Valverde must have been a haunting reminder of how ephemeral life in southern New Mexico can be, because the ruined town figures prominently on New Mexico maps of the era, while inhabited and flourishing towns are not included.

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. [Davis, W.W.H.]

**Overview:** Valverde

This paraje was called Contadero during the seventeenth century and Valverde by the late eighteenth century. Regardless of its name it was a natural paraje as well as the site of a nineteenth-century town and civil war battle. [Long Distance Trails Group—Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

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2: Fray Cristobal

Quote: The next day we drove to Fray Cristobal, sixteen miles, to breakfast, passing on the way the ruins of
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 Cristóbal 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 from man and beast....

Fray Cristóbal 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 montains, 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 Cristóbal

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 Cristóbal. [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

3: Algodones

1847-1857

Quote: Between San Felippe and the Angosturas, six miles below, the valley of the river is very narrow, affording no interval for agriculture. On the west side, the banks are steep walls, crowned by seams of basalt forming the table lands. The east is composed of rolling sand hills, rising gradually to the base of the mountains, and covered with large round pebbles. I must except from this the poverty-stricken little town of Algodones, which has some ground round it in cultivation. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Algodones

According to oral history, the twenty-one families who received the grant of San Antonio de Las Huertas settled both Las Huertas (Placitas) and Algodones, which they bought from San Felipe Pueblo. (see the link to the Office of the State Historian).

When the American Army of the West, headed by Colonel Doniphan, headed down the Chihuahua Trail (the old Camino Real) to Mexico, they noted that "the usual road" passed through Algodones. Today, Algodones remains a small agricultural village. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Links:
History of Las Huertas and Algodones, NM Office of the State Historian --
http://newmexicohistory.org/filedetails_docs.php?fileID=21366
4: Zandia

1847-1857

Quote: From Bernalillo the valley opens, but narrows again at Zandia, an Indian town on a sand-bank at the base of a high mountain of the same name, said to contain the precious metals.

They were treading wheat here, which is done by making a circular “corral” on a level ground of clay; upon this floor they scatter the wheat, turn in a dozen or more mules, and one or two Indians, who, with whoops, yells, and blows, keep the affrighted brutes constantly in motion. To separate the wheat from the chaff, both Indians and Mexicans use a simple hand-barrow, with a bottom of raw bull’s hide perforated with holes. I should suppose it must take an hour to winnow a bushel. [Emory, William H]

Quote: Below Zandia we were attracted by a great noise. It proceeded from a neighboring rancheria, where we saw eight or ten naked fellows hammering away in a trough full of cornstalks, as I had never seen Mexicans exert themself before. The perspiration from their bodies was rolling off into the trough in profusion, and mingling with the crushed cane. This was taken out, boiled, and transferred to a press, as primitive in construction as anything from the hands of Father Abraham.

The hopper was the trunk of a scooped cotton-wood tree, into this was inserted a billet of wood, upon which the lever rested about midway. Men, women, and children were mounted on each end; all see-sawing in the highest glee. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Sandia Pueblo

Sandia pueblo was deserted after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The earliest known reference to that name is 1611. The Spanish resettled the pueblo in the middle of the eighteenth century, bringing back Puebloans who had been living with the Hopi. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Images:

Sandia Mountains, the Rio Grande near Bernalillo, foreground, ruins of Tur-jui-ai

5: Isoletta

1847-1857

Quote: At Isoletta, I became tired of the show, and, seeing my servant talking at the door of one of his acquaintances, I took the liberty of asking permission to take a quiet siesta; but this was out of the question. The good woman overwhelmed me with a thousand questions about the United States, which could only be stopped by questioning her in return. She denounced [former governor Manuel] Armijo; said, with a true Castilian flash of the eye, “I do not see how any man wearing those things,” pointing to my shoulder straps, “could have run away as he did. He had a good army to back him, and could have driven you all back.” [Emory, William H]

Overview: Isleta Pueblo

Originally established in the 14th century, the Tiwa-speaking pueblo was abandoned during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Some Isleta fled with the Spanish, and founded the Tiwa pueblo of Ysleta del Sur, near El Paso. Others relocated to Hopi. The pueblo was resettled, and has incorporated members from Hopi, Laguna, and Acoma. Internal friction caused the satellite settlement of Oraibi.

Most Isleta continue the agricultural traditions of the pueblo. The pueblo also operates a casino and resort with
a golf course, and a recreational complex. Visitors enjoy the graceful architecture of St. Augustine Church, originally built in 1612. The Feast of St. Augustine is September 4.

30 November 1968:

Quote: Q: Are there stories that go around the pueblo about what happened, when Otermin and his men-burned the town and stormed Isleta-
A: Well, they burned the church- but I think it was the Isletas themselves that burned the church.

Q: Yeah- why was that?
A: In contrary to what was being dealt out to them.
Q: You mean, because the Spanish were punishing them, they in turn burned the church.

A: The church is burned.... When men went to work on the walls, well, there is a space in between there where it had been burned and they went in and put in more adobes, making the church walls wider...

Q: The last time the church was rebuilt...
A: 1682, I believe.
Q: The one there now?
A: Rebuilt then, yeah it's there now.
Q: 1683- that would be just right- as far as-

A: The date is on the vega- see, the Indians were using the church as a corral to safeguard the horses, the horses were very valuable.

Q: Did the Isletas join the revolt?
A: No. They did come down from Taos to ask them-
Q: Yes, this is the story I heard- that when the Taos and the San Juans came to Isleta to tell them about the idea of the revolt, the Isletas said no. That some of them packed up at that point and went to El Paso.

A: I don't think they went that far. I think they went to sholi- abU. There is another "rooms" about there-- about 15 miles east of Belen.
Q: The original documents say there were originally many pueblos in this area, I think about 12 or so, what is the name of this place?
A: abU-- that is the name of it, they call it - soli-iinn the maps. But we call it abU.

--RL, Isleta. MES and WLL, interviewers. [University of New Mexico, Department of History]

31 July 1969:

Quote: And I said, well how did the Lagunas come? Well, he said- When the Spaniards came in, and the priests came in, then the people had a fight out there, they were fighting each other. They did not want the Indian religion anymore, they just wanted the Christian way, and the old folks wanted to keep the Indian traditions. So then, they were really fighting-- those that had turned to Christianity were going to burn the fetishes and everything- for this leaders got all of their stuff and sneaked them out at night, just east of Mesita, there is a high place and they hid all of their fetishes there- at night.

They could not get along with the people any more so they decided they were just going to leave-- leave the village, and they came on out, they were followed to see if they were bringing any fetishes or anything, but they had already brought them out-- so they let them go, and on their way they picked them up, where they had hidden them- they were going to go to Sandia, but it was too far to go so they went to Isleta.

When the leaders down there found out that the mother god was looking for a home-- No, they stayed on the west mesa up there, and some of them went down to ask if they could rest over, 'til they went on their way to Sandia. So, this guy went back again and told them that it was all right for them to come back in... So then, when they realized that the mother God was looking for a place to live, then they said: Well, why don't you settle here-- then they came in.

He said, you know where our house is, our old house, I said "yeah," well the old man who was leader of the medicine men, used to have his things on the north house there, so they took all of the group over there and accepted them with ceremonies. That is how the Laguna came.

--RL, Isleta. On a group of Laguna moving to Isleta around 1880. MES and WLL, interviewers. [University of New Mexico, Department of History]

Images:
6: Alameda

1857

Quote: After dining sumptuously at Sandival's we went to our camp in the Alameda. Here the valley is wide and well cultivated. The people of the surrounding country flocked in with grapes, melons, and eggs. Swarms of wild geese and sand cranes passed over camp. They frequent the river and are undisturbed save when some American levels his rifle. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Alameda

Alameda was the name given by early Spanish settlers to a Tiwa pueblo on the west side of the Río Grande. The original mission church, dedicated to Santa Ana, was destroyed during the pueblo revolt.

The Alameda land grant, founded in 1710, was originally on the west side of the river. Later, the name was ascribed to its Spanish community on the east bank that was founded in Alburquerque's north valley. Alameda, today, is unincorporated.

Alameda is probably the same as the pueblo of Santa Catalina described by Hernán Gallegos, and Espejo's Los Guajolotes. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

7: Bernalillo

1847-1857

Quote: The town of Bernalillo is small, but one of the best built in the territory. We were here invited to the house of a wealthy man, to take some refreshment. We were led into an oblong room, furnished like that of every Mexican in comfortable circumstances. A banquette runs around the room, leaving only a space for the couch. It is covered with cushions, carpets, and pillows; upon which the visitor sits or reclines. The dirt floor is usually covered a third or a half with common looking carpet...

Chilé the Mexicans consider the chef d'oeuvre of the cuisine, and seem really to revel in it; but the first mouthful brought the tears trickling down my cheeks, very much to the amusement of the spectators with their leather-lined throats. It was red pepper, stuffed with minced meat. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Bernalillo

Bernalillo was a heavily populated district when visited by sixteenth-century Spaniards. It continued that tradition as a Spanish community, though it was not generally visited by the bulk of travelers who were across the river on the east bank. Alburquerque was founded by settlers from Bernalillo.

Fray

Angelico Chávez also speculates that the name Bernalillo? may have come from a priest in New Mexico named Bernal? or from ?Bernardo?, the son of Fernando Duran y Chávez, an early settler. In either case it was bestowed before the 1680 Pueblo Indian revolt (Chávez 1948:111). [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]
8: Albuquerque

1857

*Quote:* At Albuquerque I was directed to call and see Madame Armijo, and ask her for the map of New Mexico, belonging to her husband, which she had in her possession. I found her ladyship sitting on an ottoman smoking, after the fashion of her country-women, within reach of a small silver vase filled with coal. She said she had searched for the map without success; if not in Santa Fé, her husband must have taken it with him to Chihuahua.

We crossed the Rio Grande del Norte at Albuquerque, its width was about twenty-five yards, and its deepest part just up to the hubs of the wheels. It is low at present, but at no time, we learned, is its rise excessive--scarcely exceeding one or two feet. [Emory, William H]

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**Overview:** Albuquerque

Albuquerque was founded as a villa in 1706 in a rich agricultural region of New Mexico. Its Old Town plaza was the original town center. Evidently, the decision to settle the "Bosque Grande of Doña Luisa" was made in 1698. A manuscript from February 1706 showed that Governor Cuervo y Valdés authorized the actual settlement, which took place shortly thereafter. A church, dedicated to Saint Francis Xavier, was later rededicated to San Felipe, in honor of His Majesty the King.

The name was changed to Albuquerque after the United States militarily occupied New Mexico. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

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**Images:**

![Albuquerque in 1857, with a view of San Felipe de Neri Church, the plaza, and the Sandia Mountains in the background](image-url)

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**Links:**

City of Albuquerque website -- http://cabq.gov
Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau -- http://itsatrip.org

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9: Perdillas

1847

*Quote:* (06 September 1847) We encamped last night on very indifferent grass. Breakfasted with Don José Chavez, at Perdilla. When sitting our chins just reached the table. There were five or six courses, ending with coffee. Before breakfast, we were summoned to mass in Don José's private chapel, where the eccentric person we met at yesterday's dinner officiated.....

Attending mass before breakfast proved anything but an appetizer. The church was crowded with women of all conditions, and the horrid rebozo, which the poor use for shawls, bonnets, handkerchief, and spit box, sent out an odor which the incense from the altar failed to stifle. [Emory, William H]

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**Overview:** Los Padillas

The history of Spanish settlement at Los Padillas extends back to the seventeenth century. Its use as a paraje was increased in the nineteenth century when more travelers began using the road along the west bank of the Río Grande. The foremost landowners during this time were the Chavez family, who offered hospitality to many
10: Tomé

1847

Quote: (07 September 1847) We marched and encamped near Tomé. It was the eve of the fête of Tomé in honor of the Virgin Mary, and people from all parts of the country were flocking in crowds to the town. The primitive wagons of the country were used by the women as coaches. These wagons were heavy boxes mounted on wheels cut from large cotton-wood; over the top of the box was spread a blanket, and inside were huddled, in a dense crowd, the women, children, pigs, lambs, and "everything that is his." The man of the family usually seated himself on the tongue of the wagon, his time divide between belaboring his beasts and scratching his head. In one of these wagons a violin was being played, and the women who were sitting on their feet, made themost of the music by brandishing their bare arms and moving their heads to the cadence. At night there was a theatrical representation in the public square. The piece dramatized was from the Old Testament. [Emory, William H]

Overview: El Cerro Tomé

Tomé Hill, a natural landmark, served all travelers from prehistoric times into the historic period. A seventeenth-century road ran to the east of the hill. After the river changed its course in the early eighteenth century and the town was founded (in 1740), the main road shifted to go along the valley and by the plaza. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Images:

Penitentes

11: Navajos

1846

Emory's description of the Navajo seems more influenced by rumor and the desire for military glory than based on any real knowledge of the people. The Navajos did (and do) raise fruit, corn, and other crops, as well as tending large flocks of sheep. Indeed, one of the centerpieces of the later U.S. campaign against the Navajo included destroying their crops.

Still, it is interesting that he reports Navajo activity as close as the sandy hills west of Albuquerque.

Quote: (30 September 1846) I saw here the hiding places of the Navajoes, who when few in numbers, wait for the night to descend upon the valley and carry off the fruit, sheep, women, and children of the Mexicans. When in numbers, they come in daytime and levy their dues. Their retreats and caverns are at a distance to the west, in high and inaccessible mountains, where troops of the United States will find great difficulty in overtaking and subduing them, but where the Mexicans have never thought of penetrating. The Navajoes may be termed the lords of New Mexico. Few in number, disdaining the cultivation of the soil, and even the rearing of cattle, they draw all their supplies from the valley of the Del Norte.

As we marched down the river to meet Ugarté and Armijo, the Navajoes attacked the settlements three miles in our rear, killed one man, crippled another, and carried off a large supply of sheep and cattle. To-day we have a report, which appears well authenticated, that the Mexicans taking courage at the expectations of protection from the United States, had the temerity to resist a levy, and the consequence was, the loss of six men killed and two wounded.
They are prudent in their depredations, never taking so much from one man as to ruin him. Armijo never permitted the inhabitants to war upon these thieves. The power he had of letting these people loose on the New Mexicans was the great secret of his arbitrary sway over a people who hated and despised him. Any offender against Armijo was pretty sure to have a visit from the Navajoes. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Navajos

The earliest arrival of the Navajo into the Four Corners region may have been around the year 1000. Over time, the Navajo and their Puebloan neighbors developed a symbiotic relationship: The Navajo traded goods resulting from their hunting and gathering economy for agricultural goods from the more sedentary Puebloan peoples. This symbiotic relationship resulted in the sharing of cultural traits.

The Navajo today reside on a 16-million-acre reservation—the largest Indian reservation in the United States. The reservation surrounds the present Hopi Indian Reservation. A tribal President and a tribal council govern the Navajo Reservation. The reservation is broken up into administrative districts called chapters. [Long Distance Trails Group—Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

1976:

Quote: We hear about the sacred mountain—the San Francisco Peaks (Dook’o’ oosthliid)—being disrupted by the white people for some housing and developments. We, as Navajos, love our sacred mountains—Blanca Peak (Sis Naajini) is in the east, Mount Taylor (Tsoodzilth) is in the south, the San Francisco Peaks (Dook’o’ oosthliid) are in the west and the La Plata Range (Dibé’ Nitsaa) stands in the north. Then, we have Huerfano Mountain (Dzilth Na’odilthii) and the Gobernado Knob (Ch’oo’i’i’); and we dwell within the big area bounded by those mountains. We do not want them harmed or destroyed. To us the mountains are sacred, and there are holy beings living in them. That is why we do not want them harmed. To become a part of these sacred mountains we have sacred mountain soil charms in our possession, which we cherish. They are our guidance and our protection. All we ask is that the white people leave our sacred mountains alone. [Johnson, Broderick, , Editor]

1976:

Quote: My name is Ch’ahadiniini’ Binali, I am 94 years old. The clan of my father was the Meadow People (Halstooi). He was Hopi; they just wandered into our tribe.

My grandfather on my mother’s side, whose name was Mr. White, and a brother of his named Mr. Blind, along with their maternal granddaughter, came into our tribe. Not long after, other grandchildren were born. One of them was Mr. Slim, another was Little Yellowman. The youngest, who was my father, was born for the Meadow People clan; so I was born for it also. He was married into the Near the Water clan (To’ahani), and from that came the slim relationship of all relatives of the Hopi tribe who became Navajos. I have many relatives on my father’s side at Fluted Rock. Anyhow, my real clan is the Towering House People (Kinyaa’áánii), on my mother’s side.

This clan came originally from White Shell (Changing) Woman. It was at the base of San Francisco Peaks that it came into being. Under that peak is where Changing Woman arrived from Gobernador Knob, a place which is in New Mexico. Before she came she had twin boys whom she brought along. She took them near San Francisco Peaks to some traditional hogans at that place. There they learned the Blessing Way chant.

Changing Woman then left toward the West where she was supposed to live with the Sun on an island in the middle of the ocean. When she arrived at San Francisco Peaks she had said to the twins, “My journey is come to an end, and I am going back to where I belong. My children, you have learned all of the Blessing Way chant from me.” The two winds would be the air for the twins to help them go to her later. The process would mean the creation of their souls, and then they would become beings. [Johnson, Broderick, , Editor]

Images:
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 genízaros 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 genízaro 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]

Images:

Dr. Simon Aragon Residence, said to be built around 1740; Valencia

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 38° 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]

Images:

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 36°30'. As Emory points out, Condé and Bartlett actually set the line 36°22', 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 106° 40' west longitude, instead of 104°40'. 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 32° 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 31° 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.]

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

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.]
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 superseded 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 36º22', 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.]
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 32º 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 32º 22' is wrong, 31º 52' is right. Commissioners Emory and Salazar (astronomers from the first Boundary Commission) later determine the starting point of the line at 32º47'.

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.

1909
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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