

Citizens of Arizona Territory. Memorial and Petition to
Congress. Tubac, March 1, 1858. Record Group 46. National
Archives. Sacks Collection of the American West, FM MSS
155, Box 91, folder 26. Arizona Historical Foundation.

17 pages facsimile

9 pages typescript

30 Cong. 3
2 Sept. 3
Petition

of citizens of the
Territory of Arizona
Praying that volunteer
Companies of Arizona
may be raised to
protect them from
the Apache Indians
instead of the
present military
force in New
Mexico.

By Eby, 25th Reported
to the Com. on
Territories
July 26. King? referred to
the Com. on Military Affairs
of the Militia.
Approved August 7th 1858
No 22

Mr. Gurin

Memorial & Petition
To Congress.
Citizens of Arizona
Territory.
Tubac -

March 1, 1858.

By
Groom
Tomborn

2154

has been wholly ineffectual in accomplishing the object for which it was instituted, & with the abiding conviction that Arizona Territory cannot be inhabited under the present system, your petitioners most urgently pray that the existing military department ^{in New Mexico} may at once be broken up, and as the ~~results~~ ^{consequences} of the placing of troops at Fort Buchanan are no protection & no pay, your petitioners pray that they may be removed.

In lieu thereof - that we may have protection & prosperity, & in obedience to the rights of all part experience, now too strong to be disregarded, your petitioners pray that volunteer companies of rangers may be raised to serve under the authority, and in the pay of the United States, & amenable to such laws as in the wisdom of Congress seems best.

As in duty bound, your petitioners would ever pray.

baneful exposition of American institutions & the principles of liberty, & as a people, we cry out with one voice for relief.

Having thus briefly & imperfectly set forth some of the evils under which they are suffering, your memorialists, as patriotic American citizens to whom the constitution of the United States guarantees equal rights & the protecting arm of Government, now appear before you in the exercise of their right of petition.

Believing that this Territory is steadily & surely rising in importance as the land through which the first grand thoroughfare from ocean to ocean must pass, as the land of vast mineral resources, of flocks & herds & agriculture, your petitioners deem the first step necessary ~~in order~~ to make this Terra Incognita available is to promptly & effectually subdue the Apache nation.

With the full knowledge that the evils of the Military system of New Mexico under which we are being ruined are deep seated - that it

the fortunes of Arizona. Under
the corrupt, imbecile and inappropriate
~~speculative~~ system that exists in New
Mexico, hordes of wolfish Apaches who
are rationed by Indian Agents on the
Rio Grande & allowed to purchase arms
& ammunition, are suffered to roam
without the districts in which they are
rationed, attack emigrant trains, kill,
ravish & destroy, rob & murder citizens
occupied in peaceful pursuits, and
then return within said limits to
barter & trade with their ill gotten
booty.

Under this infamous system, many of
your memorialists have been brought to
distress & poverty. Under this infamous
system, the Territory is becoming depopulated.
Under this system ^{so} disgraceful, the
notion on our southern borders, with
whom we now have considerable int-
er course, & who have never enjoyed
our highest respect or admiration,
retort upon us with stinging effect.
They deride our weakness ~~and~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{our}
at our financial management.
Under this unpatriotic, demoralizing system,
our children are growing up under a

has in reality affected your memorialists more seriously than the attacks & robberies of the Indians.

Both these unfortunate results of the establishment of the Military Post, called Fort Buchanan, an offshoot of the department in New Mexico, have together, driven from the Territory great numbers of people originally intending to make their home and crushed to the earth the few who remain.

It is due to the Junior officers stationed at Fort Buchanan, to state that they, partially, if not wholly, sympathize with the people in their trials, and have in many instances, as far as army regulations & discipline allow, opposed the ruinous policy of their superiors.

But we live in fact, under a degrading, disgraceful, ruinous, military despotism, which has its origin & holds its seat of power in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There, amid drunkenness & debauchery nests the power, & there, are generated the influences that at the present moment control

as a basis for credit and confidence, and thereby meet the exigency of the case. But all to no effect.

Holding the citizens at his mercy, and acting on the principle that the more he grinds them down, the more certain he is of promotion, this Quarter Master has steadily ~~stubbornly~~ refused to give any species of document as evidence of an account or indebtedness. Now he is about leaving Fort Buchanan for other parts, and at the last moment, your memorialists find they have been dealing in all confidence with a U. S. Quarter Master who assumes the position of a private individual, and they have no recourse but to undergo the ~~tedious~~, rumorous process of laying their claims before the Board of Claims at Washington, or follow this individual to New Mexico & there bring a suit of law against him ~~before~~ he leaves the Territory, as a private individual depriving them out of their just due.

The refusal of this Quarter Master to pursue a liberal, high minded and patriotic course in the present emergency,

they have waited for their just dues,
but no relief comes and the prospect
is dark.

Harassed without by fiendish
indians, poverty stares your memorialists
in the face from within. Robbed of
their animals to an extent that renders
it difficult to move from place to
place, many of them destitute of arms,
crippled in means to carry on their
farms or other occupations, the
necessaries of life scarce and high,
and not to be obtained on credit, they
are totally prostrated; unable to follow
their several avocations with profit
and destitute of means to take up
arms against the indians and afford
themselves that protection which U.S.
troops have failed to accomplish.

This state of affairs has been
represented to the ~~the~~ Quarter Master
at Fort Buchanan, & time & again
he has been importuned, (in the absence
of cash funds) by parties furnishing grain,
parties contracting & laboring, to give
some species of certificate or receipt
for grain furnished, contracts fulfilled
& labor performed which would serve

their safety, I would leave the country provided they had the means.

One other matter in point, your memorialists desire to bring forcibly to the notice of the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives assembled, viz;

These troops entered the Territory with nearly a years pay due them, and payments in this department are made with no regularity. The Quarter Master, Lieut. J. H. Hastings arrived with an exhausted treasury & it has remained in that condition up to the present time. The Quarter Master has paid out comparatively but a small amount at irregular and remote intervals, and now he owes the citizens for the greater portion of grain furnished, contracts fulfilled, labor performed &c. during the past year.

Your memorialists have generally devoted their means & labors to the service of the Quarter Master. Furnishing supplies and laboring for the government was in fact, the first & only resource offered citizens locating in the central portion of the Territory. Month after month

memorialists to enter into detail respecting the unfortunate and humiliating state of affairs here. Suffice it to say that the citizens generally have lost the greater portion of their stock; some of them all. Many lives have been lost. It is unsafe to leave families without able bodied men to protect them, unsafe to herd cattle, unsafe to work in the field, unsafe to travel. Up to this time, the military have not followed and captured or killed a single indian, or recovered a stolen animal. The Apaches have entire control, especially in the vicinity of Fort Buchanan, such a perfect contempt have they for U. S. Dragoons, and so exceedingly favorable is the locality for the indians peculiar mode of robbery and murder. That neighborhood is in fact entirely abandoned by citizens, & of late the onslaught of the savages throughout this entire region has been so bold and apparently in such numbers, that those having families and living isolated, are in terror respecting

military took position at "Ojo Caliente".

From this period, the Thieving, murderous indian came with the moon and disappeared with its waning. Trains of emigrants entering the country were attacked, robbed and numbers killed. One train was entirely destroyed. The men were all killed and the women vanished to death! Not a soul escaped. The greater portion of those who did arrive, disgusted with this state of affairs, either pursued their course to California or returned to Texas. The few who remained ~~and~~ have been reduced to poverty by the loss of their stock, especially those located in the immediate vicinity of the garrison. Some of these parties became so helpless & fearful for their safety, that they petitioned the commanding officer to dispatch them by Government waggons to other parts, and this was done.

U. S. Government waggons carried citizens living near Fort Buchanan and rendered helpless by the Indians, to other points within the Territory where they thought themselves more secure.

It is unnecessary for your

opening of the country to civilization,
~~and~~ ~~protection~~ ~~in~~ protection in
their labors and a market for their
produce. But in all these expectations
they have been most bitterly disappointed.

This military command wandered
from Tucson, where it was ordered
to locate, to San Xavier, from
San Xavier to Tubac, from Tubac
to Calabazas, and finally in July
1857, located at a point sixty
miles S.E. from Tucson, known as
the "Ojo Caliente", at the head of a
small, uninhabited valley, remote from
any known or travelled road, hemmed
in by rugged hills & mountains, and
named derivively by the Mexicans
"Fuente Escondida", (Hidden Fort) and by
the Government Fort Buchanan.

Not long subsequent to the entry
of this military force and the
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Finding the troops made little or no
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To the Senate and
House of Representatives
In Congress assembled,
Washington, D.C.

We the undersigned, citizens of
Arizona Territory, most respectfully
beg leave to represent to your honorable
bodies, the grievances under which we
suffer & petition for relief.

This portion of our Territory is within
the limits of Apacharia ~~proper~~, where
for many years the wild and nomadic
tribes of the Apache nation have roamed
to the entire hindrance of civilization
and peaceful pursuits; and subsequent
to the running of the line on our southern
boundary by the American & Mexican
Commission in 1855, there was no
marked increase of population until
about the time four companies U. S. 1st
dragoons, Maj. E. Steen commanding,
entered Tucson, November 1856.

Those of your memorialists (few in
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hailed the arrival of these troops with
joy. They confidently expected the

6/17

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from
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Record Group No. 46

H. Owens

W. H. Smith

W. Hurran

George Ross

Thomas Garner

J. S. Riggs

James Jennings

(ELMS) E. J. Jennings & twelve children

W. P. Lane

Madalupe graydaca

Juan Martins

David R. Davies

John Mc Archibald

George Mathison

Theodore Mookermann

William Randall

Thomas M. Versable

G. W. Redding

Francisco Carisso

Fred. Jansen Fritz

Charles Werner

Edward S. Page

Jesse Justice

Peter Sitcher

Isaac ~~Harwood~~

C. C. Dodson

Herman Ehrenberg

Charles Schuchard

Louis Luesse

Nathaniel Sharpe

John Smith

William H. Kirkland

Edw. P. E. Imbar

Charles D. Boston

Edw. H. Belcher
Qu. Matrack

John R. Davie
John Ware

J. H. Carothers

Geo. W. Fuller

W. W. McCoy

John W. Davies

Joseph. Gannett

Anton Elmer

Alfred P. Sketisk

Milton Ward

P. W. Douglas

Edwin Huntington

H. Brantford

Ara McKinnis

William Barrill

Wm B. Reed

Charles A. Stevens

José M. Mexicos

José M. Martinez

Guadalupe Luque

José Luis Lucas

At a meeting of the Citizens
of that part of New Mexico required
by the Gadsden Treaty at Lubac
on the 27. February 1858.

It was unanimously Resolved
that Edward E. Drumbar be
Authorized to proceed to
Washington City with the
above Petition of Citizens and
accompanying documents and
to use the best of his exertions
to accomplish the ends prayed for

J. W. Douglas
Chairman

Charles Boston

Secretary

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35 Cong.)
2 Sess.)

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Dischg^d. & referred to the Com. on Military Affairs & the
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Page -

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[indecipherable signature]

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Charles D Poston

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[Here are listed 57 signatures]

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress
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This state of affairs has been represented to the Quarter Master at Fort Buchanan, & time & again he has been importuned, (in the absence of cash funds) by parties furnishing grain, parties contracting & laboring, to give some species of certificate or receipt for grain furnished, contracts fulfilled & labor performed which would serve as a basis for credit and confidence, and thereby meet the exigency of the case. But all to no effect.

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