI (October, 1942), 162.
7. Williams, op. cit., p. 149
8. Hodge and Lewis, op. cit., pp 244-245.
9. Ibid., pp. 246-247.
10. J. W. Williams, "Coronado: From the Rio Grande to the Concho," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXIII (October, 1959), 217.
11. Williams, "Moscoso's Trail in Texas," p. 245.
12. Ibid., p. 151
13. Ibid.
14. Interview with R. L. Shytles, Bowman Springs Road, Fort Worth, Texas, who is Chuck's brother, September 20, 1960.
15. Woldert, loc. cit.
16. Strickland, op. cit., p. 132
17. Williams, op. cit., map.
18. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Evening Edition, November 11, 1957.
19. Dallas Morning News, February 3, 1957.
20. Williams, op. cit., pp 154-155.
21. Folklore in Research Data, Fort Worth and Tarrant County (Texas Writers Project), LIX, 23568-23571 (hereafter referred to as Research Data).
22. Ibid., LIX, 23572.

PART II

TARRANT COUNTY 1840-1860

Tarrant County is not mentioned again in history until 1840.

Tarrant County, in 1840, was on the eastern boundary of the Comanche country. One source records an Indian village located about twelve miles southeast of Fort Worth, probably on Village Creek.²³ (See Appendix I.) We do not yet know what Indians occupied the village.²⁴

In the winter of 1840-1841, Bird's Fort was established by Johnathan Bird with a company of rangers, for the purpose of encouraging settlements in that section. It was soon abandoned.²⁵ Some sources say that Bird's Fort began earlier and some say later than 1840-1841. This discrepancy is probably due to the fact that the Fort was soon abandoned after its establishment and then later reoccupied.

Next in history is the Battle of Village Creek, which was the indirect result of Indian depredations.

In late 1840 at his home on the Sulphur River in the southeast part of Fannin County, Captain Yeary and a Negro man were attacked in the field, three hundred yards from his house. Mrs. Yeary remained inside the house on the defensive. After an exchange of arrows and shots the Indians left. Mr. and Mrs. Yeary were both wounded.²⁶

"Early in April 1841, part of the Ripley family on the old Cherokee trace, on Ripley Creek, in Titus County, were murdered by Indians."²⁷

After the incidents involving the Yeary family and the Ripley family, a retaliatory expedition was organized on May 4, 1841, at Choctaw Bayou. "James Bourland was elected captain of the expedition and William C. Young was elected lieutenant."²⁸ Soon, however, the command was turned over to General Tarrant. Dr. Lemuel Cochran was orderly sergeant and Henry Stout and John B. Denton were scout leaders.²⁹

After following several false reports, the Indians were located on Village Creek in Tarrant County. (Tarrant County was named in honor of General Tarrant as a result of the Battle of Village Creek.) On May 24, 1841, the Battle of Village Creek began and ended the same day with the death of John B. Denton and the wounding of Captain Stout. General Tarrant captured an Indian child and returned it to its mother two years later at a council in Indian Territory.³⁰

One source reports that during the battle an old Indian, who would neither run nor surrender, was shot and buried near the area.³¹

A full account of this battle is given in Appendix II. No two sources agree on many details of the battle. Some say the Indians involved were the Comanche, some the Keechi, and others say it was a combination of several tribes. The number of Indians involved and the exact location of the battle is also in disagreement. We do not fully agree even with the account given in Appendix II.

After the Battle of Village Creek, the white men retreated and John B. Denton was buried near the present town of Birdville.

On returning home from this fruitless, indeed unfortunate expedition measures were set on foot for a larger one, of which General Tarrant was again to be the ranking officer.

At that time General James Smith, of Nacogdoches, was commander of the militia in that district. He led an expedition at the same time to the same

section of country, there being an understanding that he and Tarrant would, if practicable, meet somewhere in the Cross Timbers.

The volunteers of Red River, between 400 and 500 in number, assembled from the 15th to the 20th of July, 1841, at Fort English, as the home of Bailey English was called, and there organized as a regiment by electing William C. Young as Colonel and James Bourland as Lieutenant-Colonel. John Smither was made Adjutant, and among the captains were William Lane, David Key and Robert S. Hamilton,

General Tarrant assumed command and controlled the expedition.

The expedition moved southwest and encamped on the west bank of the Trinity, probably in Wise County, and sent out a scouting party, who made no discoveries; yet, as will be seen, the Indians discovered Tarrant's movements in time to be unseen by him and to narrowly escape a well-planned attack by General Smith. Without discovering any enemy, after being out several weeks, Tarrant's command returned home and disbanded.

In the meantime General Smith, with a regiment of militia and volunteers, moved up northwesterly in the general direction of the present city of Dallas. On arriving at the block houses, known as King's Fort, at the present town of Kaufman, he found that the place had been assaulted by Indians during the previous evening and a considerable fight had occurred, in which the assailants had been gallantly repulsed and had retired, more or less damaged.

General Smith fell upon and followed the trail of the discomfited savages, crossing Cedar creek (Kaufman County), the "East Fork", White Rock and the Trinity where Dallas stands, this being a few months before John Neely Bryan pitched his lonely camp on the same spot. On the spring branch, a mile or so on the west side of the river, the command halted, enjoying limpid spring water and an abundance of honey, from which one of the springs derived the name it still retains--Honey Spring. From this camp General Smith dispatched a scout of twelve men, under Capt. John L. Hall, to seek and report the location of the Indian village.

They crossed Mountain creek above or south of the Texas and Pacific railroad of today, thence passed over the prairie into the Cross Timbers and to within a short distance of Village Creek. From the number of fresh trails, apparently converging to a common center, it became evident they were in the vicinity of an Indian town. Secreting his party in a low and well hidden spot, Capt. Hall sent Judge Reagan and Isaac Bean on foot, to discover the exact location of the village and the best means of approaching and surprising it. These brave but cautious men, well-skilled in woodcraft, spent over half a day in "spying out the lay of the land" finding the Indians in quiet possession of their camp and that it was approachable at both the upper and lower ends of the village. Thus informed they lost no time in reporting to Capt. Hall, who, as soon as night came, cautiously emerged from his hiding-place with his party, and hastened with the information to General Smith. . . . Camping at night on Mountain Creek, after starting as soon as possible after the arrival of Hall, Gen. Smith reached the village about noon next day. The command was divided into two battalions, respectively commanded by Gen. Smith and Lieut.-Col. Elliott.

Judge Reagan acted as guide in conducting Smith to the upper end of the village, while Bean performed the same service in guiding Elliott to the lower. Both moves were successfully made; but, when the crisis came and the enthusiasm of the men was at fever heat, it was found that the enemy had already precipitately fled, leaving some supplies and camp fixtures.

The simple explanation was that the Indians had discovered Tarrant's force and fled barely in time to elude Smith. Pursuit, under such circumstances, would be useless.

Without meeting, each command, in its own way, returned homeward; but, though bloodless, the invasion of Indian country, in such force, had a salutary effect in preparing all the smaller hostile tribes for the treaty entered into in September 1843.³²

In the fall of 1841, Hamp Rattan, Captain Mabel Gilbert, and John Beeman, with their families, and a few single men, established themselves at Bird's Fort.³³

Expecting to find an abundance of game in the country, the settlers carried out a scant supply of provisions, but the Indians had burned off the grass from all that section, and no game of any kind was to be found. So late in November of this year, a wagon was sent back to Red River for supplies. Being overdue, three of the settlers, Alex W. Webb, . . . , Solomon Silkwood, and Hamp Rattan, went in search of the wagon party. Reaching a point about one and a half miles southeast of the present town of Carrollton, on the east side of Elm Fork, Christmas day, they halted to cut a bee tree, when they were attacked by a small party of concealed Indians. Rattan was killed; but Webb and Silkwood, after killing one of the Indians escaped to the fort. One of the single men now went out, and soon met the relief wagon, which reached the scene of the tragedy on the 30th of the month, where they found Rattan's body, still guarded by his faithful dog. The remains were carried to the fort, and in a rude coffin made of an old wagon bed, committed to earth.³⁴

In the summer of 1843, President Sam Houston of the Republic of Texas called for a council with the Indians at Bird's Fort. After many delays a Treaty (see Appendix III) was finally signed on September 29, 1843, between the Anadarkos, Tawakonies, Delawares, Chickasaw, Waco, Caddo, Cherokee, Keechi, Ioni, and Biloxi³⁵ and the commissioners for the Republic of Texas, G. W. Terrell and E. H. Tarrant.³⁶ The treaty was approved by the Senate on January 31, 1844, and was signed by President Houston on February 3, 1844.³⁷ Thus part of Houston's second phase of Indian reapproachment was completed.³⁸

As a result of this treaty, the settlement of the counties along the Trinity River progressed more rapidly. For the agreements made with the Indians see Appendix III. In 1843, a treaty maker for Sam Houston was killed by Indians near Grapevine Springs.³⁹

Next was the establishment of a trading post in Tarrant County. Some sources say that the trading post was an outcome of the Treaty of 1843, and another source says that by the law of January 14, 1843, a trading post was to be built at the junction of the Clear Fork with the West Fork of the Trinity River;⁴⁰ nevertheless, Ed Terrell, John P. Lusk, and Shackwith went to Tarrant County somewhere near the Trinity River and built a trading post in 1843. (Some accounts give only Terrell and Lusk, but others list all three.) It is also mentioned that the trading post was built near the present location of the pool in the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, and that a village extended from the post to the present location of the Holly Water Plant.⁴¹ Other accounts locate the trading post near "Cold Springs", which is also in Fort Worth.

The relationship between the traders and the Indians was not friendly. In 1843 the traders were captured by "Indians on the ravine just east of the place now occupied by the packing houses."⁴²

Bird's Fort now enters our story again. In 1845 William Bird dug a well because it was dangerous to leave the fort to get water. When the excavation for water became too deep, however, Bird was forced to go out to get water. So Bird ,

his daughter, and (a man) named Cartwright who were the only inhabitants remaining, went to the nearby lake and on their return to the fort were murdered by Indians.⁴³

In 1846 Ed Terrell was captured by Indians while working in his field. He was taken to a point of timber near where Hodge is now and was held as a prisoner for several days before being released.⁴⁴ If this account is accurate, the traders left soon after.

In 1847 Johnson's Station was established.⁴⁵ Here again, conflicting statements are made as to the date of establishment. It is also mentioned that there was a trading post prior to Johnson's settling.⁴⁶ Nevertheless, Johnson settled at Mare la Bone or Fossil Springs. It was said that Indians camped here and that in one of the large boulders near by was an Indian grist mill with a smaller stone to grind corn.⁴⁷ It has been said that Johnson signed a treaty with the Indians for this land.⁴⁸

In 1847 a man named Lemuel Edwards settled on the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. At that time there were some Indians who lived on the Clear Fork about four miles from Fort Worth. The Indians were very tricky, but Edwards was a foxy old fellow and hard to fool. There was a turkey roost near Edwards' home, where the Indians would often "creep up near and gobble like turkeys with the purpose of enticing Edwards out, so they could get his scalp, but the old man never heeded their call."⁴⁹

On May 11, 1849, General W. J. Harlee ordered Brevet Major Ripley A. Arnold with Company F, Second Dragoons, to the Confluence of the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity and there establish a post.⁵⁰

In June of 1849 Camp Worth was established. Arnold picked this location because of the proximity of Cold Springs.

It is said that the Springs "once was a rendezvous for Comanche Indians."⁵¹ Soon after its establishment the fort was visited by Indians.

About 100 Indians of the different wild tribes are now visiting me. They brought down and delivered up some 36 horses which they had taken from the Wichitas--horses stolen within the last year from citizens. Three Wichita chiefs are here, and promise everything for the future. All is peace and quiet on this frontier -- R. A. Arnold, Brevet Major, Second Dragoons, Commanding.⁵²

Shortly after the fort was built there was Indian trouble,⁵³ which has been known as the "Battle of Fort Worth."⁵⁴ The Battle was precipitated when mounted Caddoes and Comanches attacked some Tonkawahs "in a live oak grove where the Tannahill homestead stands in the upper edge of White Settlement."⁵⁵ The Tonks were defeated and two of the young bucks were eaten then and there by the Caddoes. The Tonks appealed for sanctuary, and Major Arnold took them in. The Caddoes and Comanches, headed by Chief Towash, then came to the fort.

"They (the Caddoes and Comanches) were yelling out there at the head of Robinson's Branch like red devils and wanted Injuns for breakfast," Harris relates. Major Arnold replied by messenger that he was not in the habit of having his guests barbecued. But the Indians insisted they must fight -- they were hungry.⁵⁶

Arnold then turned the howitzer on the yelling Indians. The Indians were not hurt and they again asked Arnold for food, whereupon he gave them three "beeves".⁵⁷ This event is related on a bronze marker on the grounds of the All Church Home, at 1424 Summit Avenue, in Fort Worth.⁵⁸

Life was hazardous for the inhabitants of the area, with the constant danger of Indian attacks. In the 1850's the Comanches often raided in Palo Pinto County. In 1850⁵⁹

Chief Jim Ned of the Comanches, a daring leader and physical giant, incensed by the encroachments of the white men on his land and goaded by the loss of one of his favorite broncs at the hands of Arnold's scouts, decided to concentrate his forces and sweep down unexpectedly on Fort Worth and wipe it out. Chief Ned assembled his warriors on the eve of departure from their village in Palo Pinto. In order to arouse their warlike spirits into a mad frenzy, they danced a demoniacal war dance. The Indians were hideously painted and decorated with human bones and scalps; the dance was an awesome sight.

The next morning, dividing his forces into two bands of one hundred each, Chief Ned planned to travel northeast and Chief Feathertail was to go southeast, both groups to converge the following night at a point a few miles from Fort Worth.

Chief Ned and his followers camped at the rendezvous waiting for the other group to join them. A fur trapper, hearing the confusion, crept up on a ridge and was startled to see about one hundred warriors making camp in the valley. He set out at full speed for the fort and told Major Arnold what he had seen. Within an hour the soldiers, horses, and wagons were made ready. The trapper led them to the spot. Scouts sent out to find the best approach reported the Indians all asleep. It was planned to attack from three directions.

The soldiers galloped down on the unsuspecting victims in the draw. With the aid of the full moon, the regulars had every advantage. Not a man of the garrison was seriously hurt. Chief Ned and a few Indians retreated, made contact with the other force, and headed for their retreat in Palo Pinto County.⁶⁰

During this time there was a line of forts joined by a road from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Fort Worth was one of them.

Up to about 1852, the Indians were permitted to come in and hunt game east of this road or line of forts. When they were about the settlement they appeared very friendly, visited our homes, and gave us wild game. They had a way of skinning deer, leaving the hide nearly whole and afterwards sewing up the openings. When the hide was well dried in this shape, they often filled it with honey from bee trees found in the woods. Sometimes they would divide the honey with us, but they annoyed us greatly by begging coffee and tobacco. Of course, they would steal it if they had a suitable opportunity. They would sometimes steal horses, but never when they were on a friendly visit.

If no Indians were seen, however, it was often said, "We had better look out for our horses." When they did steal horses and the old settlers could get started on their trail in time, five or six men could take a bunch of horses from a hundred Indians. Our people had rifles while they had only bows and arrows.

In 1852, the officer in command at Fort Worth issued an order for the Indians to stay west on the road. Shortly afterward a hunting party of Indians came over into the cross timbers and camped near where the town of Mansfield is now situated. They ranged out into Mountain Creek valley, near where we lived, killing game, but disturbing no one. A scout of soldiers was sent out from Fort Worth to put them back across the line. They arrested many Indians and whipped many on their naked backs, and threatened to kill them if they were found across the line again. There was a young Indian, seventeen or eighteen years of age, who had been separated from his people out on a hunt when they were arrested and taken away. Returning to camp, he knew not what had become of them. He began a search, but the trail had been beaten out by the soldiers' horses, as the Indians had been kept in front, and the soldiers followed on horseback. This young Indian made a circle of the country on a hunt for the trail of his people, and met some of our settlers, who told him what had happened. This was fortunate for us, as it located the blame for the harsh treatment where it properly belonged. I shall never forget that young Indian's distress in his search. He would travel some distance, give his Indian whoop, and wait for a reply, but none came. When he was informed of what had happened, he made directly for the west, and, I suppose, he then knew where to go, as I never heard of him afterward.⁶¹

Around 1852 some Norwegians migrated to Texas and some of them visited Fort Worth. Here is one account of the Indians around Fort Worth about that time.

At Fort Worth we stopped over for a day and a night, and in the meantime Reiersen and I took a little hike for the purpose of seeing and to talk with the Indians. These people are rather unusually odd creatures to look at (. . .) being that I have never before seen any of them, and we sat a long time within their tents conversing with them, which was made possible because one of them could use the English language quite well. They were greatly distressed on account of the miserable treatment received and because of having to be driven hither and thither and they believed that by and by they would have to die from sheer starvation . . .⁶²

Another account is as follows:

When we had passed by Fort Worth, where a force of 200 cavalrymen are stationed we saw many Indians. These people are copper-brown, very small, and have rather slender limbs, and walk around with a downcast countenance (. . .). Their apparel consisted of a pair of deerskin trousers, which reached from the ankles (. . .) up on the thigh (. . .); most of them were almost completely barefoot, but, each of them had a cloth garment (. . .) which almost covered both the back and the front; but their thighs and their heads were uncovered (. . .). They had coal-black and straight hair; which they combed from the middle of the top of the heads down to both sides and cut the hair on the level with the shoulders; but on the back each one of them had a braid reaching far down the spine. I am told that they are not the least dangerous, if one does not offend them in some way or other; but they are very much inclined to steal.⁶³

In 1853 there were Indians of the Caddo, Waco, and Ionian tribes scattered throughout this section. Their camp fires could be seen dotting the prairies at night in every direction around Fort Worth.⁶⁴

The troops left the camp and went to Fort Belknap in 1853. The following is a brief episode concerning the time just after their departure.

When the writer (Howard Peak) was a babe, the young mother was more than once scared when straggling bands of Comanches would visit the home with a view of trading venison hams, baskets, or other trinkets for sugar or coffee and would take me up in their arms and swing me around, much to my delight, if to the discomfort of the terrified mother.⁶⁵

In 1853 there was a report that Indians had beleaguered Fort Worth.⁶⁶ This report was probably after the troops left.

Mr. Richardson's map of the Comanche Territory in 1860 locates Tarrant County on its eastern boundary.⁶⁷

NOTES PART II

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55. Ibid.
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59. Howard W. Peak, A Ranger of Commerce (San Antonio, Texas: Naylor Printing Co., 1939), p. 163.
58. Hanbary in Research Data, XXXVIII, 14888
60. Tommy Thompson, "Ripley A. Arnold--Frontier Major," The Junior Historian, IX (May, 1949), 3.
61. Hilory G. Gedford, Texas Indian Troubles (Dallas, Texas: Hargreaves Printing Co., Inc., 1905), pp. 84-85.
62. Lyder L. Unstad, "Norwegian Migration to Texas: A Historical Resume with Four 'America Letters,'" The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XLIII (October, 1939), 185.
63. Ibid., 186-187
64. John Peter Smith in Research Data, I, 112.
65. Howard W. Peak, "Establishment of Fort Worth and Organization of Tarrant County," Peak's Scrap Book, I (November, 1930), 16.
66. Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth and Tarrant County MSS, History-- Excerpts from Speech by Dr. Peak, "Incidents of Early Fort Worth History," p. 1.
67. Richardson, op cit., pp. 262-263.

PART III

TARRANT COUNTY 1861-1869

In 1861 the Civil War began, and during this time Fort Worth had her worries with the Indians. "In Fort Worth you could walk along what is now Bluff Street and see several hundred wigwams of the Caddo Indians who lived up Marine Creek and sometimes came visiting."⁶⁸ The people were also afraid that the Tonks would come back.⁶⁹

In 1860 Cynthia Ann Parker had been recaptured by Ross and in 1862 was brought to Fort Worth by Isaac Parker. On the day that Cynthia Ann came to Fort Worth the school closed and practically everybody went to Turner and Daggett's Store on the Court House Square to see her.⁷⁰ Here is a description of Cynthia Ann's appearance:

She (Cynthia Ann) stood on a large wooden box, she was bound with rope, she was not dressed in Indian costume, but wore a torn calico dress. Her blond hair was bronzed by the sun. Her face was tanned, and she made a pathetic figure as she stood there, viewing the crowds that swarmed about her. The tears were streaming down her face, and she was muttering in the Indian language.⁷¹

Cynthia Ann Parker spent some of her last years in Isaac Parker's cabin located near Birdville.⁷² The cabin was later moved to Shady Oaks Farm near Lake Worth, and recently moved to Forest Park, where it is now exhibited.

In Trinity Park in Fort Worth a village of Indians was located. During the Civil War an Indian entered the home of a Mrs. Cope and forced her to cook a supply for food for him.⁷³ She also said "that all small bands of Indians were openly friendly, but secretly treacherous, thieving and murderous."⁷⁴

There is an account that in 1863 a wagon train arriving in Dallas was stopped there by a rumor of Indians on the warpath.⁷⁴ Actually nothing happened. During this period of time the town of Arlington had a scare when a rider from Fort Worth arrived, shouting a warning of Indians. No Indians came.⁷⁶

The Civil War Reconstruction Period was not without Indian troubles for Tarrant County, for in April 1867, Mrs. Hamleton and children were killed. Here is the account.

In the fall of 1860 James Myres, wife and six children, came from Missouri and settled on Walnut Creek, in the northwestern edge of Tarrant County.

Mr. Myres died in the spring of 1861, and a year or so later his widow married William Hamleton, by whom she had two children. The tragedy about to be related occurred in cotton picking time in 1867. The children at that time were William Myres, aged sixteen, Mahala Emilene, aged fifteen, Eliza, thirteen, Sarina, eleven, Samuel, nine, and John Myres, aged seven. The two Hamleton children were May L., aged about five years, and Gus., aged about eighteen months.

On the day of the attack Mr. Hamleton had gone some distance to mill; the elder son, William, was from home attending cattle. Mahala, Eliza, Samuel, and John were picking cotton. Sarina Myres, Mary, and little Gus were at the house and their mother was weaving cloth in a hand loom.

Such was the situation when a band of Indians, said to have been led by the Comanche Chief, Santag . . . surrounded and entered the house. Mrs. Hamleton was at once murdered; and little Gus, Sarina and Mary were

seized. The house then plundered of everything portable desired by the Indians, and with their little prisoners and booty they left. Little Mary, from the effect of chills, was very weak, so much so that on leaving their camp next morning they left her and started, but she cried so wildly that they went back and killed her. The only eye-witness to these double horrors was Sarina, who was also in feeble health, . . . She was held by them about six months and by some means recovered at Fort Arbuckle on the False Washita.⁷⁷

In 1868 an Indian raid took place in Pioneers Rest Cemetery.⁷⁸ Eight head of horses were stolen from Nat Terry and the Indians were trailed to a place near Jacksboro, Texas, where the horses were recaptured. The number of Indians killed is unknown.⁷⁹

Also in 1868 there was an Indian raid on Henrietta Creek. Several horses were stolen, but no one was killed. When the horses were discovered stolen, a posse was formed, and a Mr. Clark (then a boy of seven) together with another boy named Buck Robinson were left to watch over what was left of the cattle and horses.⁸⁰

While herding them (the cattle and horses) around, they decided to go over to Blue Mound and while there they were jumped by three Indians. The first they knew of it was when an Indian gave a war whoop and scared the pony on which both boys were riding, and they had little trouble in keeping the pony on a run with the Indians in pursuit. Just before they reached the settlement, the Indians gave up the chase and left them.

On a Sunday morning in March of 1869 some Indians killed a cow in the brakes of Marine Creek about three miles north of town. "Pursuit was made but having reached the security of the timber on the West Fork and darkness coming on, they made their escape. About six miles further on they killed an old woman."⁸¹

On July 1, 1869, the Comanches went to Blue Mound and captured three hundred horses and left their own. They then left by way of Silver Creek where a camp meeting was in progress. The men at the meeting joined the pursuing settlers, and they followed the Indians to Parker County; however, only one Indian was killed.⁸²

The following appeared in a newspaper of the time.

News from the Frontier: Indians have also made their appearance in Tarrant County, killing, plundering horses and driving off stock. The whole country is represented as swarming with these red devils, and if something be not done to rid the country of them, why the citizens will have to give the country over to them, and remove into the more densely populated settlements.⁸³

NOTES, PART III

68. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, February 28, 1960, Sec. 1, pt. 2, p. 13
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70. Mrs. Medora Turner quoted in Research Data, I, 152.
71. Ibid., I, 153.
72. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, January 31, 1960, sec. 1, p. 8
73. Fort Worth Record, January 18, 1914.
74. Ibid.
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76. Berrong, op. cit., p. xivi.
77. Brown, op. cit., pp. 118-119.
78. Southwest Room, Mary Coutts Burnett Library, Texas Christian University, "Fort Worth's First Cemetery" MS by Mrs. R. O. Rollins, p. 2.
79. Mrs. Medora Turner quoted in Research Data, I, 154.
80. Dewitt Reddick quoted in Research Data, I, 53.
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82. Mrs. Charles E. Mitchell quoted in Research Data, I, 148.
83. Tri-Weekly State Gazette, July 21, 1869, quoted in Research Data, III, 1054.

PART IV

TARRANT COUNTY 1870-1961

In 1870 Dr. Van Zandt was returning

in the night from a distant country call. His way took him through an open wood. As he approached the creek bottom he heard the hoots of owls occurring with singular regularity, beginning at one end of a row and going down the line in the same order each time. This continued until he thought it might be Indians using this method of signaling to keep up their alignment while going through the woods in search of horses. Just when he was getting quite anxious a hoot came from a nearby tree where an owl was distinctly seen, outlined against the sky. This broke the spell and the Indians withdrew.

About this same time, on his way to answer a call some miles west of town, a friend, Jim Woods, told him (Dr. Van Zandt) that on the preceding afternoon the Indians shot and ran over a man camped on Mary's Creek.⁸⁴

In June 1871, Indians came near Marine Creek (near the location of the present Stock Yards) and in an area ten miles around Fort Worth, killed between five hundred and six hundred horses.⁸⁵

On June 15, 1872, a detachment of Company H, 11th Infantry, under Corporal Hickey, killed two Indians in a fight at Johnson's Station.⁸⁶

Also in 1872, about thirty Indians attacked ten white men in order to get the horses the whites were driving. The settlers fought for a while and then had to run, leaving the horses. No settlers were killed; however, two were wounded. The settlers couldn't remember whether any Indians had been hit.⁸⁷

In 1873, near Azle, Texas, Mr. Mary Myres, the sister of Jim Allman, was scalped by Comanches, as she was weaving cloth for her family. "The Indians also captured the two little girls of Mrs. Myres."⁸⁸ Mrs. Myres lived just west of the Kirk Dent place.⁸⁹

In the fall of 1873, Comanches came again to Azle, where they killed and stole a number of horses; however, some of these were recovered.⁹⁰

In 1875 Tarrant County was still considered as being on the Eastern boundary of Comanche Territory.⁹¹

In 1876 Indians again came into Tarrant County where they approached within a short distance of the McKee ranch and killed several horses. The Indians left by way of Marine Creek and Cane's Branch, and several horses of a Mrs. Thomas were killed near where the standpipe is now located. The Indians had a little boy with them.⁹²

Watauga was founded in 1877.⁹³ The name is Cherokee, for the people who settled there many years ago.⁹⁴

Quanah Parker made frequent visits to Fort Worth in those days, often in the company of his four wives. He became a protege of Mr. S. B. Burnett, who had large cattle interests on the reservation of the Comanches.⁹⁵

In 1878 Quanah and Yellow Bear came to Fort Worth, and stayed at the El Paso Hotel (where the Westbrook Hotel now stands). During the night Yellow Bear blew out the gas lamp. Yellow Bear was found asphyxiated the next morning, and Quanah Parker was unconscious. Some sources say that this didn't happen in

Fort Worth.

In the Spring of 1879, a Sunday morning appearance of a band of Indians on Marine Creek, about four miles from Fort Worth, was noticed. They were pursued and, after murdering "an old man", escaped in the "densely wooded bottoms" of the West Fork.⁹⁷

In October 1884 about one hundred Indians of the Tonqua Tribe passed through Fort Worth over the Missouri Pacific enroute to Indian Territory.⁹⁸

Quanah Parker again visited Fort Worth in 1885.⁹⁹

In March 1886, Quanah Parker and two of his wives visited Fort Worth during the cattlemen's convention and Fat Stock Show,¹⁰⁰ and in June 1886, Indians were brought into Fort Worth to help celebrate its birthday.¹⁰¹

In September of 1936 Baldwin Parker (grandson of Cynthia Ann Parker), his wife, and his grand daughter visited Fort Worth to see the cabin where Cynthia Ann spent some of her last days.¹⁰² In February, 1939, Baldwin Parker again visited Fort Worth.¹⁰³

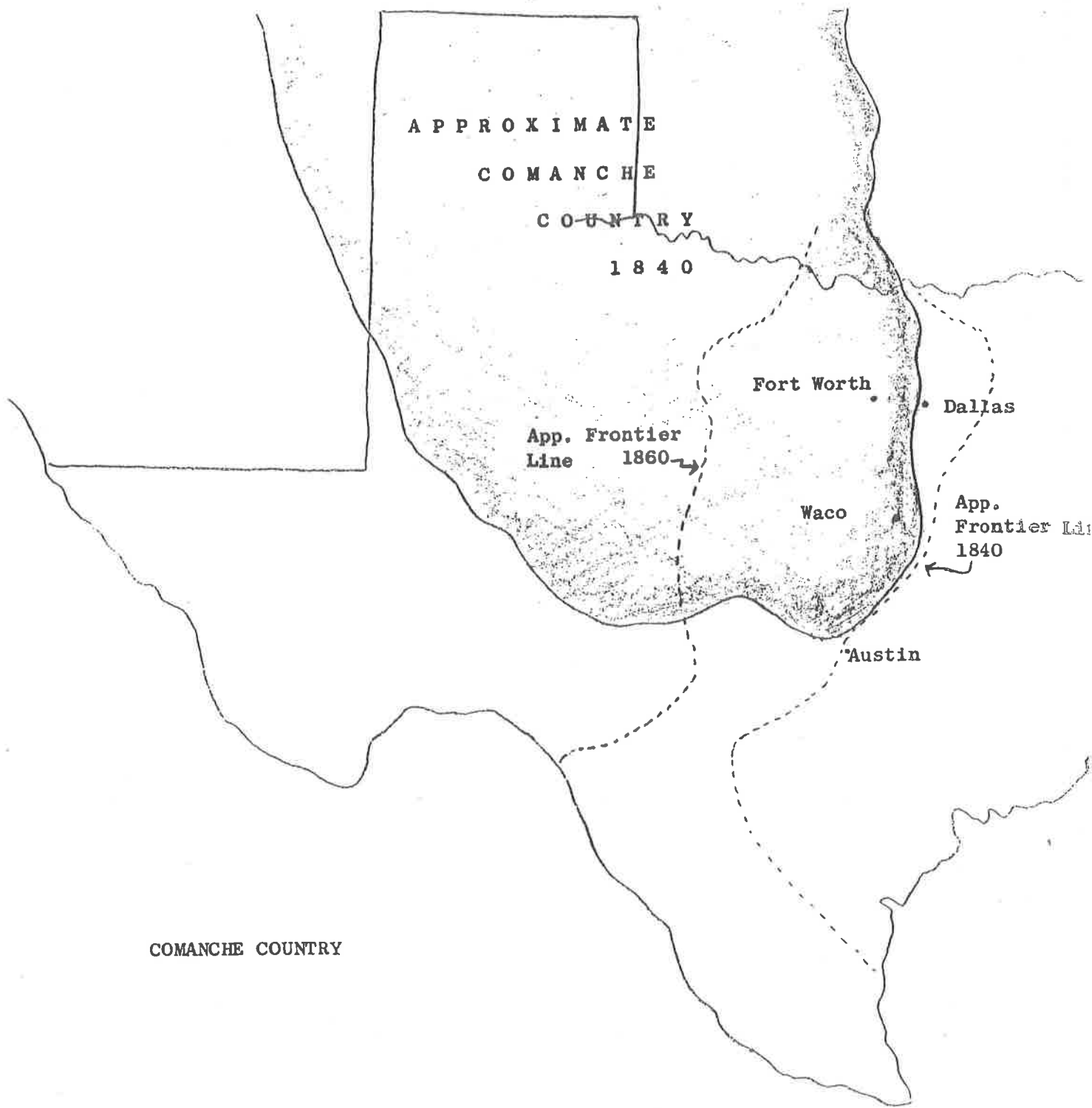
The year 1961 marked the most recent appearance of Indians in Fort Worth and Tarrant County in significant numbers. These people, brought here by the Branch of Relocation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, are working hard to help themselves and others.¹⁰⁴ They have found a warm welcome.

NOTES, PART IV

84. Dr. Isaac Lycurgus Van Zandt in Research Data, I, 158-159.
85. B. B. Paddock (ed.), History of Texas: Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest (Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1922), IV, 713.
86. "Record of Engagement with Hostile Indians in Texas 1868 to 1882," West Texas Historical Association Yearbook, IX (October, 1933), 104.
87. Dewitt Reddick quoted in Research Data, I, 132.
88. Elizabeth Tyler, "Azle," The Junior Historian, VIII (May, 1948), 24.
89. Research Data, IX, 3322.
90. Tyler, loc. cit.
91. Richardson, op. cit., pp. 392-393.
92. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, February 16, 1913.
93. Research Data, LX, 23619.
94. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, March 25, 1960.
95. Paddock, op. cit., II, 874.
96. Rebecca Campbell, "Fort Town to Cow Town a History of Fort Worth," The Junior Historian, XIX (May, 1959), 11.
97. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April 26, 1931.
98. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 30, 1949, Historical Section, p. 22
99. Ray Osborne, "Cynthia Ann Parker," Texas Parade, XIV (September, 1953) 39.
100. Clipping from the Scrap Book of Howard Peak, in Indians--Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker, Local and Southwest Files, Fort Worth Public Library.
101. E. G. Thomas in Research Data, L, 19606.
102. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, September 27, 1936.
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APPENDIX I

COMANCHE TERRITORY



APPROXIMATE
COMANCHE
COUNTRY
1840

App. Frontier
Line 1860

App.
Frontier Li
1840

COMANCHE COUNTRY

APPENDIX II
THE BATTLE OF VILLAGE CREEK

The official account which follows, was recently discovered among the Army Archives in the State Library at Austin. The document was written by Acting Brigade Inspector Wm. N. Porter, under date, Bowie County, June 5, 1841, reporting to Secretary of War Branch T. Archer, and reads:

"By order of Gen. Edward H. Tarrant, Brigadier General of the Fourth Brigade Texas Militia, I communicate to you the following facts relative to an expedition which has lately completed against the hostile Indians.

"On the 14th day of May, he left Fort Johnson, above Coffee's Station . . . with one company of men commanded by Capt. James Bourland. Owing to late depredations by Indians of a more frequent and daring character, and learning that the village of Indians had lately been discovered on the headwaters of the Trinity River, he determined, with the small number of sixty-nine men, if possible, to find the Indians and attack them. We marched five days in a direction a little south of west, passing through the lower cross-timbers, and crossing the head branches of the middle fork of the Trinity. On the fifth day we entered the upper cross-timbers and changed our direction a little more south. On the 19th we discovered tolerably fresh signs. We had every reason to believe there were Indians in the vicinity. We soon found two villages, which we found to be deserted. The Indians, at some time previous, had cultivated corn at these villages. There were some sixty or seventy lodges in these two villages. They being situated on the high branches of the mountains, Gen. Tarrant deemed it imprudent to burn the villages, for fear of giving alarm to the Indians. From such elevated positions the smoke could have been seen for many miles; but they were, in a great measure, destroyed with our axes. We changed our course south-east, following the course for some distance, of the main western branch of the Trinity; and on the 21st we crossed the high divide, and that night camped on the eastern branch of the Brazos. Finding no Indian signs here, we changed our course east until we again struck the Trinity, intending to scour the western branch to its mouth. On the 24th we came to the ford of the Trinity, where Generals Rusk and Dyer charged the Kickapoo camp in 1838, in sight of the lower cross-timbers. Here we recrossed the Trinity from the eastern side to the western side, and upon the high prairies one mile from the ford, we found very fresh signs of Indians. The spies were sent ahead, and returned and reported the Indian village in three miles. We arrived in three or four hundred yards, and took up a position behind a thicket. The men were ordered to divest themselves of their blankets, packs, and all manner of incumbrances, after which the line was formed and the order given to charge into the village on horseback."

"Are you all ready?* * * Now my brave men, we will never all meet on earth again; there is great confusion and death ahead. I shall expect every man to fill his place and do his duty" were the all too true words of admonition uttered by the grim and fearless Tarrant as he gave his orders and led his brave men in the desperate charge. In a moment the sound of firearms, with a voice of thunder, rang out over the alarmed and terror-stricken inhabitants of that rude city of the wilderness. The onslaught was fierce and the surprise complete -- the Indians falling in death before they could escape from their lodges, or fleeing in wild confusion. "The village was taken in an instant," says the official report, which we now resume:

"Discovering a large trail leading down the creek and some of the Indians having gone in that direction a few men were left at the last village and the

rest at full speed took their course down the creek upon which the village was situated.

"Two miles from the first village we burst suddenly upon another village. This was taken like the first. There was another village in sight below. Many of the horses having failed, the men ran towards the village on foot; but the Indians, having heard the firing at the second village, had time to take off their guns and ammunition and commenced occasionally to return our fire.

"From this time there was no distinction of villages, but one continuous village for the distance of one mile and a half, only separated by the creek upon which it was situated. We had now become so scattered that Gen. Tarrant deemed it advisable to establish some rallying point to which smaller parties should be expected to rally. We marched back to the second village, and the rear guard with the pack having come up, the General chose this as the position. From this point Capt. John B. Denton (aide to Gen. Tarrant) and Capt. Bourland took each ten men, for the purpose of scouring the woods. The parties went in different directions, but formed a junction one mile and a half below the second village. From this point they intended to return, but discovering a very large trail -- much larger than any we had seen, one end of which led over a mountain west, the other east towards the main Trinity, crossing the creek upon which the villages were situated -- they were compelled to cross the creek at the lower end of a bend which was formed like a horse-shoe. They turned to cross the creek, perceiving through the timber what appeared to be a village still larger than any they had heretofore seen; but just as the two detachments were on the eve of entering the creek, they were fired on by an enemy that could not be seen. At the first fire Gen. Tarrant's aide, Capt. Denton, was killed and Capt. Stout severely wounded -- Capt. Griffin slightly; the clothes of many others were pierced with balls, but fortunately no one else was touched. Situated as they were, it was impossible to maintain their position, being fired at from almost every quarter and unable to see the enemy. In this situation the men did the best they could--dismounting, some of them raising the yell, and making every demonstration as though they intended to charge the creek. The Indian yells and firing soon ceased, and both parties left the ground. It was not the wish of Gen. Tarrant to take any prisoners. The women and children, except one, we suffered to escape, if they wished, and the men neither asked, gave or received quarter.

"From the prisoners whom we had taken, we learned that at those villages there were upwards of one thousand warriors, not more than half of whom were then at home. The other half were hunting buffalo, and stealing on the frontier. Here was the depot for the stolen horses from our frontier, and the home of the horrible savages who had murdered our families. They were portions of a good many tribes--principally the Cherokees who were driven from Nacogdoches county, some Creeks and Seminoles, Wacos, Caddos, Kickapoos, Anadarkos, etc. We counted two hundred and twenty-five lodges, all in occupation, besides those that they could see a glimpse of through the trees in the main village. They had about three hundred acres in corn, that we saw; and were abundantly provided with ammunition of every kind. They had good guns and had moulded a great many bullets. Each lodge had two or three little bags of powder and lead, tied up in equal portions; and, at one lodge, a sort of blacksmith shop, where we found a set of blacksmith's tools. We found over a half bushel of moulded bullets, and we also found some sergeant's swords, musket flints, rifle and musket powder, pig lead, and musket balls, which we supposed they must have taken from the place where the regular army buried a portion of their ammunition. They had all manner of farming utensils of the best quality, except plows. In some of the ledges we found feather beds and bedsteads.

"We felt convinced if the Indians could ascertain the smallness of our numbers, they might, with so great a number, by taking advantage of us at the crossing of the creeks with such immense thickets in their bottoms, which we were compelled to cross, if not defeat, at least cut off a great many of our men; and, if we had remained at the village all night, it would have given the Indians time to have concentrated their forces, ascertained our numbers, and with ease have prevented our crossing a stream of the size of the Trinity. It was deemed advisable, therefore, to take up the line of march and cross the Trinity that night. At 5 o'clock with our poor, dead companion tied across a horse, we left the village, marched twelve miles back on the trail we came, crossed the Trinity, and camped in the open prairie. The next morning, twenty-five miles from the village, we buried our friend, and in five more days we arrived in the settlements.

"We had one killed; one badly, and one slightly wounded. The Indians had twelve killed, that we counted; and a great many more must have been killed and wounded, from the quantity of blood we saw on their trails and in the thickets where they had run.

"We brought in six head of cattle, thirty-seven horses, three hundred pounds of lead, thirty pounds of powder, twenty brass kettles, twenty-one axes, seventy-three buffalo robes, fifteen guns, thirteen pack saddles, and three swords, besides divers other things not recollected."¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ De Shields, op. cit., pp. 354-359.

APPENDIX III

THE TREATY OF 1843

No. 203
September 29, 1843

By the President of the Republic of Texas

PROCLAMATION¹⁰⁶

To all and singular to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, a treaty of peace and friendship between the Republic of Texas and the Delaware, Chicasaw, Waco, Tawakoni, Keechi, Caddo, Anadarko, Ioni, Biloxi, and Cherokee tribes of Indians, was concluded and signed at Bird's Fort, on the Trinity River, on the twenty ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three, by G. W. Terrell and E. H. Tarrant, Commissioners on the part of the Republic of Texas, and certain chiefs, head men and warriors of the tribes of Indians aforesaid, on the part of said Tribes; which treaty is, in the following words, to wit:

A Treaty of Peace and Friendship, Between the Republic of Texas, and the Delaware, Chickasaw, Waco, Tawakoni, Keechi, Caddo, Anadarko, Ioni, Biloxi, and Cherokee tribes of Indians, concluded and signed at Bird's Fort, on the Trinity River, the 29th day of September, 1843.

Whereas, for sometime past, hostilities have existed and war been carried on between the white and red men of Texas, to the great injury of both parties; and whereas, a longer continuance of the same would lead to no beneficial result, but increase the evils which have so long unhappily rested upon both races; and whereas, the parties are now willing to open the path of lasting peace and friendship and are desirous to establish certain solemn rules for the regulation of their mutual intercourse:

Therefore, the Commissioners of the Republic of Texas, and the chiefs and Headmen of the beforementioned tribes of Indians being met in council at Bird's Fort, on the Trinity River, the 29th day of September 1843, have concluded, accepted agreed to and signed the following articles of treaty:

Article I. Both parties agree and declare, that they will forever live in peace and always meet as friends and brothers. Also, that the war which may have heretofore existed between them, shall cease and never be renewed.

Article II. They further agree and declare, that it is the duty of warriors to protect women and children; and that they will never make war upon them, or upon unarmed persons; but only upon warriors.

Article III. They further agree and declare, that the Indians will never unite with the enemies of Texas; nor make any treaty with them, which shall require of the Indians to take part against Texas; and that if any such proposals should ever be made to them, that they will immediately communicate the same to an agent or to the President.

Article IV. They further agree and declare, that when they learn that Texas is at war with any people, a chief will come to an Agent and ask to be conducted to the President, that he may counsel with him.

Article V. They further agree and declare, that agents shall be appointed by the Government of Texas and be stationed at such places as may be deemed proper, for the purpose of hearing the complaints of the Indians and seeing that justice is done between them and the whites; and also to communicate the orders and wishes of the President to the various bands and tribes.

Article VI. They further agree and declare, that no person shall go among the Indians to trade, except by the express authority of the Government of Texas.

Article VII. They further agree and declare, that no white man or other person within the control of the laws of Texas, shall introduce among any tribe or nation of Indians, or sell to any Indian or Indians, ardent spirits or intoxicating liquors of any kind.

Article VIII. They further agree and declare, that no white man or other person, else than a regularly licensed trader, shall purchase any property of an Indian or Indians, without the consent of an agent of the Government of Texas.

Article IX. They further agree and declare, that when any property is found among the whites, belonging to the Indians, it shall be the duty of the Agent to see that the same is restored; and on the other hand, whenever property, belonging to the whites, is found among the Indians, the same shall be restored in like manner by the chiefs, on application of the owner or owners thereof, through the Agent.

Article X. They further agree and declare that no trader shall furnish any warlike stores to the Indians, but by express permission of the President.

Article XI. They further agree and declare, that no person or persons shall pass the line of trading houses, without the special permission of the President; and then only for friendly purposes; nor shall any person or persons reside or remain within the territory assigned to the Indians, unless by express direction of the President.

Article XII. They further agree and declare, that any person or persons, who shall molest, or attempt to molest the persons or property of the Indians while they remain peaceable under this treaty shall be held guilty of felony and punished accordingly by the Government of Texas.

Article XIII. They further agree and declare, that any killing or outrage whatsoever, committed by a white man, or other person within control of the laws of Texas, upon an Indian in time of peace, shall be punished by the Government of Texas in the same manner as though the Indian were a white man; and that the person so offending shall be liable to indictment and punishment in any county in the Republic.

Article XIV. They further agree and declare, that if any Indian or Indians shall kill any white person, he or they shall suffer death; and that if any Indian or Indians shall steal any property of the whites, he or they shall be punished by the tribe, in presence of an agent, with whipping or other punishment, according to the offense.

Article XV. They further agree and declare, that the Chiefs and Captains will not permit the Indians to cross the line for any purpose whatsoever without authority and a passport from an agent; nor sell any property to a white man, unless authorized so to do by some agent.

Article XVI. They further agree and declare, that if any person or persons shall come among the Indians, without authority from the President or agent, they will immediately seize and deliver him or them to some one of the agents.

Article XVII. They further agree and declare, that they will mutually surrender and deliver up all the prisoners which they have of the other party for their own prisoners; and that they will not be friendly with any people or nation, or enter into treaty with them who will take prisoners from Texas, or do its citizens any injury.

Article XVIII. They further agree and declare, that the President may send among the Indians such blacksmiths and other mechanics, as he may think proper, for their benefit; and also that he may send schoolmasters and families, for the purpose of instructing them in a knowledge of the English language and Christian Religion.

Article XIX. They further agree and declare, that when the President shall send persons among the Indians, they will extend to them kind treatment and protect them from harm.

Article XX. They further agree and declare, that the chiefs and Headmen of the Indians will cause their young men and warriors to behave themselves agreeably to the words of this Treaty; or that they will punish them with death, or in such other way as will compel them to keep peace and walk in the path made straight between the white and red brothers.

Article XXI. They further agree and declare, that should any difficulty or cause for war arise between the Government of Texas and the Indians, they will send their complaints to the President, and hear his answer before they commence hostilities; and the Government of Texas will do the same.

Article XXII. They further agree and declare, that so soon as the Indians shall have shown that they will keep this treaty, and no more make war upon the whites, nor steal horses from the, the President will authorize the Traders of Texas to sell to them powder, lead, guns, spears, and other arms, such as they may need for the purpose of killing game; and also make to them every year such presents as the Government of Texas may provide.

Article XXIII. They further agree and declare, that the Government of Texas reserves to itself the right of working all mines which have been or may hereafter be discovered in the territory assigned to the Indians.

Article XXIV. They further agree and declare, that the President shall make such arrangements and regulations with the several tribes of Indians as he may think best for their peace and happiness.

The foregoing articles having been read, interpreted and fully understood by them, they hereby agree to and confirm the same by sealing and signing their several names.

In presance of

R. I. GILCHRIST
L. WILLIAMS
B. BOOTH
SAM B. MARSHALL
ROBT. S. HULME.

G. W. TERRELL, (SEAL)
E. H. TARRANT, (SEAL)
Commissioners on the part of Texas

	ROASTING EAR	X	(Seal)
Delaware Chiefs	MCCULLOCH	X	(Seal)
	JAMES ST LOUIS	X	(Seal)
Chickasaw Chief -	ISH-TE-U-KAH-TUBBY	X	(Seal)
Waco Chief -	ACA-QUASH	X	(Seal)
Waco Chief -	CHE-TICK-KAKA	X	(Seal)
Tawakoni Chief -	KE-CHI-KA-ROQUA	X	(Seal)
Keechi Chief -	KAH-TE-AH-TIC	X	(Seal)
	RED BEAR	X	(Seal)
Caddo Chiefs	BINCHAH	X	(Seal)
	HAD-DAH-BAH	X	(Seal)
Anadarko Chief	JOSE MARIA	X	(Seal)
Ioni Chief	TOW-A-ASH	X	(Seal)
Biloxi Chief	HOYO-TUBBY	X	(Seal)
Cherokee Captain	CHICKEN TROTTER	X	(Seal)
	JAMES SHAW	X	
	LUIS SANCHEZ	X	
Interpreters	CHOW-A-NIH	X	
	PIERCE SOBBY	X	
	CHOCTAW TOM	X	

Now, Therefore, be it known, That I, Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, having seen and considered said Treaty, do, in pursuance of the advice

and consent of the Senate, as expressed by their resolution of the thirty first of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty four, accept, ratify, and confirm the same, and every clause and article thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Republic to be affixed.

Seal of the
Republic of Texas

Done at the Town of Washington, this third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four and of the Independence of the Republic the Eighth.

SAM HOUSTON

By the President
Anson Jones
Secretary of State

Endorsed Proclamation
Feb. 3, 1844
Ratifying a Treaty of Peace etc.
with various tribes of Indians
concluded at Birds Fort.

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