



Illustration by E.M. Schweitz from Sallie Reynolds Matthews' *Interroven, A Pioneer Chron-
icle*, College Station, Texas A&M (1936, 1982), p16.

Fort Davis, Stephens County, Texas, on Clear Fork of Brazos River. A week after the October 13, 1864 Battle of Elm Creek, 120 people began forting up at Fort Davis for protection from the marauding Indians. Twenty families were still there in November 1865. Resident S.P. Newcomb began a diary on January 1, 1865, *Journal, 1865-1873* (Jan 1, 1865-Dec 31, 1865 part of the diary, indexed below). sent by Martha Newcomb Fanning of Lueders TX.

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| <p>Adams, __, Mr. and son of Camp Colorado, Coleman County, lived above here on Clear Fork several years ago</p> <p>Anderson, Al, m-Miss Wilson</p> <p>Anderson, John</p> <p>Anderson, Mich</p> <p>Anderson, Mr, old man, moving from Ft Belknap to Fish Creek</p> <p>Anderson, W.W., saw 4 Indians while horse hunting; went to Palo Pinto to get a marriage license; J.G. Irwin left him in Sherman</p> <p>arts and crafts, made ink; made bedstead; repaired spinning wheel; cooper, making water kegs; round timbers found on the Brazos; buffalo robe made from old buffalo killed with rocks.</p> <p>baby born out of wedlock, dead; ostracized girl</p> <p>Barber, M. Flake, from Stockton Ranch; buffalo hunting</p> <p>Battle of Dove Creek (now Irion County), Jan 8, 1865; numerous Indians on Clear Fork, 70-90 miles above here, about 450 C.S. troops [McCord's] trailed them to Dove Creek, a Concho River branch. Indians hoisted white flags, but whites attacked only to be badly beaten; 23 whites killed, about 100 whites missing</p> <p>Beldon, Hy.</p> <p>Bishop, A.P., of Hubbard Creek</p> <p>Boggs, J., of Hubbard Creek to borrow bread stuffs</p> <p>Bourland, Col. James, Feb 6, 1865 entry: 11 Comanche Chiefs came to Ft Arbuckle to treat with Bourland, rumor is that one pony would be</p> | <p>traded for one white captive</p> <p>Bragg, Nate, of Ft Belknap bread stuffs, flour and corn meal had to be hauled from Parker County, 100 miles distant, since that was where wheat was raised — a 4- to 6-week trip in ox-drawn wagons; repeated entries, milling wagons arrived; made molasses; pecans; goats; buffalo meat; coon for dinner</p> <p>Bloomfield, John, brought load of stone coal to blacksmith</p> <p>Broomfield, T.B.</p> <p>Browning, B.F.</p> <p>Browning, J.A., left for Llano TX for 2-3 months, returned from Llano; of lower fort; of Camp Cooper; m-Jan 1865 Ft Davis to Angeline McCarty</p> <p>Browning, W.L., left for mill in Parker County; left with a team of buffalo; reported that U.S. has made a treaty with nearly all of the Indians and are going to locate them on reserves.</p> <p>California Trail, Butterfield Stage calomel dose for baby</p> <p>Callahan County, Camp McCord</p> <p>Camp Cooper, Throckmorton Co, all 5 families residing there moved to Ft Davis camp, 2 miles from here</p> <p>camp, lower fort 12 mi down Clear Fork</p> <p>Camp McCord, Callahan County</p> <p>camp No. 2 on Ranger Creek</p> <p>camp on Paint Creek at California Trail crossing</p> <p>Cantterlan, __, Mr.</p> <p>Carroll, __, Col., of Tarrant County to get beef</p> <p>Catlett, H.B., buying cattle</p> <p>Caurthers, A.J., visited</p> | <p>Christenson, E.E.</p> <p>Clark, J.C., Mr. & Mrs. and family</p> <p>Clark, R.A., moved to Stockton Ranch</p> <p>Clark, W.H.</p> <p>Clayton, W.C., Capt. of Palo Pinto, with 15 to 20 men to follow deserters to about Ft Chadbourne, Coke County</p> <p>Coleman, __, Mr, came to buy steers</p> <p>Cooper, Hit, of Hubbard Creek cow and horse buyers including two from Dallas County; forting up cattle cow drivers, from the Brazos; jayhawkers of Mexico are stealing cattle from the Texas frontier</p> <p>cow hunters, from Pecan Bayou, Callahan County, brought in a drove of cattle then branded-marked them; of Hubbard Creek reported that the saw 11 well-armed Indians with long range guns; went to get their cattle around Camp Cooper but found too many to herd so they left them; of Elm Creek</p> <p>Crow, Wm. Washington</p> <p>Cureton, J.J., Capt.</p> <p>Currant, James, of Pickettville</p> <p>Curtis, J.W., Capt, and 3 soldiers, visited</p> <p>Dallas Weekly Herald, we sent minutes of meeting at Ft Davis, agreed to seek help from Hubbard Creek and Ft Belknap</p> <p>Darnell, W.A., visited</p> <p>Dawson, John B.</p> <p>Deep Creek, Wise County</p> <p>Degraffenreid, J.N., of Stockton Ranch</p> <p>Degraffenreid, Edna (Degraf) Selman</p> <p>DeLong, W.</p> <p>Dobbs, visited by two men named Dobbs dogs, 40 dogs killed a large buffalo in 2 minutes</p> | <p>Duncan, Wm. B., of Ft Growl, moved in today</p> <p>Dyer, __, Mr, visited Sep 15, 1865</p> <p>Ft Belknap, large group of residents came for July 4th</p> <p>Ft Clark, Clark family considering move</p> <p>Ft Growl, at Fish Creek and Brazos River, maybe named for the cantankerous owner, A.B. Medlin</p> <p>forting up before spring is emphasized</p> <p>Foster, __, Mr, of CSA</p> <p>Franz, J. Stephen, buffalo hunting; escorted Parson Slaughter to Palo Pinto</p> <p>Franz, J.M., Esq.; going to Camp Cooper; visited; been on a cow hunt; from below; gone to Tarrant County for bread stuffs</p> <p>Franz, S.T, on their way home; left with a team of buffalo</p> <p>Franz, Susan, m-1865 Ft Davis to W.W. Anderson</p> <p>French in Mexico, Aug 14, 1865 entry, the French were victorious in 1st battle but U.S. [Union] won the 2nd battle.</p> <p>Gardner, __, maybe W.F., arrested</p> <p>Garrett, Mr, of Ft Growl</p> <p>George, J.S. "from below"; left for mill; left with wagon for lower country</p> <p>George, Phillip S., of Weatherford</p> <p>Goodnight, Charles, visited, from Elm Creek</p> <p>Graham, Robt H.</p> <p>Hagler, G.W., of Jack County, reportedly killed by a mob</p> <p>Hamilton, A.J, reported to be the military governor of Texas</p> <p>Hartman, __, Mr, visited</p> <p>Hightower, John C.</p> |
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Hittson, Charles, of Palo Pinto	Ledbetter, Wm. H., on his way down the country with a load of salt from his Ledbetter's Salt Works, 25 miles away	horses then killed by Indians when he stopped to get his hat	Shaw, Rather, visited Nov 8, 1865
Hittson, John, going to Camp Cooper; left with wagon for lower country; of Palo Pinto; returned home from Parker County; wounded by Indians; 12-yr-old son, Jessey, wounded by Indians	Lee, __, Mr, left with wagon for lower country; returned for family's things	Newcomb, S.P. and wife Susan Reynolds kept diaries; son Carlos Augustus Nixon, Isaac, house robbed by Indians	Shaw, Robert, of Ft Belknap
Hittson, __, Mrs, sick	Leyght, __, Mr, maybe "G.W. Light," of Palo Pinto	Oxford, J.A., of Hubbard Creek	Slaughter, Parson, to solemnize marriage, escorted from Palo Pinto by W.W. Anderson and J.S. Franz
Hittson, Wm., drove in a large herd of cattle; wounded by Indians	Lindsley, Bill, of Pickettville	Peveler, France, of Ft Belknap	St. John, W.R.
Hoover, Mart V, reported that cattle not allowed to be driven out of Texas	Lindsley, Penn, of Pickettville	Pickett, Wm. on their way home	Steel, J.G.; of lower fort; lived at Ft Davis; moved to Stockton Ranch; left family in Parker County
Hoover, Wm. G., of Hubbard Creek, to borrow bread stuffs; reported cattle not allowed to be driven out of Texas	Lynch, J.C. Sgt, of Hubbard Creek, wants to organize a county so they won't have to go to Palo Pinto every time they need to conduct business; Lynch Ranch, forting up at Lynchburg	Proffitt, Mr., of Ft Belknap; J.G. Irwin left him in Sherman	Stockton, M, of lower fort
Hubbard Creek Camp, Stephens County, water level too high for cattle crossing; a large cow hunt	Matthews, J.B., visited	Ratliff, Arch	Stockton, Reck F.
Huff, Si, told Confederate Army stories; went to Stockton's Ranch to get several bachelors and their Negro girl	Matthews, Tom, of Hubbard Creek; telling Confederate Army stories	Ratliff, Mrs, dau of Henry Anderson	Stockton, Thihe, on way to Hubbard Creek, gathering a drove of steers to take to Shreveport or New Orleans
Ikard, E.	Maulding, W.P., of Ft Worth	Ratliff, Tom, left for mill in Weatherford recreation. had a dance to prove worthiness of new floor; sport, hunting buffalo (killed 5), wild horses, and wild hogs; harnessed buffalo as team to pull wagon; parade, musical band; church sermon; cow hunters had made an effort to have a dance, but resulted in a stag dance.	Stockton, Tom L, of Hubbard Creek, gathering beef steers to drive to market
Indian depredations in Parker County; Indian signs seen; Indians stole horses from here; 20 attacked 4 whites and 1 Negro boy; beef yearling had arrows in side	Maulding, T.F., Lt, with 11 scouts; came for lost mule; of Ft Worth; of Hubbard Creek	Reynolds, B.F.	Sutherland, J.W, left wagon to move Mr. Anderson
Irwin, J.G., Sgt, express rider of Decatur, Wise County	Mayhare, H.T, of Deep Creek, murdered W. Whitten, then citizens killed Mayhare; both left large families	Reynolds, B.W. and Mrs, visited	Sutherland, Marion, reports that troops soon to be garrisoned to protect the frontier
Jackson, Eliza, Miss, baptized	McCarty, Angeline (McCarty) Browning	Reynolds, G.T. will take 80 cattle to Mexico	Sutherland, Almira, visited Navarro County
Jackson, J.H.	McCarty, Cpl, probably Jacob	Reynolds, Phil, killed by Indians at Ledbetter's Salt Works	Sutherland, Wm, returned after 4 months; had a dance at his house
Jackson, __ Mr, built a house at Ft Davis	McCarty, Dick, of Johnson County	Reynolds, Susan (Reynolds) Newcomb	Thorp, J.L, arrived home after 5-week visit to kin on the Colorado River; built blacksmith shop; youngest child sick; left with a team of buffalo
Jackson, T.E., candidate for chief justice; from below; left for the lower country to get bread stuffs	McCarty, E.M., left for the lower county to get bread stuffs; left with wagon for lower country	Reynolds, W.D., buffalo hunting; of Stockton Ranch	U.S. Cavalry, rumored that troops are on the way to garrison the frontier posts
James, George, his business was to stop the driving of cattle that he had had charge of that was confiscated by the CSA authorities, which now falls back to the old owner	McCarty, Preston, escaped to Camp Cooper	Rucker, Gid.	Veal boys, captured 3 horses from 6 Indians
January, John, accompanied Musgrave from country below	McCarty, Thos J, of Johnson County	San Saba, reported Indians murdered 40 whites in the San Saba area	Veale, J.R., visited; has a school in Palo Pinto
January, M.L.	McKely, D.H.	school, building; 23 scholars; 15 scholars, trouble getting books; spelling bee; public speaking	Veale, Wm, teacher, visited from lower fort
January, __, Mr, moved to Walker Ranch on Sandy Creek; of Hubbard Creek	Medlin, Arch B, owned Ft Growl	Schoolcraft, George of Pickettville	West, __, Dr, on way to Hubbard Creek, gathering steers to take to Shreveport or New Orleans
Jewell, __, Mr., buying a drove of cattle	Milam, __, Mr., formerly of Ft Belknap	Scott, __, Mr, brought 45 workers from East Texas, looking for beef steers, and giving the people nothing but a quartermaster's receipt	Wheeler, J.H, going to Ledbetter Salt Works; returned home from Arkansas; J.G. Irwin left him in Sherman; left on beef drove, took family
Johnson, E. "Lidge," of Ft Belknap	Miller, Buck	Selman, J.H, candidate for sheriff, moved family to Ft Davis; went to Llano for 2-3 months; returned from Weatherford; returned after marrying E. Degraffenried in Grayson County; of CSA; elected Lt of Frontier militia; arrested Apr 30, 1865, by 4 men from Ft Belknap for desertion	Whitten, W.C, killed by Mayhare, who was lynched, both left large families
Johnson, M.T., Col., in favor of locating Indians in the Wichita Mountains	Miller, __, Chief Justice	Selman, Lucinda, Miss, of lower fort	Willett, I.
Johnson, R.F., from Elm Creek	Miller, G.E. Jr, of lower fort; of Palo Pinto	Shaw, Levi, returned home from Wise County	Willett, James, Lt, of lower fort; of Weatherford
Johnson Ranch, 15 mi below Camp Cooper	Miller, __, Mr, of Ft Belknap	Shaw, Mills, of Ft Belknap	Willett, Todd, left for Llano for 2-3 months; returned from Llano
Knox, __, Mr, maybe died in Mexico	Miller, R.D.		Willett, Wesley
	Mires, __, Mrs, of Ft Belknap		Williams, __, Mr, visited Sep 15, 1865
	Mosely, W.G., Capt, to station his company of 25 white men and 50 Tonkawas close to here. Tonks have their families with them who are fed by the Texas State Govt.		Wilson, Charles, in town; left for Weatherford; sis m-1865 to Al Anderson
	Musgrove, James, his 1-yr-old ch died		Yancy, J.H., of Palo Pinto
	Musgrove, John		
	Nance, M.L.		
	Nalls/Nauls, __, Mr.		
	Negroes, B.W. Reynolds and Si Huff brought a load of Negroes that were housed in the J.C. Steel house; Negro boy saw Indians while gathering		

Some Forted Up Communities of North Texas

Clay County
Buffalo Springs

Eastland County
Blair's Fort
Allen Ranch

Gillespie, Llano, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason, Menard & San Saba Counties
(see v1p230).

Montague County
(see v1p223).

Stephens/ Buchanan County
Fort Davis
Pickettville
Mugginsville
Owl's Head
Stockton Ranch

Young County
Bragg's Ranch
Camp Murrah
Fort Growl

Editor's note: Frightened settlers on the Texas Frontier fortified their homes or built forts for several families -- the largest civilian fort was Blair's Fort in Eastland County. (see v1pp135, 207, 225, 226, 281, 286.)