

# Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

## Educational Resources



*Artifact Spotlight: The Telegram*

Written by TRHFM Staff

The following article has been adapted from the former website of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

## **The Telegram: Texas Ranger Paperwork in the 19th Century**

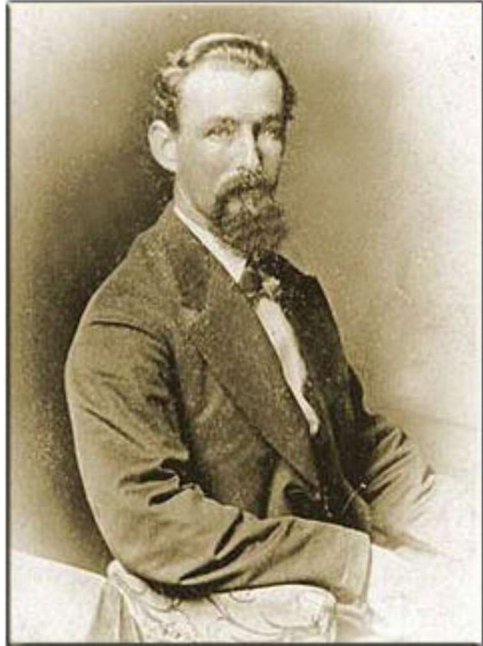
In the old days Texas Rangers made some of the best witnesses for prosecutors, and they still do. But the patience of these frontiersmen for paperwork was limited.



Nat. B. "Kiowa" Jones, Texas Ranger, about 1900  
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Nat B. "Kiowa" Jones was a crack shot and no nonsense. Arriving at the state prison with a wounded prisoner he transported he had to explain why the prisoner had been shot. His report was *"He was ornery, and that's why I shot him."*

In 1875, Capt. Leander McNelly, commander of the Special Force, sent the following report from Matamoros, Mexico, after pursuing raiding cattle rustlers into Mexico.



Leander McNelly, Texas Ranger, circa 1875

SUPREME GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH

TELEGRAM

*To: Adjutant General G.V. Steele*

*Had a fight with raiders, killed  
twelve and captured two hundred  
and sixty five beeves.*

*Wish you were here.*

*L. McNelly  
Capt. Commanding*