There is some circumstantial evidence that suggests James L. Mabry (1820-1842) is a son of Joshua Mabry (1785-1836) and Frances Strother (1798-1862) of Louisburg, Franklin County, North Carolina.

James, his brother Robert and a handful of Strother uncles left North Carolina for Alabama in the mid 1830s. Uncle Christopher J. Strother and James kept traveling westward until they reached Bastrop County, Texas. James’ cousin Dr. Evans Mabry moved from Tennessee to Texas at the same time. James, Christopher and Evans obtained land grants and took up residence in the newly-formed Republic of Texas, still in the throes of fighting for its independence from Mexico.

James packed several quintessential Texas adventures into the last four years of his short life:

- Chased after rebels with Col. Edward Burleson in the Fight at Mill Creek.
- Joined the Second Texas Navy as a midshipman.
- Signed up with the Santa Fe Expedition—enough adventure for a life time.
- Lastly, James rejoined the Texas Navy aboard the schooner San Antonio, which vanished in the Gulf of Mexico.
The Fight at Mill Creek

Not long after he arrived in Texas, James was quickly initiated into the ways of the wild west.

On March 25, 1839, two men came across signs of a large party, suspected to be Indians, passing near Austin. When word reached Edward Burleson in Bastrop two days later, he rounded up 79 armed volunteers, James L. Mabry among them, and the group headed out in hot pursuit.

Edward Burleson (1798-1851) was a native of Edgecombe County, North Carolina (right next door to James’ birthplace Franklin County), whose family arrived in Bastrop County about 1830. In 1839, Burleson was heavily involved in the military and politics and would earn dubious fame as the man who “had killed more Indians and Mexicans than any other Texan.” He was a veteran of the 1836 Battle of San Jacinto. In 1839, Burleson was in charge of the mounted Texas ranger volunteers for the district around Bastrop.

Early Rangers learned to fight on horseback.
*The Texas Rangers*, Mike Cox

Burleson soon discovered he was not on the trail of hostile Indians but the rebel Vicente Cordova. Cordova and his followers were on the road from Nacogdoches to Mexico to collect guns and ammunition to arm the Indians against the white Texan settlers, part of a conspiracy to help Mexico regain its lost territory.

After two days on the road, Burleson and his men caught up with Cordova, camped on Mill Creek near present day Seguin. Caught unawares, Cordova and his men took off in disarray. The Texans chased Cordova’s men for about five miles, shooting all the while, until night fell. It was considered an out-and-out rout. Three Texans were wounded; 30 of Cordova’s men killed, 19 captured, and many wounded. This action ended the Cordova Rebellion.

This moment in history is now called Battleground Prairie and the site is marked with this historic monument near Seguin, Texas.

March 29, 1839
Fight at Mill Creek a/k/a Battleground Prairie near Seguin, Texas

This episode brings to mind the family story that James C. Mabry 1862-1940, presumed nephew and namesake of James L. Mabry, was a Texas Ranger. There is nothing in the life of James C. to support this story. But here we have James L., tearing off after the bad guys in good Texas Ranger fashion. Maybe this is the genesis of the family story?
The Second Texas Navy

During the years Texas was a sovereign state, 1836 to 1846, she had her own navy. Subject to political whim and chronically under funded (or not funded at all), the Texas Navy has been described as:

…those seaborne Texans who were often outnumbered, usually outgunned, but never out-sailed, and never, never outfought.

Douglas V. Meed, *The Fighting Texas Navy 1832-1843*

The First Texas Navy had four ships, all of which were lost one way or another. The Second Texas Navy started up in 1839 with the purchase of six ships, including the *San Antonio* and the *Austin*. The Commander of the Navy was 29 year old Edwin W. Moore.

**Midshipman James L. Mabry and His Journal**

James L. Mabry entered the Texas Navy on August 25, 1839 as a midshipman aboard the *San Antonio*. What impelled him from Bastrop down to Galveston Harbor and how he managed a midshipman commission are unknown. The name “James L. Maybry” is entered on the original list of officers appointed to the Second Texas Navy, one of 44 midshipmen.

A midshipman’s duties included keeping a journal; on-the-job training for how to keep a ship’s log. Mabry’s journal was preserved by the family of Texas Navy Purser Norman Hurd. Excerpts were published in 1893 in a Galveston newspaper (available on line). It is said that most midshipman copied the pages of the log of the ship they were on, so we don’t know how much of Mabry’s journal is copy work or original writing. Nevertheless, it provides a roadmap for his stint in the Texas Navy.

Mabry’s journal starts October 1, 1839 aboard the schooner *San Antonio*, anchored in Galveston Harbor. The next six or so months will be spent outfitting the ship and sailing to New Orleans and Mobile to gather recruits and supplies.

About every third journal entry includes the names of men who deserted ship by jumping overboard or stealing a boat and rowing away.

President Mirabeau Lamar and General Sam Houston came by to view the new fleet.

In March of 1840 a ball was given on board the *Austin* which was “said to excel anything of the kind that was ever given in Texas.”

Schooner of War San Antonio 1841, drawn by Midshipman Edward Johns
170 tons, length 66’, beam 21.5’, draught 21.5’
13 officers and 69 sailors and marines
Cannons: four 12 pounders medium, one 9 pounder long
On May 16, 1840, James was transferred to the Austin, the captain of which was Commodore Moore himself.

Also on board were Purser Norman Hurd, Lt. William Seeger and Midshipman Monroe H. Dearborn as well as Midshipman Charles F. Fuller who had been on the San Antonio.

On June 24, 1840, a flotilla of five ships--Austin (the flagship with Commodore Moore aboard), steamship Zavala, San Jacinto, San Bernard and San Antonio--left Galveston Harbor to patrol the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, protect Texas from Mexican attacks and embargos and foster friendship with Yucatan which was fighting for independence from Mexico.

Patrol they did, investigating all “strange sails” they encountered. In early October a gale shipwrecked the Mexican brig Segunda Fama and the Austin rescued the crew and passengers.

In the latter part of October, the Austin and San Bernard, hauled by the steamship Zavala, went 90 miles up the Tabasco River to San Juan Bautista, capital of Yucatan. Moore helped the Yucatan rebels capture the town in exchange for $25,000. Not a shot was fired and, with the coffers filled, Commodore Moore and the crew of the Austin threw a party for the citizens of San Juan Bautista which was “numerously attended.”

Noted in Mabry’s journal are many deaths from yellow fever. Meed reports that tropical fever killed 24 officers and men aboard the Austin between August 1840 and January 1841. Seaman Edward Thornton, locked up for attempting mutiny, succumbed to yellow fever and his indictment was read over his dead body. Scurvy was another killer. Commodore Moore off loaded some of his half-dead, scurvy-stricken sailors at Lobos Island, where they were fed lime juice and fresh turtle soup until they recovered.

The Austin returned to Galveston in February 1841 only to be notified that the new secretary of the Navy had issued orders to disband the flotilla and discharge most of the crew. Mabry’s log ends February 27, 1841.

James’ resignation from the Navy is dated June 10, 1841, though by then he was on to his next adventure. His mates Fuller and Dearborn stayed on and advanced up the ranks. Commodore Moore spent the next year charting the waters along the Texas coastline. Lieutenant Seeger took command of the San Antonio. Midshipman Edward Johns joined the Navy aboard the San Antonio, sketchpad in hand.
A Well Provisioned Ship

Mabry’s journal records lists of items brought aboard the San Antonio.

Received in the master’s department:

- 1 barometer
- 1 hanging compass
- 1 thermometer
- 1 sextant
- 1 quadrant
- 1 “Blount’s Coast Pilot”
- 1 nautical almanack of 1839
- 1 nautical almanack of 1840
- 2 spying glasses
- 1 chart of Gulf of Mexico
- 1 28-inch glass
- 2 14-inch glasses
- 1 chronometer from the schooner San Bernard
- 2 “Bowdiche’s Navigators”
- 1 case of mathematical instruments

Received in purser’s department for officers

- 2 mattresses
- 6 pillows
- 34 sheets
- 14 counterpanes
- 12 pillow cases
- 18 towels

Received in purser’s department

- 16 barrels bread weighing 1297 pounds
- 2 barrels flour
- 1 keg of butter weighing 70 pounds
- 3 barrels beef
- 3 barrels pork
- 1 barrel vinegar, 25 gallons
- 1 barrel molasses, 41 gallons
- 5 sacks of beans, 75 gallons
- 7 boxes tea, 94½ pounds
- 4 boxes cheese, 157 pounds
- 1 barrel rice, 30 gallons
- 1 barrel whisky, 37 gallons

Received in gunner’s department

- 10 patent carbines
- 12 cap primers
- 500 percussion caps
- 12 levers

Received from navy yard

- 1 box boarding pikes
- 2 boxes Roman swords
- 9 barrels whisky
- 80 gallons rice
- 3 bags beans
- 150 tin pans
- 2 boxes muskets
- 1 box cutlasses

Received in boatswain’s department

- 26½ lbs marlin
- 26½ lbs haueline
- ½ hank sewing twine

Received in boatswain’s department

- 17 jackets
- 34 flannel shirts
- 17 pair of brogan shoes

James was on hand to receive a delivery of tar and pitch for the ship Austin.
A Well Provisioned Sailor

James L. Mabry was paid $33.33\frac{1}{3}$ per month, the standard rate for a midshipman.

There are a few existing lists of articles requisitioned for the midshipmen on the *Austin* in 1840. James, Charles Fuller, Monroe Dearborn and the others were outfitted with the following. Tobacco was always at the top of the list - one or two pounds per man.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tobacco (pounds)</th>
<th>Shoes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scissors</td>
<td>Socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thread (ounce)</td>
<td>Hair brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass (hanks)</td>
<td>Soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needles</td>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttons</td>
<td>Pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack knives</td>
<td>Mustard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handkerchiefs (blue)</td>
<td>Bed ticking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackets</td>
<td>Blankets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flannel shirts</td>
<td>Tin pans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flannel drawers</td>
<td>Tin pots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White pants</td>
<td>Bowditch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue pants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck pants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pea jacket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When he was transferred to the *Austin*, James was outfitted with a proper dress uniform.

May 27, 1840 - Sir - I require one blue round jacket, one pair of blue pants, one pair of shoes and three dozen small Navy buttons. I have the honour to be joining navy. Respectfully yours, James L. Mabry, MTN (Midshipman Texas Navy). Approved, Lt. E.P. Kennedy, Commanding Officer (1st Lieutenant on the *Austin*)
The Santa Fe Expedition

Some three or four hundred hard-boned men and boys cut a tortuous path through the wilderness from Austin, Texas, to New Mexico in 1841. They were called the Santa Fe Pioneers, but they never reached Santa Fe at all. Through mismanagement, starvation, thirst, Kiowa hostility, Mexican cunning and Texan treachery, the expedition came to a tragic end.

Noel M. Loomis, The Texan-Santa Fe Pioneers

President of the Republic of Texas Mirabeau Lamar wanted to establish a presence in the Mexican/Texas disputed area of Santa Fe, New Mexico. An expedition was put together, composed of a volunteer military of one Artillery Company and five infantry units designated Companies A through E; assorted merchants to establish trade with Santa Fe; interested persons; and drivers for 23 oxen-drawn wagons.

The Santa Fe Expedition, with 320 men, left from a place 20 miles north of Austin, in June of 1841. Nothing went right from the start. In August, the Expedition reached the Wichita River. Mistaking it for the Red River, they followed its course which put them into unknown territory. Things went downhill quickly from there.

By September, the Expedition was lost. The men were starving and parched. Morale was bottoming out. In desperation, a group was sent ahead to find help, but instead ran into the Mexican Army, the arch enemy of Texas. The Governor of New Mexico viewed the Texans as hostile invaders in his territory and delivered the Texans into the arms of the Mexican military. The Santa Fe Expedition surrendered in October.

The prisoners were forced on a three month, 1,200 mile grueling march to Mexico City and incarcerated in different prisons. United States diplomats started negotiations. Some prisoners were freed in mid April; the rest by mid June 1842.

The final leg of the homeward journey was overland to Vera Cruz and then by water to Galveston or New Orleans. By the end, 50 to 60 men or more had been killed or died of disease.

This summation is pared down to the basics. Any number of sources will flesh out the politics, personalities and grim details of the Expedition.
James L. Mabry Joins the Santa Fe Expedition

James L. Mabry had just finished a tour of duty on the Texan sloop of war Austin. He was in Bastrop on April 29, 1841 when he signed off on his last paycheck ($100). Perhaps he read the following notice in the April 28, 1841 issue of the Austin City Gazette.

*Having been authorized...to organize a military force for the purpose of opening a commercial intercourse with the people of Santa Fe; for which purpose troops are necessary to escort the merchandise through the Comanche wilderness. I therefore respectfully address myself to the young men of the country...All who arm, mount and equip themselves, will receive the pay of mounted gunmen...This expedition will furnish an ample field for adventure...I am authorized to announce the names of Edward Burleson, Antonio Navarro, G. Van Ness and myself to represent our Government with the people of Santa Fe.*

s/William G. Cooke

Mabry knew Ed Burleson from the Mill Creek fight against Cordova’s rebels back in 1839. As it turned out, Burleson stayed home and was elected vice president of the Republic of Texas. In any event, in 1841, Austin, the capital of Texas, and Bastrop were fledgling, adjacent towns and surely everyone knew everyone else and it wouldn’t have been difficult to gather in a group of like minded young men for this great adventure.

In his book, *The Texan-Santa Fe Pioneers*, Noel M. Loomis presents a biographical roster of participants in the Expedition based on lists kept by George W. Grover and other sources. The entry for Mabry is on Page 236.

_Mabry, James L. (Mabery, Maybury), North Carolina or New York. Pvt., artillery. At Mexico City Jan. 1; at Santiago Feb. 28; helped Grover edit “The True Blue;” released June 14 (from Santiago, presumably); left Vera Cruz Aug. 12. He had been a roommate of L.C. Blake; Lewis had invited him to go with the expedition. Soon after his release, Mabry was lost on the Texan war schooner “San Antonio.”_

Loomis reports that L.C. Blake went from Mississippi to Texas in 1839; became ill; left Austin to return home, but became ill at Bastrop; roommate of James L. Mabry; joined the expedition for his health and was attached to a company for protection from the Indians. Perhaps Blake and Mabry shared a room at the City Hotel in Bastrop, operated by James’ cousin Dr. Evans Mabry. I can’t imagine the Expedition was good for his heath, but a few years later Blake is found in New Orleans, alive and well, having earned the nickname “Santa Fe Blake” for his part in the Expedition.

That Captain William P. Lewis invited Mabry to join the Expedition is interesting in view of coming events. James and his roommate Louis C. Blake joined the 50-man Artillery Company headed by Captain Lewis. Enlistees brought along their own weapons--muskets, pocket pistols, bowie knives. Some provided their own transportation--horses or mules.

There was a lot of action in downtown Austin as the Expedition outfitted itself and gathered in supplies for the journey. Some say there was a parade of sorts in Austin to bid the men farewell. Perhaps the Strother and Mabry relatives were on hand to wave goodbye to James.
The Fate of Some Soldiers in the Artillery Company

Unless noted otherwise, all people mentioned here were in the Artillery Company with James L. Mabry. What happened to each man reflects the events of the Expedition as a whole.

The Artillery Company acted as the rear guard and was in charge of the six pound brass cannon (hauled by a mule). The other military companies herded cattle, cleared obstacles, cut trails, set up camp and defended the expedition from a frontal attack.

Forty years after the expedition, Private Joseph T. Hatch remembered the cannon as “the prettiest cannon I ever saw.” The cannon was presented to the Expedition by the “ladies of Houston.” A star was cut into the breech which gave the cannon its name “Lone Star.”

Similar cannon. The original Lone Star disappeared around 1851.

A man named James Strother was a member of the Artillery Company. On one list of Expedition prisoners he is identified as Scottish. He is probably not a close relative of James Mabry or Mabry’s uncle Christopher Judd Strother.

The first casualty in the Artillery Company was Pvt. Robert C. Todd, killed in a skirmish with Indians on the Grand Prairie. Next was Pvt. Samuel Flint who died of colic after eating too many wild berries.

Private Francis Brignoli deserted with a Mexican named Carlos who was “guiding” the expedition up to the time the company finally concluded it was lost. Carlos headed out to avoid retribution.

Privates Levi Payne and John Day Morgan were from Bastrop. Undoubtedly they knew James Mabry at the outset. After the Expedition lost its way and ran out of food, Payne and Morgan shared a horse neck as their rations for a few days. In desperation, John nibbled what little meat was left on the neck and Levi “cursed him black and blue.” When the prisoners were finally released from captivity they were told if they ever came back to Mexico with arms they would be killed. Well, John Day Morgan went back for more and when he was captured by the Mexicans he shortened his name to John Day and kept a low profile. On return, Morgan lived near Bastrop until his death in 1899.

Under the impression the Expedition was nearing Santa Fe, Privates Alexander Baker and William Rosenberry, along with Samuel W. Howland, who was employed by the Expedition as its pilot, were sent forward to make contact with the New Mexicans. They were apprehended by the Mexican Army. Rosenberry was shot and killed when he resisted capture. Baker and Howland, proud Texans to the end, were executed in front of their friends.

The Captain of the Artillery Company, William P. Lewis, was labeled a traitor for his actions on this expedition. When the company was lost and starving, Capt. Lewis and a party were sent ahead to San Miguel to obtain supplies. The group was apprehended by the Mexican Army. In order to save his own skin, Lewis “came to an accommodation” with his captors. In the face of the overwhelming Mexican force, their own debilitated state, and with assurances from the traitor Captain Lewis, the Texans reluctantly laid down their arms as a “required” concession for entering Santa Fe. Betrayed, they were
immediately taken prisoner. (Last noted, the disgraced Lewis changed his name and sailed to South America.)

When their Mexican captors stripped the men of their possessions, 4th Corporal Horace H. Farley managed to hide his valuable watch. His “intimate friend,” the traitor Captain Lewis, offered to sell the watch for a goodly sum of money which Farley would need on the march to Mexico City. That was the last Farley saw of his watch much less any money. Farley moved back home to Cayuga County, New York, and lived until 1885, working as a dentist, doctor and horticulturist.

On the forced 1,200 mile march to Mexico City, under the sadistic Mexican army Captain Delmasio Salazar, Pvt. John McAllister’s injured ankles prevented him from walking. Salazar ordered him to move on and threatened to shoot him if he did not. McAllister “exposed his heart and told him to shoot. Hastily drawing a pistol, Salazar shot him through the heart, cut off his ears, and having him stripped of his shirt and pants, left his body by the roadside.” Salazar would execute two more prisoners who were too ill to keep walking.

1st Corporal George W. Morris and 2nd Corporal William D. Mims were both newspaper men. Mims was a printer in Austin when he signed up for the Expedition. On the trek through Mexico, Morris suffered from rheumatism and was in danger of being executed by Salazar for lagging behind. Fortuitously, along came George Wilkins Kendall (more about him later) who bribed a Mexican to give Morris a ride on his donkey. Morris would often tell the tale of how “25 or 30 cents in small change saved his life.”

Harvard educated 3rd Corporal George Bernard was so crippled by the march to Mexico City he had to walk with a stick for the rest of his life.

Private William Bissett, a Scottish immigrant lately from Philadelphia, came to Texas in 1839. He has some fame as an artist for his early drawing of the Alamo. Another piece of his art is exhibited in the Witte Museum in San Antonio.

Privates George W. Bonnell, George W. Grover, John Talk, James L. Mabry and 4th Sgt. Joel T. Case were the literary men of the Artillery Company. All but Case were incarcerated in the Santiago Convent.

Born in New York, Bonnell worked as a government printer, founded the Austin Texas Sentinel newspaper in 1840 and wrote a book Topographical Description of Texas, to Which is Added an Account of the Indian Tribes. He survived the Santa Fe Expedition only to be killed a few months later as part of the Mier Expedition.

George W. Grover’s family lived near Austin and he joined the Expedition to see the country and experience camp life. At the start he “commenced a journal of particulars and casualties.” The journal was taken by the Mexicans, but Grover recreated the journal and made lists of the men of the Expedition. While imprisoned, George, along with James Mabry and others produced the manuscript newspaper, The True Blue. Grover’s next adventure would be the California Gold Rush.

John Talk came to Texas from New York. He was involved with The True Blue and aided Grover in reconstructing Grover’s dairy of the Expedition, the original of which had been stolen by the Mexicans. Talk received a rave review in The True Blue newspaper for his oratory skills and earned the nickname “Parson Talk.” After the Expedition, Talk married, settled into farming and served a stint in the Texas Rangers during the Mexican War.

Joel T. Case graduated from Yale in 1828. He was a newspaper editor for the Mobile Mercantile Advertiser in the mid 1830s and again in the 1840s. He came to Galveston in 1838 and edited the Galveston Daily Courier from April 1840 to May 1841. He joined the Santa Fe Expedition as a geologi-
cal journalist. He was incarcerated in Puebla, one of the worst prisons in Mexico which housed hardcore criminals. Case and his fellow prisoners were chained, forced to clean streets and sewers and offered little food. Case later became a Presbyterian minister in Victoria, Texas.

James L. Mabry and the Sutton-Cooke Party

On September 1, 1841, lost and starving, the Santa Fe Expedition divided into two parties, one headed by Capt. John S. Sutton (of Company A) and Commissioner William G. Cooke. This was known as the Sutton-Cooke party. The other division was under Hugh McLeod, Commander of the Santa Fe Expedition.

Sutton-Cooke handpicked 100 of the strongest men and the best horses and the contingent left to find water, food and, hopefully, Santa Fe. James Mabry was chosen to go with this group. The group surrendered to the Mexican Army on September 17th. In relative terms, as compared to the McLeod contingent, the Sutton-Cooke group had a less horrific march to Mexico City and their imprisonment was less onerous than that experienced by the McLeod people. At the least, the Sutton-Cooke men did not suffer under the likes of the sadistic Captain Salazar who executed men on a whim.

After their betrayal by Lewis, Mabry and his group were divested of their weapons, coats, blankets and all personal property. Their lives were saved by one dissent in the vote of Mexican Army officers to execute the entire company. The journey to Mexico City started on September 20th and ended on December 25th. In between, their treatment varied from cruel to compassionate.

The Sutton-Cooke group was incarcerated in the Convent attached to the Church of Santiago de Tlatelolco, two miles outside of Mexico City (photo left).

Enter George Wilkins Kendall. In 1841, he and a partner started the *New Orleans Picayune*, a daily newspaper. He signed up with the Santa Fe Expedition as an observer and a reporter. Little did he expect an adventure that would garner enough material for a two volume saga about the Expedition.

By the end of the forced march to Mexico City, Kendall (with the McLeod group) had contracted small pox and was hospitalized/held prisoner in a leper colony. In mid April he was moved to the Santiago Convent, where, to his great joy, he was reunited with the Sutton-Cooke group. It was serendipitous timing. Here at the Convent he came to know of *The True Blue* newspaper and James L. Mabry. Kendall writes:

> During the forenoon I made another visit to Santiago, in company with several Americans. Before leaving the convent, one of the prisoners, a young man named Grover, presented me with a copy of a neatly-written paper, published weekly in Santiago, entitled the “True Blue.” It contained a regular report of the proceedings of the 21st of April—speeches, toasts, songs and all. Among the contributors were Mr. Grover himself, a young man named Mabry,* and others, and, in newspaper parlance, the “whole affair was exceedingly well got up.”

*I have been told that Mr. Mabry, after his return to Texas, obtained a midshipman’s warrant in the navy of that country, and that he was lost on board the ill-fated war-schooner San Antonio, Captain Seger. (Kendall, Vol 2, page 330)
Kendall devotes quite a few pages to a description of life in the Convent (Vol. 2, Pages 276 through 310). In addition to the prisoners, a dozen monks and the prison commandant lived in the building. In theory, the prisoners were chained to keep them from escaping. But bribery of the blacksmith and a hidden file (provided by a kind guard) rendered the chains detachable. The prisoners were well fed and provided with clothes. Their work of the day was digging a ditch a half mile from the Convent. Out they would go to the ditch-work in their chains and the actual work was to look as busy as possible. Nights were spent playing cards, reading, story telling, and singing.

On April 21st, the prisoners threw a party celebrating the anniversary of the April 21, 1836 Battle of San Jacinto. They told the guards the celebration was in honor of a patron saint of Texas, when in reality they were celebrating the day of the decisive battle in which Texas won its independence from Mexico. A large hall in the Convent was decorated with Texas flags, a half dozen turkeys were donated by outsiders, liquor flowed freely and speeches were given. The fifth issue of *The True Blue*, dated April 23, 1842, reported on the celebration. James L. Mabry was among those raising his glass in a toast:

*Mexican officer: “Although you are now in chains may you soon rule this country!!!”*

*By another Mexican officer: “May the Supreme Mexican Government soon liberate you, either to return to your own country or become Mexican citizens.”*

*These toasts were returned by complimentary toasts suited to the occasion:*

*J. L. Mabry: “Here are to those who under every persecution that their tormentors can inflict, dare proclaim themselves “Texans.”*

*E. Kellett: Here’s to the “Lone Star” and may it yet float in triumph over the land of Montezuma.*

Mabry’s toast could very well be a sideways dig at the traitor Capt. Lewis (who, when first confronted by the Mexican Army, declared he was an American Merchant when in fact it was clear to see that he was a Texan Military Officer) or a benediction to his fallen comrades.

The Church of Santiago de Tlatelolco was built in the 1500s; the Convent (yellow) in the early 1700s. The Convent buildings surround a large courtyard. The Santa Fe prisoners were jailed in first-level rooms; monks on the second level. The Convent was used as a military prison until 1944.
Someone in the Santiago Convent prison came up with the good idea to start a newspaper. In the late 1800s, George W. Grover (1819-1901) donated copies of *The True Blue* to the Texas State Library. At that time, he was described as “its surviving editor.”

Kendall tells us that George W. Grover, James L. Mabry and unknown others were contributors. There is a source that names Grover and Mabry as co-editors. It is thought that Pvt. John Talk was involved with the newspaper.

Six issues of *The True Blue* were published (hand written) weekly from April 1, 1842 through May 1842. The scans of photocopies of the newspapers are not easy to read, but a few articles are quite legible and all have an element of jail-house humor.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

*Dissolution - The copartnership heretofore existing between Drs C gs and R_h is this day dissolved by mutual consent.*

*Dr. R_h still occupies the old office, and will always keep open doors to them requiring his assistance.*

*Dr. C_gs has moved to Tacubaya, and respectfully solicits the patronage of his old friends.*

The joke here is that from time to time prisoners were chained up and marched five miles outside of Mexico City to the village of Tacubaya where they worked on the road leading to the palace of Santa Anna, the dictator of Mexico.

Besides the joke about Tacubaya, there are the two “doctors” to consider. Dr. R is Private Samuel Ralph of Company C, a 49 year old watchmaker born in Ireland. Dr. C is 18 year old Pennsylvanian Private John A. Cummings of Company D. (Cummings’ much older brother James was a doctor; another brother was killed at the Alamo.) We are left to wonder what sort of doctoring was provided by this unlikely partnership.

Copies of issues (or parts of issues) 1, 4, 5 and 6 are in the George W. Grover Papers at the Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Box 2D224 [https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/01757/cah-01757.html](https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/01757/cah-01757.html)

There are also parts and pieces of *The True Blue* archived at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston.
Another article entitled “Wonderful and Joyful” sheds some light on Samuel Ralph’s doctoring skills.

*By the assistance of our esteemed friend Mr. R__h, Miss Fanny, after a severe labour of nine weeks was delivered a few nights since of four fine darling pups. The doctor says that she bore her sufferings with great female fortitude. We are sorry to add that one of the pups has since died.*

The newspapers contain minutes of meetings, world news, a report on the April 21st celebration, announcements of lectures, report of a “trip” to Tacubaya. Private J. T. Crowder of Company B submitted the story of the SS *Home*, wrecked in a storm off Cape Hatteras in October 1837.

A lecture given by John Talk received a rave review:

*The other evening at request of numerous friends J. T__k, Esq. made the walls reverberate with his eloquence, upon the subject of human perfection - his first words were, my friends “listen to the sympathy of facts, hear I beseech you” which was followed by bursts of language more impassionate then Demosthenes in his prime was capable of commanding. What an eminence is he destined to attain and let posterity answer the interrogatory.*

**Freedom - One Way or Another**

Two men escaped from the Santiago Convent on January 21, 1842, one month after they arrived. Thomas S. Lubbock of Company C and his friend Louis Mazur of Company B escaped by leaping off a balcony. The balcony was walled off after this episode. Lubbock made his way to Yucatan where he was picked up by the Texas Navy schooner *San Antonio*, commanding officer Lt. William Seeger.

Diplomatic negotiations between the US and Mexico brought about the final release of the men. During the week of April 21 to 28, 1842, 20 men were released from the Santiago Convent. Finally on June 14, the remainder were released, including James Mabry. One way or another, the men made their way to Vera Cruz on the east coast of Mexico.

James L. Mabry and 184 companions boarded the Mexican brig *Rosa Alvina* on July 27th. Yellow fever broke out on board and the ship was quarantined for two weeks. The ship finally sailed on August 12th with 139 men, including Hugh McLeod, the commander of the Santa Fe Expedition.

The *Rosa Alvina* arrived in Galveston on August 21. For the most part, the men on board were in good health but without adequate clothing. Some citizens of Galveston gathered donations of clothing, hats and shoes. The men debarked at the old Fort at the west end of the island, bathed, put on new clothes and resumed their lives.

__________________

Homecoming reported in 8-24-1842 *Civilian & Galveston City Gazette*, page 2 (GenealogyBank)
The Last Voyage of the *San Antonio*

James L. Mabry arrived off Galveston aboard the *Rosa Alvina* on Sunday, August 21, 1842. As the *Rosa Alvina* neared Galveston, James probably spied his old ship, the *San Antonio*, anchored in the harbor. By Monday or Tuesday he was scrubbed up and outfitted with some decent clothes.

Like some of his Santa Fe Expedition comrades, James entered right back into the fray and wasted no time regaining his place as a midshipman in the Texas Navy. Just a few days after his return from thirteen months of hardship and imprisonment, 22 year old James was on board the *San Antonio*. Such are the turns of fate.

It was pretty much like old home day and there were certainly tales to tell. The commanding officer of the *San Antonio* was Lt. William Seeger, who Mabry had served under aboard the *Austin*.

Monroe H. Dearborn, James’ fellow midshipman aboard the *Austin*, was now a 2nd Lieutenant. The first thing they would have talked about was the Mutiny. On the night of February 11, 1842, when James was locked up in the Santiago Convent in Mexico City, the *San Antonio* was anchored outside of New Orleans. Lt. Seeger left the ship to purchase supplies, leaving Lt. Charles F. Fuller (who had served with James from the start) in command of the *San Antonio*. Dearborn was in charge of the deck that night when a roaring-drunk group of 26 seamen demanded shore leave. Dearborn did not grant permission and things turned ugly. Fuller rushed on deck to see what was going on and was killed—shot and bayoneted. Midshipmen William H. Allan and Theodore Odell were shot in the foot and thigh, respectively, and together with Dearborn thrown into the hold and locked in. The mutineers rowed off in the ship’s boats for New Orleans.

Allan and Odell survived and were here on board the *San Antonio*, undoubtedly displaying their bullet wounds to James. In turn, James had any number of stories to tell about the Santa Fe Expedition.

The *San Antonio* left Galveston on Saturday, August 27, 1842. Stocked with provisions for three months, she was on a mission. The Texas Navy hoped to renew its agreement and lucrative subsidy with Yucatan to provide protection from Mexican incursions.

* * * *

Two months later, George W. Kendall, safely seated behind his editorial desk at the *Times Picayune* after his own adventures with the Santa Fe Expedition, published the following in his newspaper on October 30, 1842.

![The Texan war schooner *San Antonio*, Lieut. Seeger commanding, had neither been seen nor heard of at Yucatan. The impression prevailed there that both crew and vessel had been lost. We still hope a better fate awaits the brave and courteous Seeger.](image)

10-30-1842 *Times Picayune*, New Orleans
Rumors published in newspapers around the country declared Seeger had been murdered and the vessel manned by cut throats and villains. George W. Kendall rebutted a more favorable rumor in the December 8, 1842 *Times Picayune*: *The Northern papers, copying from some of our city contemporaries, speak of the safety of the Texan war schooner San Antonio. Would that it were true; but little is now left on which to rest such a hope. The San Antonio, with her gallant commander and crew, is doubtless in “the deep bosom of the ocean buried.”* Today her whereabouts remain a mystery.

Research in the Texas Navy records at the Archives in Austin did not turn up a final roster for the *San Antonio*. The following 1846 newspaper article lists the officers on board, James Mabry among them.

A writer in the "Galveston News" gives some interesting particulars of the navy of the republic of Texas....On the 28th August, 1842, the schooner San Antonio left Galveston with dispatches for the Yucatan government, after delivering which, she was to have returned to New Orleans and communicated with Commodore Moore, who was at the latter place. The San Antonio was seen off Matagorda a few days after leaving Galveston and encountered a severe gale in the early part of September following; after which nothing was ever heard of the vessel or of any one on board. It is supposed she foundered at sea, and all hands perished. Number of souls on board 57. The officers on board were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Seeger</td>
<td>Lieut. Commanding</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Waite</td>
<td>1st Lieutenant</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe H. Dearborn</td>
<td>2nd Lieutenant</td>
<td>Alexandria, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. F. Maury</td>
<td>Master</td>
<td>Norfolk Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. T. Brannum</td>
<td>Purser</td>
<td>Boston, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor Earle</td>
<td>Surgeon</td>
<td>Cahawba, Ala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas N. Woods</td>
<td>Acting Lieut. Marines</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa, Ala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Mabry</td>
<td>Midshipman</td>
<td>N. Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William H. Allan</td>
<td>Midshipman</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Odell</td>
<td>Midshipman</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James R. Craig</td>
<td>Midshipman</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Little is known about the officers. Nothing is known of the remaining 46 nameless souls on board. Waite, Dearborn, and Brannum had served since the inception of the second Texas Navy in 1839. Dearborn, Allan and Odell had survived the mutiny. James Mabry survived the Santa Fe Expedition only to go down with the *San Antonio*. Waite left his mother Sophia of New York City. Brannum has been honored with a Findagrave memorial—he left a wife and three year old daughter. Dr. Earle may be Dr. Paul H. Earle of Cahawba. Allan’s brother Francis D. Allan was a long-time publisher in Galveston.

In 1851, Franklin H. Merriman, administrator of the estate of William Seeger, submitted a claim for pay owed Seeger’s estate through mid September 1842 (Texas Republic Claims #1177). An affidavit was provided by James W. Moore (Commodore Moore’s brother) testifying William Seeger was commander of the *San Antonio* when it was lost in mid September 1842. Moore added: *I do not think said vessel was sufficiently seaworthy to live in so severe a gale as the one that occurred at that time.*
Is James L. Mabry a son of Joshua Mabry and Frances Strother?

Seven children of Joshua Mabry (1785-1836) and Frances Strother (1798-1862) of Franklin County, North Carolina, have been identified and, by a small miracle, deeds and probate records prove their relationship. The 1830 census for Franklin County indicates a male child born between 1816 and 1820 who was a mystery.

About five years ago, while researching another part of the Mabry family, FultonHistory.com, with its unparalleled search engine, came up with the newspaper article listing James Mabry of North Carolina, on board the ship San Antonio when it disappeared in the Gulf of Mexico in 1842. This was way out of my time frame, so I filed it away and forgot about it. About six months ago, I ran across the extensive William Strother Society website family tree which lists the name James as a son of Frances Strother and Joshua Mabry. Then it took about four months of percolating in the back of my brain before these two pieces of information melded.

Here is the circumstantial evidence that links Midshipman James L. Mabry who went down with his ship in 1842 with the mystery child of Joshua and Frances Mabry born around 1820. There is nothing that directly says James belongs to this family, but I’ll eat my proverbial hat if he is someone else’s child!

- The William Strother database has the name James as a son of Joshua Mabry and Frances Strother. I asked the Strother Society genealogist to try to find the source of the name James. So far, nothing has been determined. My only conclusion is that someone at some point in time knew or guessed there was a child named James and placed it in the Strother database.

- 1830 Federal Census, Franklin County, NC - Joshua Mabry: Lists two males 10-14 (born between 1816 and 1820). We know Robert B. Mabry was born in 1817, the first child of the marriage. The other male was born probably 1819/1820. (The 1820 census for Franklin County is missing.)

- 1840 Federal Census, Franklin County, NC - James Strother: Frances Mabry and her younger children moved home to the Strother place after Joshua Mabry died in 1836. There are no males in this census likely to be Robert or James.

- Six brothers of Frances Strother Mabry moved from North Carolina to Alabama and beyond in the 1830s. Furniford P. Strother’s first child was born in Alabama in 1835. Greene County, Alabama deeds of 1838 and 1839 (I/135 and K/93) place Furniford P. Strother, David C. Strother and George W. Strother in Clinton, Greene County. Frances and her younger children moved to Clinton around 1848.

- Robert B. Mabry (1817-1870?) son of Joshua and Frances Mabry is first found in Marengo County (next to Greene County), Alabama on his wedding day in 1846. It is reasonable to think Robert came to Alabama with his uncles.

_______________

About Joshua Mabry and Frances Strother and their children and a bit about the Strother siblings
http://ancestorsandothers.net/PDF/mabry.pdf
Texas Land Grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1st Arrived in Texas</th>
<th>Class of Grant</th>
<th>Amount of Land</th>
<th>Date Conditional Certificate Issued</th>
<th>Conditional Certificate Issued In</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evans Mabry</td>
<td>3-4-1838</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>3-14-1839</td>
<td>Washington Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher J. Strother</td>
<td>5-1838</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>12-28-1839</td>
<td>Bastrop Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James L. Mabry</td>
<td>11-1838</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>3-30-1839</td>
<td>Bastrop Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Class 3 grant was issued for those who arrived in Texas between October 1, 1837 and January 1, 1840. Married men were awarded 640 acres; single men 320. A conditional certificate was issued from the county where you signed up. Next you found and surveyed the land you wanted (it could be in any county). A conditional certificate required the grantee to establish residence in Texas for three years before an unconditional certificate was issued at which time the grantee could sell his land. (I don’t know what happened with James Mabry’s grant.)

Evans Mabry (1802-1853, son of Seth Mabry and Elizabeth Seawell). If you buy the theory that James L. Mabry is the son of Joshua Mabry and Joshua is the son of Reps Mabry, the relationship of Evans Mabry and James L. Mabry is second cousins once removed. Evans, his wife and children came from Tennessee. He first operated the Planter’s Hotel in Washington County. In 1839 he took over the City Hotel in Bastrop, Bastrop County, Texas. Evans Mabry is on the Bastrop County tax rolls starting in 1839 and is found in the 1850 Federal Census in Bastrop County.

Christopher Judd Strother (1800-1854) bypassed Alabama and ended up in Texas. The land grant, Bastrop County tax rolls starting in 1839 and the 1850 Texas census place this Strother brother in Bastrop County.

4-10-1839 *The Weekly Standard* of Raleigh, NC, would have been the (or one of the) newspapers read by the citizens of Franklin County, NC, home of the Mabrys and Strothers. This notice connects James Mabry; North Carolina; Clinton, Alabama; and Texas in one fell swoop. There are no clues why James owed the newspaper $7.50 (maybe an out-of-state subscription?).

---

The Texas General Land Office, Texas Land Grants
http://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/land-grants/index.cfm
March 1839 - The roster of volunteers in the Mill Creek fight places Mabry in or near Bastrop, Texas.

April 29, 1841 Texas Navy receipt for $100 places Mabry in Bastrop, just before he joined the Santa Fe Expedition.

George W. Grover’s list of Santa Fe Expedition prisoners lists James L. Mabry of North Carolina.

Texas Navy - there is nothing in the Texas Navy archives in Austin that mentions Mabry’s home state. The June 24, 1846, newspaper article listing the officers on board the San Antonio states North Carolina.

The Name “James” in the Mabry Family

Frances Strother Mabry’s father is James Strother (1764-1843). Did she name her child after her father?

The children of Joshua Mabry and Frances Strother who lived to marry each named a child James. In memory of their brother?

- Robert B. Mabry (1817-1870?) named a boy James, born about 1862, and the name was passed down to current generations.

- Mary Mabry (1824-1904) married John P. Freeman. Their child James was born about 1846. This James is last noted on an April 10, 1865 roll of Confederate prisoners of war.

- Sydney Hammet Mabry (1826-1888) named a son James, born in 1852, and the name was passed down to current generations.

- Julia Ann Mabry (1831-after 1904) married James Monroe Fason. Their James was a junior, named after his father.
ENDNOTES

Nancy Ettensperger
http://ancestorsandothers.net/index.htm

1841 New Map of Texas - Texas General Land Office, Map #93862

April 17, 1839 Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston, TX), Page 2
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth48049/m1/2
  Colonel Burleson’s official report - James L. Mabry gets his name in the newspaper.

Photo of Battleground Prairie Historical Marker
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/Battleground_prairie_historical_marker.jpg

The Texas Rangers: A Registry and History by Darren L. Ivey, 2010
  Mr. Ivey defines Texas Rangers:
  Texas Rangers started as citizen-soldiers battling Indians and Mexicans. A pre 1874 Texas Ranger
  would meet these criteria: Had to be mounted, serve on the frontier, perform ranger-like duties (patrol-
  ling, scouting, pursuing, and raiding), be manned by individuals who are universally recognized as rang-
  ers…and be irregular in appearance and attitude.

Savage Frontier, Volume II 1838-1839 - Rangers, Riflemen and Indian Wars in Texas by Stephen L. Moore, Uni-
  versity of North Texas Press, 2006  Table Page 189.
Texas Navy

Fortune Favors the Brave - The Story of the Texas Navy
An exhibit created by the Texas State Library and Archives. A good introduction to the Texas Navy.
https://www.tsl.texas.gov/exhibits/navy/intro.html

Photos of drawings of ships from Naval History and Heritage Command website.
Sloop of War #NH 614   San Antonio #NH 108591

Dr. Alexander Dienst, The Navy of the Republic of Texas 1835-1845, 1909


Journal of Midshipman James L. Mabry
In 1893, when the excerpts were printed in four issues of the Galveston Daily News, the Journal was held by Ella Elizabeth Hurd Shaw (1850-1925), wife of Robert W. Shaw (1844-1926). Mrs. Shaw was the granddaugh-ter of Texas Navy Purser Norman Hurd (1785-1870).

The bibliography in Meed’s book cites “James Mabry Journal, Texas Navy” archived at the Center of American History, University of Texas, Austin (now known as the Briscoe Center for American History), which led me to think the original journal existed. Meed’s bibliography also cites the newspaper articles.

A reference archivist at the Briscoe reports the James Mabry Journal is not separately catalogued nor is there any mention of it in their collections. Unfortunately, Mr. Meed died in 2005 and has taken this knotty problem with him. I wonder if listing the Journal was just an oversight in his book and Mr. Meed only used the newspaper clippings. I think if the Journal actually exists today, someone else would have come across it by now.

#1 - Galveston Daily News 1-9-1893
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth467564/m1/8/

#2 - Galveston Daily News 1-16-1893
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth467544/m1/8/

#3 - Galveston Daily News 1-23-1893
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth469409/m1/8/

#4 - Galveston Daily News 2-13-1893
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth468542/m1/8/

Following the journal entries is an extensive list of names found in Purser Norman Hurd’s ledger from De-cember 31, 1840 to December 4, 1842. Jas. L. Mabry is not far from the top.

Texas State Library and Archives, Austin, Texas
Researcher John Chapman (https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/researchers.html) provided primary material from these records. Thank you John!

Texas Adjutant General's Department:
An Inventory of Navy Papers at the Texas State Archives, 1835-1847, 1852, 1855 (bulk 1836-1846)
Pursers' records, 1835-1846
http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/tslac/30003/tsl-30003.html

Texas Adjutant General's Department:
An Inventory of Republic of Texas Military Rolls at the Texas State Archives, 1835-1846, undated
https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/tslac/30072/tsl-30072.html
Texas State Library and Archives - Texas Adjutant General Service Records, 1836-1935
https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/service/introhelp.html

#401-20 Navy of the Republic, James L. Mabry
This on-line database has three receipts for money paid to James L. Mabry

11-22-1840, Sloop of War Austin, Tobasco, $10, received from N. Hurd Purser
12-6-1840, Texan Sloop of War Austin, $10, received from Purser Hurd
4-29-1841, Bastrop, $100, received of Purser N. Hurd through Commander E.W. Moore

The Last Voyage of the San Antonio

List of Officers on Board the San Antonio
June 24, 1846 New York Herald (New York, NY), Page 2

Texas State Library and Archives, Austin, Texas
Republic Claims - on line at https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/repclaims/
Texas Navy Claims
#1177 William Seeger
#171 Alfred A. Waite
#1030 William F. Maury

Santa Fe Expedition

George W. Kendall - Kendall goes on a bit, but he mentions James L. Mabry.
Narrative of the Texan Santa Fé expedition : comprising a description of a tour through Texas, and across
the great southwestern prairies, the Camanche and Caygüa hunting-grounds, with an account of the suf-
f erings from want of food, losses from hostile Indians, and finale capture of the Texans, and their march,
as prisoners, to the city of Mexico, 1847
1st volume - https://archive.org/details/narrativeoftexan01kendrich/page/n2
2nd volume - https://archive.org/details/narrativeoftexan02kendrich/page/n7

Noel M. Loomis - This is the book to read! Mr. Loomis made an exhaustive search for all things Santa Fe Expedi-
tion and distilled the information into a very readable account. He includes detailed maps, biographical data of all
participants in the Expedition, timelines, prisons, etc. and mentions James L. Mabry several times.
The Texan-Santa Fe Pioneers by Noel M. Loomis, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1958

Forgotten Texas Leader, Hugh McLeod and the Texan Santa Fe Expedition by Paul N. Spellman, Texas A&M
University Press, 1999

Geraldine Primrose Carson assembled and published all the papers left in the desk of her ancestor Henry Ralph,
son of Samuel Ralph who so ably delivered Miss Fanny’s pups in the Santiago Convent Prison.
From the Desk of Henry Ralph by Geraldine Primrose Carson, Eakin Press, Austin, TX, 1990.

Henry R. Buchanan was a merchant from Tennessee. He had suffered some business losses and invested his
remaining money in watches and jewelry which he hoped to sell in Santa Fe. Like all the other merchants on this
expedition, Buchanan’s captors appropriated his goods. This is a very readable account.
The Olympian Magazine, “From the Manuscript of the late H.R. Buchanan - Santa Fe in ‘41”
Volume 1, 1902, Pages 278, 376, 465, 588
Volume 2, 1903, Pages 80, 165, 265, 345
https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/012224137

List of participants in the Santa Fe Expedition - Chapter 6, Page 249
George Folsom - Mexico in 1842 (Folsom was a historian--not a member of the Expedition.)
https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008731808

Nancy Ettensperger - August 2019
James L. Mabry - Page 22
List of prisoners of the Santa Fe Expedition - see Thomas Falconer

List of those who were killed or died upon the road in the Santa Fe Expedition

_Houston Morning Star_ Death Notices, 1842

[http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/harris/obits/houobi42.txt](http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/harris/obits/houobi42.txt)

Thomas Falconer - A barrister from England, Falconer came to Texas to offer his legal expertise to Texas’s evolving judicial system. Instead, Falconer ended up in the Expedition. Some say he was the official chronicler for the Expedition.

_Expeditio to Santa Fe. An account of its journey from Texas through Mexico, with particulars of its capture, 1842._ List of prisoners on Page 52. Book includes diplomatic correspondence.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=YhBmAAAAcAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=YhBmAAAAcAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s)

Joseph Hatch was in the Artillery Company with James Mabry. In this newspaper article he talks about the cannon, the traitor Lewis, and his experiences in the Expedition. _San Marcos Free Press_ 11-13-1884

[https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth295528/m1/1/](https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth295528/m1/1/)

Cayton Erhard was born 1822 in Germany. He lived in Bastrop before joining Company E in the Santa Fe Expedition.


On the march to Mexico City with James Mabry, and in the Santiago Convent, were Thomas S. Lubbock and George W. Grover, both of whom wrote about their experiences. Lubbock escaped from the Convent by leaping off a balcony. Grover, of the Artillery Company, was editor of the _True Blue_.

Thomas S. Lubbock report on Santa Fe Expedition

June 4, 1842 _Colorado Gazette & Advertiser_, Matagorda, TX

[https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth80357/m1/1/](https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth80357/m1/)

George W. Grover started a journal at the beginning of the Expedition but it was taken from him by the Mexican military. He recreated the journal while held captive in the Santiago Convent. Indications are that John Talk aided Grover in the rewriting of the journal. Fast forward to 1936 and H.B. Carroll edited the journal for publication. The original, recreated journal has been scanned and is available through the archives catalog of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston.

George W. Grover - “Minutes of Adventure from June, 1841,” edited by H.B. Carroll

Panhandle-Plains Historical Review (1936), Vol. 9, Page 28
In 1850 Texas passed a relief bill for the Santa Fe survivors. All volunteers captured by Mexican forces were entitled to receive pay at the rate of $22.50 per month plus $65 for their horse and arms. The law reads “…it shall be the duty of the Auditor and Comptroller to issue to each of said volunteers, or his heirs, or representatives claiming the same, a certificate for the amount to which he may be entitled under the provisions of this act…”

James L. Mabry was issued Certificate #572 in the amount of $302.75 (June 1841 to July 1842, 13 months and 13 days plus $65 for horse and equipment). John S. Sutton and Lewis Beardsley (Private in Company C) attested they personally knew James L. Mabry.

There are no clues that point to an administrator or a representative of Mabry’s estate or to anything else about this claim.