

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

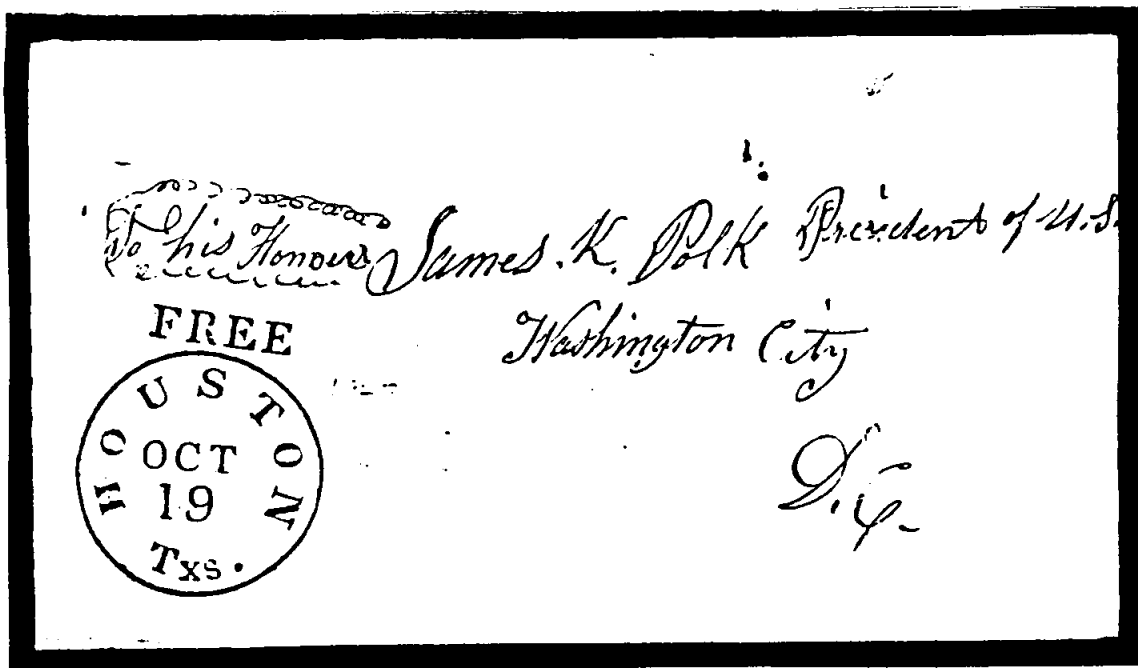


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Illustrated on the Front Page is a folded letter with a 32mm., black, balloon postmark and a 18mm., black straight-line FREE. For further information about this cover see Otis L. Alleys article beginning on page 2 of this issue.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$10 per year payable to Secretary-Treasurer

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



If you are not already aware of it, I would like to remind you of two important matters that need your immediate attention. These are, the T.P.H.S. dues for 1990, and the election of officers of our Society for the 1990-1991 term.

Stapled to the face of this issue of the Texas Postal History Society Journal is a pre-addressed dues envelope for your convenience in transmitting your 1990 dues to the Sec.-Treasurer. The dues are \$10.00 per year. Your prompt attention to this matter will be beneficial to both the Society, and to yourself. For you, it assures uninterrupted delivery of your Journal; for your Secretary-Treasurer and President, it means less work and less expense when reminders to tardy members can be avoided.

Stapled to the face of your Journal there is also an election ballot. Our T.P.H.S. constitution provides that there will be an election of officers on odd numbered years. In compliance with this directive, a nominating committee was appointed during the spring by the President. The committee presented a slate of candidates who agree to serve the society if elected. Would you please take a moment to mark your ballot and return it to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Jim Alexander, at 5825 Caldwell Drive, Waco, TX. 76710. You may find it convenient to enclose both your 1990 dues, and the ballot in the same envelope.

TEXPEX '90

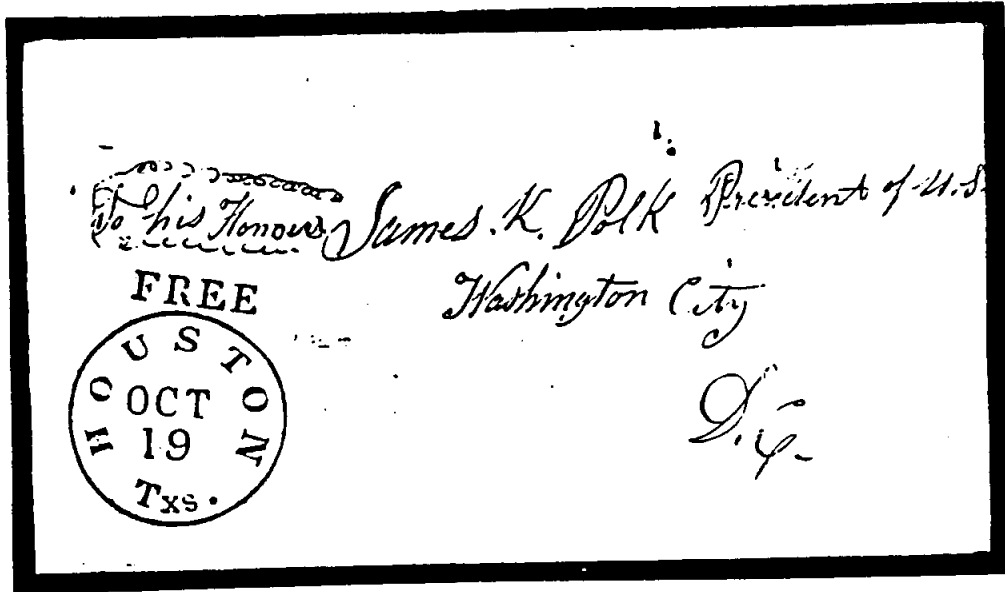
The 94th annual meeting of the Texas philatelic Association is to be held in Austin, Texas, June 1-3, 1990. Location of this year's convention is at the Palmer Auditorium on Barton Springs Road, just south of the Colorado River and only a few blocks west of Interstate 35. For information or a prospectus to this TEXPEX '90 show contact Mrs. Romaine Flanagan, Exhibits Chairman.

It would be great if we could have a series of Texas Postal History Exhibits ready for entry into this World Series of Champions show. Lets get out your collections and see what we can put together for all those out-of state visitors who will be coming to Austin.

AN 1847 HOUSTON LETTER TO PRES. POLK, SENT FREE

By Otis L. Alley

A recently acquired folded letter from the early Statehood Period of Texas, (See Figure 1), posed an interesting problem neither the author nor the editor could answer. This article is written in the hope that other members of the T.P.H.S. may provide the answer as to when and where the handstamp "FREE" was applied, and the section of the P.L. & R. which authorized this action.



This folded letter dateline Houston, Harris County, Texas, October 16th, 1847 has a black 32mm. circular date stamp in use from 1847 to 1853. Directly above the CDS there is a straight line "FREE" which measures 18mm. The color and the intensity of the two strikes appear identical but the question remains as to when and where the straight-line "FREE" handstamp was applied.

The letter was transported by steamer from Houston to Galveston, then on to New Orleans, and the East Coast. Service from Houston to Galveston was twice weekly over the 80 mile route. Pay for the contractor was \$1250 on an annual basis. The route from Galveston to New Orleans, 450 miles, was on a weekly basis except from November 1 to July 1 when service was performed once every five days.

According to the Postmaster General's Report for 1847, Texas had a total of 4,799 miles of mail routes. When the frequency of service was multiplied by the distances travelled, the following breakdown was; by coach 109,726 miles, by steamboat 16,640 miles, and by horse, mule, and foot 422,396 miles.

The interesting contents of this letter have been transcribed and are presented here to show that people, and government, were much the same in 1847 as they are today.

Houston, Harris County, Texas
October the 16th, 1847

To His Honor, James K. Polk

Sir:

You will please excuse me for taking liberty of addressing your highness. I being but a poor man but when I take it into consideration that I being one of the many citizens of our free and independent states I take no more liberty than rationally belongs to me. I am a Democrat and I believe that the people have a right to petition and it is at the will of your highness to grant or not.

This brings me to the point; I have been with the Army in Mexico for the last eighteen months as a teamster, had the pleasure of seeing the proud Monterey yeild to the Stars & Stripes of our nation, which you at this time have the honor to govern. I did not take part in the combat as I with the rest of the teamsters had to remain at the wagons, but then as well as now I should like to be in a battle for my country's cause. I could see the conflict between the two armies and had I been in General Taylor's place there would have been no capitulating. It is my opinion that if the officers would be more severe that the war would terminate much sooner.

I am from Ohio. I wished to go as a volunteer from Camp Washington near Cincinatti. About 8 months ago our company was rejected. I belonged to Captain H. O'Donnely's Company. We were all Democrats to a man. That is the reason why I was a teamster. And now Sir, I would like again to mingle myself with the victorious Army called the American, provided that I could get a little endorsement. I should like to be an officer, let the title be ever so small. For I do believe that if I could but get a little start which you have full power to give a poor fellow, I could by my own acts rise and not only in my own eyes but in the eyes of the Country. I from a boy had a military spirit in me, and nature too has done her part toward me. I am at this present time some thirty years of age and am six feet five inches high and am forty two inces around the breast and weigh one hundred and ninety six pounds. I am perfectly sound and built and I do believe that if your Honor saw me and you were making appointments that you would give me a small office. I am poor and have to support a poor mother which I shall as long as God lets her live.

And now Sir, if it is according to your own will and you will give me a small office in the Army, you will not only have my sincere thanks but the prayers of my poor mother and if you so give me an appointment, be it ever so small I shall never by my conduct give you pause to regret the appointment.

Signed Samuel C. Griffin

LAND AND EARLY TEXAS FINANCES

By William H. P. Emery

The acquisition of a folded letter, dateline Austin, Texas, January 7, 1847, proved to be the key to a most interesting tale of Texas during the early years. This letter (Shown in Figure 1) was written by Andrew Neill and addressed to Geo. C. McWhorter Esq., Vidalia, La. The Austin postmark is a black, 34mm., triple circle (Type A-2a), used from March 1846 until June 1847, and is postpaid 10¢ at Vidalia, La.

The contents of the letter are as follows:

Sir:

Some years ago there was placed in my hands for location, 8 certificates of land scrip issued by Toby for 120 acres of land each.

From the information derived from Col. Ruben Ross at the time of my receiving it, I was of (the) opinion that I was to locate it for Gen. F(elix) Huston. I have obtained your address from a letter in the Land Office here to a Mr. Hutchinson respecting this scrip. I find that he has received a patent for one of the tracts. The remainder are located on good land but I do not wish to have the surveys released from the Land Office as they may be lifted in the same way without any reference to my services of even application to me in relation thereto. Mr. Hutchinson could have received information at the Land Office of my having located the one for which he got the patent, and also at San Antonio, where he applied to Mr. James the surveyor in relation thereto. As I live on the road from Austin to San Antonio, I might have at least have received a call. My receipt was given for these claims and Gen. Huston knew that I had them and after a long life on this frontier and the risks and suffering occasioned by the entry of lands entitle me to remuneration for these locations.

Be pleased therefore to communicate with me about those in Guadalupe County in relation to this business and you will receive every information and satisfaction relative to your business and I will with promptness close the matter so that you can get your titles. I had no knowledge of you and had frequently corresponded with my friend Gen. Huston on the subject and to whom I refer you as well as to Major James Izod of Natchez.

Your Obedient Servant

A. Neill

A little library research reveals that Texas was the only state in the Union where private land titles were vested in the state

government rather than in the national government. Texas used these lands to sustain the Republic of Texas and also to enhance the development of its early statehood.

Gouge, in his "Fiscal History of Texas" remarks, "that the expedients of government for raising funds may be resolved into, taxing, borrowing, begging, selling, robbing, and cheating--". He concluded that during the early Republic Period, Texans apparently determined to try all six methods. Public finances were in a most deplorable and embarrassing condition. President Houston in delivering his annual message to the legislature in 1837 said, "that during the first year of his administration there had been less than \$500 of actual cash in the treasury."

Early Texas politicians soon discovered that the greatest financial asset the state had was its huge public domain. Recognizing this fact, the government tried nearly every method within the law to dispose of this property. Lands were freely given to settlers who would homestead them; they were exchanged for the services of soldiers; they were made the basis of government credit via issuance of land scrip; they were donated in large quantities to aid internal improvements; and they were sold outright as a direct source of revenue.

While each method involved in the disposal of public lands is an interesting tale, this article will deal primarily with Texas land scrip, and more specifically with Toby Land Scrip mentioned in the letter shown in Figure 1.

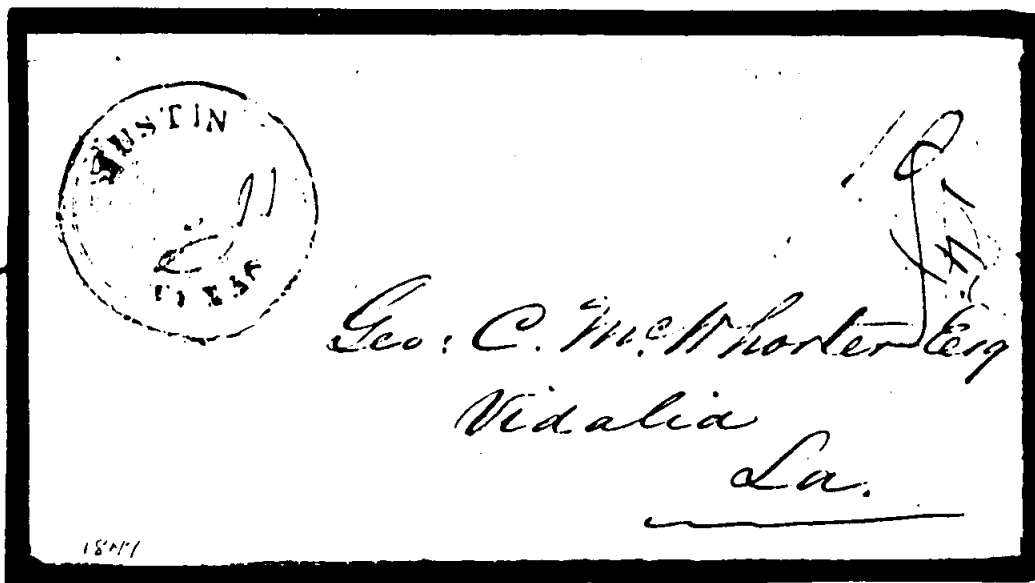


Figure 1

An Act of December 10, 1836, authorized the issuance of land scrip by the Republic of Texas. It specified, "--that land scrip was to be made available at not less than fifty cents and acre, the proceeds of the sale to be applied to the public debt." David White was appointed land agent of the Republic and instructed to set up headquarters in

New Orleans, where he was to offer Texas land for sale. This same Congress also directed President Houston to sign 500,000 acres of land scrip and send it to Thomas Toby of New Orleans to be sold at a minimum price of fifty cents per acre. It was this issuance of scrip that became known as "Toby Scrip".

An unfavorable voter reaction to the sale of public land, plus the slow pace of sales at fifty cents per acre, led the Congress to rethink its policy. On December 14, 1837, the Texas Congress forbade the further sale of the land scrip and demanded the recall of all land agents. They sought to terminate the policy of raising public revenue by the sale of Texas lands. Although the Congress had dictated no more land scrip would be sold, officials of the government continued to induce holders of government obligations to accept land scrip that had been previously signed in payment. It is presumed that some of the Toby Scrip was used to settle these obligations.

On May 24, 1838, the Congress again decided to return to the policy of issuing land scrip to raise public revenue. Finally, on February 14, 1841, they expanded this policy to permit creditors of the State i.e. persons holding promissory notes, bonds, funded debt, or other demands against the Republic, to exchange their claims for land scrip at the rate of two dollars per acre. This rate was so high that only a very few availed themselves of this opportunity. On June 26, 1845, the Act of February 1841, was repealed.

Basically, the state returned to the issuance of land scrip at the earlier rate of fifty cents per acre. Most land scrip was issued in certificates of 160, 320, 640, or 1280 acre units. Certificates were evidence of a right of the holder, to select land out of the vacant public domain. They were transferable and the holder was entitled to same rights and privileges of location, survey and patent as the original recipient. The only restrictions that applied to certificates for land scrip were that it could not be located on salt springs, gold or silver mines, copper or lead or other minerals, nor on any island of the Republic.

Since, in the issuance of early land scrip, there were so few restrictions, it soon became the object of free trade. Certificates passed into the hands of speculators, and when new land scrip was offered by the Texas Government for sale, its value was immediately depreciated to the level of the certificates held by speculators, sometimes selling as low as fifteen cents per acre.

Records from the Land Office show that the Toby & Brother Co., during its tenure as land agent, disposed of a total of 940,761 acres of the Texas public domain. Some of this was for cash, but a far greater amount was for credit and supplies.

Don't we all wish that some of this public domain remained today that could be auctioned off in lieu of taxes.

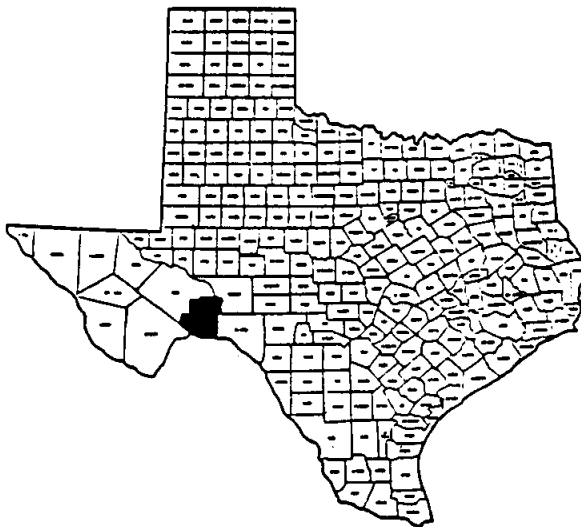
TERRELL COUNTY

One of the large West Texas counties, Terrell County encompasses 2391 square miles of largely rough terrain - high plateaus broken by mountains and gorges. It is bounded by both the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers, but a short distance from the rivers the limestone soil becomes rocky and poor; this plus the aridity (the average annual rainfall is only eleven inches per year) suit the county best to sheep and cattle and goat ranching. Indeed, 95% of its income in the 1980s came from its sheep and goats, enough to rank it among the top counties in the state in those categories. In the late nineteenth century there were several mica (isinglass) mines in operation, but in the 1980s, outside of the ranching, the principal sources of revenue were natural gas and hunting.

In the 1720s and 1730s Spanish explorers wandered through the region. In the nineteenth century its forbidding isolation made it a favorite haunt of outlaws, rustlers, gunmen, all quenching their thirsts at Roy Bean's traveling saloon. For a while gold prospectors in search of the Lost Nigger Gold Mine (still lost!) also spent much time and little money there. Law and order also played an early role in the county's pageant. The U.S. Army's Seminole Indian scouts, in the final campaign against the Indians of west Texas, were based at Myers Spring from 1880 to 1882, occasioning the creation of the county's first post office in 1881 - Drum. Three years later Sanderson and Thurst were founded in anticipation of the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

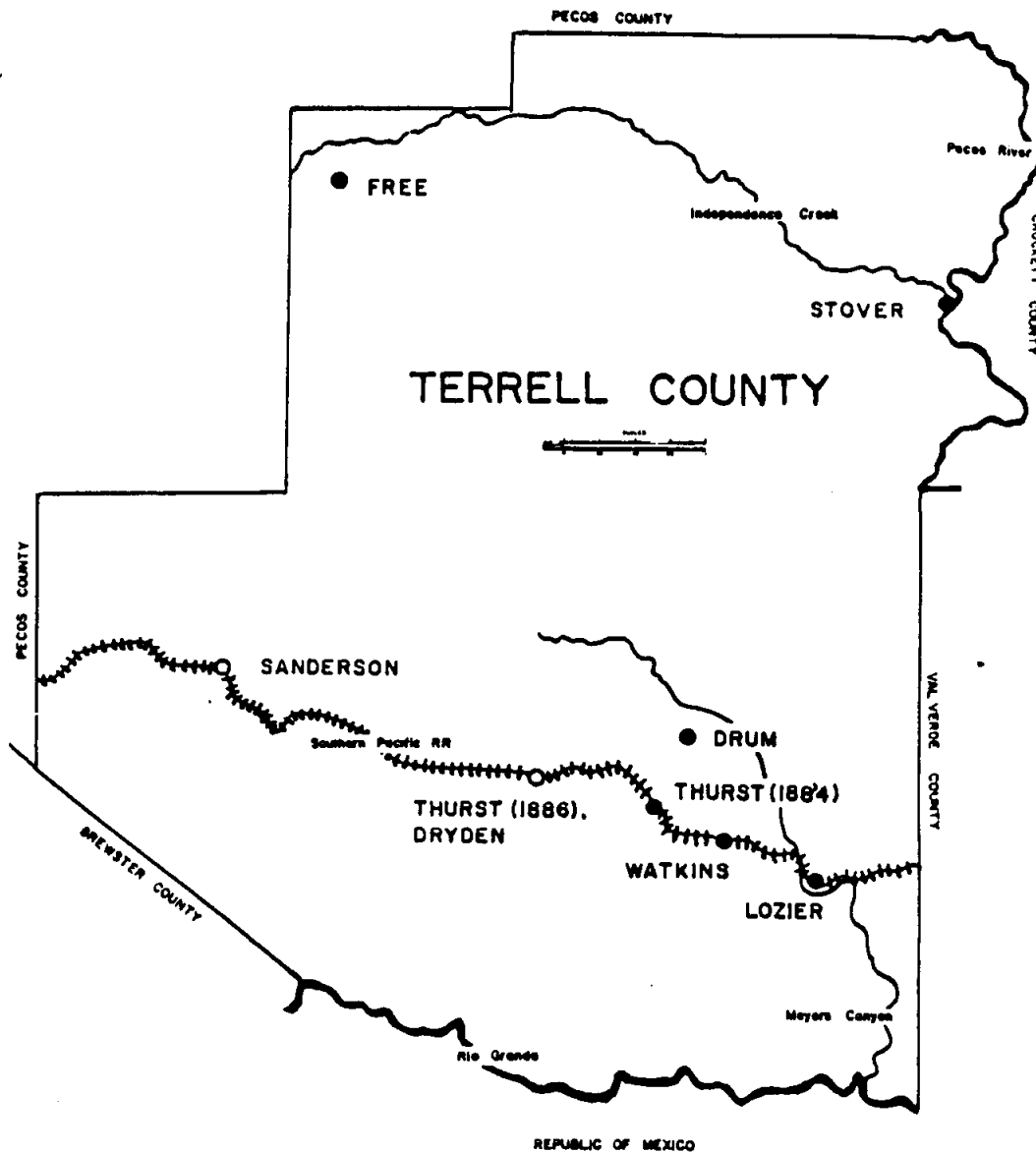
Only three post offices in the county have existed apart from this railroad; two of these, Drum and Stover, were very ephemeral, lasting at most barely one year. The other, the ranching office of Free, shut down in 1921. By that time all other railroad post offices were also in oblivion except for Sanderson and Dryden, the only two post offices still operating in the 1980s.

In 1905 a large chunk of Pecos County became Terrell County, with Sanderson as the (one and only) county seat. Texas lawmakers named it for Alexander Watkins Terrell, famed Confederate brigadier general and Texas legislator who authored, among many other bills, the requirement that Texas jurors be able to read and write. In 1918-1919 the U. S. Army returned to Terrell County, bringing prospective "doughboys" to an army post established at Sanderson. Soldiers, prospectors, and outlaws typify the transient nature of most of Terrell County's population throughout its history. In 1910 it boasted of 1430 souls and in 1950 it reached 3189 (its peak). In 1980 it was 1595 and dropping; in 1985, for instance, the county registered only 31 births.



TERRELL COUNTY

OFFICE	ESTABL	DISCON	MAIL TO
DRUM	2 MAY 1881	25 NOV 1881	BRACKETTVILLE
DRYDEN*	28 DEC 1888	30 MAY 1891	SANDERSON
DRYDEN	24 JUN 1891	OP	
FREE	30 JUN 1900	15 JAN 1921	SANDERSON
LOZIER	30 JUN 1890	15 SEP 1891	DRYDEN
LOZIER	17 OCT 1892	29 OCT 1899	CHGD TO WATKINS
SANDERSON	[12 DEC 1883]	NEVER IN OP.	
SANDERSON	18 NOV 1884	OP	
STOVER	30 JUL 1913	31 AUG 1914	SHEFFIELD
THURST	2 JUL 1884	27 DEC 1888	CHGD TO DRYDEN
WATKINS*	30 OCT 1899	31 DEC 1903	DRYDEN
WATKINS	7 SEP 1912	20 SEP 1917	DRYDEN



TERRELL COUNTY POST OFFICES

DRUM:

1ST PM: Sam H. Fisk; AKA "Mayers Spring"; POP: 1881 = "camp"

DRYDEN:

* : Was Thurst

1ST PM: Warner W. Simonds; POP: 1980 = 45

NAME : For Eugene E. ("Gene") Dryden, chief engineer of the Texas & New Orleans RR

FREE:

1ST PM: James L. Tarver; AKA "Tarver"; POP: 1900 = "only a ranch"

NOTE : Located in a ranch headquarters - mail into Sanderson was sent to Free and from there to all of the other area ranches

LOZIER:

1ST PM: Mrs. Emma D. Townsend; POP: 1890 = @25

NAME : For location near that stream which was named for an Indian chief

SANDERSON:

1ST PM: D. N. Malatesta; AKA "Strawbridge"; POP: 1980 = 1500

NAME : For Thomas P. Sanderson, construction engineer for the Texas & New Orleans RR

STOVER:

1ST PM: Charles Chandler (probably - no record extant, but it was on his ranch);

AKA "Chandler" & "Chevo" & "Oak Grove"

THURST:

1ST PM: Frank A. Burnham; AKA "Thurston"

NAME : For a RR official named Thurston

WATKINS:

* : Was Lozier

1ST PM: Miss Carrie P. Frink

NOTE: All of the above offices were originally established in Pecos County prior to the creation of Terrell County

EDITORS NOTE: This article on Terrell County is one in a series of installments (Now Totaling 36 Texas Counties) which are published in groups of six, twice a year, at a cost of \$1 / county postpaid. If any T.P.H.S. member is interested in subscribing, please contact

John J. Germann
12102 Whittington
Houston, Tx. 77077

THE 19TH CENTURY POSTAL MARKINGS OF SAN MARCOS, TX.

By William H. P. Emery




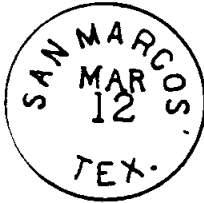
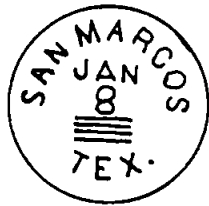
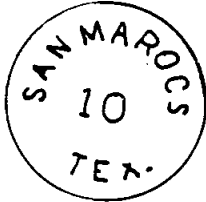
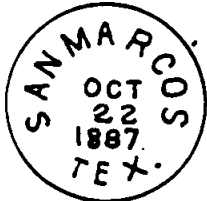


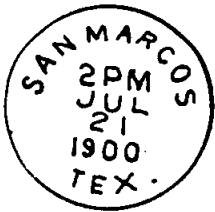

San Marcos is located at the headwaters of the San Marcos River in central Hays County, approximately 30 miles southwest of Austin and 45 miles northeast of San Antonio. In August, 1755 a temporary mission and presidio were established here. Later in 1808, a more permanent colony was established near the headwaters of the San Marcos River, called San Marcos de Neve. However, due to several floods and repeated Indian troubles the settlement was abandoned in 1812.

The area was visited both by Indians and various travelers between 1812 and 1845. However, it was late in 1845 before anyone took up residence in the area, when a W. W. Moon built a cabin near the San Marcos Springs at the head of the river. It is reported that a mail rider periodically left mail and picked it up on his route between Austin and San Antonio.

In 1851, William Lindsey, Edward Burleson, and Eli T. Merriman bought the Juan Martin Veramendi land grant and laid out the town of San Marcos. Shortly thereafter a post office was officially granted to the settlement with Dr. Eli T. Merriman appointed to be its first postmaster.

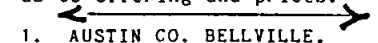
For the current study approximately seventy-five covers were examined. From these covers, a total of twelve different 19th century postmarks were identified. Along with each postmark type illustrated, information relating to its size, color, and duration of usage are provided.

If readers of this article are aware of any additions, corrections, or errors, the author would be most appreciative of receiving this information. Future updates of the Texas Catalogue of Postmarks may be rendered more accurate.

<p>SM-1 Blk</p> <p><i>San Marcos Sept 25 w</i></p> <p>--1851-Jan.1858 --</p>	<p>SM-2 Blk</p>  <p>Apr.1858-Jul.1858 24mm</p>	<p>SM-3 Blk</p>  <p>Apr.1869-Oct.1870 25mm</p>
<p>SM-4 Blk-B1</p>  <p>Aug.1876-Nov.1880 26mm</p>	<p>SM-5 Blk</p>  <p>Oct.1878-Jun.1881 27mm</p>	<p>SM-6 Blk</p>  <p>Jan.1881-Nov.1886 27mm</p>
<p>SM-7 Blk</p>  <p>Feb.1887-Unknown 27mm</p>	<p>SM-8 Blk</p>  <p>Jun.1887-Sept.1889 27mm</p>	<p>SM-9 Blk</p>  <p>Aug.1887-Jun.1897 28mm</p>
<p>SM-10 Blk</p>  <p>Apr.1891-Feb.1895 27mm</p>	<p>SM-11 Blk</p>  <p>Jul.1895-Jul.1900 28mm</p>	<p>SM-12 Blk</p>  <p>Jun.1867-Unknown 26mm</p>

T.T.P.H.S. NO. 2 SALE

Sale No. 1 was very successful. We offer No. 2 with lots of strength in scarce early west Texas covers (an unusual gathering of this material). The same rules apply as in Sale No. 1. The sale will be closed 45 days after issue of the Journal. Your bid must be signed. Price to Buyer will be 5% over gross purchase price. You will pay mailing. Your purchase price will be a SMALL increase over the second highest bid. Sales are restricted to members. The sales manager reserves the right to withdraw any lot. If you would like to see the material, give the manager a call, 512-826-1522. For guidance, review our last sale as to offering and prices.

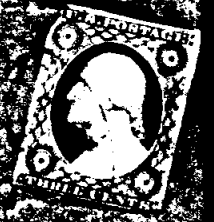


1. AUSTIN CO. BELLVILLE, 1894, w/bcs and cork on type U313. VF.....\$4 - 5.00
2. BAYLOR, FAYETTE, & KARNES CO's., 3 pc. SEYMOUR UX8 1899; SCHULENBURG UX8 1895; RUNGE UX8 1895, nice selection, F.....EV \$7.00
3. BEXAR CO. SAN ANTONIO bcs 1915 type 406 w/illu. corner GUNTER HOTEL, also w/illu. stationary, VF.....EV \$16-18
4. BEXAR CO. SAN ANTONIO bcs 1918 type 501 w/large illu. on back THE ST. ANTHONY HOTEL w/cc on front and forward canc., F.....EV \$12-14
5. BOSQUE CO. NORSE dpo #331, 1909 w/bcs on p.p.c., VF.....EV \$4 - 6.00 (P)
6. BRAZORIA CO., COLOMBIA #11 tied w/large cir. canc. (18 1/2 mm dia.), to neat cover to BELLVILLE, dateline Dec. 27, 1856.EV \$50-60 (P)
7. BRAZORIA CO., QUINTANA dpo w/bcs 1896 on type U313, VF.....EV \$12-15
8. CAMP CO., PITTSBURG p.p.c. 1908 #300, tied w/DOANE CHEETHAM forward, F.....EV \$6.00
9. COMANCHE CO., 2 p.c.s, COMANCHE UY4(3)1907; LAMKIN UX14 1898, F.....EV \$6.00
10. EDWARDS & PALO PINTO CO's, 2 pc. ROCKSPRINGS UY4 1905; SANTO UY4 1907, one card is an Indian deprecation claim, F.....EV \$7.00
11. ERATH CO., CLAIRETTE 1892 dpo pc UX14, lightfolding.EV \$6.00
12. GALVESTON CO., GALVESTON 1878 U25, double circle cds; w/"Due 3" correspondence, opening @L rough.EV \$12.00
13. GALVESTON CO., GALVESTON, flag canc. 1911 w/cc and illustration of fireman w/hose, VF.....EV \$20 - 25.00
14. GILLESPIE CO. CHERRYSRING dpo #300 bcs 1908 p.p.c. w/flowers, VF.....EV \$4.00
15. GONZALES CO., LEESVILLE, type U82, bcs and cork (1874) tear @ top & back.EV \$7 - 9.00
16. GREGG CO., GLADEWATER type U82 w/pur. CS 1876 and pen canc., repaired.EV \$6 -8.00
17. GUADALUPE CO., STAPLES #300 on p.p.c. 1907 view of San Marcos River, F.....EV \$6.00
18. HAMILTON CO., HAMILTON UY4(3)1907 bcs duplex, F.....EV \$5.00
19. HENDERSON CO., ATHENS. violet circ. canc. 1888, w/target on #213, w/SAN AUGUSTINE receipt. octogen, illust. "Texas Fire Brick and Tile Co." cover is repaired @ L.....EV \$8 - 10.00
20. HILL CO., HILLSBOROUGH (as spelled prior to 1888) UX5 1883 pc w/WEATHFORD forwarding bcs, staple holes.EV \$6.00
21. HOPKINS CO., SULPHUR SPRINGS bcs w/cork 1886 w/Lawyer corner card, tear on back.EV \$8 - 10.00
22. KAUFMAN CO., KAUFMAN type U56, bcs circa 1850, flap missing.EV \$7 - 8.00
23. MARION CO., JEFFERSON bcs type U82 w/large corner card, cover red. @ R.....EV \$5 - 6.00
24. MCLENNAN CO., WACO U349, 1893, Columbian issue, June 26, 1895, VF.....EV \$7.00 (P)
25. MEDINA CO., CASTROVILLE UX8, 1889 pc w/bcs duplex, F.....EV \$5.00
26. MONTGOMERY CO., HUNTSVILLE, 2 covers, 1 w/pr. #300 tied w/bcs 1909, 2 entire #U311 slt. reduced w/bcs 1893 and cork.EV \$4.00
27. NEWTON CO., LAUREL dpo 1894 bcs and target type U313 w/cc, vf EV \$12 - 15.00 (P)
28. PRESIDIO CO., MARFA 1890 w/bcs and cork, VF.....EV \$6 - 7.00
29. REEVES CO., PECOS 1890 bcs w/target and cc on type U313, VF.....EV \$4 - 6.00
30. REEVES CO., PECOS UY4 1907 bcs duplex F.....EV \$5.00
31. RUNNELS CO., MAVERICK dpo 1894, bcs w/target, F.....EV \$10 - 12.00
32. SAN JACINTO CO., COLDSRING UX10 cbs 1894, VF.....EV \$3.00
33. SAN SABA CO., FREDONIA UY4(3) pc 1907 w/Doane, w/Brady rec. bcs, F.....EV \$7.00
34. STAR CO., RIO GRANDE CITY, dpo blue circular strike w/blue cork on type U82, circa 1875, cover reduced @ L, attractive.EV \$15 - 18.00 (P)
35. STEPHENS CO., SOUTH PRAIRIE dpc 1884 w/bcs and blk target on type U313, VF.....EV \$10 - 12.00 (P)
36. TARRANT CO., FT. WORTH 1915 bcs on type 406 w/magnificence full color illust. of the Westbrook Hotel on back, F.....EV \$20 - 25.00
37. TITUS CO., WINFIELD 1894 bcs w/target on type U313, VF.....EV \$4 - 6.00
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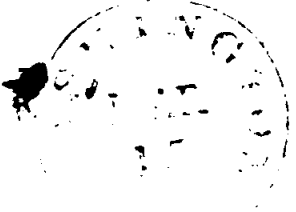


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