Violence on the Texas Frontier: Myth & Reality
Ty Cashion, Ph.D.
Sam Houston State University
Northwest Texas and the Rolling Plains 1881
The Military Post, Fort Griffin
OUTLAWS IN PETTICOATS
And Other Notorious Texas Women

GAIL DRAGO & ANN RUFF
THE LEGEND OF LOTTIE DENO

If she had lived a little more
The odds are the stories about her would not have gone with the years.

by Philip Roehm
The Story of

LOTTIE DENO

Her Life and Times

by J. MARVIN HUNTER
Northwest Texas and the Rolling Plains 1881
“What Dodge City was in the 1870s, Fort Griffin was more. The army post on the hill, and the town on the Flat furnished the population for a wicked little metropolis that flourished without restraint. Here were nomads in regions remote from the restraints of moral, civil, social and law enforcement life, the soldiers and the trail drivers, buffalo hunters, and the cattle rustlers, horse thieves and scalawags of every description. Gamblers and fugitives from justice came to loiter and to dissipate, and share the dalliances of fallen women.”

—J. Marvin Hunter, Lottie Deno: Her Life and Times (1959)
“Fort Griffin...was the wildest and the most colorful of all the border towns—and I have seen them all, from Dodge City, Kansas, to Ogallalla, Nebraska. Fort Griffin was the last town with any semblance of civilization on the western frontier of Texas, and that semblance was very thin.”

—Frank Collinson, Life in the Saddle (1927)
“Robbers [at Fort Griffin] would throw a blanket over your head and take your money in a flash!”

—Emmett Roberts, local rancher, from oral interview, 1927

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“Here, the revolver settled more differences among men than the judge...”

—Carl Coke Rister, Fort Griffin on the Texas Frontier (1956)
FORT GRIFFIN
ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER

By CARL COKE RISTER
“A killing was one of the ordinary, expected events of the night at Fort Griffin, on which the comments were over, and the incident closed by the time the blood had been mopped up from the floor.”

—R. A. Slack, interview, Dallas Morning News, (1930)
“What Dodge City was in the 1870s, Fort Griffin was more. The army post on the hill, and the town on the Flat furnished the population for a wicked little metropolis that flourished without restraint. Here were nomads in regions remote from the restraints of moral, civil, social and law enforcement life, the soldiers and the trail drivers, buffalo hunters, and the cattle rustlers, horse thieves and scalawags of every description. Gamblers and fugitives from justice came to loiter and to dissipate, and share the dalliances of fallen women.”

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—Carl Coke Rister, Fort Griffin on the Texas Frontier (1956)
The law was everywhere!

- Town constable
- County sheriff (plus deputies)
- Justice of the Peace (3 county precincts)
- County Court
- District Court
- Texas Rangers
- Military post
J. Marvin Hunter’s Lottie Deno
The Quirt and the Spur

Edgar Rye