No. 22

Fort Defiance
April 11th 1852.

H. B. Schroeder
Lt. 3rd Infy

Report of trip from
Fort Defiance to Moqui

Respectfully forwarded
to Dept Head Quarters.

E. Backus
Maj 3rd Infy
Comdg

Rec'd H. Qrs Quar. Gr. Dept. April 23/52

HP6421

Fort Defiance N. Mex.
April 11th 1852

Sir

In compliance with instructions of 24th March last I have the honor to state, that on the morning of the 25th I started accompanied with Ass't Surgeon Ten Brooks, and a small party of Soldiers for the Pueblos of Moqui. After marching (14) Fourteen miles we encamped at a small stream formed by the melting of the snow. The timber the first eight or ten miles consisted of Cedar and pinion, but on ascending the mountain we found a dense growth of very excellent pine and some dwarf Oak, a wagon road is practicable. General direction of to days course North West. March 26th Continuing over the mountain which is still covered with pine we reached a spring, distance six miles from last camp, where we found several lodges of Navajos; from here our trail lay through dense pinion to Canion Bonita, through which flows a small stream following which we continued on some distance and encamped. Distance to day (12) Twelve miles. Course South West and impracticable for wagons. March 27th Today passed over a country destitute of timber, and wretchedly poor, ascending a very steep mesa, encamped near a spring of bad water which fails in dry weather,

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found some Cedar. Course to day south of west and impracticable for wagons. Marched ten miles.
March 28th [illegible] morning made an early start but in consequence of the pack mules giving out did not reach Camp until late. Country very poor some cedar at intervals. About two miles before reaching Camp passed over Mesa covered with pinion. Course to day South of west and impracticable for wagons. Marched (S) Twenty Miles and encamped at Spring
March 29th Starting this morning it was found impossible to face a violent snow storm, after marching two miles encamped in timber. Course nearly south. The Animals suffered much for want of shelter and grass.
March 30th The storm having ceased, an early start was made. The trail to-day lay over a rolling Country covered partially with pinion, passed Ruins Ancient Pueblo. Course to day west and impracticable for wagons made (S) Sixteen Miles and encamped at a Spring, where the Moquis have a few peach trees and plant their onions seed. March 31st Passing ten Miles over a sandy plain which has every appearance of a desert, we reached three Pueblos of Moquis Indians. Course to-day North of west. There are seven of these Pueblos, of the first three reached one speaks an entirely different language from the rest: the remaining six are said to speak the same tongue. They are an exceedingly slow people.

HP6424

ina it is impossible to acquire from them any more
like an approximation to their numbers, or the amount
of Corn, or sheep they have on hands, or annually raise.
These seven Pueblos of Indians are situated a little
~~north of west from Fort Defiance, distance about~~
eighty miles by the road. I passed over in visiting
them. A practicable wagon road can be made
which will be some ten or twelve miles longer.
There is no stream near them and water is scarce.
In consequence of the poor condition of the animals
and continuance of snow storms, I regretted much
my inability to visit but three out of the seven
Pueblos. The three I saw are situated on a high
bluff ridge some six hundred yds long and from
fifty to two hundred wide; the remaining
four are distant from twelve to thirty miles
in a westerly and north westerly course. From
all the information I could acquire, I should
judge the population of the whole to be at least
eight or ten thousand. and they themselves say
their numbers are annually decreasing. The principal
crop raised is Corn, They also have melons, squashes
onions, and some cotton. They have sheep but the
number small in proportion to the population, they
manufacture chiefly coarse blankets, and make the
same pottery usually found in Indian Pueblos
It is impossible to estimate the quantity of Corn annually
raised as they do not irrigate. I should think from five
hundred to one thousand bushels could be obtained at

at present. should [illegible]
as they require. April 3d — Left. Mogue after marching twelve miles encamped at spring. Course to day east and practicable for wagons, timber, Cedar and pinion
April 4th Making an early start we encamped at Laguna a small pond of water, generally dry, timber on route pinion and Cedar. Course east south east and practicable for wagons. Marched (20) Twenty Miles. April 5th Course to day continued east south east, Marched (28) Twenty three Miles and encamped at Pueblito. wagon road practicable. About eight miles back passed Laguna Colorado which is from one to two miles north of the road and often dry; timber on todays march generally some distance from road and same as yesterday. April 6th Marched to day 19 Nineteen Miles when we struck our trail made going out, following which four miles we encamped near water formed by the melting of the snow. Course to day east of north with plenty of permanent water. Road practicable for wagons with much cutting. April 7th Following old trail for Sixteen Miles. Course South east, Reached Ft. Defiance. For information concerning Manners & Customs of the Indians I would respectfully refer you to the report of Asst. Surgeon Tenbroock, to whom as interpreter I am much indebted for the little I was enabled to acquire. Please find an imperfect sketch of route, made by observation of the eye only, passed over going and returning.

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Sert.
H. B. Schroeder
1st Lt. 3d Inf.

Major E. Backus
Comdg.

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