Overview: Jemez Pueblo

Jemez (from Ha'mish or Hae'mish, the Keresan name of the pueblo - Bandelier). A village on the north bank of the Jemez River, about 20 miles northwest of Bernalillo, New Mexico.

According to tradition the Jemez had their origin in the North, at a lagoon called Uabunatota (apparently identical with the shipapulima and Cibobe of other pueblo tribes), whence they slowly drifted into the valleys of the upper tributaries of the Rio Jemez-- the Guadalupe and San Diego-- where they resided in a number of villages, and finally into the sandy valley of the Jemez proper, which they now occupy, their habitat being bounded on the south by the range of the west division of the Rio Grande Keresan tribes-- the Sia and Santa Ana.

Castañeda, the chronicler of Coronado's experience of 1541, speaks of 7 pueblos of the Jemez tribe in addition
to 3 others in the province of Aguas Calientes, identified by Simpson with the Jemez Hot Springs region.

Espejo in 1583 also mentions that 7 villages were occupied by the Jemez, while in 1598 Oñate heard of 11 but saw only 8.

...the Jemez were induced to abandon their pueblos one by one, until about the year 1622 they became consolidated into the two settlements of Gyusiwa and probably Astialakwa, mainly through the efforts of Fray Martin de Arvide. These pueblos are supposed to have been the seats of the missions of San Diego and San Joseph, respectively, and both contained chapels probably from 1618.

Astialakwa was permanently abandoned prior to the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, but in the meantime another pueblo (probably Potoqua) seems to have been established, which became the mission of San Juan de los Jemez.

About the middle of the 17th century the Jemez conspired with the Navajo against the Spaniards, but the outbreak plotted was repressed by the hanging of 29 of the Jemez....

When Vargas came in 1692 the Jemez were found on the mesa in a large pueblo, but they were induced to descend and to promise the Spaniards their support.

The Jemez, however, failed to keep their word, but waged war during 1693 and 1694 against their Keresan neighbors on account of their fidelity to the Spaniards....In July 1694, he [Vargas] again went to Jemez with 120 Spaniards and some allies from Santa Ana and Sia. The mesa was stormed, and after a desperate engagement, in which 84 natives were killed, the pueblo was captured. In the month following, Vargas (after destroying this village, another on a mesa some distance below, and one built by their Santo Domingo allies 3 leagues north) returned to Santa Fe with 361 prisoners and a large quantity of stores.

From this time on, the only then existing pueblo of the Jemez reoccupied was San Diego, or Gyusiwa, which was inhabited until 1696, when the second revolt occurred, the Indians killing their missionary and again fleeing to the mesas... but in June of the year mentioned they were repulsed by a small detachment of Spaniards...)

The defeated Jemez this time fled to the Navaho country, where they remained several years, finally returning to their former home and constructing the present village, called by them Walatoa, "Village of the Bear."

In 1728, 108 of the inhabitants died of pestilence. In 1782 Jemez was made a visita of the mission of Sia. [Hodge, Frederick Webb]

07 October 1971:

*Quote:* During the expansion of the American frontier the Indian was always in the way... they moved him out of the way, transported him away from his natural home ground... and on the way they made him forced him to forget his culture, he lost his language and his culture and what little he had left he practiced it, maybe wherever he was moved to... and so they don't have all of what they had originally and just about every Indian nation had a conflict with the American government one way or another, everybody had it. they lost, all of them lost a good bit of their land except the pueblos.

We never had any conflict with the American government because we were first under the care of the Spanish government and then the Mexican government and then after the Mexican American War the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty made it possible or kept the American government from doing what they did to other Indian tribes.

See, Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty granted that we lived as we always have. The American Government does not interfere with us... and because of our relationship with the Spanish for so long since 1600... more or less, let's say, peacefully.... although there were some problems before 1680... after the revolt or after 1692 and very possibly, let's say, 1700... there was relatively peace and little more understanding between the pueblos and the Spanish... which again led to the pueblo peoples' displeasure of the Navajos or Apaches.... or even the Kiowa and Comanche because those were nomadic Indian who raided the pueblos who the pueblos were then forced to be in alliance with the Spanish. Therefore, the Spanish begin to live with the pueblos very closely as far as the, getting equal voting rights... and everything about the pueblos and the Spanish was equal... a bill was passed at one time denying Indians to buy liquor but that bill said, but not the pueblo Indians that live among us, because they were equal to the Spanish.

And we were not considered Indians until 1912... pueblos because we had lived with the Spanish people called that, Barbarios... barbarians... and we were, pueblos, Indios de los Pueblos... Indians of the Towns. Therefore, you know our living styles were closer together... in fact it is proved that these two groups developed... you know, this is what we have today, native food, what most people call "mexican food," which is a combination of pueblo and Spanish.

....What we say also is that we benefitted by Spain losing some of their early battles you know, in Europe... because during all the English Spanish wars, you know they were so, all their attention was there and they more or less neglected the colonies out here and that was our good luck because we almost converted the Spanish colonies to the pueblo life.

But this is the system that we both have you know when Mexico took over... you know... New Mexico life I guess you can call it... and Mexico took over after the Spanish government was unable to do much in this area... and Mexican government took over and they didn't do any more than take administrative control.. and
things were status quo and I don't think they have brought about any improvements and I don't think that they took anything away either.

But these are things that was in favor of the pueblos the fact that Spain was involved in their wars in Europe, and we were able to, you know, adjust our lives to live with the Spanish.

--Joe Sando, Jemez. Margaret Szasz, interviewer. [University of New Mexico, Department of History]

Images:

Ruins of the Jemez Church of San Diego at Gyusiwa

Links:
Office of State Historian: N Scott Momaday on Jemez --
http://www.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails_docs.php?fileID=1608

2: Santa Fe

1857

Quote: On leaving the narrow valley of the Santa Fé, which varies from a thousand feet to a mile or two in width, the country presents nothing but barren hills, utterly incapable, both from soil and climate, of producing anything useful...

The population of Santa Fe is from two to four thousand, and the inhabitants are, it is said, the poorest people of any town in the province. The houses are of mud bricks, in the Spanish style, generally of one story, and built on a square. The interior of the square is an open court, and the principal rooms open into it. They are forbidding in appearance from the outside, but nothing can exceed the comfort and convenience of the interior. The thick walls make them cool in summer and warm in winter. [Loyola, Sister Mary]

Quote: Santa Fe, or, as it sometimes is written, Santa Fe de San Francisco, the city of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis, is the capital of the Territory of New Mexico, and has been the seat of government of the province since the Spaniards first settled the country....

A good deal of uncertainty and doubt hang over the first settlement of Santa Fe both as to time and persons. I was informed by an old resident of the place that six men who belonged to one of the early Spanish expeditions into the Floridas, and which was wrecked and broken up, wandered, in pursuit of game and adventure, through what is now New Mexico, and were the ipjst Europeans who passed near where Santa, Fe stands....

The city occupies very nearly the same site as the ancient capital of the Pueblo Indian kingdom. Here upon the surrounding hills these people had constructed several of their quaint-looking buildings, and when the Spaniards first came to the country they found this point the centre of their strength. In the vicinity of the town pieces of painted pottery are still found, and parts of two of the old buildings are standing on the west side of the river, on the road leading to San Miguel. ...

Along the principal streets the houses have portales in front, after the plan of colonnades in some of the European cities. They are of very rough workmanship, but are an ornament to the place, and a convenience to the inhabitants, as they afford a sheltered promenade around the town in the rainy season. A row of portales extends around the public square. The Plaza is the main thoroughfare, as well as the centre of the business of the city, and fronting upon it are most of the stores and shops of the merchants and traders, and some of the public buildings. The public edifices in Santa Fe are few in number and of rude construction. The government palace, a long, low mud building, extends the entire north side of the Plaza, and is occupied by the officers of the territorial government, and is also made use of for purposes of legislation.

Near by, and on the street that leads out at the northeast corner of the square, is the court-house, where the United States, District, and Supreme Courts hold their sessions. On the south side, and opposite the palace, stands the old Mexican Military Chapel, now in the possession of the Catholic Church, and in which the bishop
of the diocese officiates. About one square to the east of the Plaza is the parochial church, much improved within two years, and adjoining are convenient buildings for a boarding-school for boys; and on the north bank of the Rio Chiquito is situated the boarding and day school for girls, under the management of the Sisters of Charity. The building is a large two-story house, and was erected a few years ago for a hotel. Both the institutions were established by Bishop Lamy, and are in as flourishing a condition as could be expected. They number forty or fifty pupils each, who are instructed in ancient and modern languages, music, drawing, and other branches of a useful and polite education.

Three years ago the American Baptist Board of Home Missions caused to be erected in Santa Fe a small but neat place of worship. It is a combination of the Gothic and Grecian styles, built of adobes, and is quite an ornament to the part of the town where it is situated. The Odd Fellows have erected a new hall for their order, one square from the Plaza, in the street leading to San Miguel.

On a vacant lot north of the palace, and near the American Cemetery, a new state-house is in course of erection, at a cost of near a hundred thousand dollars, which, when completed, will make a handsome and imposing edifice, and of which the Territory stands in great need. Near by, and a little to the northeast, is the site of the new Penitentiary, also in course of erection.

Such an institution is badly wanted, and the country abounds with admirable subjects for it. On a hill to the northeast of the town are the ruins of old Fort Marcy, built during the late war with Mexico, but which has not been occupied since the conclusion of peace. In addition to the two churches already mentioned, there is one on the west side of the Rio Chiquito, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and a fourth on the street of San Miguel, in both of which service is held upon certain occasions.

The city also contains one hotel, one printing-office, some twenty-five stores, numerous grog-shops, two tailoring establishments, two shoe makers, one apothecary, a bakery, and two blacksmith's shops. The present military garrison of the place is one company of the third United States Infantry, whose barracks are just in rear of the palace, and it is also the military head-quarters of the department.

--W. Davis was a U.S. attorney stationed in the Territory between 1853-1855 [Davis, W.W.H.]

Overview: Santa Fé

Santa Fe was for centuries the end of the Camino Real, and has almost always been the seat of government in New Mexico. Most of the original town was built between 1610-1612, and centered around the plaza. The barrio of Analco, across the Río de Santa Fé from the plaza, was one of the main genízaro settlements of New Mexico from its founding at least until the late eighteenth century.

The Casas Reales, or the Palace of the Governors, was built in 1610 when Santa Fé was established. People took refuge in it during the Indian siege of August 1680. Subsequently, this seat of government was occupied by the Pueblo rebels, again by the Spanish, by the Mexican Provincial governors, by U.S. General Kearny, the Confederate Army, and a string of American Territorial governors. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Quote: Every calculation based on experience elsewhere fails in New Mexico...
--Lew Wallace, Governor of Territorial New Mexico, 1878-1881

Images:

The notorious gambling salon of La Dona Tules, in Santa Fe
House in Santa Fe
San Miguel church, the oldest in America

Links:
Santa Fe- Official Visitor Site -- http://santafe.org/
Palace of the Governors: Museum of New Mexico -- http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org/
1857

Quote: The next day we drove to Fray Cristobal, sixteen miles, to breakfast, passing on the way the ruins of Valverde. Some years ago this place was a flourishing settlement, but the inhabitants were driven away by the Indians and have never returned. All the way down from Socorro the country is mostly barren, and we saw but one house. Fray Cristobal is a simple camping ground, and not, as the young traveler would most likely imagine before he arrived there, a respectable-sized village, where he could find entertainment for man and beast....

Fray Cristobal is the northern terminus of the Jornada del Muerto, or the Journey of Death, a barren stretch of country, which extends nearly a hundred miles to the south. It is almost a dead level, and without water except the little found in holes after a rain, and is bounded on each side by a range of mountains, that on the west shutting off all approach to the river. The only vegetation is a short, dry grass and a few weeds. [Davis, W.W.H.]

Overview: Fray Cristobál

Named for a member of the Oñate entrada, the Paraje de Fray Cristóbal remained important throughout the period in which the Camino Real was in use. Oñate's men facetiously remarked that the outline of the ridge of the mountain near present Elephant Butte Reservoir looked like the profile of Fray Cristóbal, saying he was "feisimo" (politely, not very good looking). It was described as a general area rather than a particular point but can be defined by its proximity to both the Río Grande and the Jornada del Muerto. In the nineteenth century, Fray Cristóbal became Fra Cristobal, as a modern local spelling and pronunciation without a y in Fray and without an accent in Cristobál. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Images:

Going down to the Río Grande from El Jornada del Muerto

Links:
El Camino Real International Heritage Center: Jornada del Muerto --
http://www.caminorealheritage.org/jornada/jornada.htm

4: Fort Fillmore

1851

Fort Fillmore was brand new during the days of the first International Boundary Commissions. Emory mentions taking observations from there, but otherwise does not describe it. Bartlett chooses to describe the untapped possibilities of the surrounding land rather than the fort.

It is interesting to note that the fort was in operation on what was ostensibly Mexican territory for two years.

Quote: At Fort Fillmore, about forty miles above El Paso, is the next settlement. Between this and Frontera there is a broad alluvial bottom of great richness, unsurpassed by the Mesilla valley opposite, or any portion of the valley of the Rio Grande. [Bartlett, John Russell]

Overview: Fort Fillmore

Fort Fillmore was established in 1851 by the US Army to protect travel in the new territory. The fort's location allowed the military to protect travel on the Chihuahua Trail (the old Camino Real), and across Apache Pass, en route to the old presidio of Tucson.

In 1861, the Confederate Army under Lieutenant Colonel John Baylor seized the fort during the third Texian invasion of New Mexico. Baylor captured 400 Union soldiers. The fort was decommissioned the following year.
The tale of the Confederate victory is told on the "Other Voices" tab.

*Quote:* In what he conceived to be a deperate situation, Lynde decided, in a moment of panic, to abandon Fort Fillmore and attempt to reach Fort Stanton, 154 miles to the northeast....

In and about the loading of supplies it was all too evident that some of the supplies were to be left at the fort. Word was whispered about the barracks that boxes of hospital brandy, and kegs of medicinal whiskey, in goodly number, were to be abandoned.

As the soldiers appraised the situation, abandonment of a military post under orders was one thing, but abandonment of high class liquor was a much more serious matter, one that required consideration and reflections. The soldiers met the situation sensibly, and in the beginning, with discretion.

First one trooper, then another, and then many, took a moderate swig of the soon-to-be-abandoned liquor, then each helped himself to a drink that seemed more appropriate to the occasion. One sergeant of the "old army" decided that a drop of brandy, or perhaps two or more, on the road to Fort Stanton might be eminently fitting under the circumstances. Pouring the water our of his canteen, he replaced it with liquor. Others, recognizing the soldier's commendable conduct, substituted liquor for water in their canteens.

But on the cross country march from Fort Fillmore to San Augustine Springs, soldiers with liquor in their canteens instead of water suffered severely from thirst. Long stretches of rough, sandy road, without a drop of water to touch hot lips and burning throat, proved the undoing of many a good fighting man. Soldier after soldier collapsed and fell by the wayside, begging for water.

--- [Keleher, William A.]

*Quote:* There are few reliable details on record respecting this disgraceful surrender. It appears that Lynde sent a party toward Mesilla, which had a slight skirmish with the Texans and retired to the fort. Then orders were received to march the garrison to Ft Craig or Alburquerque, and soon after starting, when, as is stated, the men had been given all the whiskey they wanted, and were mostly drunk, they met a Texan force, to which the major, after a council of officers, surrendered. It is said that the more sober of the officers and men protested and wished to fight. The paroled prisoners were allowed to go to Alburquerque, suffering intensely on the march. For this act Maj. Lynde was dismissed from the army; and Capt. A. H. Flummer, the commissary, who turned over to the enemy $17,000 in drafts, was merely reprimanded and suspended for six months. [Kendall, George Wilkins]

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5: Fort Thorn

1853

Fort Thorn was commissioned during the time of the surveys, but neither Emory nor Bartlett mention visiting this malarial hotbed.

*Quote:* On the west bank of the river, between Socorro and the lower point of the Jornada, there are two military outposts, Forts Craig and Thorn, one village, Santa Barbara, and an occasional rancho. [Davis, W.W.H.]

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Overview: Fort Thorn

The short-lived Fort Thorn was commissioned to protect the Jornada del Muerto, and travel along the Rio Grande. It was quickly decommissioned, in part because its swampy location gave rise to a malaria epidemic among the soldiers stationed there.

*Quote:* Fort Thorn is located on the immediate edge of an extensive marsh, the river making a considerable bend at this point, leaves exposed to the right, a crescentric flat, intersected by numerous sluices, an dat times completely innundated. The buildings constituting the flat are placed within a stone's throw of the swampiest portion of this flat or bottom, and in the most admirable manner, if the object be that the garrison shall inhale, for an average period of five months, the pestilential effluvia arising therefrom.

The bottom referred to, presents during the hottest months, a surface of oozy mud, covered with green slime, and interspersed with pools of stagnating water, which surface is during these months slowly drying up.

During the same time, a rank vegetation of weeds and grasses undergoes the process of germination, advancement to maturity, and decay. As might be expected, fevers of a malarious character, have greatly afflicted the command during this quarter. These diseases have prevailed to even a greater extent than in former seasons, which may possibly be due to an unusually continued elevation of temperature, and the absense of rain, which serves to prevent the fall of the river and stagnation of water in the neighboring sluices.

Fevers began to manifest themselves about the middle of July, and have continued with much virulence until the present time. The command then consisted of two companies, and the sick report numbered seventy cases. The garrison was reduced on the 1 September, to one company of infantry, half of which has since been removed to Fort Fillmore on detached service. Scarcely a man of this command can be considered fit for the performance of ordinary garrison duty, so debilitated are they by disease.
6: Copper Mines

1846

Quote: (19 October 1847) Turning the north end of Ben Moore bluff, we began to drop into the valley of what is supposed an arm of the Mimbres, where there are some deserted copper mines. They are said to be very rich, both in copper and gold, and the specimens obtained sustain this assertion. We learned that those who worked them made their fortunes; but the Apaches did not like their proximity, and one day turned out and destroyed the mining town, driving off the inhabitants.

There are the remains of some twenty or thirty adobe houses, and ten or fifteen shafts sinking into the earth. The entire surface of the hill into which they are sunk is covered with iron pyrites and the red oxide of copper.

Mr. McKnight, one of the earliest adventurers in New Mexico, was the principal operator in these mines, and is said to have amassed an immense fortune. On his arrival in the country we was suspected to be an agent of the United States, and thrown into prison in Sonora, where he was kept in chains for eleven years. [Emory, William H]

Quote: (27 June 1851) On the 27th June an incident occurred, which will long be remembered by every one connected with the Boundary Commission. It was such as to awaken the finest sympathies of our nature; and by its happy result afforded a full recompense for the trials and hardships attending our sojourn in this inhospitable wilderness.

On the evening of the day alluded to, a party of New Mexicans came in for the purpose of procuring provisions, &c., having with them a young female and a number of horses and mules. By what dropped from them in the course of conversation, it was ascertained that the female and animals had been obtained from the Indians; and that they were taking the girl to some part of New Mexico, to sell or make such disposition of her as would realize the most money....

General Garcia Condé, the Mexican Commissioner, being encamped about twenty-six miles off, I dispatched a messenger to him requesting his presence, to advise and co-operate with me in this matter. He accordingly visited me, and, upon inquiring, found that he was acquainted with the released captives's father, a respectable citizen of Santa Cruz. He approved warmly of my course [to prevent her sale according to the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo], evincing, as it would, to his government a determination on the part of the United States to solemnly and faithfully fulfil its treaty stipulations. He also particularly solicited that the young woman should be kept under my protection until such time as she could be restored in safety to her home.

The fair captive was of course taken care of by the Commission. She was well clad with such materials as the sutler of the escort and the commissary of the Commission could furnish; and besides the more substantial articles of clothing provided for her, she received many presents from the gentlemen of the Commission, all of whom manifested a deep interest in her welfare, and seemed desirous to make her comfortable and happy. [Bartlett, John Russell]

Quote: During this time the members of the Commission went about freely in small parties or alone, for twenty or thirty miles around our camp, and were on no occasion molested. They also visited the Apache camps, where they were well received. Our wagons with stores, went unprotected to and from the Surveyors, and their attendants, who were scattered in small parties for fifty miles along the line, where the escort could afford them but little protection. Hence the great importance to the success of the Commission in maintaining friendly relations with these Indians.
My experience established the truth of the opinion I had always entertained, that kind treatment, a rigid adherence to what is right, and a prompt and invariable fulfilment of all promises, would secure the friendship of the Apaches, a tribe of Indians which has the reputation of being the most hostile and treacherous to the whites of any between the Rio Grande and the Pacific.

It is the conduct of unpri ncipled traders and emigrants, who sow the seeds of intemperance and vice among them, which has created most of the difficulties before experienced. These men defraud them of their property, and, on the slightest pretence, take their lives. That the Indians feel the deepest hatred towards the Mexicans is true, and they certainly have reason for entertaining a strong antipathy to that people. Acts of treachery of the grossest and cruelest description have been practised by the Mexicans towards them; and, though years have passed away since these events occurred, they are not forgotten by the Apaches. The desire of revenge, or as we should term it in our own case, of retributive justice, seems, instead of diminishing, to acquire increased intensity, with the lapse of time. [Bartlett, John Russell]

Overview: Santa Rita del Cobre Mines

This mineral-rich area was known to native inhabitants long before Europeans "discovered" it. In precontact times, it was a source for low-grade turquoise, and later, the Warm Springs Apache collected copper from the surface.

The Spanish began mining in earnest in 1799, after being given a sample of the pure, malleable copper by friendly Apaches. Within a few years, they had established a presidio and were working the mines with convict labor. Work on the mines continued through Mexican independence, and most of Mexico's copper money from those years was made of the Santa Rita copper, packed out on burros to Mexico City.

After the Americans claimed New Mexico, activity ended for some decades, due to Apache hostilities. The mine was sold to American investors in the 1870s, and today is operated by Phelps Dodge.

The Santa Rita Observation Point is located on the east side of NM Highway 152 just south of milepost 6.

Images:

[Valley of the Copper Mines]
[Spanish presidio protecting the Santa Rita del Cobre copper mines]
[Copper Mines: Emory]

Links:

7: Fort Defiance

This fort was established five years after Emory's first survey of New Mexico, in 1851. Most of Emory's work with the International Boundary Commission kept him in the southern part of the state, and he may never have visited Fort Defiance.

Quote: Fort Defiance is built in the heart of the Navajo country, to keep that numerous tribe of Indians in awe. The location is one of the most eligible ones that can be found in all that region, being at the mouth of Canoncito bonito (pretty little canon), a favorite spot with the Navajos; near fertile valleys and good water. The canon is about half a mile in length, with almost perpendicular rocky sides, which in one place are four hundred feet in height.

The bottom is not over three hundred feet broad, level and grassy, and a small stream of water flows through it toward the fort, being fed from two springs near the head of the canon. This post was built some years ago by Major Backus, since much improved by Major Kendrick, and at this time was garrisoned by three companies, one of light artillery and two of infantry.

The quarters of the officers and men are built around a large parade, some three hundred by two hundred yards, covered with a fine coat of grass. Some of the buildings are of mud, and others of pine logs, and all
comfortable enough, barring occasional leakage in the rainy season. [Davis, W.W.H.]

Quote: About the opening of the council, the head chief, named Sareillas Largas, sent his medal and official staff to the governor, with a message that he was not able to govern his people, and desired to resign his office. His resignation was accepted, and the assembled chiefs were requested to select a man to fill his place. The choice fell upon Manuelita, a good Indian, and who was duly invested with the dignity of office....

Being ready to proceed to business, Manuelita, in the name of his people, told the governor that his talk of the day before was good, and that they were all agreed to the terms he proposed. The treaty was now read, and interpreted to them article by article; but when they came to the fourth, Manuelita said his people claimed a much larger district of country, and that they were in the habit of going to the mountain of Polonia, outside of the reservation, to worship the spirits of their fathers, and that some were averse to giving up this sacred spot.

The governor explained to them, from Park's map, that this mountain would fall within the country reserved to them, with which they were satisfied. They desired permission to get salt from the Salt Lake near Zuñi, which was conceded to them. After the various articles had been read, interpreted, and agreed to, they were duly signed by the chiefs, and witnessed by the officers and a few other Americans present. [Davis, W.W.H.]

Overview: Fort Defiance

Fort Defiance was one of the first military posts established by the U.S. government to make good on their promise to end raiding on the Mexican towns.

Colonel John Washington negotiated the Navajo Treaty of 1849 with the Navajo Chiefs at Chinle, and two years later, Colonel Edwin Sumner established Fort Defiance under its present name. Until 1899, it served as the agency for military administration of both the Navajo and Hopi, and at different periods offered a boarding school, a mission, and medical services. Today, the Fort Defiance Agency still contains many chapters. Dine name: Tse Hootsooi, Meadow Between the Rocks.

Quote: One time when the People [Diné] were running from their enemies and they had traveled some distance, my grandmother.... kept moving toward the mountains and eventually arrived at a shelter. There a Navajo woman and a man on horseback told them that the People were taking shelter at Fort Defiance. They were told that it was becoming impossible to find a safe place to hide. Many of the People had been killed. All the different Indian tribes, the Pueblos, and other Indians had united and were on the warpath against the Navajos. This was the message that the People were passing to each other. The People all moved toward Fort Defiance. If they were found along the way, they were killed. The People thought of the darkness as their mother, because as soon as darkness came, they felt protected. In the daytime the People were full of fear.

Their food supply was eventually diminished so that they had to depend upon plant seeds which they prepared with grinding stones. Today you still see grinding stones at many locations, such as on hillsides. It is said that thy had belonged to the Anāasazí, but some of these grinders actually belonged to the Navajos. Food was cooked in clay pots over a fire. In this way, the People had at least one meal a day.

My grandmother's mother had a brother-in-law who went to Fort Defiance ahead of the other people. This group included the extended family. Anytime someone in the family left the group for some reason and returned, the family would cry and greet each other. It was a very emotional time for the Navajos.

The People finally arrived at Fort Defiance under the protection of the soldiers. They received food, but they did not know how to prepare the food that was given to them, and they did not understand the language that was spoken. The People thought that coffee was like other beans, so they prepared it like regular beans. Some of the People died from food that was not prepared properly...

While at Fort Defiance under the protection of the soldiers, different tribes of Indians were still attacking the Navajos. It was decided that the Navajos would be sent to Fort Sumner... The journey took them past Mount Taylor.

--Jane Begay, of the Sleep Rock People; telling the stories of her maternal grandmother, Kináníbą́, also known as Tom Chischilly's Mother. Interviewed by the Title VII bilingual staff of Lake Valley School. [Dine of Eastern Region]
8: San Elecario

1853

Quote: (03 December 1850) On the 9th of December, the main body of the Commission, which I left at San Antonio, reached San Eleazario, and went into quarters at that place and at Socorro, a town six miles north of it. It was impossible to find quarters for all at either place. My official duties required me at El Paso, where about a dozen officers and laborers were quartered. Quarter-master Myer, with the mules, wagons, etc., and Mr. George F. Bartlett, Commissary, with the subsistence stores, were established at Socorro, while Lieutenant A. W. Whipple, who (by order of the Secretary of the Interior) had been appointed Chief Astronomer, ad interim, had set up his Astronomical Observatory at San Eleazario. The officers, mechanics, laborers, etc., were divided between the two places where their services were most required. ...

Other trains which had preceded us, and some that arrived about the same time that we did from New-Mexico, including emigrant trains bound for California, were disbanded here, leaving numbers of the outcasts of society referred to, with little means of support. But means or money were not of much consequence to these people: for their habits of gambling were such, that those who had money soon got rid of it.

The discharging of so many worthless and vagabond men at Socorro, where the trains usually made it their rendezvous, threw upon the peaceful inhabitants of that place a set of ruffians, who, by daily increase of numbers, had become so formidable, that the life of no one was considered safe beyond the walls of his own house. And even within them, there was no security; for several of these men had actually forced themselves upon the occupants, and compelled them to give them a home. Unused to such interlopers, and unable to obtain redress, several Mexican families abandoned their dwellings, and sought refuge on the opposite side of the river, or removed to other settlements.

The first check given to this band of gamblers, horse thieves, and murderers, was the arrival of the United States Boundary Commission at Socorro. The presence of a body of well armed, well disposed, and spirited young men, tended to make these ruffians more circumspect for a time; but as the former were gradually drafted off, to enter upon the duties connected with the Survey, the latter became more overbearing and insolent in their conduct. Houses were opened for the indulgence of every wicked passion; and each midnight hour heralded new violent and often bloody scenes for the fast filling record of crime. The peaceable Mexicans hastened to pack their little store of worldly wealth, and, with their wives and children, fled from the rapidly depopulating village. Every new outrage escaping the notice of those in authority gave additional boldness to the desperate gang surrounding us.

None dared stir from home without being doubly armed, and prepared to use their weapons at a moment's warning; for the turning of a corner might bring one to the muzzles of a dozen pistols. After several murders had been committed, and horror and dismay filled the breasts of the orderly part of the community, it was resolved to ask for assistance from the military post at San Eleazar, six miles distant. A note was written by the Quartermaster and the engineers, giving a history of what had occurred, and representing the alarming condition of things at the time. The messenger returned with an answer from the commanding officer, declining to furnish any assistance, on the ground that the application should first be made to the civil authorities.

In the evening, a dancing party was given in the place, an almost nightly amusement in all Mexican and frontier towns, which, as usual, was attended by quite a mixed company. As these dancing parties, called "fandangos," are open to all, the vagabonds prowling about at the time were numerously represented on the occasion referred to, and made themselves conspicuous by their conduct. Pistols were fired over the heads of the females, who, in their alarm, attempted to escape from the room; but this was prevented by ruffians stationed at the door. By this time there was a great excitement within, and several desperadoes commenced using their bowie-knives. Mr. Edward C. Clarke, the Assistant Quarter-master of the Commission, who was present on the occasion, was the first person upon whom the ruffians attempted to satiate their thirst for
blood. Four attacked him with their knives, and he fell near the door dreadfully wounded. He was immediately
taken to the quarters of Dr. Bigelow, the surgeon of the Commission, who, on examination, found he had
received nine or ten deep wounds, inflicted with bowie-knives, in his breast and abdomen.

Another man named Gates was also wounded by a pistol-shot in the leg. Dr. Bigelow at once pronounced the
wounds of Mr. Clarke mortal, and he died the following morning. [Bartlett, John Russell ]

Overview: San Elizario

San Elizario was built first as a military presidio to protect the citizens of the river settlements from Apache
attacks in 1789. The structure as it stands today has interior pillars, detailed in gilt, and an extraordinary
painted tin ceiling.

The missions of El Paso have a tremendous history spanning three centuries. They are considered the longest,
continuously occupied religious structures within the United States and as far as we know, the churches have
never missed one day of services. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico
State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Images:

9: International Boundary Marker No. 1

1855

The states of Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua meet here, at a marker originally established by Lieutenant
William H. Emory, the American Commissioner of the second International Boundary Commission, and José
Salazar y Larregua, the Mexican Commissioner. The monument was later rebuilt, and can today be seen in in

Quote: (31 January 1855) RIO GRANDE, LATITUDE 31° 47', January 10, 1855.

On the 9th of January, both commissioners having finished the observations necessary to determine the initial
point of the boundary on the Rio Grande, met this day to compare results. The necessary measurements being
made to connect the two observatories, and also the observatory established at Frontera in 1851-'52, it was
ascertained that the difference between the determinations of the parallel of 31° 4"7', made by the two
commissions, was eighty-four hundredths of one second. It was then mutually agreed to take the mean
between the two results; and the point thus ascertained was marked on the ground in presence of both
commissions, as the point where the parallel of 31° 47' strikes the river; that is to say, the point where the
boundary under the treaty of December 30, 1853, leaves the river to run westward.

The commission adjourned, to meet to-morrow at 10 o'clock a. m.

JOSE SALAZAR Y LARREGUI

W. H. EMORY

PASO DEL NORTE, January 12, 1855.

The commission met agreeably to adjournment, and agreed to place one monument as near the river as the
nature of the ground will admit, to be of dressed stone, having on the north face: U. S. BOUNDARY, Under the
treaty of December 30, 1853.

On the south face: R. M. Limite conforme al tratado de 30 de Diciembre de 1853.

On the west: JOSE SALAZAR Y LARREGUI, Comisionado Mexicano.
On the east: W. H. EMORY, U. S. Commissioner.

The commission further agreed:

1st. To erect a pyramid of rough stone, cemented with mortar, where the line strikes the crest of the first range of hills, and one of the same description in sight of the road leading from El Paso to the north.

2nd. To put up a monument at the extremity of the line of 31° 47′ of the same kind, and with the same inscription, as that first named; to put up pyramids along the line wherever the facilities of water and stone will admit.

3d. To lay the foundation of the monument nearest the river on the 24th January. There being no further business before the commission, it adjourned, to meet at 12 m [noon] on the 24th instant.

W. H. EMORY.

JOSE SALAZAR Y LARREGUI.

...

INITIAL POINT ON THE RIO GRANDE, LAT, 31° 47′,

January 31, 1855.

The commission met, according to agreement, at meridian. The chief officers of the vicinity, military and civil, from both sides of the line, being present, the foundation of the monument was laid. The following paper—one copy in English, the other in Spanish—was signed by the two commissioners and by the persons aforesaid, placed in a glass bottle, and deposited, at the depth of five feet, under the centre of the monument:

COPY OF THE PAPER.

We, the undersigned, have this day assembled to witness the laying of the foundation of the monument which is to mark the initial point of the boundary between the United States and the Republic of Mexico, agreed upon, under the treaty of Mexico, on the part of the United States by William Hemsley Emory, and on the part of the Republic of Mexico by Jose Salazar y Larregui, latitude 31° 47′.

W. H. EMORY, U. S. Commissioner.

JOSE SALAZAR Y LARREGUI. [Emory, William H.]

Images:

Boundary Monument Number 1, on the Rio Grande near El Paso; west view

Boundary Monument Number 1, on the Rio Grande near El Paso; east view

10: Fort Massachusetts

1853-1856

Quote: We harnessed up about sunrise, and drove eighteen miles to Rock Creek to graze and breakfast, but continued on to One Hundred and Ten before we halted to dine. Here flows a small stream of clear water, fringed on either side with cottonwood-trees, and close to the road were the log cabins of a settler with an Indian wife. In the timber were encamped a party of discharged soldiers on their way home to the States from Fort Massachusetts, in New Mexico. They had made their way alone across the prairies to this point without accident, partly on foot and partly mounted. They invited us to partake of their homely fare, which we declined, as our own pot was simmering over the fire, and, besides, we did not desire to reduce their scanty store, which was no more than enough to last them into the States. [Davis, W.W.H.]

Overview: Fort Massachusetts
Fort Massachusetts was established in 1852 to protect the San Luis Valley. The soldiers stationed there had a few engagements with nearby Ute and Jicarilla Apaches, but in 1856 the poorly-sited fort was abandoned and the troops moved to nearby Fort Garland.

11: Valencia

1846

Quote: At Peralta we met with two very polite and communicative gentlemen; they freely answered our interrogatories, and kindly furnished us with some pamphlets and several copies of the "Republicano," a paper published in the city of Mexico. Three miles to the south, is the village of "Valencia," the capital of the county of the same name. Directly opposite to us, on the west side of the river, is the town of "Lentes," and one and a half miles south of it, the town of "Lunes." [Emory, William H]

Overview: Valencia

The site of Sangre de Cristo Church in Valencia also boasted a pre-colonial pueblo and a seventeenth-century estancia. Before 1800, two plazas were established, one at the old pueblo and estancia site and the other to the south.

Francisco de Valencia received an encomienda at the later site of the hacienda on the east side of the Río Grande early in the seventeenth century. It included the pueblo of Los Lentes on the west side of the river. During the 1630s he built an estancia at or very near the site of an already abandoned Southern Tiwa pueblo. The estancia was burned in the 1680 revolt.

Candelaria gave the date of the resettlement of Valencia as 1751. Other sources place it in the 1740s when a group of genizaros settled the Valencia area and two plazas were established by 1790. One was near the site of the former pueblo and estancia, and the present Valencia; the other was near the modern intersection of New Mexico Highway 47 and North El Cerro Loop. Valencia has been named as one of the main genizaro settlements of New Mexico in the middle of the eighteenth century. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]
Boundary with Kansas, Utah, California

1850

The stretch across the southern Rockies was left indefinite on this map, as the directions are slightly vague. This area was surveyed in 1868 and 1878. Today, New Mexico's northern border goes straight across at the 37th North Parallel.

Quote: ...(from 38º North latitude); thence west with said parallel to the summit of the Sierra Madre; thence south with the crest of said mountains to the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude; thence west with said parallel to its intersection with the boundary line of the state of California; thence with said boundary line to the place of beginning- be, and the same is hereby, erected into a temporary government, by the name of the territory of New Mexico. [Statutes at Large, vol. 9 (1851), pp. 446-458, 462-465, 467-68.]

International Border with Mexico

1853-1857

The Boundary Commission headed by Emory and Salazar completed an epically-heroic task in surveying nearly 2000 miles of the Mexican-American border from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.

They were hampered by bureaucratic inefficiency and difficulties in communicating with Washington, rough terrain, extreme weather, depredations by hostile tribes, and defective instruments (in the case of the Mexican survey team).

Emory clearly takes pride in the precision of his observations, and draws stark contrasts between the Commission he heads, and the original commission headed by John Bartlett, who purportedly spent a half a million dollars and still picked the wrong starting place on the Rio Grande, but whose widely-read tale of adventures in the southwest influenced popular opinion favorably towards him.

Quote: (15 August 1854) On the 15th August, 1854; I received from the President of the United States, through the Hon. Eobt. McClelland, Secretary of the Interior, the appointment of commissioner " to survey and mark out upon the land the dividing line between the United States and the republic of Mexico, concluded on the 30th of December, 1853, the ratifications of which were exchanged in the city of Washington on the 30th day of June, 1854." At the same time I received special instructions from the Secretary of the Interior, and a copy of the treaty... [Emory, William H]

Quote: On arriving at the cañon about seventy miles below El Paso, I left my escort and train, with directions to proceed slowly up the river, while I went to make such arrangements with the Mexican commissioner as would enable me to move the parties directly on the new line, and commence operations.

I accomplished this with the Mexican commissioner satisfactorily; although winter had now set in with severity, and the small-pox showed itself in our camp, and we had just accomplished a journey of sixteen hundred miles [on foot and mule], every assistant and man took the field as cheerfully as if he had just left his barracks.

Each one of the principal assistants was selected upon the estimate of his professional abilities, derived from personal knowledge, and I had no reason to make any changes of importance from the beginning to the end of the work. My own expectations, and I hope those of the government, were entirely fulfilled in the manner in which the work was accomplished.

Under all circumstances-- during the cold winter exposed upon the bare ground of the bleak plains, and in the summer to the hot sun blazing over the arid desert-- every order was executed with fidelity, and the work was completed within the time, and largely within the amount appropriated by Congress.

We passed the entire width of the continent and returned with the loss only of two men, and without losing a single animal, (except those worn out by service), or suffering a stampede by the Indians; at the same time that our co-operators on the Mexican commission were twice robbed of every hoof by the Apaches, and extensive losses were sustained by other detachments of United States troops, and by our citizens traversing this region. [Emory, William H]
Emory's camp in the mountainous region near Fort Davis, Texas

First map of a series of 52, made by Emory to show the border.

One of the rough stone monuments Emory built, on the boundary of the bootheel

Links:
National Archives: Monuments, Manifest Destiny, and Mexico --

Line Agreed on by Condé and Bartlett

1850

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulated that the boundary described in the treaty be surveyed, but the map on which the treaty was based (Disturnell, 1847) proved to be inaccurate, and resulted in another two laws; one, the Boundary Compromise of 1850, specified the starting point, which Commissioners Conde and Bartlett tried to identify. But surveys done for the purpose of finding a southern transcontinental railroad route showed that the U.S. needed land just a bit farther south, which the nation eventually purchased from Mexico in 1853, in what is called the Gadsden Purchase.

The first boundary commission, for which Emory served as the American astronomer, was tasked with setting that line at 36º30'. As Emory points out, Condé and Bartlett actually set the line 36º22', which required later correction (marked as treaty line on the map).

Quote: Under the date of December 3d, 1850, I spoke of the meetings of the Joint Commission, and of the difficulties that lay in the way of a speedy agreement as to the boundary between the Rio Grande and the Gila, in consequence of two gross errors in the map [by Disturnell] to which the Commissioners were confined by the treaty. It was discovered that the Rio Grande was laid down on this map, more than two degrees too far to the eastward -- the river, where it is intersected by the southern boundary of New Mexico, being really in 106º 40' west longitude, instead of 104º40'. The other error was in the position of the town of El Paso, which appears on this [Disturnell’s] map to be but seven or eight minutes below the 32nd parallel, while its actual distance is thirty minutes further south. After several meetings, involving much discussion, the Joint Commission agreed to fix the Initial Point on the Rio Grande at the latitude given by the map, without any reference to its distance from El Paso; and to extend it westward from that point three degrees, without reference to where the line so prolonged should terminate.

This being agreed upon, the acting Chief Astronomer, Lieutenant A. W. Whipple, on the part of the United States, and Don Jose Salazar, the Chief Astronomer on the part of Mexico, were directed to "measure, according to Disturnell’s Map, edition of 1847, the distance between latitude 32º and the point where the Rio Grande strikes the Southern Boundary of New Mexico ; and also the length of the Southern Boundary line of New Mexico from that point to its extreme western termination,“ and to report the result of their examinations to the Commissioners at the earliest period practicable. [Bartlett, John Russell]

Quote: Mr. Bartlett’s principal achievement on the boundary was the agreement with General Conde, the Mexican commissioner, fixing the initial point on the Rio Bravo, in the parallel of 32º 22’, instead of a point as laid down on the treaty map about eight miles above El Paso, which would have brought it to the parallel of 31º 52’. That agreement is no less remarkable than the adroitness and success with which Mr. Bartlett convinced the authorities at Washington of its correctness. ...

I refused to recognise the act as that of the joint commission, and signed the map as the order directed, carefully and studiously attaching a certificate that it was the initial point of the two commissioners; and to prevent the possibility of misconstruction, an agreement in writing was entered into with Mr. Salazar, and our signatures attested by witnesses, showing that the map was only that of the boundary agreed upon by the two commissioners, and nothing else. This course, while it permitted me to obey a specific order in writing from a superior, left the government free to act, and repudiate the agreement by the two commissioners, as it subsequently did.

It is evident that any other course would have resulted in committing the government, irretrievably, to an erroneous determination of our southern boundary. It is but just, however, to Mr. Bartlett, to state, that so far as the facility for a route for a railway to the Pacific was considered, the line agreed to by him was no worse
than that claimed by his adversaries. My own reports, based upon previous explorations, had presented the whole case very clearly to view.

Yet these reports were overlooked, and it was ignorantly represented that while Mr. Bartlett’s line lost the route for the railway, the other line secured it. I will not here fatigue the reader by a topographical description of the country, showing where the obstacles to a railway route exist; but he will see by a glance at the map, that the practicable route so adjudged by myself, and by other officers who retraced my steps and re-surveyed this country, is to the south of both these lines of boundary claimed under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. [Emory, William H.]

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Links:
Texas Archives: Daniel Webster’s copy of 1850 Boundary Act -- http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/earlystate/boundary-01.html

The Handbook of Texas Online: Bartlett-Garcia Condé Compromise -- http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/nbb2.html

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Texas Border

01 August 1850

In the Treaty of Velasco, signed after the decisive battle at San Jacinto but never ratified by Mexico, Texas had claimed the Rio Grande as its western and southern boundary. After long and angry debates, Congress passed the Boundary Compromise of 1850, which forgave Texian debt to the U.S. in exchange for dropping their claim to the lands between the 100th meridian and the Rio Grande.

Emory surveyed the starting point of this line but not the rest of the border.

Quote: (01 August 1850) The state of Texas will agree that her boundary on the north shall commence at the point at which the meridian of one hundred degrees west from Greenwich is intersected by the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes (36°30') north latitude, and shall run from said point due west to the meridian of one hundred and three degrees west from Greenwich; thence her boundary shall run due south to the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence on the said parallel of thirty-two degrees of north latitude to the Rio Bravo del Norte, and thence with the channel of said river to the Gulf of Mexico. [Statutes at Large, vol. 9 (1851), pp. 446-458, 462-465, 467-68.]

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Treaty Line

1848

This is apparently the line that Emory believes to be the true line designated by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. By the time he had created this map, the treaty had already been superceded by the Gadsden Purchase, so the inclusion of this line on the map seems to be mostly about scoring points against former commissioner John Bartlett, who wrote unflattering things about Emory in his book, and who, in Emory’s view, failed to properly survey the line.

Quote: In reference to the importance of the point [at 36°22', agreed on by Condé and Bartlett], I think it as well to state that the line agreed upon by the commission, April, 1851, is about 33' north of the line contended for [in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo], as that laid down by Disturnell’s map, but it reaches about 16' of arc further west; and as both lines run 3° of longitude west, the difference of territory is 3° of longitude multiplied by about 40' of latitude, each having a middle latitude that may, for the purpose of computation, be assumed at 30°.

Neither line gives us the road to California, and the country embraced in the area of the difference, with the exception of a strip along the Rio Grande about nine miles long and from one to two wide, is barren, and will not produce wheat, corn, grapes, trees, or anything useful as food for man, or for clothing.

Neither line will give us a channel of communication for posts along the frontier, without which it is impracticable to comply with the XI the article of the treaty, which enjoins the United States to keep the Indians out of Mexico.

When originally on the work, before the point was determined, having a knowledge of the country from previous reconnaissance, I had the honor of asking the attention of your predecessor to this very subject, in a communication dated April, 1849, San Diego, California, which was subsequently printed by the Senate. I then pointed out what I believed to be the only view taken of the treaty, which would have given us the road, it being, in truth, the only important matter involved in the question. [Emory, William H.]

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Images:
About this Map

William H. Emory: Map of The United States and Their Territories Between The Mississippi & the Pacific Ocean And Part Of Mexico : 1857

William H. Emory, Major, 1st Cavalry, and then United States Commissioner for the Boundary Survey directed preparation of this Map of the United States and Their Territories Between The Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean And Part of Mexico Compiled From the Surveys Made Under The Order of W.H. Emory...And from the Maps of the Pacific Rail Road, General Land Office, and the Coast Survey.

Emory's map was included with his Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey submitted to the House of Representatives 34th Congress, Ex. Dox 135.

Atlas Citation: [Eidenbach, Peter]
Map Credits: Rumsey Collection Image Number 0263001

TIMELINE: AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

1846
President Polk declares war with Mexico; US forces led by General Stephen Kearny seize New Mexico, which surrenders without a shot being fired. Colonel Doniphan writes code for governing the Territory of New Mexico. New Mexico designated Ninth Military Department.

1847
Philip St. George Cooke blazed the first wagon road from New Mexico to the West Coast.
New Mexico formally annexed; slavery issues had prevented formal annexation until this point.

1848
Mexico signs the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which cedes lands in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico to the United States (Statute 922 App I). The international boundary designated as the intersection of 32° N and the Rio Grande to intersection of Choctaw Creek with Red River.

1849
Simpson made a map previously shows town of Rito- Rito is a ruin by the time Whipple arrives because the upstream people took all the water. He traveled through Albuquerque to Pueblo de la Laguna and passed Covero (Cubero), Mount Taylor (named by Simpson in 1849 for Zachary Taylor), and Agua Fria, the last spring before the Continental Divide. Whipple used Sitgreaves' 1851 map as a reference also Walker's 1851 map.

1850
New territories admitted, including New Mexico (including modern Arizona), purchase of additional lands from Texas, boundaries adjusted. El Paso becomes part of Texas.

1851
Sitgreaves' official report, Report of an Expedition Down the Zuni and Colorado Rivers in 1851, was published in 1853. The report explored possibility of using this route for military transport.

1852 Survey
1st international boundary commission established in accordance with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Emory is the designated astronomer. The survey run into difficulties, which are resolved with the purchase of more land from Mexico.

Initial point on the Rio Grande (determined by Commissioners Condé and Bartlett according to the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo) proves to be in the wrong place. Surveyor AB Gray says 32° 22' is wrong, 31° 52' is right. Commissioners Emory and Salazar (astronomers from the first Boundary Commission) later determine the starting point of the line at 32°57'

1852

New Mexico legislature passed a single act creating two new counties, redefining five of the original counties to extend across the limits of the territory, and eliminating all non-county area.

1853

Gadsden Purchase from Mexico resolves boundary issues, and give the U.S. the land necessary to build a southern transcontinental railroad. (GP Statute 1031 App II).

1855 Survey

US Commissioner: William H. Emory
Mexican Commissioner: José Salazar y Larregui

Emory and Salazar survey the entire Mexican-American border, including the new area included by the Gadsden Purchase.

The Americans made nearly a dozen monuments along the border to mark the sites, but many were destroyed by surrounding tribes, so the Mexicans rebuilt many and added some. Later surveys added over two hundred more, and rebuilt them as more permanent monuments.

1855 railroad surveys

The U.S. Government commissioned a number of surveys, spaced along parallels, to determine the best route for a transcontinental railroad.

Emory & Parke: 32nd parallel
Whipple & Ives: 35th parallel
Beckwith & Gunnison: 38th-39 parallel

1857 and 1858

Ives' Report upon the Colorado River of the West

1859

Marcy publishes The Prairie Traveler

1861

Colorado territory established; New Mexico's northern boundary reduced.

Residents of the Mesilla Valley declared their allegiance with the Confederacy and separated from the Union. They hoped the Confederacy would recognize them as the state of Arizona, which they imagined would reach to the Colorado River.

Civil War starts. Confederate troops gather at Fort Bliss and take Fort Fillmore. The plan is to seize New Mexico, and then march on to take the gold fields of Colorado or California. Indian raids on settlements step up as U.S. Army soldiers turn their attention to other matters.

1862

Homestead Act: free 160 acres offered after 5 years cultivation. Later modified to offer 320 acres, and the Desert Lands Act offered 640 acres.

Henry H. Sibley, commander of a brigade of mounted regiments from Texas, marched from Fort Bliss near El Paso up the Rio Grande: taking Fort Fillmore, defeating Union troops at Fort Craig, taking Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and finally defeating the Union troops at Glorieta Pass, near Pecos. By this time, the Confederate troops were starving and without clothes or ammunition, so they retreated back to Fort Bliss.

1862-1871

Railroad Land grants: the Federal government gives away 128 million acres of land to the railroad companies, as an incentive to build railway lines all over the country. The railroad companies sold many of these parcels to homesteaders.
1863

Arizona Territory created by the United States from the western portion of New Mexico Territory and a part of present Nevada. Present New Mexico-Arizona boundary established.

1864-1866

"Long Walk"- Navajo and Mescalero Apache forcibly relocated to Bosque Redondo reservation; The Apache escaped, and the Navajo signed a treaty of nonagression and returned to their homeland in 1868.

1864-1890

Indian Wars throughout the West. Destruction of the bison herds.

1867

Hayden, King, Wheeler, Powell Surveys map the west comprehensively, while cataloguing flora, fauna, and geology.

1868

Navajo chief Barboncito, along with numerous other leaders, sign a treaty with General William T. Sherman, agreeing to peace with the Americans in exchange for rights to return from Bosque Redondo to their new reservation: a small area within their traditional homeland.

1869

Fort Bliss renamed Fort Bliss.

Cochise and Apache guerrillas active 1871- 1879.

The war to save the buffalo 1874-1880.

1878-1879

Fort Bliss permanently established in current location.

1878

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) railroad crosses the Raton Pass into New Mexico, reaching Las Vegas, its first destination in New Mexico, in 1879.

1879

USGS established.

1880

The Southern transcontinental railroad traversed the region.

Geronimo & Chiricahua Apaches active in southern New Mexico and northern Mexico, 1880-1886.

1884

New boundary treaty: the boundary, where marked by the Rio Grande, adheres to the center of original channel as surveyed in 1852 even if the course of the river changes. Boundaries on international bridges at center point.

1886

Geronimo surrenders to General Crook in southern New Mexico. The remaining members of the Chiricahua and Mimbres bands are removed first to Florida, and finally to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

1889

US/Texas/ New Mexico/Mexico border resurveyed; discovered bancos or alluvial deposits changing land mass on either side of the border.

1891

Forest Reserve Law, designating forest preserves; forerunner of current National Forests.

1905

National Forest service created.

1906

Antiquities Act. Allows a president to protect areas of public land by executive order.

New treaty with Mexico on water rights for irrigation.
1912
New Mexico becomes the forty-seventh state of the Union.

1916
National Park Service created.

1924
Gila Wilderness established.

1925
U.S. Supreme Court decision in New Mexico v. Colorado dismisses New Mexico's claims and establishes current boundaries between the states.

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