



*Apache scouts and cavalry at Fort Apache, 1875.*

# STARTING WITH DEFIANCE

## NINETEENTH CENTURY ARIZONA MILITARY POSTS

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*Scene near the guard house following the arrival of Geronimo at Fort Bowie after his final surrender in 1886.*

garrison continued to escort government officials and to pursue Apache outlaws. Bowie was abandoned October 17, 1894.<sup>15</sup> The site is now maintained by the National Park Service.

**BOWIE STATION.** During the Geronimo campaign, troops camped at this railroad station at the present-day town, 13 miles from Fort Bowie. Post returns for January through July, 1886, are extant.

**FORT BRECKENRIDGE.** The post stood on a flattened knoll north of Arivaipa Creek at its junction with the San Pedro River. The site was suggested in 1859 by James B. Leach for a camp to protect emigrants on the wagon road he had built across

Arizona.<sup>16</sup> Under the command of 2nd Lieutenant John R. Cooke, Co B, 8th Infantry, arrived May 8, 1860, to establish Fort Aravaypa. It was renamed in August, 1860, to honor Vice President John C. Breckinridge.<sup>17</sup> First Lieutenant Isaiah N. Moore with Cos D and G, 1st Dragoons, arrived in November, 1860, and on February 3, 1861, the infantry company left for Texas. They marched over Leach's wagon road, passing about 12 miles north of Apache Pass, thus missing the confrontation then taking place between Cochise and Lieutenant George Bascom (see Fort Buchanan). Breckenridge was abandoned and burned July 10, 1861, when regular army troops were called east.

**FORT BUCHANAN.** In June, 1857, Camp Moore was renamed to honor recently inaugurated President James Buchanan. Shortly thereafter Major Enoch Steen with Cos B, D, G and K, 1st Dragoons, took this name to a small sloping plateau around which curved Sonoita Creek. About 25 miles east of Tubac, it lay between the present-day towns of Patagonia and Sonoita. The buildings, mostly cabins of upright logs chinked with adobe, were scattered more like a village than a military post, according to Colonel Benjamin L. E. Bonneville, the Department commander, who inspected in 1859. The hospital and two sets of officers' quarters were of adobe.

On May 11, 1858, Cos B and K left for California, and in March, 1859, Co D was relieved by Captain Isaac V. D. Reeve's Co B, 8th Infantry. Late that year companies of the Mounted Rifles came from New Mexico to join in a campaign against Pinal Apaches. Under Reeve's command the troops had at least two successful encounters. Depredations of this period involved mostly the theft of livestock. But in March, 1860, the Pinals raided a lumber camp in the Santa Rita Mountains, abducting Larcena Pennington Page and 11-year-old Mercedes Sais Quiroz. Captain Richard S. Ewell, 1st Dragoons, now commanding Buchanan, went out with all his available force and succeeded by negotiation in recovering the little girl. Mrs. Page, stripped of shoes

and clothing, lanced by the Indians and left for dead, managed to crawl back to the lumber camp. It took her two weeks.

After the infantry company left to establish Fort Breckenridge, Co D, 1st Dragoons, returned May 19, 1860. Scouting continued until October, 1860, when Cos C and H, 7th Infantry, arrived with regimental headquarters, Lieutenant Colonel Pitcairn Morrison commanding. The dragoons then went to Fort Breckenridge. Under Morrison's command activity was reduced to preparation to move the post to a new site.

In the fall of 1860 the Apaches began to kill wantonly instead of for gain. According to contemporary explanation, that summer a trader, or traders, sold them guns. Descriptions of several slayings suggest target practice—shots fired from ambush with no opportunity to rob the body of the victim. Morrison ignored the mounting incidence of murder. One depredation he could not ignore, and the action taken gave rise to what became the most famous incident of the pre-Territorial period though in wildly distorted versions.

On January 27, 1861, Indians raided John Ward's ranch on Sonoita Creek, abducting Ward's stepson, Feliz Martinez, and stealing cattle. Morrison sent 2nd Lieutenant George Bascom in command of Co C to rescue the boy and recover the stock. A preliminary scout traced the depredators toward Apache Pass.

Bascom went to that point, camping near the Overland Mail stage station. He invited Cochise to a meeting which was held the next day, February 4. When Bascom asked for return of the boy and the stolen cattle, Cochise said Coyoteros had committed the depredation. If Bascom would wait at Apache Pass, Cochise would negotiate for return of the boy. Somehow Bascom thought he needed hostages. He seized the Chiricahuas with Cochise—three men, a woman and two boys. According to the only contemporary civilian account, Cochise escaped while the soldiers were securing the others. This inference came from Cochise's swift departure. No military report mentioned an escape, and Bascom had no reason to hold his envoy to the Coyoteros. But taking hostages ended all hope for negotiations.

The next day Cochise with Francisco, a Coyotero chief, and a few men approached bearing a truce flag. Bascom started to meet them, then suspecting treachery he returned to the station. Three men of the Overland Mail went out relying on previous friendship with Cochise. The Apaches killed one man and wounded another who managed to reach the safety of the station. They captured the third, stage driver James Wallace. On February 6, Cochise offered to exchange Wallace and 16 government mules for the Chiricahuas. Bascom wanted the kidnapped boy also. That eve-

ning a note came from Wallace saying the Indians held three other prisoners and the next day would bring in all captives for an exchange. The additional three came from a wagon train attacked on the 6th; eleven men with the train died by torture. Also on the 6th the westbound stage arrived several hours early, escaping an ambush where hay was spread on the road ready to be set afire. Indians attacked the eastbound stage, wounded the driver and killed a mule. Passengers cut the dead mule from the traces and brought the stage to Apache Pass early in the morning of the 7th.

No report again mentioned the proposed prisoner exchange. Instead, on the 8th Indians attacked a party watering animals at the spring, wounded several soldiers and killed a civilian. Bascom had already sent to Buchanan for Dr. B. J. D. Irwin who left the post with an escort. On the way he caught three Coyoteros depredating and brought them in as prisoners to Apache Pass, arriving February 10.

Lieutenant Isaiah N. Moore, at Fort Breckenridge, learned of the events. With both dragoon companies, he reached the scene February 14. As the troops approached, the Indians vanished. Moore scouted for several days, finding no Apaches but discovering the mutilated bodies of Wallace and five other captives. Six Indians were hanged in reprisal—Irwin's three prisoners and the three men

among Bascom's hostages. (The woman and two boys were taken to Buchanan and later released. The kidnapped boy, Feliz Martinez, remained with the Indians and in time became the noted scout Mickey Free.)

This is what happened according to the men who were there. All the officers wrote reports. The civilian, an Overland Mail employee who took a message to Tucson, talked to a newspaper correspondent. Unaware of negotiations expected with the Coyoteros, he saw Cochise's departure as an escape. Perhaps Cochise also thought Bascom intended to take him prisoner. For about a week the Chiricahuas attacked everything that moved on the road—the two stages and the wagon train mentioned. After that their depredations returned to a pattern of minimum risk for maximum gain. They attacked no more stages but took the station herds by stealth. Not until eight years later did the story arise that Cochise depredated in revenge for the Apache Pass episode, and that story has other elements demonstrably untrue.

Work on moving Buchanan about half a mile northeast, away from the swamps along Sonoita Creek, stopped when regular army troops were ordered east at the beginning of the Civil War. The post could no longer be garrisoned. It was abandoned and burned July 23, 1861.

CAMP CAMERON. Because of an epidemic at Camp McKee (Fort Mason), the garrison moved to a site 15 miles northeast of Tubac at the foot of the Santa Rita Mountains. The post was named for Colonel James Cameron, 69th New York Volunteers, killed at the first battle of Bull Run.<sup>18</sup> Captain Isaac R. Dunkelberger and K Troop, 1st Cavalry, arrived September 29, 1866; Co C, Third Battalion, 14th Infantry, soon joined. Cameron remained a tent encampment. It was ordered abandoned March 2, 1867.<sup>19</sup> The troops left March 7.

FORT CANBY. At or near Fort Defiance, it was occupied during 1863 and 1864 by New Mexico Volunteers. The name honored General Edward R. S. Canby who had commanded Department of New Mexico.

CAMP CARROLL. The second temporary post of the Detachment en route to establish Camp Reno, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Richard C. DuBois. Established December 13, 1867, it stood 26 miles northeast of Camp McDowell. The post was named for 1st Lieutenant John C. Carroll, 32nd Infantry, killed in an Apache ambush near Camp Bowie November 5, 1867. It was abandoned February 4, 1868, when the garrison moved to Camp O'Connell accompanied by the Apache bands with whom DuBois had arranged a peace while at Camp Miller.