

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

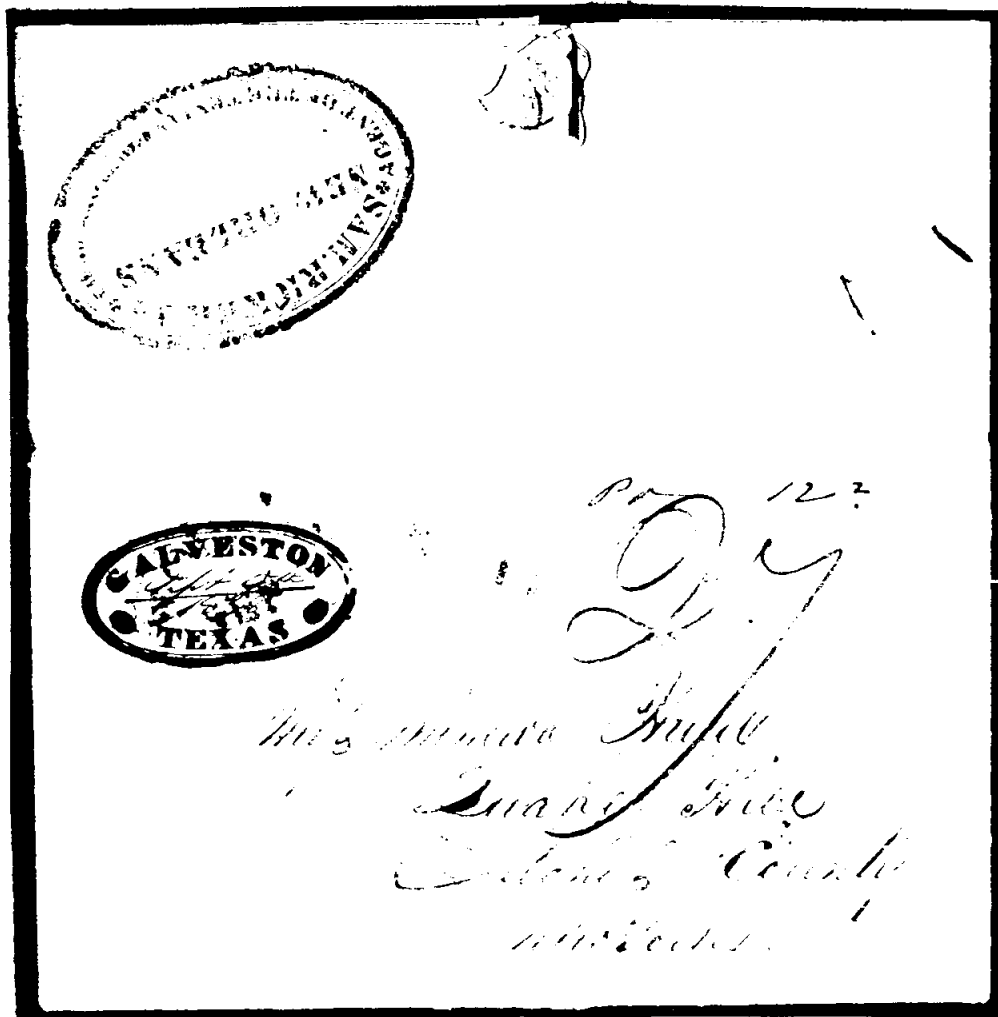


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On the front cover is a picture of a 1838 Galveston cover, the subject of William H. P. Emery's article in this issue of the Journal.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many T.P.H.S. members who took the time to vote and who expressed their support of the current slate of officers. Together with John Germann our new vice-president and Jim Alexander our secretary-treasurer I hope we can fulfill the needs of the membership as well as many of your individual expectations. Certainly we will do our best toward this end.

Our sincere thanks go out to those who have "carried-the-ball" these past several years. Nonie Green, as president, has done a great job of promoting Texas Postal History. She has been an extremely visible and active representative of our society, giving talks, writing articles, exhibiting her collection, and judging at numerous local, state and national exhibitions. Supporting Nonie was vice-president Norman Cohen of Dallas. We are also much indebted to Jim Alexander, who, since 1982, has faithfully discharged the many jobs of a secretary-treasurer and who has again made himself available to our society for yet another term.

Perhaps no job in our organization is more important than that of editor of the Texas Postal History Journal. John Whitehead has served with distinction in this position four long years. However, he has informed your president that with the publication of this issue he plans to retire. While a search is undertaken to find a new editor, your president will attempt to put together a couple of issues. I think that might be appropriate at this point to restate an old typing exercise I once learned, -- "Now is the time for all good (T.P.H.S. members) to come to the aid of their (society)." Your elected officers need your help -- and now!

SPRING GET-TOGETHER AND TRADING SESSION

A spring meeting of the T.P.H.S. will be held May 28, 1988 in Waco, Texas. The site for this year's session is at the La Quinta Inn located adjacent to Baylor University at 1110 S. 9th St.; right on I-35. For hotel reservations: Tel. 817-752-9741. The La Quinta Inn is also situated next to a Denney's Restaurant which is very popular and reasonably priced. Room rates for a single are \$40. plus tax, while for a couple the rate is \$45. plus tax.

TEXPEX - 88

The 92nd annual meeting of the Texas Philatelic Association is to be held in Corpus Christi, June 10-12, 1988. This year's meeting is hosted by the Seagull Stamp Club at the La Quinta Royale Hotel, Water at Peoples St., in downtown Corpus Christi.

This year is of special significance to all exhibitors, since, for the first time, a TEXPEX Grand Award winner becomes eligible for the American Philatelic Societies World Series of Philately competition. All T.P.H.S. members should reserve this date on their calendars and plan on being in attendance. In addition to the fine exhibits, numerous cover dealers, and many seminars you might attend, arrangements have been made for the T.P.H.S. members to meet jointly with the United States Philatelic Classics Society members on Saturday June 11th at 1 p.m. Mr. Jim Stever will present a program on, "The Postal History of Nueces County". Come one, come all for a great time in Corpus Christi, June 10th through June 12th.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Well, tax season is finally over so all us lawyers, accountants and citizen-taxpayers can get our lives in the normal groove of things. This edition of The Journal has three well-written and informative articles, including a synopsis of the postal history of Atascosa County, by Jack M. Smith, Sr., an article on one of Bill Emery's recent acquisitions discussing life in Texas in 1838, and an article by Ronald Simpson on Altura, Texas. Our thanks to each of these members for sharing their knowledge with us.

This is probably the last edition of The Journal which I will be editing. I have been doing this for about four years, and think its time I passed the honor on to someone else. Thanks for all the help from every one of you who wrote an article or made a suggestion. I know you will continue to support the next editor as well. Maybe he or she will be able to get The Journal out on time!

One comment on the up-coming T.P.H.S. Meeting at TEXPEX '88 (Saturday, June 11, 1:00 p.m.), this will be in Corpus Christi at the La Quinta Royale Hotel, Buccaneer Room 2. We will get to see a slide program on the postal history of Nueces County by Jim Stever, one of our illustrious members. So be there!

Postal History of Atascosa County

by Jack M. Smith, Sr.

Atascosa county, which takes its name from the Spanish word meaning boggy, is located in South Central Texas (see map below), just below Bexar county.

Many different indian raiding and trading parties crossed Atascosa county from their homelands traveling to the coastal area of the Gulf of Mexico. Several tribes lived within the boundries of the county.

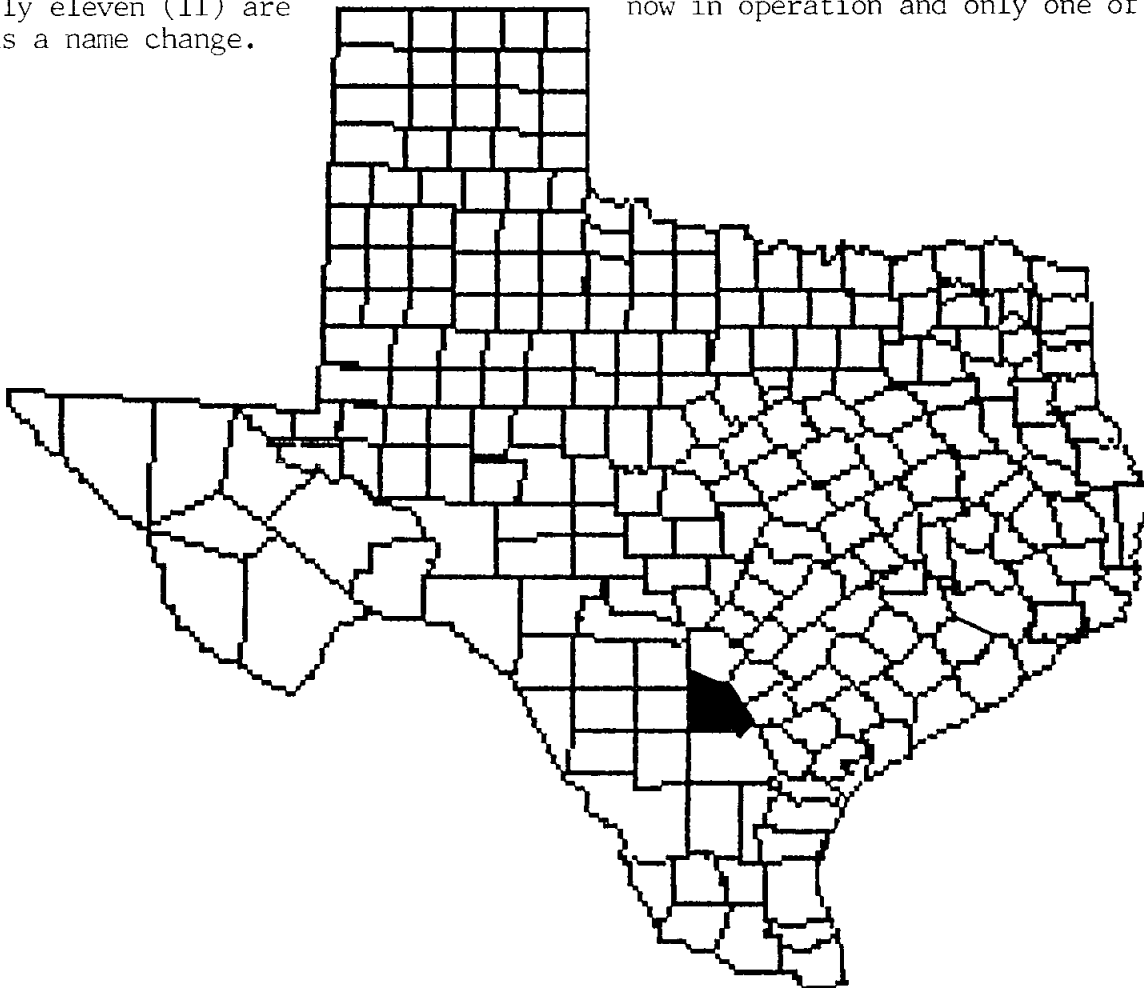
Santa Anna crossed this county on his way to do battle at the Alamo. It is said that he camped near a giant oak tree just north of the town of Lytle.

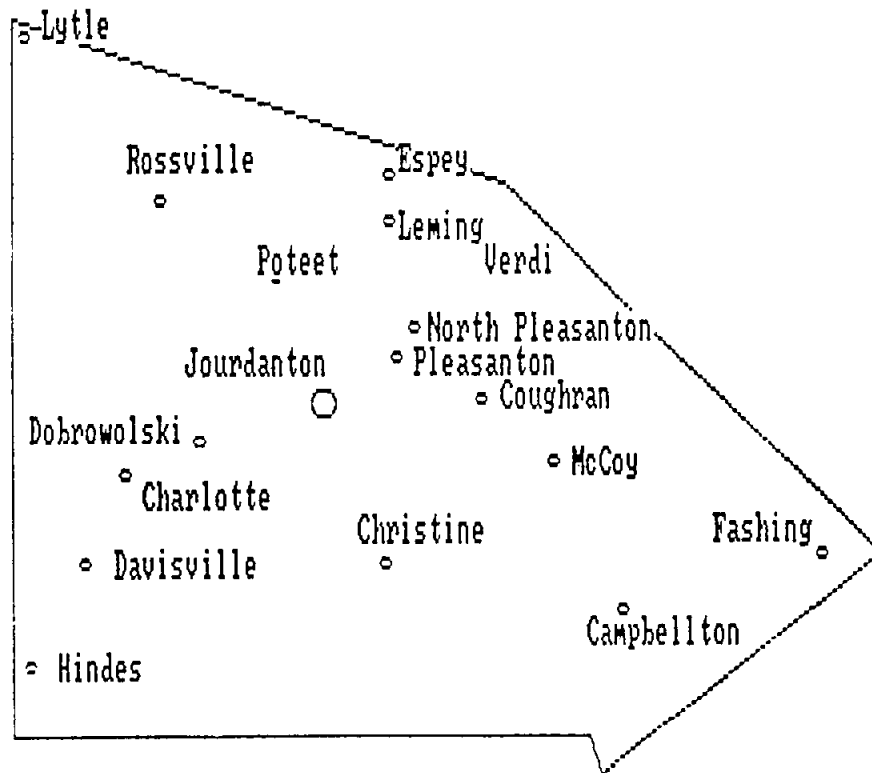
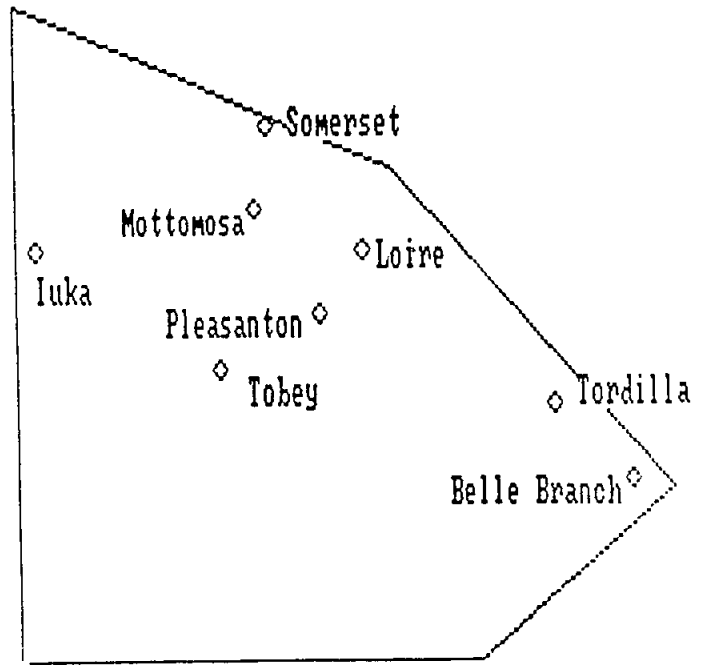
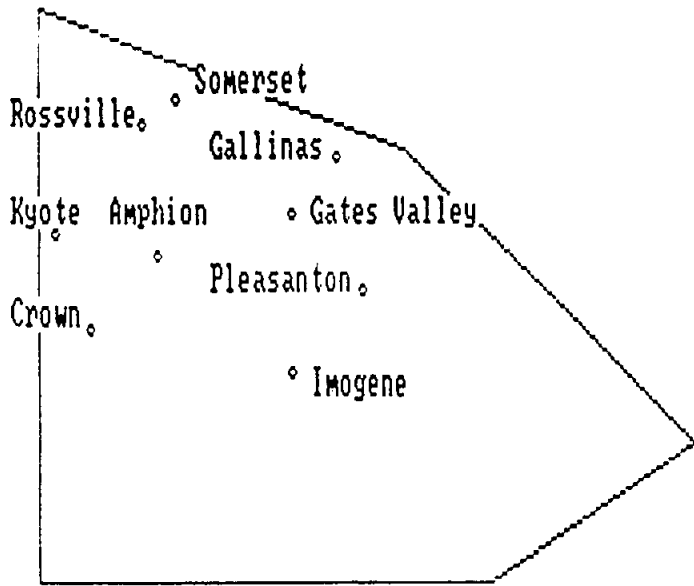
Agriculture in the county includes corn, grain, sorghums, hay, flax, broom corn, cotton, and peanuts as the chief crops; strawberries, watermelons and cantaloupes are grown in irrigated areas. The principal livestock industry is beef cattle, with an increase in the raising of hogs and poultry.

The first county seat, Navatasco (no post office), was located on land donated by Jose' Antonio Navarro, but in 1858 the seat was moved to the town of Pleasanton, located on land donated by John Brown. In 1909 Jourdanton became the county seat.

On the next page are three maps of Atascosa county. The early maps of the county do not have the little jog in the lower county line and when the boundry was changed is unknown.

There were 45 post offices established in Atascosa county and of that number only eleven (11) are now in operation and only one of these was a name change.





Post Offices of Atascosa County

<u>Post Office Name</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Papers</u>
Amphion	27 Aug 1886	15 Sep 1916	MT Jourdanton
Anchorage	2 Jul 1889	28 Mar 1935	MT Rossville
Arp	10 Mar 1892	9 Sep 1892	MT Pleasanton
Belle Branch	7 Aug 1871	16 Jan 1874	
Benton	23 Nov 1876	28 Feb 1929	MT Lytle
Campbellton	5 Aug 1879	Operating	
Charlotte	6 Sep 1912	Operating	
Christine	11 Feb 1910	Operating	
Coughran	13 Aug 1913	31 Jul 1920	MT Pleasanton
	18 Nov 1920	24 Sep 1954	No Papers
Crown	14 Jun 1900	6 Dec 1932	MT Charlotte
Davistown	22 Apr 1925	25 Jul 1929	MT Charlotte
Ditto	8 Mar 1881	11 Oct 1918	MT Poteet
Dobrowolski	15 May 1920	25 Apr 1934	MT Jourdanton
Ernst	18 Jul 1907	30 Mar 1912	MT Pleasanton
Fashing	12 May 1920	Operating	
Gallinas	13 Sep 1880	18 Apr 1912	NC to Leming
Gates Valley	11 Jan 1876	17 Feb 1880	
Hindes	13 Jan 1913	2 Oct 1942	MT Pleasanton
Imogene	9 Jul 1910	30 Jun 1911	MT Jourdanton
Iuka	6 May 1886	16 Apr 1891	
	10 Apr 1893	9 Jul 1895	
	27 Aug 1897	18 Sep 1908	MT Anchorage
	18 Mar 1908	31 Jan 1909	MT Gallinas
Jourdanton	30 Apr 1909	Operating	
Kyote	23 Mar 1927	29 Jan 1935	MT Bigfoot (Frio co.)
Laguna	18 Jan 1881	4 Apr 1881	
Lammburg	14 Mar 1905	19 Sep 1916	MT Leming
Leming	18 Apr 1912	Operating	Late Gallinas
Loire	17 Jul 1895	15 Nov 1912	MT Lammburg
Luke	18 Mar 1880	31 Jan 1909	
Lytle	17 Sep 1883	Operating	
McCoy	28 Jul 1914	18 Mar 1915	MT Coughran
	20 Dec 1915	Operating	
Mottomosa	11 Jul 1866	30 Sep 1875	
North Pleasanton	22 Jun 1914	14 Sep 1962	MT Pleasanton
Peggy	19 Jul 1935	Operating	
Pleasanton	13 Mar 1867	Operating	
Poteet	9 Apr 1886	Operating	
Rohde	29 Sep 1911	15 Feb 1915	MT Tordia
Rossville	11 Jan 1877	31 Aug 1912	MT Ditto
	14 Jun 1917	12 Mar 1947	MT Poteet
Siesta	22 Mar 1902	21 Sep 1906	MT Bigfoot (Frio co.)
Somerset	23 Apr 1867	13 Dec 1889	MT Benton
	25 Feb 1892	1 May 1894	
	14 Mar 1898	15 Mar 1907	
Sue	8 Aug 1896	15 Dec 1915	MT Anchorage
Tobey	7 May 1894	31 Aug 1911	MT Jourdanton
Tordilla	14 Feb 1878	Apr 1879	
	25 Feb 1880	17 Nov 1880	
	19 Jun 1884	14 Jan 1888	Papers to Campbellton
Tordilla Mound	4 Aug 1858	15 Apr 1859	
Verdi	10 Jan 1891	26 Oct 1916	

NC=Name change

MT=Mail to

Post Offices of Atascosa County

- Amphion:** Located northwest of Pleasanton. No other information known.
- Anchorage:** Located in northeastern part of the county, Anchorage was established and named in 1880, by a retired sea captain who "anchored" himself to the land.
- Arp:** No location or information was found.
- Belle Branch:** Located in the extreme southeast part of the county near the present day town of Fashing no other information was found.
- Benton:** Located in the extreme northwestern part of the county and was settled as early as 1840. The community had a rapid growth between 1870 and 1890, when Benton Institute was in successful operation and offering courses in law. When the railroad crossed the county, Benton was left off the line and began to decay. Most of the settlers and many of the buildings were moved to Lytle.
- Campbellton:** Located in the southeastern part of the county and was named for Jourdan Campbell, who had surveyed much of the land in the county.
- Charlotte:** Located in the southwestern part of the county about 20 miles from Jourdanton, and on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad.
- Christine:** Located in the southern part of the county about 12 miles northwest of Campbellton.
- Coughran:** Located about 10 miles southeast of Pleasanton. This was a station on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad.
- Crown:** Located 18 miles northeast of Charlotte in the western part of the county as a rural school center in a farming and stock raising region.
- Davistown:** No information was given about Davistown. It is shown on some maps and also the town of Davis is shown. It was named after M. M. Davis, a local citizen. The town of Davis did not have a post office.
- Ditto:** Located between Poteet and Rossville in the northwest part of the county and was the site of a rural school.
- Dobrowolski:** Located in the southwestern part of the county on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad. Name for one of the Bohemian families that settled in the vicinity between 1905 and 1910.

Ernst: No location or information about this town.

Fashing: Located in the southeastern part of the county near the Karnes county line. The rural community was the site of a high school.

Gallinas: Located in the northern part of the county. The name was changed to Leming in 1912.

Gates Valley: Located northwest of Pleasanton. No other information about this town.

Hindes: Located in the extreme southwest part of the county on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad. Hindes was named after George F. Hindes who made the first settlement in 1855.

Imogene: Located southwest of Pleasanton. No other information on this town.

Iuka: Located in the extreme western part of the county, no other information on this town.

Jourdanton: Located in the central part of the county and named after Jourdan Campbell who had promoted the town lot sale. Jourdanton became the county seat in 1909 and a bitter feeling between Pleasanton and Jourdanton developed, as Pleasanton was the county seat prior to 1909.

Kyote: Located about 12 miles northwest of Jourdanton. The name was probably derived from a species of the prairie wolf or coyote which were numerous in the area.

Laguna: No location or information about this town.

Leming: Located on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad in the northern part of the county. The original name was Gallinas.

Loire: Located northeast of Pleasanton. No other information on this town.

Luke: No location or information on this town.

Lytle: Located the extreme northwest part of the county, was formerly named Lytle Station (no p. o. with that name). The town was named for William Lytle who established a stock ranch on the Medina river in 1846. A station was constructed at Lytle when the International-Great Northern Railroad was constructed in 1912.

McCoy: Located about 18 miles southeast of Pleasanton, as a rural school community.

Mottomosa: Located northwest of Pleasanton, no other information about this town.

North Pleasanton: Located just north of Pleasanton, separated by the Atascosa creek. Despite the common history the two towns had separate municipal governments.

Peggy: Located in the southeastern part of the county, a rural community.

Pleasanton: Located in the central part of the county on land donated by John Bowen, who named the town in 1858. Known originally as Bonito Settlement (no p. o. with that name). It was the county seat until 1909.

Poteet: Located in the north central part of the county and known as "strawbery city".

Rohde: No location or information about this town.

Rossville: Located about 15 miles northwest of Jourdanton and was named for the Ross brothers who colonized it in the 1870's. Early settlers were of Scotch extraction.

Siesta: No location or information about this town.

Somerset: Located on the north county line of Bexar county. Sometimes the town was shown in Atascosa county and other times it was shown in Bexar county. At the present time it is in Bexar county.

Sue: No location or information about this town.

Tobey: Located southwest of Pleasanton in the central part of the county. No other information about this town.

Tordilla: Located on the Karnes county line in the eastern part of county. No other information about this town.

Tordilla Mound: No location or information about this town.

Verdi: Located about 15 miles northeast of Pleasanton on land originally granted to Juan Jose' Arocha.

Early Texas Letter Reveals Immigrant Views of Washington, Texas in 1838

by William H. P. Emery

A recent acquisition proved most interesting and rewarding. The acquisition is an old folded letter illustrated in Fig. 1 and purchased from the Richard C. Frajola auction-sale of May 20, 1987.

The letter carries a dateline, "Republic of Texas, Washington City, August 24, 1838." It was written by a new Texas immigrant, Mr. George P. Hurd, to one of his sisters, Miss Minerva Hurd of Quaker Hill, New York.

This cover carries six postal markings, applied as follows; one at the Washington, Texas post office, one at the Galveston post office, one at the office of the Texian Agent in New Orleans, and three at the New Orleans post office. When Mr. Hurd presented his letter at the Washington post office, postmaster J. B. Robinson assessed him 12½¢ and marked the letter prepaid. This was the Republic rate on a single sheet carried for more than 50 miles but less than 100 miles in 1838. Apparently, the Washington postmaster was unaware of the 6½¢ fee for departing ship letters that should have been collected from Mr. Hurd. When the letter arrived in Galveston the postmaster, Peter J. Menard, applied a bold, black impression of his new handstamp on the upper left hand corner and filled in the date, September 5, 1838. He then consigned it to a packet of letters being forwarded to New Orleans by ship. It seems probable that the ship captain took the letters to the Thomas Toby office, 36 Camp Street in New Orleans upon arrival, rather than to the New Orleans post office. It was at this location that Sam Ricker Jr. applied his oval handstamp on the reverse side of the folded letter. Sam Ricker Jr. was employed by Thomas Toby & Brothers as "Forwarder of Mails". Postal records kept by Ricker indicate a substantial volume of mail was being forwarded to Texas from the United States during this period. His records for the period November 15, 1837 - December 31, 1838 show him handling 14,528 paid letters, 2023 unpaid letters, 18,106 bundles of newspapers, and having advanced \$519.18 of his company's funds to pay the U.S. Postage. No records have been found that indicate his duties also may have involved the forwarding of mails from Texas to the United States.

When the letter illustrated in Fig. 1 arrived at the New Orleans post office, on or about September 12th, it received its final three postal markings. In the upper left hand corner, directly over the Galveston postmark, is an incomplete, 30mm., red, circular New Orleans postmark, dated September 12. At the top center of the cover was a red SHIP, and on the far right side a red manuscript marking of 27¢. This indicated the amount due from the recipient, Miss Hurd, when the letter was delivered (U.S. rate 25¢ plus 2¢ captain's fee).

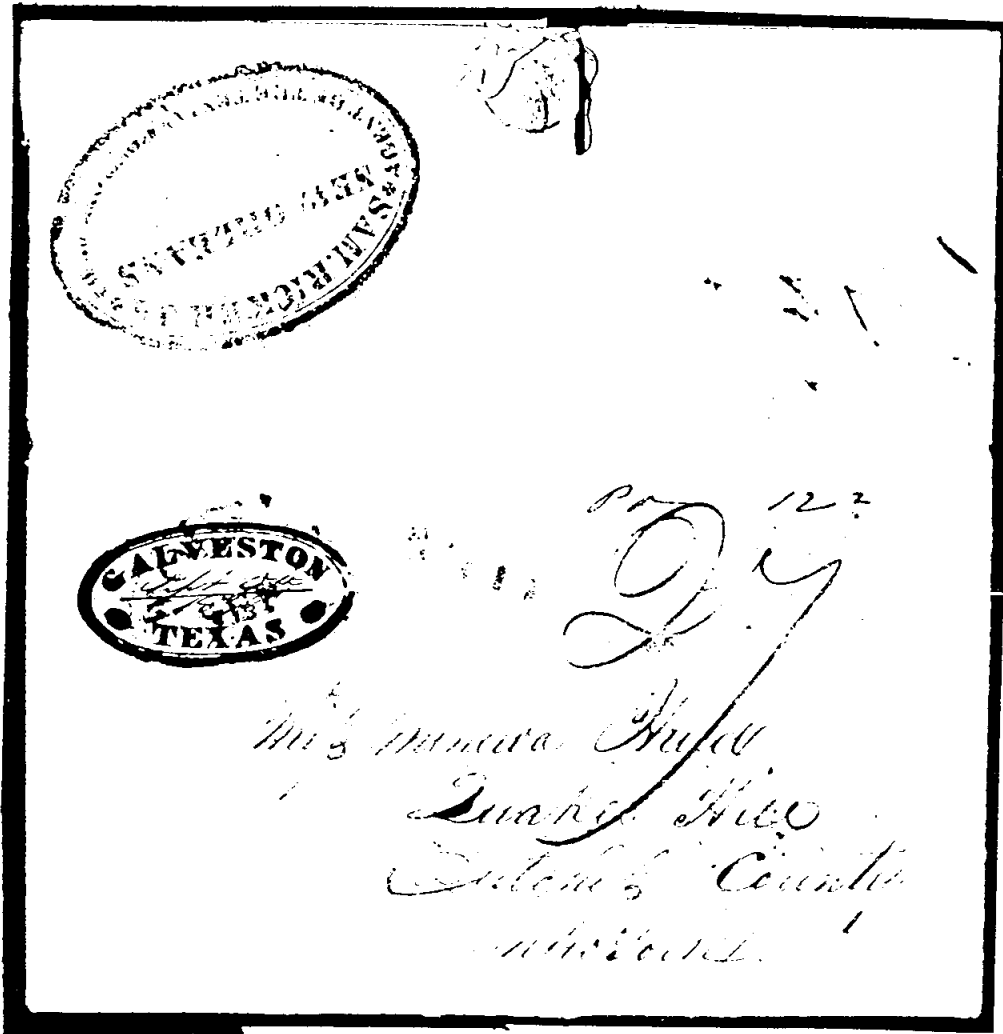
Mr. Hurd describes conditions as he found them in the settlement at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1838.

Dear Sisters;

Having a little leasure time to spare I thought my time could not be better spent than in writing to my sisters and I hope a letter from me won't be taken amiss at this time. Separated as we are three thousand miles from each other I feel as though it was a duty for a

THE 19TH CENTURY POSTAL MARKINGS OF GALVESTON, TEXAS

FIGURE 1



COVER DATE: SEPT. 5, 1838

P.M. PETER J. MENARD

POSTMARK USE: MAR. 1838 - FEB. 1840

TYPE: G-2

DOUBLE-LINE OVAL (36 x 18mm) WITH STARS TO EITHER SIDE OF "TEXAS". THIS POSTMARK APPLIED AS TRANSIT MARKING BETWEEN WASHINGTON, TX. AND NEW ORLEANS.

Ernst: No location or information about this town.

Fashing: Located in the southeastern part of the county near the Karnes county line. The rural community was the site of a high school.

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ALTURA, TEXAS OR STATION A, EL PASO OR FIVE POINTS
STATION, EL PASO

BY RONALD SIMPSON

Altura is a spanish word meaning height or elevation. The Altura postoffice was established on April 2, 1908. Since this postoffice was originally opened, it has gone through two succeeding changes in its name. Altura was an early suburb of El Paso, located approximately 5 miles northeast of downtown in what is referred to as the Five Points section of modern day El Paso. With the expansion of the boundaries of the city of El Paso, it became incorporated into El Paso in 1915.

Altura postoffice was discontinued on April 30, 1915 when it was converted to Station A of El Paso. In the early 1980's the name of Station A was changed to that of Five Points Station in recognition of the area in which it is located. This station is located on the north side of East Yandell Street near its intersection with North Piedras Street in what is considered to be the central portion of El Paso known as the Five Points Area.

A selection of the postmarks used at Altura, Station A, and Five Points Station are shown in the accompanying illustrations.

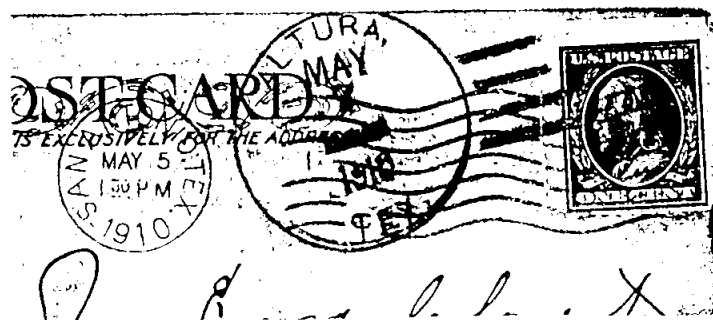


Figure 1. Four-Bar handstamp used as receiving postmark.

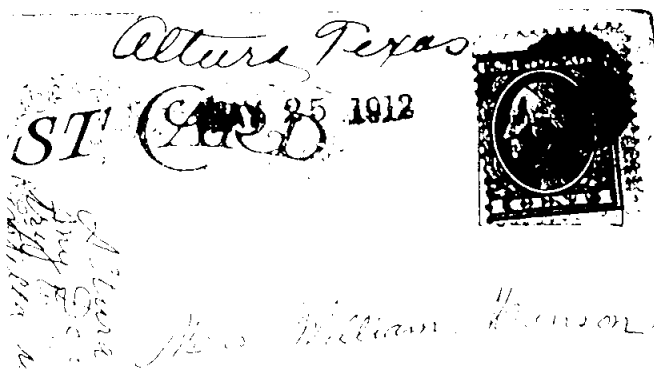


Figure 2. Combination Manuscript and Straight Line cancel.



Figure 3. Duplex handstamp (1915-1920).

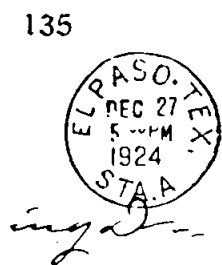


Figure 4. Universal machine cancel.

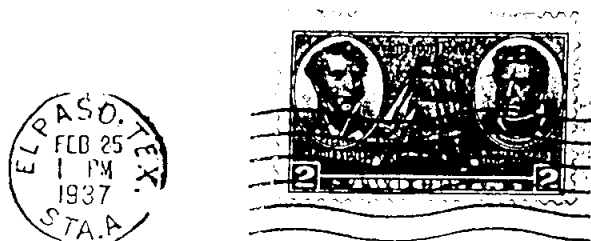


Figure 5. Dial same as previous but with different killer bars.

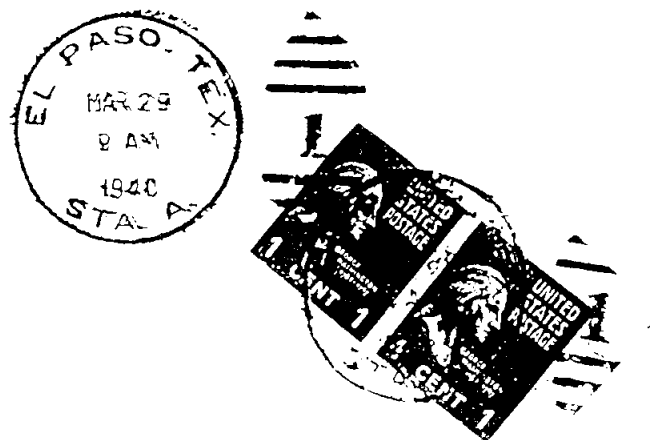


Figure 6. Duplex handstamp (1940-1945).

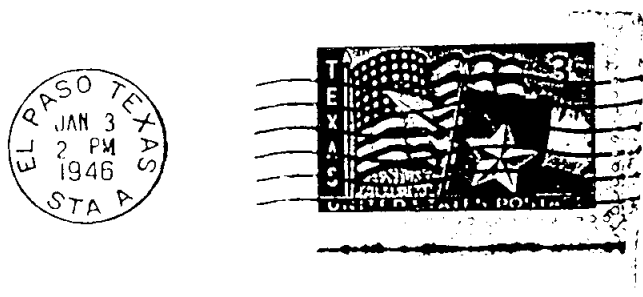


Figure 7. Universal Machine cancel (1946-1949).

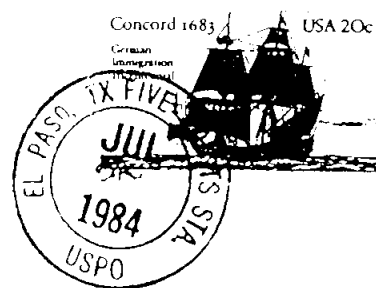


Figure 8. Double circle handstamp.