

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

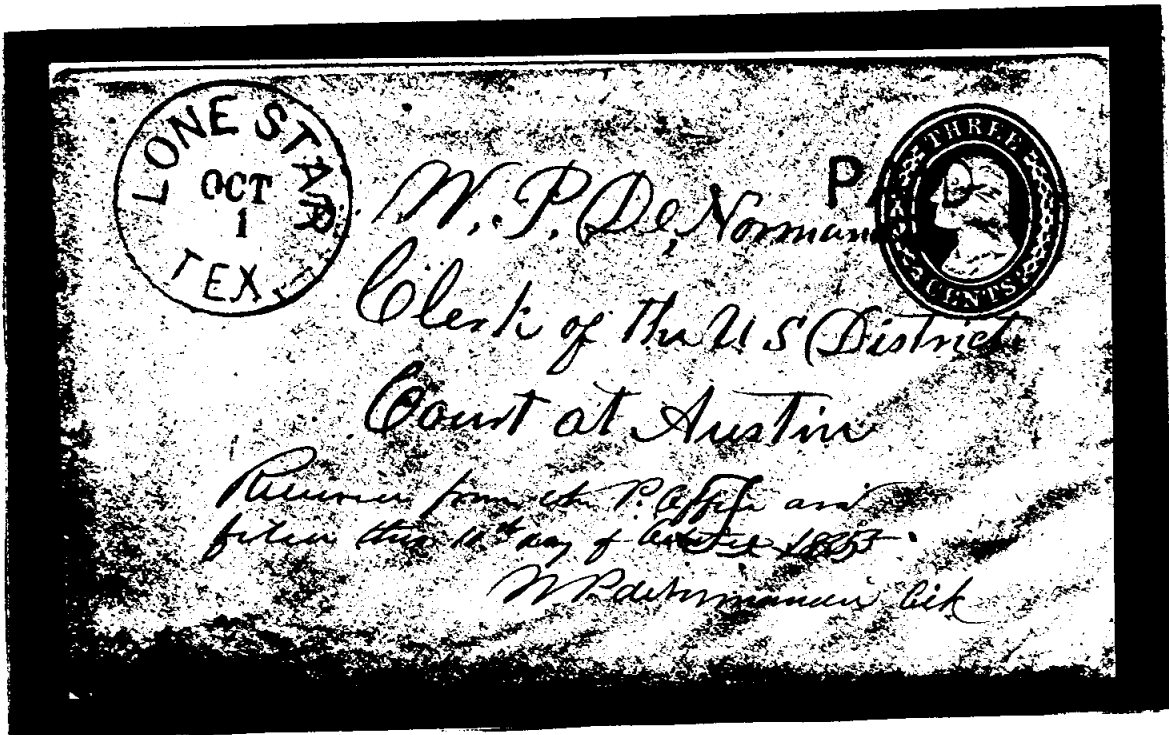


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by Norma Watz

* * * *

Pictured on the cover is a three cent envelope from Lone Star, Texas, dated October 1, 1853. Note the "PAID" cancellation. Lone Star post office was established in 1850 and operated under that name until 1875. In 1875, the new Franklin County was carved out of Titus County, and Lone Star was the County Seat; at that time the name was changed to Mount Vernon.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Vacation time is past and many of the fall exhibitions are in full swing. I hope that many of you had a relaxing time and maybe had time to work on your collections.

Somehow, our elections did not take place at the time scheduled for them so a ballot is enclosed with this issue of the journal to make it official.

There are many things that each of us learns about Texas postal history and some of them may not be of a nature to warrant a full article but are nonetheless important and worth reporting. Write a paragraph or two about it and send it to editor, John Whitehead. We can start a section called "Bits and Pieces of Texas Postal History", or whatever our editor wishes to call it.

Bill Emery and I had a nice experience sharing in the South Australia Sesquicentennial celebration with Stampex in Adelaide. For those of you who attend Texpex-Texanex in San Antonio earlier and saw the exhibit that South Australians prepared and exhibited about their country on a non competitive basis to share in our sesquicentennial, you could have seen exhibits prepared by Bill and myself to tell the Australians about Texas in their Stampex show. We received complimentary letters and a medal each. Not only was this good public relations for Texas Postal History Society but a means of making new friends via the experience.

If some of you have ideas concerning our society or about our interests I would like to hear from you.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We have three interesting articles in this issue. Fred Ekenstam tells us a Tale of Two Cities, and Norma Watz continues her "Cover Stories" series with a story about Rock Island in Colorado County.

Also in this issue John Germann and Myron Janzen's article on Andrews County, Texas, inaugurates a series of such articles which ultimately intend to "cover" the state of Texas. These articles will be published in a loose-leaf format in installments of 5-6 counties scattered through different regions of the state. Only a couple will be published in philatelic journals. The rest will be provided on a subscription basis, at a cost strictly commensurate with the actual costs of production. The subscribers will be notified in advance when each subsequent "packet" of counties is available. Among the counties scheduled for early publication are Nueces, Tom Green, Coryell, Jones, Smith, and Newton.

If interested in having your name put on that subscription list, please "drop a line" to one of the following:

John J. Germann
12102 Whittington
Houston, Texas 77077

OR

Myron Janzen
#5 Oakwilde Court
Houston, Texas 77043

The authors also sincerely request that if anyone recognizes errors of omission or commission, please be kind enough to report same to them. They would like the data to be as accurate and complete as is possible.

In our "Letters to the Editor" department, Larry Camp of 6025 Spring Flower Trail, Dallas, Texas 75248, sent the picture below of a Thorps Spring (Hood County) cover. The postmark is in blue ink on a 3 cent green entire (Buff). Larry wants to know if anyone has seen this cover before or does anyone know anything about it. Drop Larry a line if you can help him.

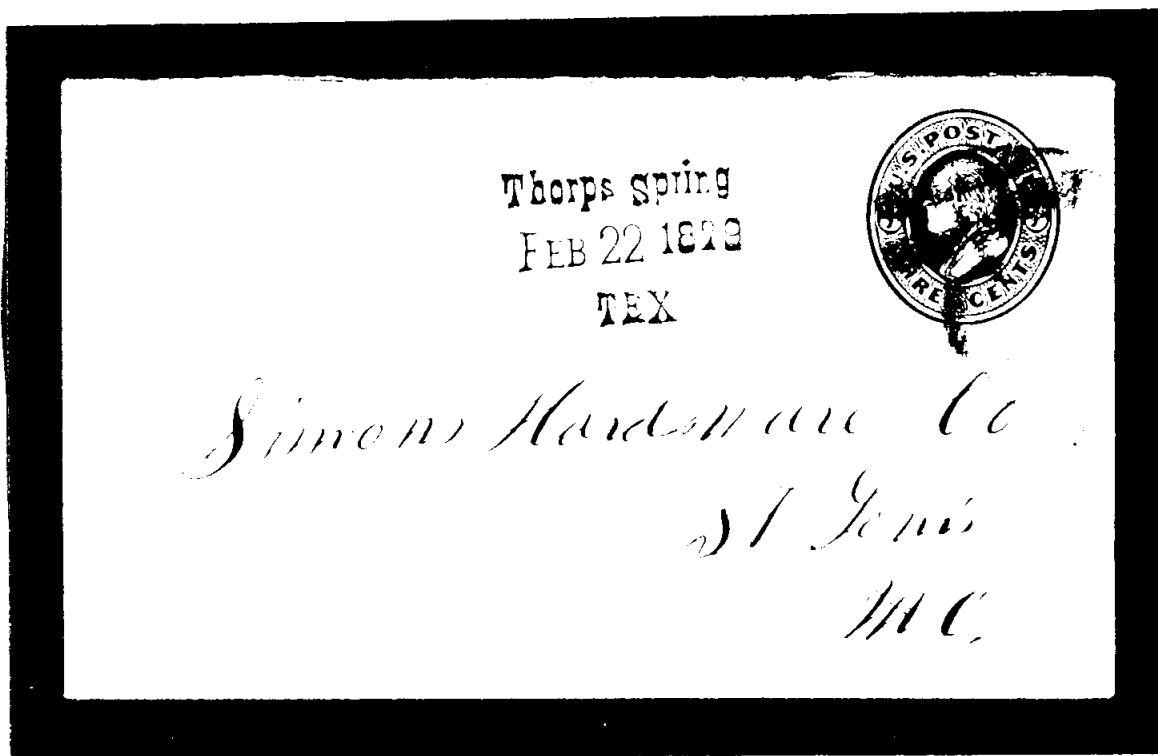
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A TALE OF TWO CITIES: FORT GRIFFIN AND ALBANY, TEXAS

BY FRED EKENSTAM

The railroads played a very important part in the development of Texas. Everyone knows that. But have you thought about the side-effects of the railroads... how the railroads changed the fortunes of people and cities by where they chose not to locate? How decisions made a hundred years ago affect us today? The following is an example of a decision influenced by local citizens, railroads... and money.

Fort Griffin was established in 1867 in conjunction with the chain of forts on the Texas frontier as defense against the Indians. The post office was established in 1869. Fort Griffin, the town, played a significant role as a supply point, first to the fort and the buffalo hunters and later to the trail hands who were driving cattle to Dodge city, Kansas. The corner card in figure one is from F.B. York and Company, Merchants and Bankers. An advertisement placed in the June, 1879 Fort Griffin Echo offered to buy hides and furs and to sell hats, lumber, shingles, shoes, catawba wine, sherry, blackberry brandy, and ranch supplies. The ad further indicated that York had offices in Fort Griffin and Dodge City so it serviced trail hands on both ends of the cattle drive.

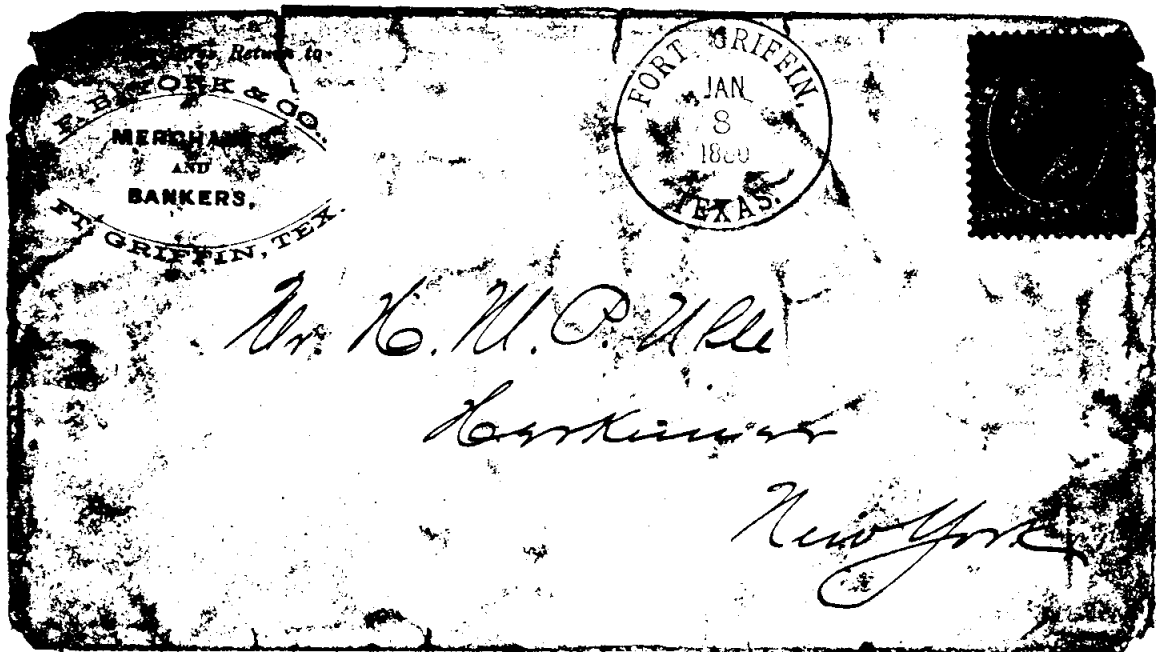


FIGURE ONE

In 1874 when the Texas Central Railroad proposed to move into the area, Albany gave a better deal and it was selected for the rail route, rather than Fort Griffin. The townsite for Albany was donated by Henry C. Jacobs, the first sheriff of Albany. The corner card from figure two is from his concern. The post office in Albany opened in 1876. It was also in 1874 that Albany superseded Fort Griffin as county seat for Shackelford County. With not getting the railroad and then losing the county seat, Fort Griffin started its decline so that today it exists only as a state park of the actual fort. Nothing remains of the town. Albany still prospers.

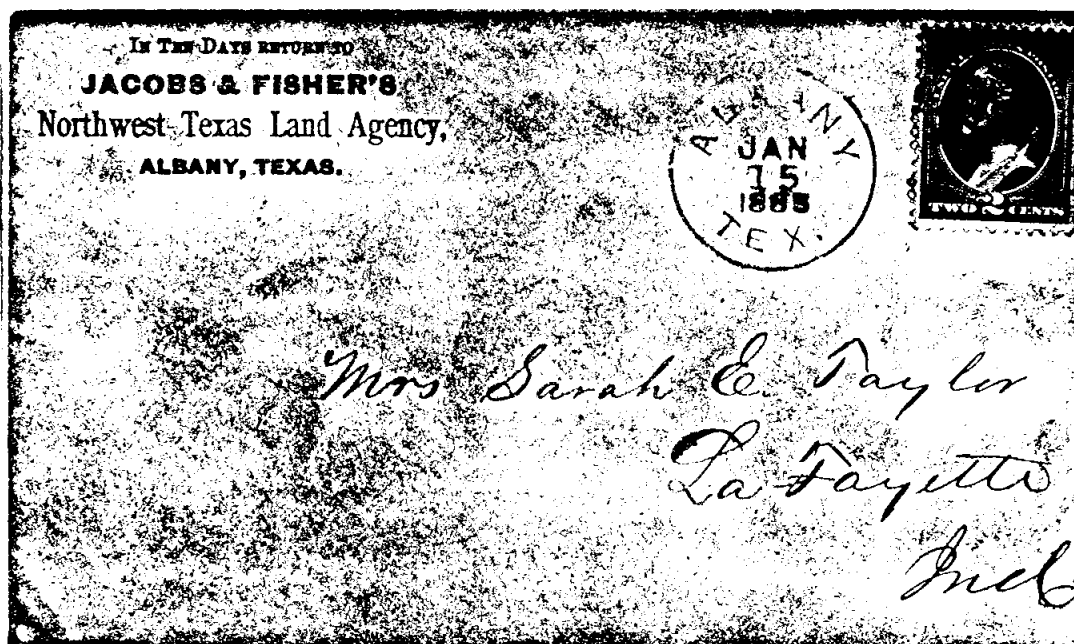


FIGURE TWO

Bibliography

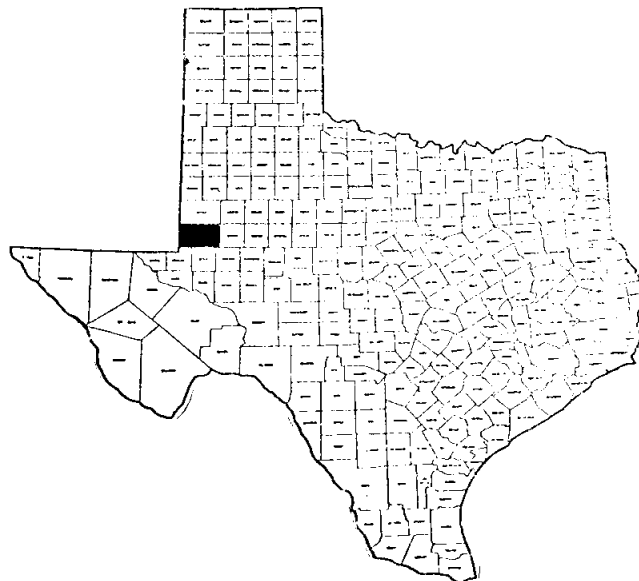
- Deaton, Charles: Texas Postal History Handbook. Austin, 1980
- Fort Griffin Echo. June, 1879.
- Matthews, Sallie Reynolds: Interwoven. College Station, 1936.
- Webb, Walter Prescott, ed-in-chief. The Handbook of Texas. 2 vols. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952

ANDREWS COUNTY

Andrews County lies in the Llano Estacado region of far west Texas, bordering on the state of New Mexico. As a natural consequence of its High Plains location, the county has little rainfall (about 14" of rain annually) and mostly sandy soil. Andrews County also has many shallow salt lakes, the most prominent being Lake Shafter. There is some agriculture, particularly cotton and sorghum production, but as might be expected, ranching is a much more common way of life. The most important economic activity, however, has been oil and gas production. Andrews County is located in the Permian Basin, where one of man's richest known oil reserves was discovered in 1920. In the 1980s almost 40% of the 5000+ employed in the county were working in oil and gas and related extractive industries.

Andrews is a large county, encompassing 1504 square miles, which has always been rather sparsely settled (currently a little over 8 people per square mile). Its population has fluctuated quite a bit, depending upon the vagaries of the weather and the markets. Created in 1876 but not organized until 1910, the population numbered 24 in 1890 and 975 in 1910, then dipped to 350 in 1920 because of a disastrous drought in the years 1917-1918. The discovery of oil in the county in 1929 spurred an influx of workers; in 1930, the population was back up to 736, in 1950 it was 5002, and 13323 people claimed Andrews County as their home in 1980. The revenues from oil and gas gave Andrews County one of the state's highest per capita incomes, but the decline in industry prices in the mid-1980s hit the county hard. County revenues are deposited in two insured commercial banks; there is now only one currently operating post office - Andrews, the county seat.

The county was named for Richard Andrews, the first Texan killed (at San Antonio) in the Texas war for independence from Mexico. It was mapped in 1875 by Colonel William Rufus ("Pecos Bill") Shafter who led an army expedition through the area and brought the Comanche and Apache domination of the region to an end. Post office operations commenced with the establishment of the Bernice office 15 years later, but the pioneer office closed shortly thereafter in 1892. Not until 1903 did another post office spring up -- in Pierre Van Hollebeke's store. But it took til 1907 for a true community to spring up in the county -- Shafter Lake, at approximately the same site as Bernice. Shafter Lake, however, lost out to Andrews in the election for a county seat in 1910; its cemetery and one house are about all that visibly remain of the town which at one time boasted one bank, two hotels, three churches, and a school.



NOTES ON TEXAS MAPS

I THE MAPS

There are two maps for each county -- the first showing the status of each office, the second identifying the chronological order of establishment.

LEGEND: ○ = Operating, ● = Discontinued, ⊗ = Never Opened
 Ⓐ = Approximate Site (of a discontinued office)
+++++ = Operating Railroad, - - - - - = Discontinued RR
 ① = 1st P.O. established in the county, ② = 2nd, etc.

Railroads played a paramount role in the history of the Texas postal system. Since those Texas railroads have undergone many changes in name and ownership, only one name is given to each railroad. Those still operating are given their current name; those discontinued are given the name of the original railroad to reach the post offices.

Waterways are also shown and identified if they were important to the postal development of that county.

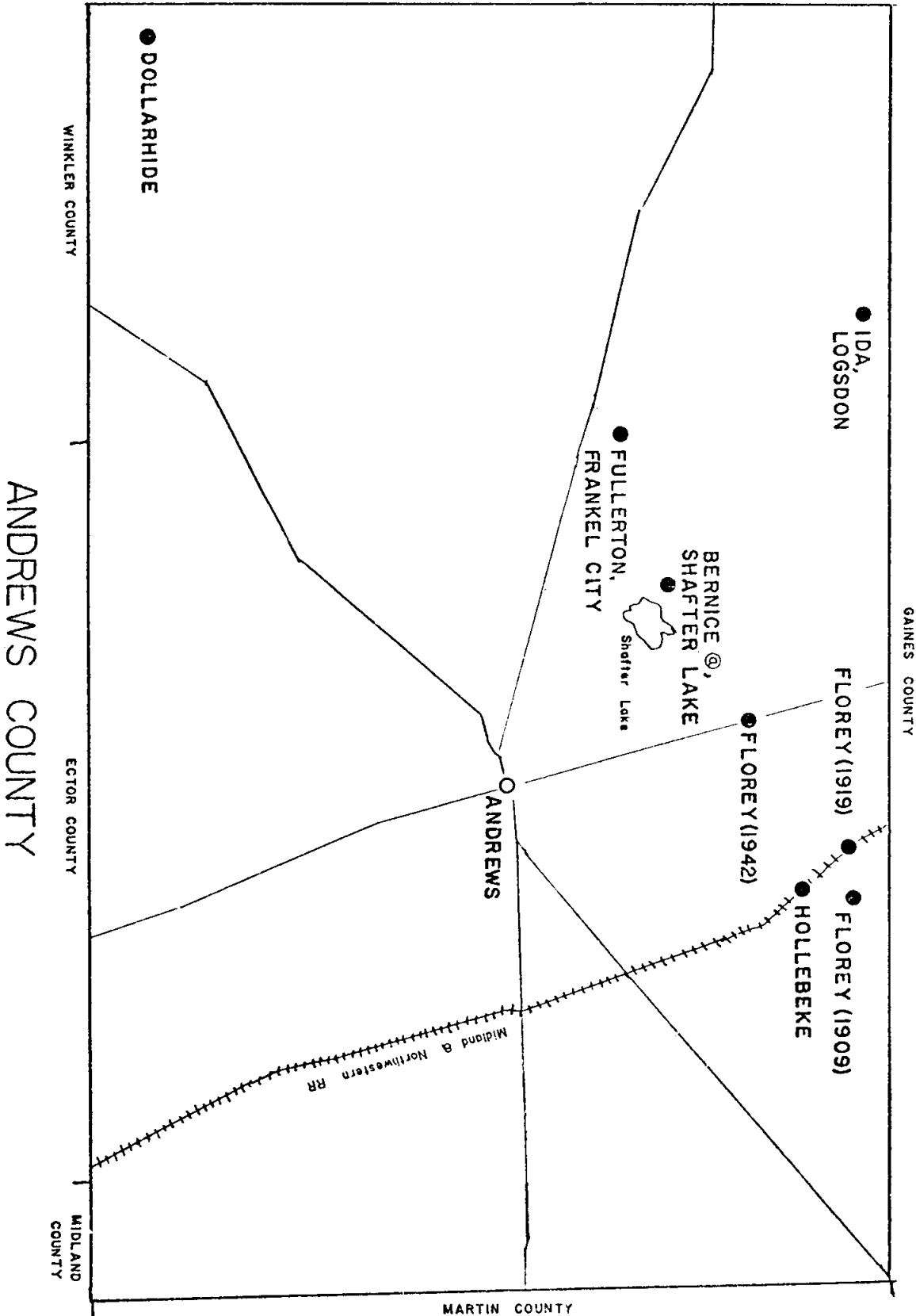
The year dates given to two or more locations for an office do not necessarily designate the year opened at that location; they do, however, indicate a certain year in which the office was known to have operated at that spot. When two or more offices operated at the same site, they are listed in the order of their operation, with the earliest on top and later names underneath.

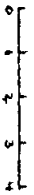
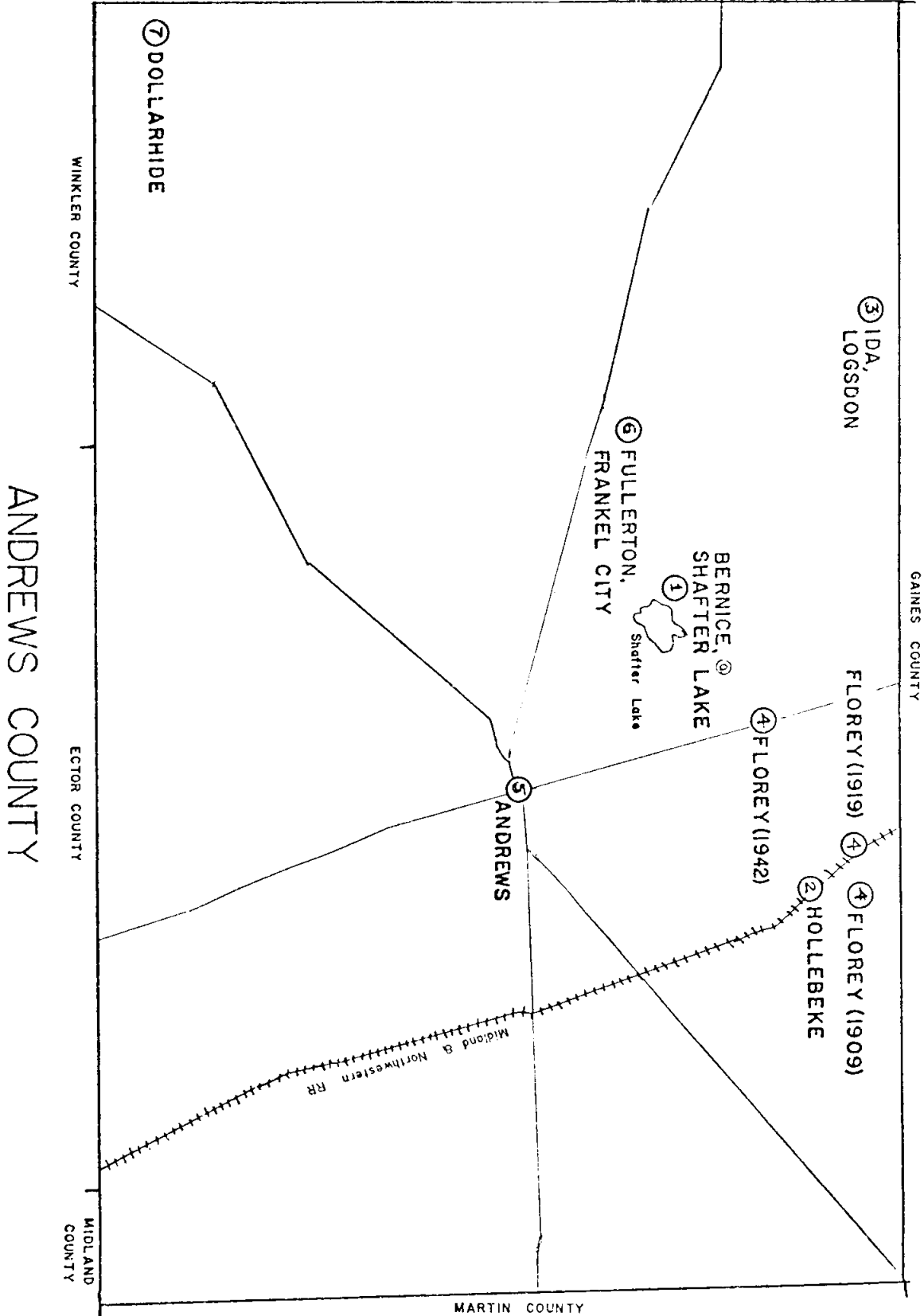
II THE SITES

The site locations have been gathered from maps, from site location reports, from postal route ledgers, and from diverse secondary works. Even though Texas used the Spanish survey system rather than the more precise Anglo system of ranges and townships and sections, most sites from about 1875 to date are precisely accurate. For the small offices prior to 1875, the locations are sometimes a little more tentative, as the sources themselves in the mid-19th century tended very much to be. These offices are occasionally marked with an "@" which means that the general location is accurate. These sites should be taken much more cautiously, particularly inasmuch as maps become more potentially misleading when they become as detailed as these are; the problems of proper relationships grow as the number of entries on a map grow.

Not all post offices are mapped. Some, especially the short-lived offices in the 1840-1860 era, are at least momentarily lost - appearing only on Post Office Department lists. Most of these were homes, plantations, stores, or crossroads which never lent their name to any community and which disappeared from those lists almost as suddenly as they had appeared. The records on those offices which applied for but never received permission to open are quite scant; their sites are also mapped, when discernible.

In general, post office relocations which amount to less than 2 miles have been ignored. The major exceptions are when those moves resulted in name changes or when the office deliberately packed up and moved to a railroad. The site location reports show that sometimes a post office might be situated several miles from the same-named community which it served; in those cases the map shows the post office location rather than that of the community.





NOTES ON TEXAS LISTINGS

I THE COUNTIES

Whenever possible the post offices have been listed according to the current county in which they are or would have been located. Many served areas which would ultimately be in counties created later on. Those are listed in both the original "parent" county and, when known, in the current county. In the parent county an abbreviated entry is preceded by a caret (^); the full listing, however, has been saved for the current county. Sometimes, because site information is unavailable, an older office may have a full listing in what amounts to the "original county."

When a post office physically moved into another county, that office receives a listing in both counties corresponding to its time in each county, and with the notation "formerly in" or "moved to" or "moved back to" the other county. When Post Office Department records indicate a post office changing counties almost immediately after opening, the office has been relegated to the second county unless research has demonstrated otherwise; errors and confusion as to county boundaries do sometimes crop up in those records.

II THE POST OFFICE NAMES

Every effort has been made to incorporate all of the Texas post offices into these records, regardless of the government they served. The listings describe only independent post offices, not subsidiary branches, stations, contract offices, or the like. The offices during the Republic era pose a special challenge; the records are rather spotty, and because of the gaps there may be only a one-time, one-line reference to a short-lived office. It is also sometimes difficult to distinguish actual post offices from mere mail collection points. The listings selectively include only those distinctly referred to as post offices, or for which monetary returns were received, or for which postmaster appointments were made.

In the mid-1890s the Post Office Department ordered the standardization of post office names -- eliminating apostrophes (e.g. Wood's to Woods), contracting most multi-word names into one word (Black Oak to Blackoak), lopping off the "ugh" from all names ending in "borough" (Hillsborough to Hillsboro), dropping the "h" from "burgh" (Pittsburgh to Pittsburg), modernizing the spelling of "centre" (Centreville to Centerville), etc. Since the post office name was only slightly changed (and even then often against the wishes of the postmaster and citizenry!), and since the change was often only temporary, the new spellings have not been granted separate status. Instead, an asterisk (*) has been placed beside the name of those offices which underwent such imposed changes. Similar changes in spelling which occurred at other times and at the instigation of the post office clientele have, however, been given individual listings.

The listings also include those offices for which an application was made but which never opened their doors; these are enclosed in brackets ([]), with an accompanying notation describing their fate. The abbreviated notations are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1) ORD. RESC. | = Order (for establishment) Rescinded |
| 2) NEVER IN OP. | = Never In Operation |
| 3) NO PAPERS | = No Papers (and therefore no business) |
| 4) NO FURTHER REF. | = No Further Reference in the records |
| 5) PM - FTQ | = Postmaster Failed to Qualify |
| 6) PM DECL. | = Postmaster Declined |
| 7) PM NOT COMM. | = Postmaster Not Commissioned |

III THE DATES

Postal dates should not be taken on faith. Establishment dates, for example, may point out when the appointment was made but they do not tell you when the post office actually commenced operation. Even when it comes to the establishment of modern offices (from the 1940s on), the records give several different dates relating to the process of beginning an office; the date given for those particular offices is the date on which the appointment was confirmed. The official discontinuation dates must also be viewed as somewhat tenuous. Additionally, the dates of closing, which are usually gathered from the Record of Appointment of Postmasters, are often inaccurate in the late 19th and early 20th century because they are not the effective dates of closing. As much as possible the listings use those effective dates gathered from such sources as the Postal Bulletins and the Site Location Reports. Whenever a conflict of dates occurred, the latest date was the one cited.

The dates given for the Spanish, Mexican, Republican, and Confederate eras are less complete and less precise than those for the United States offices. Therefore dates for establishment may be accompanied by a "@" ("approximate"), and many discontinuation dates are simply listed as "REP" or "CSA" (discontinued during the period of the Republic or of the Confederacy).

A special mention needs to be given to the prolific use of two particular discontinuation dates: 5 November 1866 and 23 January 1867. In the Daily Journals of the U.S. Post Office Department the entries for these two dates use many a page to enumerate the names of offices presumably shut down. In fact, these dates must have been used simply to "clear the books" of former Confederate post offices which had either not survived the war or, perhaps, for which no proper post-war "takers" could be found to handle these "once again U.S." institutions. There are offices which were not only suspended but also formally discontinued by the C.S.A. but which nevertheless were accorded a "5 Nov 1866" closing date. These two dates should obviously not be taken literally, and therefore are enclosed in parentheses () in the listings.

The "OP" which appears in the "Discontinuation" column means that the office is still operating.

IV THE "MAIL TO" FINALE

The "Mail To" column primarily relates the post offices to which discontinued offices' effects and papers were sent upon dissolution. That information is available from the late 1860s onward; records prior to that rarely make any mention of the takeover office. In the mid-20th century the Post Office Department began to convert some of the offices into a formal division of a larger parent office. The abbreviations for these divisions are:

- (B) = Branch
- (S) = Station
- (RB) = Rural Branch
- (RS) = Rural Station

The column also cites other reasons why an office exits the listings for a county: it may have changed (CHGD) names or it may have moved (MVD) across the county line.

V FIRST POSTMASTER

The names of the founding postmasters have, where possible, been checked against both the Record of Appointment of Postmasters and the Site Location Reports; in some cases they have also been checked against the Daily Bulletins. Where inconsistencies in spelling have occurred, primary sources and common sense (hopefully!) have prevailed.

VI ALSO KNOWN AS

The "AKA" names have been taken from site location reports, from maps, and from secondary historical sources. Prospective postmasters sometimes sent long lists of proposed names for their prospective offices; if one or two had distinct preference over the name finally chosen by the Post Office Department, to the point that they were used on the application itself, they have been included. Often the community or area served by the post office was known by a different name than that adopted by the founding postmaster or the Department.

VII POPULATION

Although the application form for new post offices asked for information on the population to be served, and the majority of applicants responded with same, only those responses which were of special interest have been included. The figures quoted by the prospective postmasters tend to be crude and sometimes unknowing estimates; they also tend to be inflated, since the success of their applications was thought to rest in part upon the number of clients to be served. United States census information over the years is given for the larger towns; 1980 census figures are presented for the smaller still extant communities.

VIII NAME ORIGINS

As you might expect, the name origins of post offices are often related to the family of the first postmaster. When such is the case, the entry will simply note that. Sometimes multiple, conflicting explanations exist for the origin of a post office name; within reason, all of the various explanations will be cited.

IX PRINCIPAL SOURCES

Post Office Department sources (in the Library of Congress and in the National Archives)

Daily Bulletins
Daily Journals
Postal Guides (and predecessors)
Record of the Appointment of Postmasters
Site Location Reports

Republic of Texas Collection - Texas State Archives
The Handbook of Texas
The Texas Almanac
James M. Day (ed.) - Post Office Papers of the Republic of Texas -
2 vols. - 1966-1967
Harry M. Konwiser - The Texas Republic Postal System - 1933.
Alex L. ter Braake - Texas: The Drama of Its Postal Past - 1970.
W. L. Newsom - "The Postal System of the Republic of Texas" -
Southwestern Historical Quarterly - October, 1916.
Dorothy Edmiston - "The Postal System of the Texas Republic" -
Texas Monthly - May, 1930.
Various County Histories, Gazetteers, and Name Origin Works

III PRINCIPAL SOURCES

Map Collections

Library of Congress - State, County, RFD, etc.
 Barker Center - University of Texas at Austin - State and County
 Houston Public Library
 Texas State Archives

Post Office Route Books (US & CSA) - National Archives
 Post Office Site Location Reports - National Archives
 Texas Land Grant Maps - Texas General Land Office
 County Highway Maps - Texas Highway Department
 County Histories

ANDREWS COUNTY

OFFICE	ESTABL	DISCON	MAILTO
ANDREWS	20 JAN 1909	OP	
BERNICE	2 APR 1890	31 MAY 1892	MIDLAND
DOLLARHIDE	16 JUN 1950	24 JUL 1959	EL PASO
FLOREY	18 JAN 1909	30 NOV 1965	ANDREWS(RS)
FRANKEL CITY*	1 APR 1956	17 JUL 1976	ANDREWS
FULLERTON	1 OCT 1948	31 MAR 1956	CHGD TO FRANKEL CITY
HOLLEBEKE	14 AUG 1903	14 DEC 1907	SHAFTER LAKE
IDA	6 MAR 1908*	22 JUN 1908	CHGD TO LOGSDON
LOGSDON*	23 JUN 1908	@ OCT 1915	MVD TO GAINES CO
SHAFTER LAKE	19 JUL 1907	31 JAN 1929	ANDREWS
[ETHEL]	[21 MAR 1908]	ORD. RESC.	

ANDREWS COUNTY POST OFFICES

ANDREWS:

1ST PM: Thomas M. White
POP : 1908 = @ 100, 1940 = 611, 1960 = 11,135, 1980 = 11,061
NAME : For the county which was named for Richard Andrews - the
first man to fall in the Texas Revolution

BERNICE:

1ST PM: Samuel S. Mooney; AKA "Shafter Lake"; POP: 1889 = @ 100

DOLLARHIDE:

1ST PM: Mrs. Billie Ruth Brown
NAME : Either for surplus hides sold for only one dollar after a
horrible drought in the area, or for an early settler

FLOREY:

1ST PM: Lee N. Smith; AKA "Smackover"; POP: 1980 = 25
NAME : For A. J. Florey - pioneer rancher (4th PM = Carrie Florey)

FRANKEL CITY:

* : Was Fullerton
1ST PM: Grace W. Blanchard; POP: 1980 = 1344

FULLERTON:

1ST PM: Grace W. Blanchard

HOLLEBEKE:

NOTE : Although the map shows the P.O. to be on a railroad, the
office was discontinued prior to the RR's arrival
1ST PM: Pierre Van Hollebeke; AKA "China Pound"
NAME : 1st PM and storeowner

IDA:

* : Formerly in Gaines County
1ST PM: Minnie W. Logsdon

LOGSDON:

* : Was Ida
1ST PM: Minnie W. Logsdon
Name : 1st PM whose family ran the HIP-0 Ranch

SHAFTER LAKE:

1ST PM: Bert M. Irwin
NAME : For Col. William Rufus Shafter who discovered the lake in
1875

"COVER STORIES"

By Norma Watz

PART IV

"ROCK ISLAND (COLORADO COUNTY)"

The Rock Island community, located in the south central area of Colorado County, was first known as "Crasco" where a post office was established April 30, 1886 with David A. Black serving as First Postmaster. He was followed by Elisha G. Scott, whose appointment began January 12, 1897.

The Crasco name was changed to "Rockisland" in 1897 by land baron Charles Peterson, in honor of the Rock Island Railroad. Peterson was appointed Postmaster August 9, 1897, and was followed by Marion Rigg October 16, 1901. Records indicate the post office name was spelled "Rockisland" (as one word) with the appointments of the first and second Postmasters. At some time during the tenure of the second Postmaster, the name was changed to two words - "Rock Island" which it carries to date. The town itself was on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad. Cover shown bears postmark April 16, 1907 and was sent to Mr. C.H.C. Anderson (Carlinville, Illinois) from "The Lundy Bank of Rock Island, Texas." Cover also bears backstamp "Carlinville, April 18, 1907, Rec'd" reflecting a two day mail service. (See Illustration No. 1)

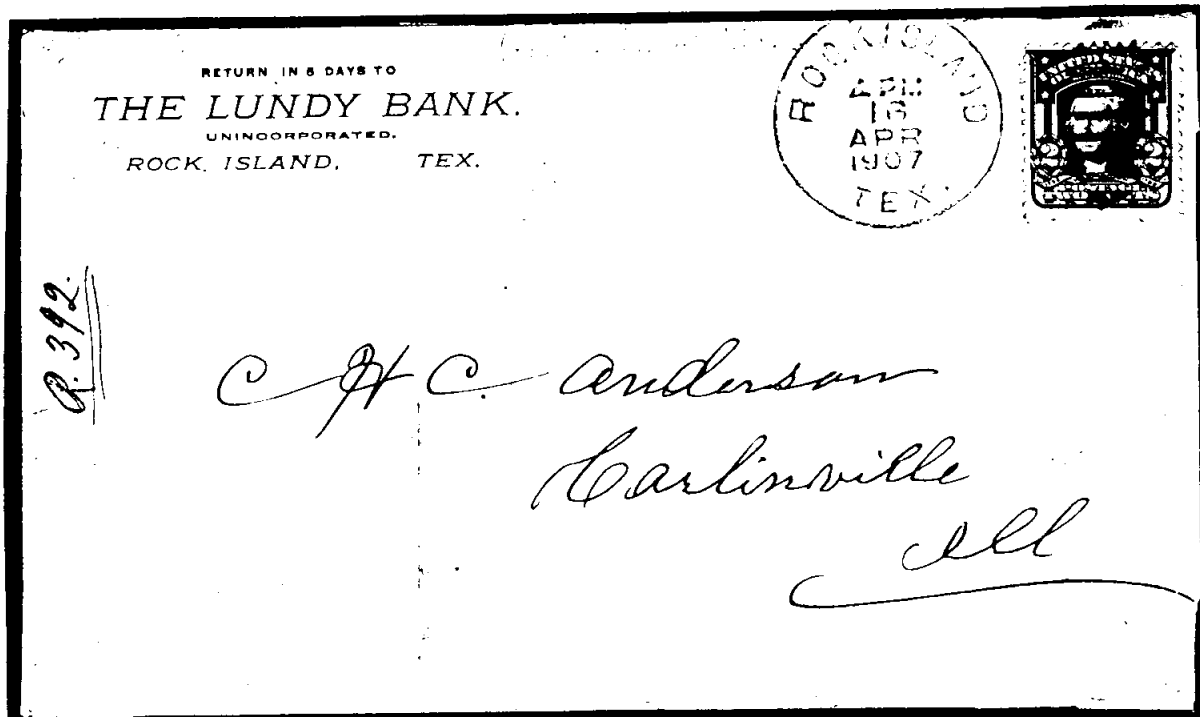


ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

FAIRVIEW FARM is six miles northeast of Carlinville. Take C. & A. STEAM or Springfield & St. Louis ELECTRIC cars direct to farm. These railway lines run across farm a short distance from residence.

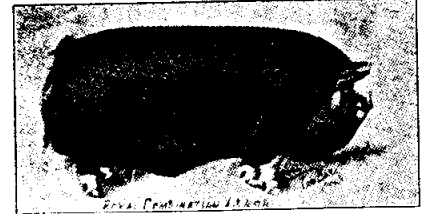
MEMBER OF
American Breeders' Association,
American Berkshire Association,
Illinois Farmers' Club.



KINLOCH PHONE
NO. 2D11.

FAIRVIEW FARM.

C. H. C. ANDERSON, FAIRVIEW FARM BREEDER OF LARGE BERKSHIRE SWINE,



SCOTCH COLLIE DOGS,
JERSEY CATTLE,
White Holland Turkeys,
Lt. Brahma, Barred Rock,
and Wt. Leghorn Poultry.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TAKEN FOR
Breeders Gazette, weekly, - \$1 per year
Wallace's Farmer, " - 75c per year
The Farm Home, monthly, - 50c per year
Ottwell's Farmer Boy, " - 50c per year

Carlinville, Ill., R.F.D. 4 1907

Replying to your favor of the

April 10, 1907

Mr. Wm. Harness
Rock Island, Texas

Dear Sir:

My time from home being limited and having a number of places to see, I did not have as much time at Rock Island as I would have liked, and would liked to have talked more with you. I liked the locality though and, as you probably know, bought a little piece of land in the town section - Out Lot 10. I believe there is a piece just South of what I bought, and if you can give me the name of its owner, I will be obliged. It is about 25 acres and in grass. I have no money with which to buy it, but could find a buyer for it if the price is low enough. My finances are decidedly limited and for that reason the State land appeals to me, and I expect to locate on some of it, if I find some that is good.

However, there are men around here who have money to buy and in time will buy somewhere, and I would like to know about the soil, location, sections, and price of the land around yours, and if any of yours is for sale and price.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I am

Yours truly,

S/ C.H.C. Anderson

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

*around yours and to buy it if you will for sale at price.
Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I am
Yours truly,*

H. S. LUNDY, Cashier

L. O. LUNDY, Assistant Cashier

LUNDY'S BANK

Rock Island, Texas, 4/15, 1909

C H C Anderson

Carlino with alls

Dear Sir answering yours of 10 inst in which
you speak of a plot of land just south of
out lot no 10 which you had bought, will
look the matter up and in the mean time
bring or send your party's on there is plenty
of good cheap land here and if we don't get
the tract mentioned we will find something
else that will suit your party's
Yours Truly
William Garner

An article by Charles Deaton entitled "C. H. C. Anderson and Prairie Home, Texas" (TPHS JOURNAL, Vol. 7, No. 4, December 1982) mentions other C. H. C. Anderson correspondence, including his letters to the Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. in 1907 relative to establishment of a post office in Ector County. Deaton's article relates young Mr. and Mrs. Anderson inspected land in Texas with their own settlement in mind as well as promoting land sales to the folks back home in the state of Illinois.

Thus it was on April 10, 1907, that Anderson wrote this letter to Mr. William Harness at Rock Island. (A typed transcription of the pencil-carbon, too faded for a clear copy, is shown with original letterhead paper. See Illustration No. 2)

Letter from Lundy's Bank is reply to inquiry regarding purchase of land. See Illustration No. 3)

According to Deaton's article, the Andersons settled in West Texas (Ector County) but moved to Dallas around 1913 where Mr. Anderson began a new career in retail sales. After Anderson's death, a Dallas antique dealer purchased his estate and eventually sold the covers and correspondence to Charles Deaton (from whom the writer acquired this particular cover and letters),

CONCLUSION:

The letters contained in this 1907 Rock Island cover reflect the character and personality of just one of many Texas land speculators - some of which were sincere in wanting to establish a homestead, while others were of the "wheeler-dealer" type. A substantial number of new settlers found Texas land initially inviting but later discovered the challenges were more demanding than expected.

In one example of land promotion during this era, around 500 Mid-West families bought small tracts of land (sight-unseen) on the Wharton-Colorado County line from the Provident Land Company of Kansas City, Missouri. They were promised a railroad but only the roadbed was ever constructed. The town was named "Provident City" and it exists as a ghost town today.

Working with the soil in the Rock Island area (which is best suited for ranching) requires (then and now) a type of "John Wayne" grit and tenacity. In recent years, oil production and gravel mining has added considerably to the economics of this portion in Colorado County.

(The writer wishes to thank Walter G. Schmidt for his kind generosity in providing background postal history information about Crasco, Rockisland, and Rock Island, which was based on his research work "Texas Post Offices and Postmasters Under Six Flags.")

REFERENCES - Part IV:

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- "TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY HANDBOOK" - Charles Deaton
- "TPHS JOURNAL" - Volume 7, No. 4
- "THE COLORADO COUNTY CITIZEN" - 1956 Souvenir Edition
- Personal Files, family history, collections
- Correspondence - Walter G. Schmidt (mentioned above)

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