

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

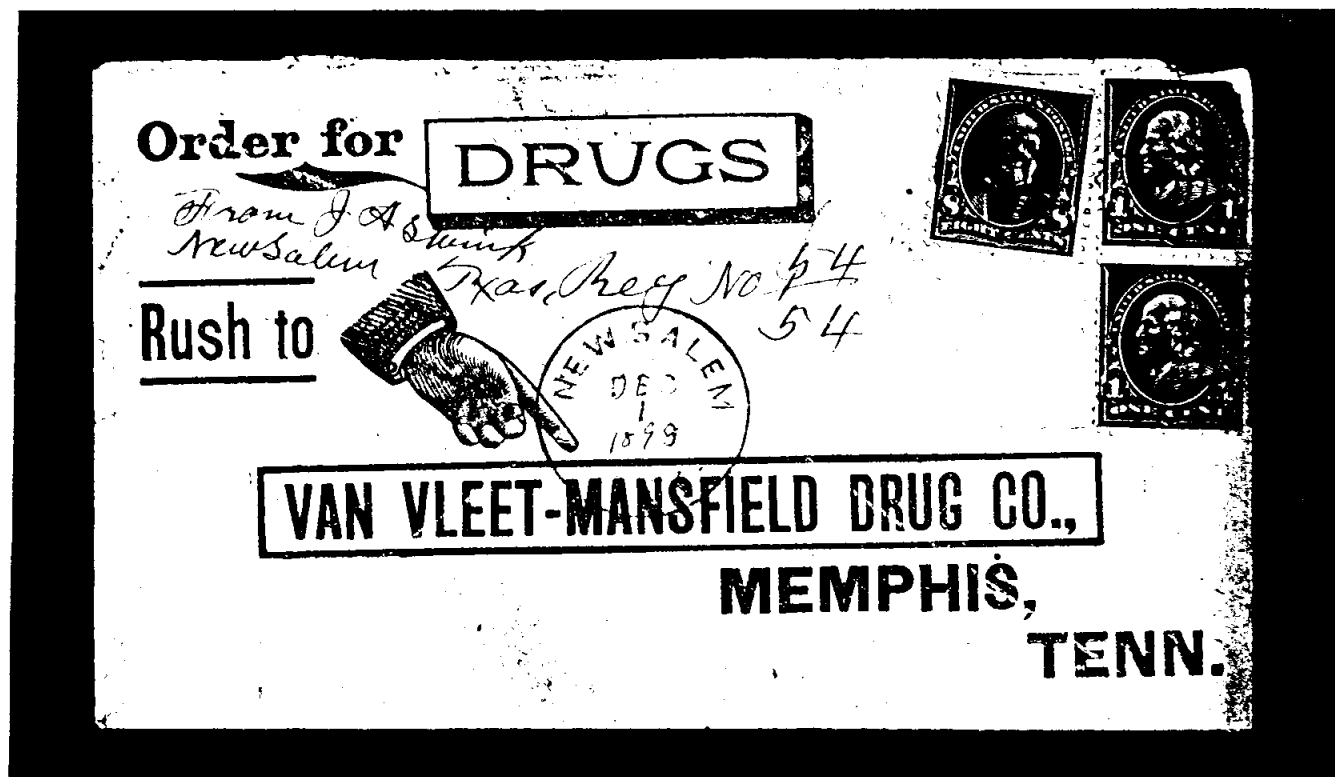


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Texas Postal History Society
1986 Membership 11

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Pictured on the front cover is a 1899 registered cover from New Salem, Texas, a Rusk County DPO. J.A. Swink, who signed the registration as Postmaster, also ran a drug store in New Salem.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$7 per year, payable to Secretary-Treasurer

Affiliated With:



President:
Nonie Green
2401 Colorado
San Angelo, TX 76901

Vice-President:
Norman A. Cohen
P.O. Box 29543
Dallas, TX 75229

Secretary-Treasurer:
Jim Alexander
5825 Caldwell
Waco, TX 76710

Journal Editor:
John Whitehead
P.O. Box 966
Longview, TX 75606

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Our meeting at San Antonio was a successful one and well attended by Texas postal history society members and visitors. A number of you who usually attend were missed. I had hoped that more Texas postal history exhibits would be in evidence. Members showing material and awards received included Jane K. Fohn - ALAMO 9-cent: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE: Jim Bowman - CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1861-1865, gold medal and Confederate Stamp Alliance certificate; Bill McDaniel - THREE CENT 1851-1857 RATE COVERS, vermeil medal; Sherman Ashmore - CENTENNIAL OF TEXAS INDEPENDENCE - FIRST DAY COVERS - APPROVED CENTENNIAL CACHETS - MAVERICKS, bronze medal; Richard Spies - TEXAS POST OFFICES, bronze medal; Bill Emery - 19th CENTURY POSTAL MARKINGS OF AUSTIN, TX, vermeil medal and Texas Postal History Society award.

At the annual meeting an advance in dues to \$10.00 beginning 1987 was voted by the membership. Although Jim Alexander reported our bank balance to be in good order, it was brought out that expenditures for our journal, mailing costs, and a small amount for administrative expenses were exceeding the \$7.00 per year paid by members. Our membership remains virtually the same, around 115-120. John Germann presented a program giving an up date on the project he outlined at our meeting in Corpus Christi in 1984. Progress is being made on county maps that will show post office locations and their dates. Additional information about postmasters, the counties, etc. is also being included.

Texas Postal History Society members did well at Rompex in Denver with two of us capturing gold medals out of the five given. Bill Emery's exhibit was entitled "Early Texas Mail" and mine "U.S. Registered Mail 1845-1925", which also received the Grand Award and the Postal History Society medal.

It's vacation time and I trust that most of you will find time to enjoy and plan activities for hanging loose and relaxing.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our thanks to Rex Stever and Norma Watz for the two fine articles appearing in this issue. Rex tells us about one of those covers that each would love to "discover" - a Texas statehood "first day" cover. Norma continues her fine series of "Cover Stories" with an interesting story about "Louise - and Her Seven Sisters." Additionally we have the 1986 list of TPHS members. My thanks and congratulations also to Nonie Green for the fine job she did editing the Texas Sesquicentennial

issue of the Journal; I think we will all agree that it was great!

Next issue we will start a "Readers Questions" section in the Journal. I have received a couple of letters from members inquiring about a certain town or postmark, and I am sure there are other readers who have some question (or observation) about some area of our hobby which some of the rest of us could help with or find interesting also. If so, send these to me, John Whitehead at P.O. Box 966, Longview, Texas, 75606.

A TEXAS FIRST DAY LETTER

By R.H. Stever

It was evident in the middle of the year 1845 that Texas was going to be annexed to the United States. But it hadn't actually happened yet. Even so, President Polk ordered U.S. forces commanded by General Zachary Taylor to move into Texas. On July 31 of that year, Taylor and some 3000 troops arrived at Corpus Christi, the only Anglo community south of the Nueces in the disputed territory, the so-called "Nueces Strip". The troops commenced training and amassing supplies for what everyone thought was imminent war with Mexico.

Finally, Texas officially entered the Union on December 29, 1845. And on that very day one of Taylor's officers, Lieutenant Leslie Chase of New York, penned the illustrated letter. Figure 1 is a blowup of the first-day letterhead, reading "Corpus Christi, Texas, December 29, 1845".

The post office at Corpus Christi would not be established for another four months. Thus the folded letter illustrated in Figure 2 was no doubt carried with military mail to New Orleans. A penciled "Paid" at upper left is likely the work of an army mail clerk or a ship captain. The letter entered the U.S. mails at New Orleans where it received a black circular date stamp on January 12 (1846), a black "PAID" and large numeral "10" denoting postage for transit to Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

*Corpus Christi, Texas,
Dec. 29 '1845.*

*Dear Sir,
My favourable recollection
well as my acquaintance and*

Figure 1. Letterhead showing first day of Texas statehood use from Corpus Christi.

The addressee, R.H. Walworth, was referred to as "Chancellor" of New York. This rather archaic title denotes someone in the legal hierarchy of the state, possibly Attorney-General or Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. At any rate, he was someone authorized to make appointments to legal positions. Lieutenant Chase says that he has a law degree and has passed the New York bar. He is very unhappy with army life and apprehensive about the future. He is asking Chancellor Walworth for any kind of appointment available so that he can resign his army commission and return to his family in New York.

Lieutenant Leslie Chase graduated from West Point on July 1, 1834. He stood 21st in his class. He was appointed 2nd Lt. of artillery on July 1, 1838 and advanced to 1st Lt. on April 16, 1840, a grade he still held at the time this letter was written.

While Taylor's troops were camped at Corpus Christi, President Polk was attempting to avoid war by offering to purchase the Nueces Strip and other western lands from Mexico. However, the Mexicans remained intransigent and the American envoy returned to Washington. Taylor received orders to proceed to the Rio Grande. On March 8, 1846 the army began its march from Corpus Christi to the south. Lieutenant Chase had apparently not received a favorable answer to his letter. Inside docketing by Chancellor Walworth shows the letter was answered February 4, 1846, plenty of time to have reached the lieutenant before March 8th. On April 24, 1846 Lt. Chase participated in the battle of Palo Alto and on May 8 and 9, the battle of Resaca de la Palma. At the latter he was breveted Captain on May 9. He may have suffered wounds here or in subsequent battles at Monterrey or Buena Vista because on April 10, 1847 he was appointed acting quartermaster, possibly to relieve him of the duties of a line officer.

The apprehensions expressed by Lieutenant Chase in his letter were subsequently realized. Brevet Captain Chase died April 15, 1849. Army records do not state the cause.

Reference: Richard B. Graham, personal communication

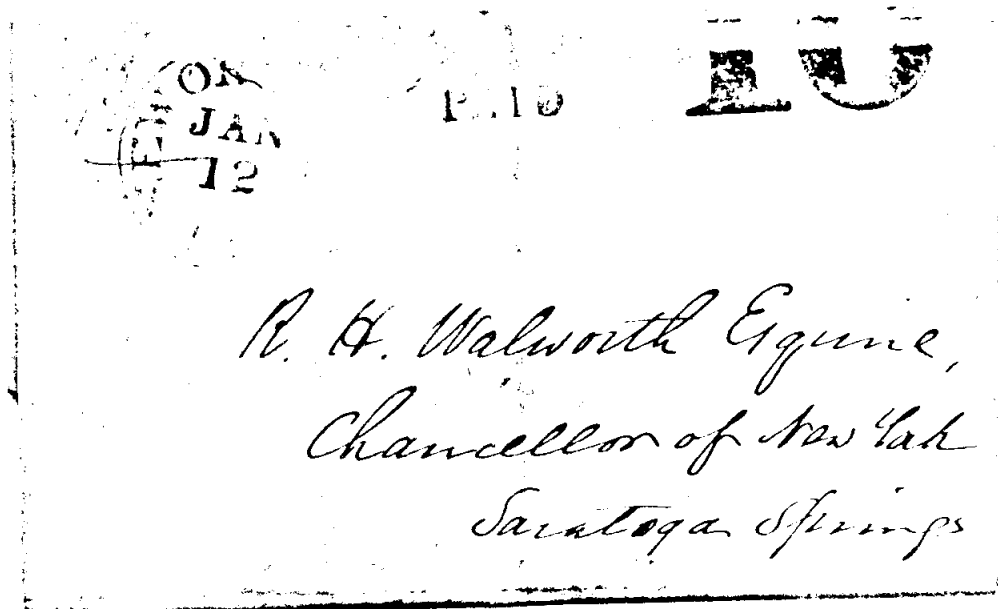


Figure 2. Front of folded letter showing New Orleans CDS, "PAID" and large "10" denoting postage to New York.

"COVER STORIES"

by Norma Watz

Part III

"LOUISE - AND HER SEVEN SISTERS"

For many years, the principal modes of land transportation in South Texas consisted of wagons, stage coaches, and buggies while keel boats and paddlewheelers were used for river navigation. Worn trails quickly became bogs of mud with every rain, and often it was simply impossible to travel at all for days - or weeks. Although some railroads were started earlier, the Civil War ended or delayed many hopes for rail service. Thus it was after the Civil War that railroad construction finally began to flourish.

On November 17, 1880, Col. Daniel E. Hungerford, Joseph W. Mackay, and Count Joseph Telferner chartered the "New York, Texas and Mexican Railway", with the idea of using state land grants to build their road into Mexico, from Richmond (Fort Bend County) through Wharton, Jackson, and Victoria Counties - then on to Brownsville and into Mexico. (Hungerford, a native of New York state, had earned a distinguished military record in the Mexican War of 1846.) The residents of Quinan (Wharton County P.O. 1847-1883) had originally named their community in honor of Judge George Quinan, who later served on the State Court of Civil Appeals. When the railroad came along, however, they changed the name to "Hungerford" to honor the President of the railway, Daniel Hungerford. William E. McKinney became Hungerford's first Postmaster September 10, 1883; postal service has been continuous since that date.

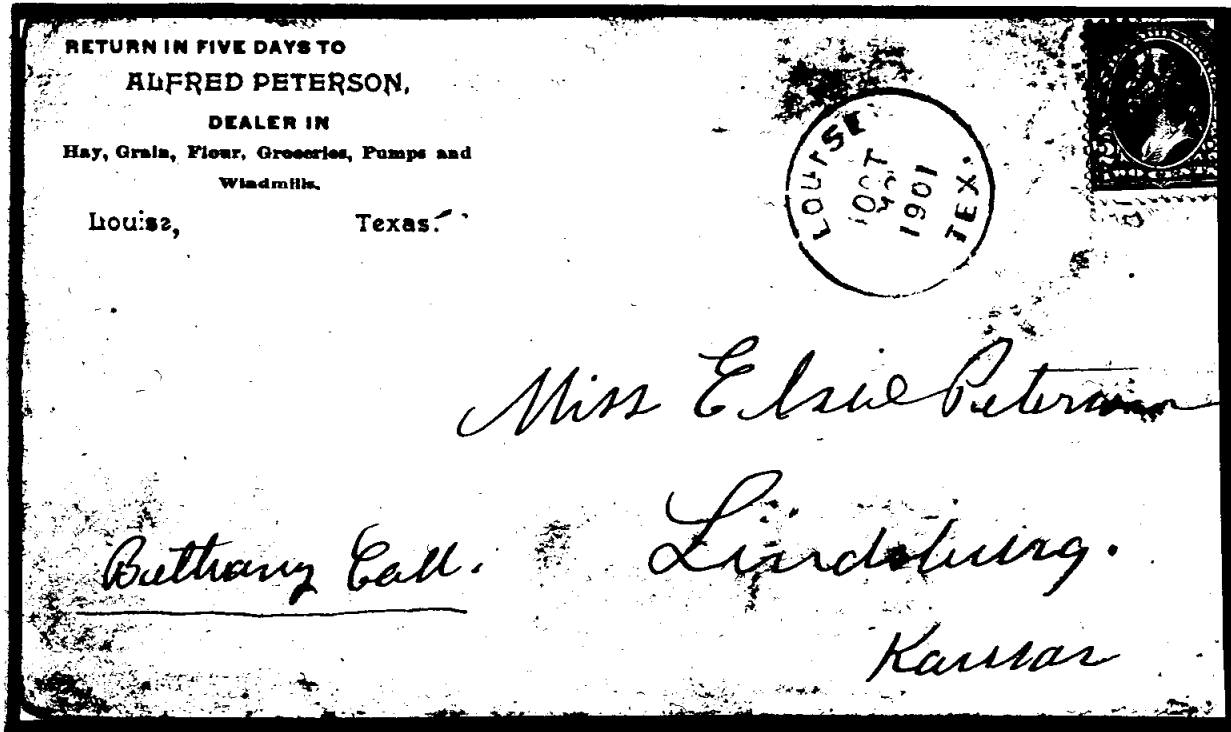


Illustration #1

A cattle station farther west along the tracks through Wharton County was named "Mackay" (1885-1937) in honor of Joseph W. Mackay, Hungerford's son-in-law. "Edna" (Jackson County) was named for Edna Telferner, daughter of County Joseph Telferner, while "Telferner" (Victoria County) was named for the Italian Count himself.

"Louise" (Wharton County) was so named in honor of Louise Hunderford, daughter of Daniel Hungerford. Although an Indian camp, "Santa Anna's Crossing", and a stage coach relay station had existed in the area of the present townsite of Louise, it was the railroad which provided the pivotal point for development of a permanent community. Postal services, still continuing, began April 26, 1888, with Alexander McDow as first Postmaster.

Among the first settlers of Louise was Alfred Peterson, who established a general store in 1895, which is owned and operated today by third-generation family members. Cover shown bears Louise postmark October 13, 1901, and was backstamped "Lindsborg, Kansas--Received October 15, 1901." (See Illustration No. 1) Letter is from Alfred Peterson to his daughter, Elsie, at Bethany College.

Alfred Peterson's son, Julius B. Peterson, became a stamp enthusiast and cover collector, and his name is well-known to many of today's Texas cover collectors. In the TPHS JOURNAL, September 1978 (Vol. 3, No. 3) an article "New Dimensions in 1936 Centennial Covers" by Charles Deaton, who

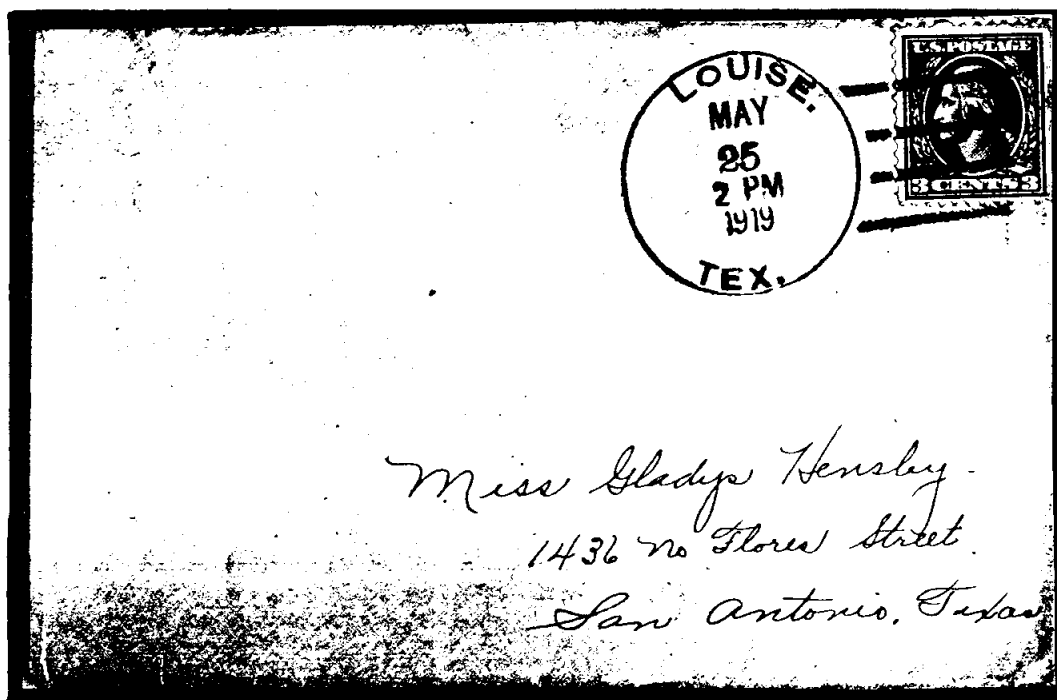


ILLUSTRATION #2

this afternoon - Sunday! We have
just had another big rain, but I
shall go up town - only a couple blocks
and mail their 'minnie so you
will be quite sure to receive it to-
morrow. He had quite a little
storm at 6:30 yesterday morning, one
large hay barn went down in town.
The roof on a box car blew off. Other
damage were light about Louisa, Tex.

It is bad to have your kind of
rain - better be more careful since
a new knee-cop can't be bought.
Better cut out ball playing. Like you
other conjectures - there is not much
serious truth to them - because if there

was you would be awfully wise
on pay days - and very stupid
the day before.

I really have not a picture of
myself in civilian cloth now. I expected
to take some today but the rain seemed
to stop that. By the way, I have not a
picture of you - other than the little
bedd picture I took. Sometime I will
exchange a real picture with you - what
do you say? Probably you already have
one to send me.

These rolls were picked on the
roadside in France, last March.
As ever,

Sunday
Julius.

purchased the J. B. Peterson collections in 1978, described him as follows: "Mr. Peterson was a cover collector of the first magnitude..." Louise cancel of May 25, 1919, is shown on cover addressed to "Miss Gladys Hensley" -- who later became Mrs. J. B. Peterson. (See Illustration No. 2). A portion of enclosed letter is shown which reads "These violets were picked on the roadside in France last March" -- a reference to World War I military service. (See Illustration No. 3)

To the northwest of the town of Louise, lies a remote section of the County where seven "sister" communities existed from around 1888 to 1929. Five of these communities were described by an early settler, Mr. Elo Schilling as follows: "In 1894, we moved to the west corner of the County, then known as Sandies, but later as Colburn. Our land was seven miles north of Devil's Pocket, located below where Pin Oak Creek empties into the Sandies. To the west lay the picturesque Lost Prong and Goldenrod Prairie, a hunter's paradise."

A post office at Round Mott was established October 27, 1888, with James A. Rathke as Postmaster, but was discontinued January 17, 1890, with mail moved to Ganado (Jackson County).

Goldenrod's first Postmaster was Edmund W. King, appointed January 17, 1895. He was followed by Hillary M. Crabb (January 24, 1896); James A. Phillips (November 3, 1897); Jacob H. Rhodes (April 18, 1899); and Anderson R. Knight (December 6, 1906). In 1910, mail was moved to Provident City (Colorado County). Cover (front) shown bears Goldenrod postmark April 5, 1909. (See Illustration No. 4)

June 15, 1895, is recorded as date of establishment of a Post Office at Colburn. A total of two Postmasters, Adamantine Johnson and Arch E. Rhodes, served until November 30, 1909, when mail service was moved to Hahn.

Lost Prong's first Postmaster was Edmund W. King (November 21, 1896); Sarah D. Wilson followed (October 11, 1897); Charles L. Baker assumed duties March 19, 1900, and the mail moved to Goldenrod December 6, 1900.

Pocket's Post Office was established September 14, 1897, with Lallie Rogers as Postmaster - mail to Lost Prong July 31, 1899.

Gideon W. Wiginton was the first Postmaster of Hahn, appointed September 16, 1897; Belle Wiginton took over the Postmastership January 1, 1919; and mail service was discontinued June 29, 1920. It was later re-established but moved to El Campo, June 29, 1929. Cover shown bears Hahn postmark December 6 as received, reflecting one-day mail service. (See Illustration No. 5)

Sandies had Bessie A. Callies as first Postmaster (March 31, 1909) -- Robert A. Callies was next (April 1, 1911) and then mail was moved to Ganado (Jackson County) February 28, 1914.

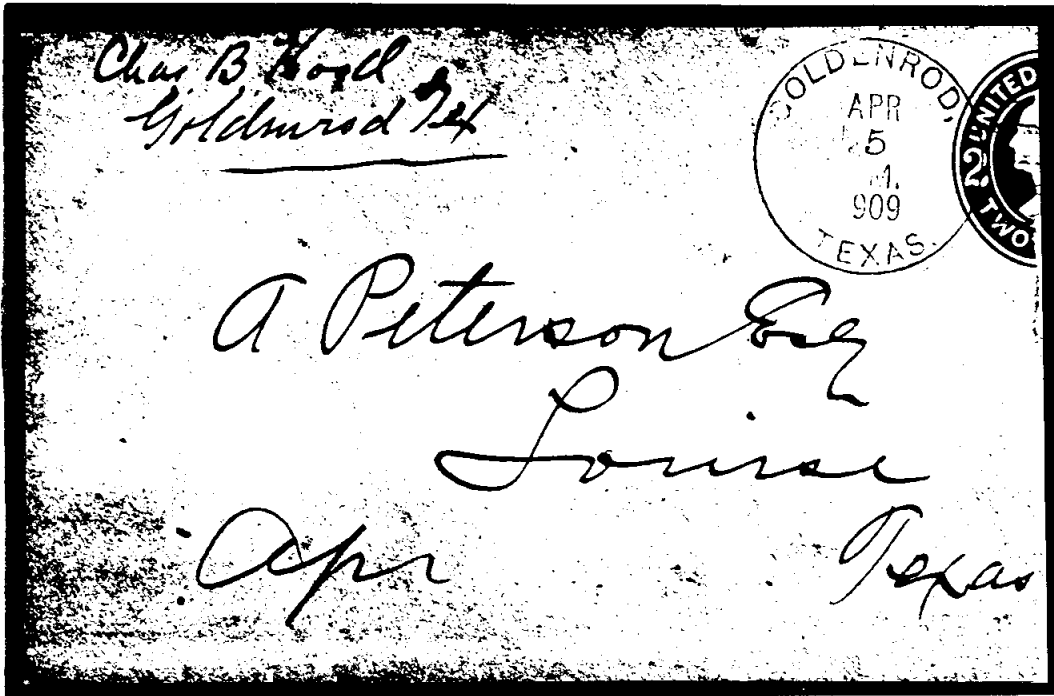


ILLUSTRATION #4

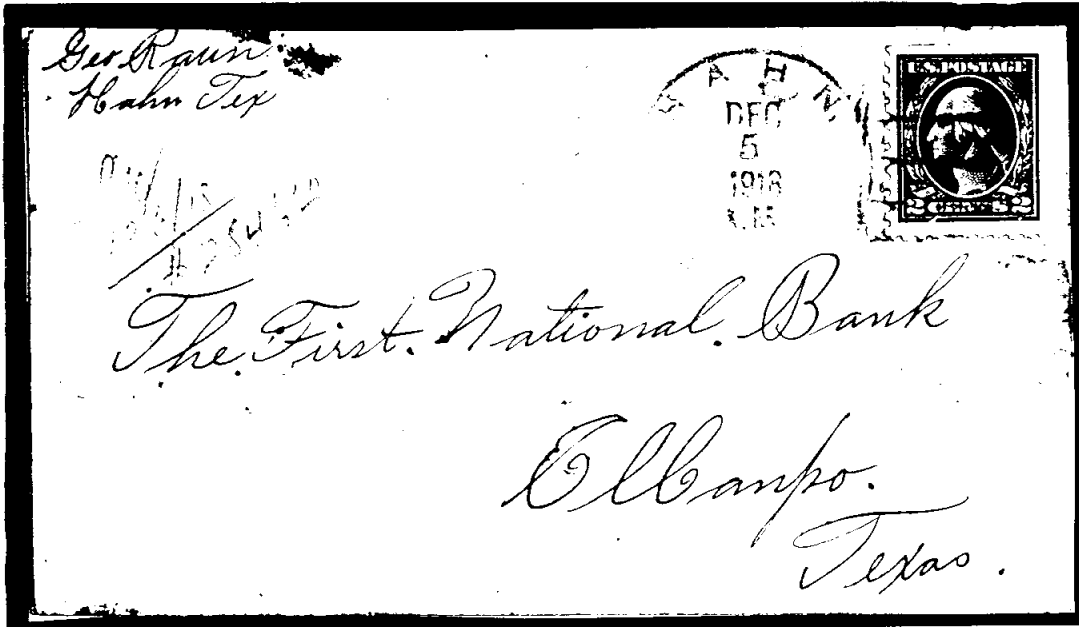


ILLUSTRATION #5

CONCLUSION:

Lacking adequate transportation facilities in their formulative years, the seven above-mentioned communities declined to grow, and with the advent of rural (free) delivery around 1896, postal service shifted from remote rural post offices to rural routes directed from larger post offices in established towns.

Louise, with rail service in 1881, thrived -- and even today has an active and quite busy Post Office. Businesses, including A. Peterson Company Store at 700 Main Street, also continue to flourish in this small but outstanding Wharton County agricultural community.

REFERENCES - PART III:

"The Handbook of Texas" - Vols. I & II
"The History of Wharton County" - Annie Lee Williams
"The El Campo Citizen" newspaper - March 1950
Interviews with the Alfred Peterson Family
Interview with former Postmaster Evelyn Moser
Personal files and records; collections

(Series will continue with "Rock Island (Colorado County)")

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CSA and Hopkins Co.

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19th Cent. Tex. Post. Hist.

BYNE, Richard H., 7518 Buckskin Lane, San Antonio, TX 78227. Tel. 512-674-1146
C.S.A.

CAMP, Larry N., 824 Via Altos, Mesquite, TX 75150. Tel. 214-681-7538
Tex. Post. Hist., C.S.A. (Carthage and Gainesville)

CASEBIER, Cecil Lang, Jr., P.O. Box 1123, Austin, TX 78767. Tel. 512-247-4606

COHEN, Norman A., P.O. Box 29543, Dallas, TX 75229. Tel. Bus. 214-638-0588,
H. 214-661-1196. 1936 Centennial Covers

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EKENSTAM, Fred, 1009 S. Aspen Ct., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. Tel. 918-258-9728
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FLANAGIN, Roamine, 6802 Duquesne Dr., Austin, TX 78723. Tel. 512-926-8653
Tex. Postmarks, Co. Courthouse Photos

FOHN, Jane, Rt. 2, Box 352, Leander, TX 78641. Tel. 267-1493

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FRAJOLA, Richard C., 85 North St., Danbury, CT 06810. Tel 203-790-4311
Dealer in 19th Cent. Post. Hist.

GADDY, A.E. (Gene), 9817 Kingsley Rd., Dallas TX 75238. Tel. 214-348-2821

GARCIA, Rick, 313 Rawhide Loop, Round Rock, TX 78681. Tel. 244-3575
FDC. TX Covers (Airport Dedications, Williamson, Travis, & Austin
Counties) Sports Covers TX DPO's

GATES, Thomas B., (Triple "S" Post. Hist.) P.O. Box 224, Urbana, OH V3078
Tel. 513-653-8094. Dealer

GEBERT, Karl C., P.O. Box 63, Premont, TX 78375.
353 North Post Oak Lane #728, Houston, TX 77024

GEELAN, Charles W., Box 355, Normangee, TX 77871. Tel. 713-396-5102

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Texas DPO's. Walker, Polk, Grimes, & Harris Counties.

GERMER, Louis, 227 Irvington Dr., San Antonio, TX 78209. Tel. 512-826-6575
Tex. Post. Hist., DPO's CSA

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Tel. 505-265-4858. U.S. & Tex. Post. Hist., C.S.A.

GOERTE, Carl W. Jr., Box 927, Shiner, TX 77984. Tel. 512-594-3128

GREEN, Nonie, 2401 Colorado, San Angelo, TX 76901. Tel. 915-949-2920
Tex. Post. Hist., Reg. U.S. Covers, Pan Am. Flts.

GREENWALD, Edward S., M.D., 39 Disbrow Circle, New Rochelle, NY 10804
Civil War Post. Hist.

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HAYNES, John H., 4801 Sanger #6, Waco, TX 76710. Tel. 817-772-4296
Tex. Post. Hist., McLennan Co. DPO's, U.S. Post. Hist.

HENDERSON, B.H. (Bill), 6216 Franwood Terr., Fort Worth, TX 76112.
Tel. 817-429-0532

HILL, Edward M., 4008 Chatham Lane, Houston, TX 77027. Tel. 713-627-1228

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HUETHER, Richard G., Box R-7175, APO New York 09184. Books, Documents of
Tx. Post. Hist.

HYATT, Gordon A., 235 W. Sierra Circle, San Marcos, TX 78666. Tel. 512-392-6520,
Tex. Post. Hist., Ghost Towns of Texas

JARRETT, David L., Box 1486, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
Tel. 212-832-1849. U.S. Post. Hist., Tex. Republic thru early Statehood

KANNWISCHER, Dr. L.R., Hillcrest Med. Tower #202, Waco, TX 76708.
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KILGORE, Dan E., 9025 Agnes, Corpus Christi, TX 78410

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MANDEL, Frank, P.O. Box 157, New York, NY 10014-0157

MARKOVITS, Robert, Box 891, Middletown, NY 10940

McDANIEL, William K., 800 Cannan Dr., Angleton, TX 77515. Tel. 713-849-6045

McHENRY, Gordon, P.O. Box 117, Osprey, FL 33559. Tel. 813-966-5563
Dealer in U.S. Post. Hist. Covers

McMAHON, Stephen R., M.D., 9200 Elam Rd., Suite #205, Dallas, TX 75217

McNEAL, H.P., 520 Lakemont Ave. South, Winter Park, FL 32792. Tel. 664-4012
Fla. and C.S.A. Post. Hist.

MEDLAR, Bob, 40 N.E. Loop 410, Suite 338, San Antonio, TX 78216. Tel. 512-342-5191
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MIKESKA, Marvin R., P.O. Box 26, Longview, TX 75606. Tel. 214-236-7101

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Dealer DPO's, Etc.

MOLNAR, Charles J., Rt. 1, Box 154, 1030 Tote Rd., Rock Creek, OH 44084
Tel. 216-466-2274. Dealer in U.S. Post. Hist.

OSBURN, John D., 302 E. Main St., Edmond, OK 73034. Tel. 405-341-6692.
Red River Co's. and Clarksville

PARKER, Ward S., 6 Shardue Lane, St. Louis, MO. 63141. Tel. 314-432-2743
Missouri Post. Hist., St. Louis, 19th Cent. Covers of Midwest

PATTERSON, Bill, 11903 Blue Island, Houston, TX 77044. Tel. 713-458-3339.
Aviation Covers and Stamps, Tex. and Connecticut Post. Hist.,
Topical FDC's

PETERSON, A.W. (Bill), 4102 Southwood West, Colleyville, TX 76034
19th Cent. Tex. Post. Hist., U.S. Stamps. Br. Colonies

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Dealer

POORE, Rev. Elwood S., 302 South Denton, Gainesville, TX 76240.
Tel. 817-665-3243. Tex. DPO's, Flag Cancells, RPO's

PULVER, Dale R., 7725 Beaver Creek Dr., Mentor, OH 44060
Mex. Classics, Forwarding Agents, Mex. War

RHODEHAMEL, Robert H., 5320 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208
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ROTHSTEIN, Joseph, 306 Camelia Dr., Laredo, TX 78041. Tel. 512-724-5502
U.S. and Tex. Post. Hist.

ROWE, John, 650 Allied Lakewood Tower, Dallas, TX 75214. Tel. 214-826-3036

SCHMIDT, Walter G., 506 Peavy Rd., Dallas, TX 75218. Tel. 214-321-6118
Tex. Post. Hist., Plate No. Similies

SCHWEITZER, Jeffrey M., 5812 Beaumont Place, El Paso, TX 79912. Tel. 548-1882
U.S. Plate Blks., U.S., FDC, Israel FDC

SCOTT, Betty R., 2808 Memphis, Nederland, TX 77627. Tel 409-722-6279.
U.S. Mint & Used & Post. Hist., Japan, Greece

SIMPSON, Ronald D., 17926 Deep Brook Dr., Spring, TX 77379
West Texas & Army Forts (Camps)

SMITH, Jack M., Sr., 5217 Edmonton, El Paso, TX 79924. Tel 915-751-3618

SOUTHARD, Col. W.W. Jr., 123 Brackenridge #103, San Antonio, TX 78209.
Tel. 512-649-1359. Fancy Cancels, Black Jacks

SPIES, Richard E., 350 Nassau, San Antonio, TX 78213-4049. Tel. 512-349-7560
Gen., RR and Highway P.O.'s

SPRABERRY, David C., 318 N. Austin, Lamesa, TX 79331-5431. Tel. 806-872-6231
Dealer

STANTON, Thomas E., 2109 Alice Ave., Apt. 2, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

STEVER, Rex H., First City Bank Tower #2050, Corpus Christi, TX 78477.
Tel. 882-7201. Tex. Post. Hist., U.S. 1869 Issue of 3¢

STICKNEY, Webster F., 7590 Windlawn Way, Parker, Co. 80134. Tel. 303-841-0316
Dealer: US and Canada. Post. Hist. Rev. and Off.

STRAUSS, W.L., P.O. Box 66, Oil-Field Rt., Big Lake, TX 76932
West Tex Post. Hist., DPO's of West Tex.

STREETER, Leo E., 6710 Country Field, San Antonio, TX 78240.
Tel. 512-699-0461

TADDY, John G., 11910 Alamo Blanco, San Antonio, TX 78233. Tel. 512-653-0925
US Post. Hist., (Esp. Wis. Foreign Mail) Australia

TOOSEN, Thomas K., 2000 Rose Lane, Las Cruces, N.M. 88005. Tel. 505-524-1250.
New Mexico Post. Hist., Mexican RPO's

TRAMMELL, Jack 6324 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, TX 75214. Tel. 214-823-9202.
Dealer in U.S. Covers and Stamps

TREAT, William Jay, 714A San Mario, College Station, TX 77840. Tel. 409-696-8140.
US Post. Hist., 1851-52 Issue.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, Serials Acquisitions, General Libraries, Austin, TX 78713

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, Library Serials, P.O. Box 830688, Richardson, TX
75083-0688.

WALLACE, R.E. (Bob), 312 E. Weatherford St., Fort Worth, TX 76102.
Dealer

WALSTON, Royce, P.O. Box 8954, Waco, TX 76714. Tel. 817-776-3382
Pre-1900 Waco, Tex. Post. Hist., U.S. Singles and Duck Stamps

WATZ, Norma, 920 Empire, El Campo, TX 77437-2823. Tel. 409-543-4325.
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Bible and Maximum Cards - Military Covers

WELCH, David P., 5923 Queenston St., Springfield, VA 22152. Tel. 703-569-4440.
U.S. to 1850 and Western U.S. Post. Hist.

WHITEHEAD, John, P.O. Box 966, Longview, TX 75606. Tel. 214-759-3958.
East Texas Post. Hist., Especially Rusk and Gregg Co.

WICKER, Milton G., 508 Lindley Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Tel. 292-3730.
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Texas Post. Hist. Prior to 1875, Early Scandinavia

WILLIAMS, Richard J., 3918 Royal Palms Court, Dallas, TX 75234.
Tel. 214-243-7880.

MARX, Rodney, 7373 Valley View Lane #2099, Dallas, TX 75240. Tel. 214-960-0143
U.S., U.S. Covers, Stampless Covers

LEWIS, Dan J., 2351 N. Mill, Box 13, Lewisville, TX 75067. Tel. 817-436-3105
Haiti, Iceland, Portugal and Colonies and Australia, Postal History and
precancels