

trains or persons passing in the road at the Muerto from the direction of Van Horn's Well and Fort Davis. That the next water above this spring was a spring in the upper part of the Apache mountains called "San Martin Spring" some half day's travel. That above the "San Martin" was the Pinao Springs, also another spring called Alamo from the cottonwood trees. This was on a plain still farther up. There was also a spring called "Martin" at which there was a stage station on the upper route from El Paso passing out by the "Huico Tanks" to the Pecos river. I was at the Eagle Springs, the Muerto, Van Horn's Wells, and at a water hole to the left of the old road the Barrel Springs, and also a water hole at a yellow bank along the road from the Barrel Springs to the Muerto. I was not at the spring above the Muerto, but Col. E.R. Lohs told me some four years ago that he found the spring up in the mountains, and had piped the water down to the valley.

Nicolas also stated that there were large springs of water on the North-east side of the Apache mountains between there and the Pecos river. There was much talk with him about the matter but I have forgotten it. At the time the information was valuable to us and for that reason I recollect the above statement.

On our retreat from here we took the direct road to Fort Davis. My command brought up the rear of our retreat. Had it not been for the rains at the time I should have attempted to go out by the Sierra Blanca, "San Martin" springs to Fort Davis. I had beside my command all of the sick, wounded, paroled, prisoners and camp followers and many citizens leaving this country for San Antonio, Texas. We were badly equipped ^{hardly any transportation} armed. The "San Martin" ordinarily [if the water was scarce on the old Fort Davis route] would have been the safest and best route for us. I heard Capt. Harry ^{JK} Willman, an old frontiersman also speak of the "San Martin" springs route in case of deficiency of water, on the old or ^{lower} route. I think he knew all of the water holes and springs in the country. He was engaged with the mail route at and before our arrival in El Paso and had examined the country

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These 7 have been crossing on the Rio Grande

Martin Springs

locating
for water in installing the mail route. *If I had not been by the*
upper mail route the Butterfield route I would have been gone by
Capt. Skillman made several trips up here to the Rio Grande during the war

from San Antonio and was killed on the Rio Grande or near it during the war, while on one of his excursions or raids up here by the enemy.

In consultation with Judge Lujan, county Judge, Tom Collins, Garcia, Stevenson and others, residents of El Paso county while retreating through the country as to the best route to get out of the country they all knew of the "San Martin Springs" in the upper end of the Apache mountains and of "Martin Springs" at the lower end of the Guadalupe mountains on the upper Overland Mail Route, named after a station man. The distance from the two springs is near a days ride as I *understood at the time* traveled. The San Martin Springs are East of South from the Martin springs. I also know of the Saldito Spring and Ojo Independencia having heard them spoken of. What I have stated is a matter of information or history from persons who professed to know. I have not been at the San Martin Springs and only know of it in the manner stated.

W. J. Gill

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11 day of June A.D. 1891.

W. J. Gill
Notary Public
for El Paso County Texas

El Paso Co. Bdry.

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Aff of D. J. Teal
on Co bdy as to lo-
cation of Springs

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1891

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