

The King of the Rustlers Images

By Steven W. Hooper



Figure 1: Notorious outlaw John Kinney is believed to be the individual standing in this image. The Kinney gang's smuggling of cattle across the Rio Grande River from Mexico would lead to his capture by lawmen in the Arizona Territory in March of 1883.

Source: True West Magazine Facebook page, www.facebook.com/TrueWestMag/photos/new-mexico-territory-rustlers-these-outlaw-cowboys-are-identified-only-as-new-mex/10154998009990264.



Figure 2 : Collector of U.S. Customs El Paso Col. Abner Tibbitts (front center) with other members of his staff, circa 1883. Collector Tibbitts helped organize the hunt for the notorious outlaw John Kinney. Collector Tibbitts was a longtime friend of U.S. Treasury Secretary William Windom. Mounted Inspector Jeff Milton (on the bottom right of this image) would later become a member of the U.S. Border Patrol and is considered by many to be the “father” of that agency.

Source: Hillsboro Historical Society, <http://hillsborohistory.blogspot.com/2012/08/so-what-did-abner-tibbetts-do-for.html>.



Figure 3: Colonel Albert Jennings Fountain while serving in the New Mexico Militia was responsible for breaking up the organized cattle rustling rings operating in the territory in 1883. Later as an assistant district attorney, he successfully prosecuted dozens of the rustlers he had rounded up while serving in the militia. In 1870 while serving in the Texas Senate, his most notable accomplishment was to re-establish the Texas Rangers after the Civil War. Fountain served as a Special Deputy Collector of Customs in El Paso in the late 1860s. He and his son were murdered in an ambush near White Sands, New Mexico Territory on February 1, 1896. Their bodies were never recovered, and the murder remains unsolved.

Source: Wikipedia, "Albert Jennings Fountain,"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Jennings_Fountain.