

1870 Troops

In May, 1870 Co. B, 21st Infantry and M Troop, 1st Cavalry completed the road from Camp Goodwin to the new post of the White Mountain River and went into garrison duty. Their first project was the construction of a corral, QM Storehouse and squad huts to serve as quarters for the soldiers. From then until August of that year the post was called Ord.

On September 11, 1870. General George Stoneman, Commander of the newly created Department of Arizona visited Camp Mogollon. John Marion, Editor of the Prescott Miner was a member of Gen. Stoneman's party, and he wrote: "Officers and men were living in tents, and the only houses that had been erected were those of the Quartermaster and the Post Trader..." During his visit Gen. Stoneman changed the name of the Post again, from Mogollon to Thomas, for Major-General George Thomas.

In November a sawyer was hired at the Post. The first indication of any labor other than troop labor.

The Tucson Citizen of Dec. 17, 1870 noted that soldiers at Camp Thomas were busy with new quarters, and kept the Shoo-fly sawmill buzzing. The official QM report, written in December, 1870 by Lt. Moses Harris, 1st Cavalry stated that quarters for 200 men were in course of construction. They were to be twenty buildings, each 18x20 feet and 11 feet high, constructed on one inch lumber. He noted there was an abundance of wood close at hand, which was supplied by troop labor.

On Feb. 2, 1871 the name of the post was changed from Thomas to Apache. A letter from Camp Thomas to the Tucson Citizen and dated Feb. 18, 1871 indicates that everyone has finally been moved from ~~log~~ tents into log quarters, (an implication that the log cabin now occupied by the Apache Culture Center was completed by that time. A plan of the post dated about this same time indicates that it was intended as CO quarters.) Each troop of cavalry is quartered in eight log houses, the two troops facing each other, and B Co. of the 21st Infantry in five houses in the rear of Troop M. The camp is laid out in the form of a square and presents much the appearance of a small town.

June, 1872, steam saw-mill arrived.

See to trouble

In April, 1873 a request for \$15,989.26 was submitted to the War Department for the completion of old construction and new buildings at Camp Apache. A plan, accompanying the request showed that it was being proposed to tear down the squad huts and build three barracks buildings, rectangular in shape and measuring 150x30 feet. The QM of the Department of Arizona felt that by "judicious management" the cost could be kept to \$6500.00 which amount was authorized by the Sec. of War, August 22, 1873. (Water color of Camp Apache in 1873 painted by ~~xxx~~ Joseph B. Girard Col. (Med. Corps) shows squad huts only, no barracks.)

On Sept. 8, 1874, D.P. Flanders, a Tucson photographer, visited Camp Apache to take pictures. He worked between Sept. 8 and Oct 24, 1874 at Apache and his photographs (??) show ~~xxxxxx~~ one large L shaped barracks constructed of slab (rough boards) just west of the center point of the parade ground. (Eventually this would be the 4th from the west end of the parade ground) ~~***If it~~ adobe, the third. Suspect Summerhayes might have been in "Crook's Quarters" since they were quartered with Post Surgeon and CO had just been moved into new quarters.