

## Notes from a Reconnaissance led by J. Henry Storey

As 2nd Lieutenant and Post Adjutant, J. Henry Storey filed reports with frequency. The following reports on a scouting party he led in fall 1866 on orders of Lieut. Col. Alex Duncan.

Head Qrs. Fort Selden N. Mex.  
September 8th, 1866

Special Order)  
No. 94)

2nd Lieut. James H. Storey 125th U.S.C. Troops, with two Noncommissioned Officers and eight Privates of Company "E" 125th U.S.C. Troops, will be in readiness to start on a scout at 2 o'clock P.M. this day. They will be rationed to include the 18th instant.

By Order of Lt Col Duncan  
Commanding Post  
/s/ Nat'l S. Wheeler  
1st Lieut & Post Adj't

Fort Selden, New Mexico  
September 18th 1866  
Brvt Major C. H. De Forrest,  
Aide de Camp,  
Head Qrs. District of New Mexico  
Santa Fe N.M.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report; In accordance with S.O. No. 94 dated Head Qrs. Fort Selden Sept 8th 1866. I left this Post Sept 8th with twelve men Co. I 125th U.S.C.T. mounted on mules with ten days rations, on a scout against a party of Indians (Mescalero Apaches) supposed to be in the vicinity of San Andreas Mountains, Organ range.

- Sept 8th, 1st Day. Left the post at 5 o'clock p.m. travelled 25 miles East, made a dry Camp on the prairie at 12 o'clock midnight. Grass good, no wood or water. Distance travelled 25 miles.
- Sept 9th. Broke Camp at day break. Travelled 20 miles. Camped for breakfast at a spring known as the "Caresa" in the foot hills of San Andreas, where I met a party of eight Citizens, (3 Americans and 5 Mexicans) from Dona Ana and La Mesilla, to cooperate with me, during the scout, increasing my party to 21 including myself. Good wood, water and grass at the "Caresa." Started at 10-1/2 A.M. and travelled through San Andreas Canon to the San Andreas Springs, 8 miles from "Caresa." I left a small party at the springs to guard the animals and with the balance of the men thoroughly scouted the San Andreas range from the Canon (San Andreas) to San Augustine springs, found no fresh signs or tracks. - In my opinion, San Augustine springs would be one of the best places in the Territory to establish a camp and Corral for Government stock. There is an abundance of water at the springs and grama grass in the immediate vicinity to graze 500,000 head of stock. Distance travelled 25 miles.

- Sept 10th. Broke Camp at 6 o'clock A.M. travelled N.N.E. to Jones Lead in San Andreas Canon, where I left a sufficient guard for my animals and with ten men ascended Padre Peak and passed over to the east side of the mountains, on a ledge about 1,000 feet below the peak. I discovered a vein of argentiferous galena with good indications of silver; it has the appearance of having been worked years ago. My Mexicans are confident that it is the famous Padre Mine for which so many have searched for the past twenty-five years. The Lead could be plainly traced for nearly 2500 yards. I discovered no fresh Indian signs and returned to my previous camp at San Andreas springs at 6 o'clock p.m. Distance travelled estimated 23 miles.
- Sept 11th. Proceeded to thoroughly prospect the mine discovered yesterday. We were prevented from working over an hour in consequence of the breaking of the only drill with the outfit. Returned to camp at springs at 3 o'clock p.m. and prospected the specimens by smelting which yielded a good prospect of silver. Distance travelled 23 miles.
- Sept 12th. Broke camp at day break, traveled North. Mal Pais Trail. Struck a trail near the graves of the twelve Mexicans murdered by Apaches last year, and travelled east to the mountains. About 10 miles from the graves struck a small spring in a Canon supposed to be Pena Blanco. Camped on the site of an abandoned Indian Rancheria, sent out my Mexican scouts. They returned after dark and reported having seen a party of 8 or 10 Apaches and tracks (moccasin and pony) of a large party. They brought with them several mats woven from Spanish bayonet. They were quite damp and had evidently been in use a few hours before. I apprehended an attack that night. Placed double guards over the animals and charged the men to be very cautious. The animals were very uneasy all night and kept as far from the Ravine as the picket ropes would permit. Distance travelled 40 miles.
- Sept 13th. At day break a party of about 35 Indians made their appearance on a ridge in the Canon, distant about two miles. The tracks of three Indians were seen within one hundred yards of the camp. Tracks were quite fresh and had been made within three or four hours. I intended to immediately enter the Canon and whip the Indians if they would show fight, but the citizens positively refused to go, as they thought our party too small to attack such a large force. Knowing nothing of the Canon through which we would have to pursue the Indians, finding it impossible to persuade the Citizens to attack the party, I concluded to return to San Andreas and warn a small party that were expected there to commence operations on the San Andreas silver mine that it would be unsafe for them to remain there. Returning to San Andreas, two of my Mexican scouts who were some distance from the main body on the right near the mountains, encountered three Indians (two bucks and a boy). Instead of firing upon them, they (the Mexicans) broke for the main party. They were so frightened they could not speak for five minutes. Camped at San Andreas Springs. Distance travelled 40 miles.
- Sept 14th. About 2 o'clock A.M. the guard fired upon an Indian crawling towards the animals. The Indian jumped and ran. I expected they would surely attempt to attack me and drive off my stock. Broke Camp at day break, wrote a note with a bullet and stuck it on a tree near the spring, warning the miners. Parted with the Citizens at the mouth of the Canon, travelled E. by N. Camped (dry camp) near conical peaks. Distance travelled 40 miles.
- Sept 15th. Broke Camp at day break. Travelled E.S.E. Arrived at Fort Selden at 9-1/2 o'clock A.M. Distance travelled 13 miles.

Total distance traveled 257 miles

I am satisfied that there is a large Rancheria in the vicinity of Pena Blanco Canon, and that those Indians are the same that have lately committed so many depredations and murders in the Mesilla Valley.

Respectfully &c,

J. Henry Storey

2nd Lieut and Post Adjutant