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TORREY, DAVID KILBURN (1815-1849). David K. **Torrey**, pioneer trader, the oldest son of Jacob N. and Laura (Kilburn) **Torrey**, was born in Ashford, Connecticut, on September 6, 1815, and came to Texas in 1839 to join his **brother**, John F. **Torrey**.^{qv} In Houston David met and subsequently became closely associated with Sam Houston^{qv} in political, business, and Indian affairs. Before his death at age thirty-four **Torrey** played a vital role in President Houston's policy of peace, friendship, and commerce with the Texas Indians. David became a partner with John and later with his **brother** Thomas S. **Torrey**^{qv} in the merchandising firm called John F. **Torrey** and **Brothers**. The firm dealt extensively in the Indian trade, and David **Torrey's** duties included establishing the **Torrey** trading houses^{qv} along the Indian frontier and making buying trips back east to purchase goods for the Indian trade. The **Torrey** trading houses served as meeting places for red men and white men and drew immigration farther west all along the frontier. The **Torreys** established trading houses on the Bosque River and at Austin, San Antonio, New Braunfels, and Fredericksburg. Branch stores were opened on the Navasota River and, at Sam Houston's request, at the falls of the Brazos River. George Barnard^{qv} bought the Tehuacana or Brazos post in 1848, and the **Torrey brothers** moved west. David and John joined a party of about 100 men led by ranger captain John C. Hays^{qv} to approach Indians in the Trans-Pecos area, after which the **Torreys** intended to return to Texas. A change of plans took John on to California with Hays, but David returned to Texas. He traveled down the Mexican side of the Rio Grande to Presidio del Norte,^{qv} where he crossed over to the Texas side and opened a camp to trade with the Mescalero Apaches. **Torrey** carried on an excellent trade in the camp of some 700 or 800 Apaches, but the friendly disposition of the customers changed without warning when news reached camp that some Apaches had been killed in a brush with Americans traveling to California. David **Torrey** and all of his companions except one were killed by Apaches on Christmas Day, 1849.

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Henry C. Armbruster

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Last Updated: February 15, 1999

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