

Have You Any News?



How America's First Embedded Journalists
Envisioned the United States, 1846-1848

Mackenzie Weinger

Mentor: Prof. Cohen

Senior Honors Thesis 2010

The Mexican-American War

- 1846-1848
- The U.S.'s first foreign war
- Acquired the Southwest from Mexico
- Embedded journalism

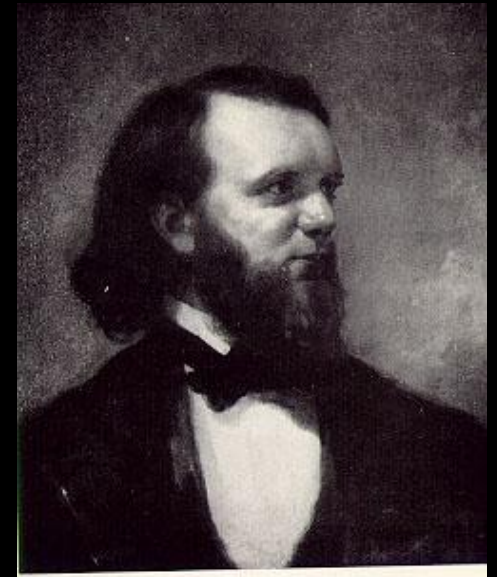


The First Embedded Journalists



George Wilkins
Kendall

Thomas Bangs
Thorpe



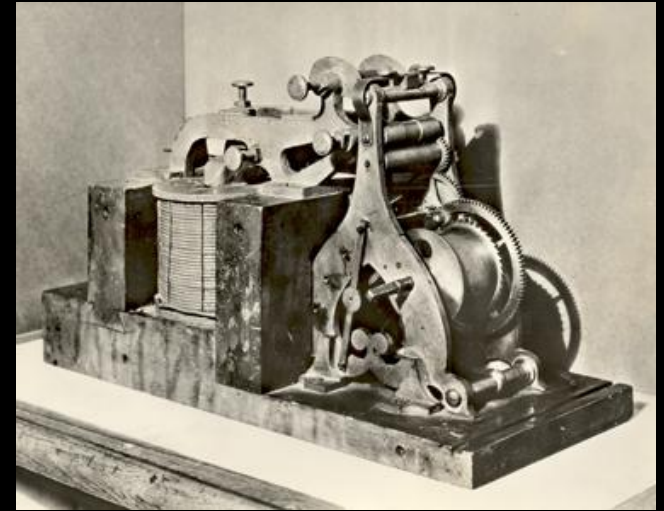
- Christopher M. Haile
- James L. Freaner – “Mustang”
- Jane Storm – “Montgomery”

Why They Matter

- These journalists did not just observe the war, but sought to use the conflict to develop the nation into something decidedly new.
- The correspondents were not simply reporting on the scene — they also engaged in creating and nurturing a vision and narrative of America steeped in innovation, destiny and expansion.

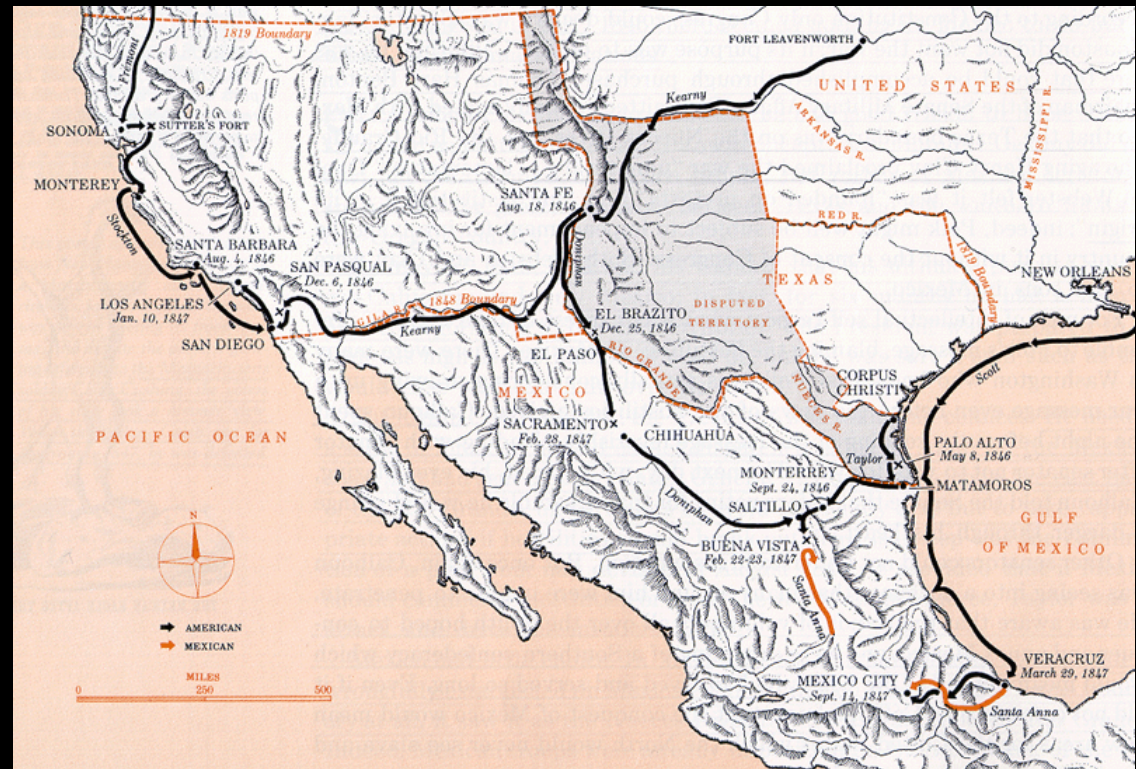
Credibility and Authority

- How were the correspondents able to do this?
 - New notions of timeliness and accuracy
 - Widespread dissemination
 - Embedded with the troops
 - Creating and controlling the public's understanding of the war
 - Books, art, humor



To the Halls of the Montezumas

- Technology and Innovation
 - Pony Express
 - Telegraph
 - Associated Press
 - Money



Manifest Destiny and Nation Building

“What American, with an American heart, does not love to dwell on those scenes, where our countrymen covered our arms with glory, and won for themselves immortal fame?”



“The whole seems like a dream, even to those who have taken part in the hard conflicts — yet here in Mexico we are, & masters.”

A Country of Vast Designs

Map 72

