

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

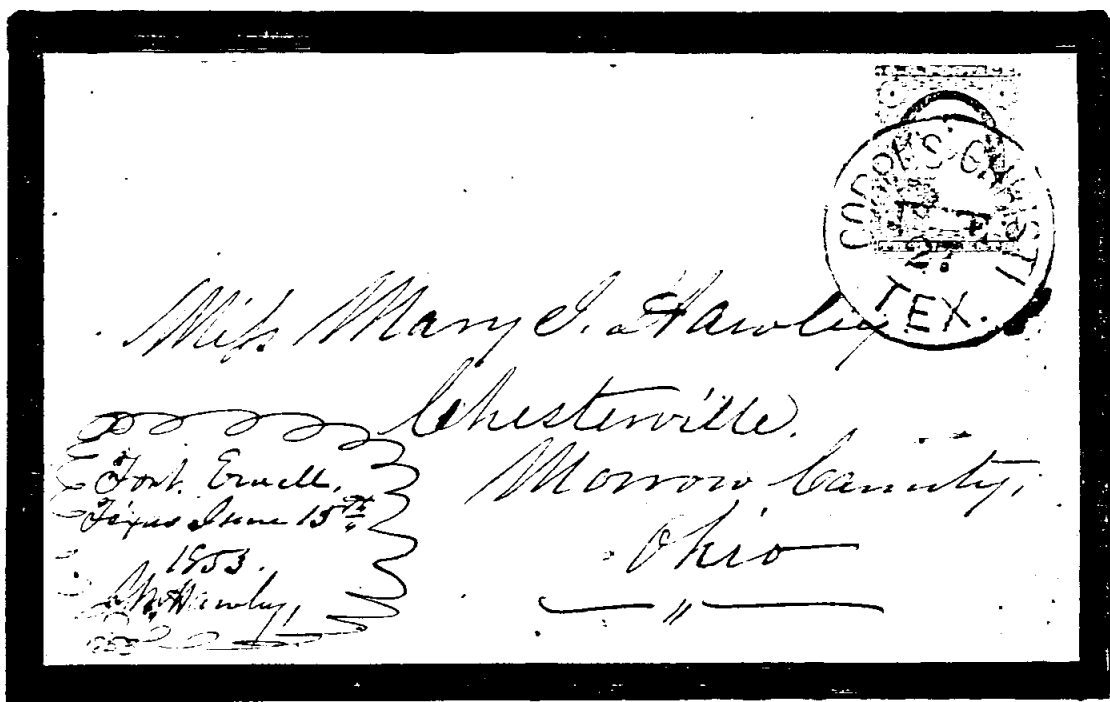


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Illustrated on the front cover is a Texas fort cover, franked with a 3¢ Scott #11 stamp, and cancelled by a 30mm., black, CDS from Corpus Christi. In the lower left hand corner of the envelope, J.W. Hawley made a manuscript notation, Fort Ewell, Texas, June 15, 1853. The fort was established May 18, 1852, abandoned October 3, 1854. For more information on Fort Ewell see Tom Keans article, page 15 of this issue.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$10 per year payable to the Secretary-Treasurer

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Our meeting is all set for TEXPEX'93 which will be held at the Dallas Marriott Quorum Hotel, June 11-13. The T.P.H.S. session is scheduled for 2 P.M. on Saturday June 12, 1993. Check at the registration desk for the location of the Yellow Rose Room where we will meet.

This year our get-together will feature a program presentation by Gene Gaddy. He will show and discuss his Dallas County Postal History collection. And we'll again have our swap and sell session. So bring some of your duplicate material.

Mark your calendars for this years meeting - you'll want to attend TEXPEX and our informative and fun meeting.

And speaking of meetings, should we try to arrange one in August at the big APS Stampshow to be held in Houston? If you think so, call me or drop me a note.

Our February Auction was one of the best we've ever had. The results and prices realized are found in Ed Leissners comments on page 22. The next auction will be included in the September issue of the Journal.

You may have already seen the notice that Vol. III of the American Stampless Cover Catalog will be out in early May. I'm told it will have a section on Mexican War Postal Markings which will illustrate and price these postal markings used in Mexico and Texas. Do we have a member who would like to contribute a book review on Vol. III? Or even more to the point on just the Mexican War section? Our editor would welcome such a review and our membership would find it extremely interesting and informative.

Hope to renew acquaintances with many of you at our meeting in Dallas. Meanwhile-

Good Collectin'

Ed Christman

KENNEDY FIRST DAY COVERS

By Henry B. Scheuer

Postal history, cancellation studies and census-taking projects of known cancellations are most frequently made of scarce, elusive and certainly older philatelic material. The 5-cent John F. Kennedy stamp of 1964 has provided this collector with quite a lot of fun, attempting to track down as many city and town cancels, each bearing the day and year cancel of the first day of issue of the stamp: May 29, 1964.

The 1964 commemorative stamp was released nationwide simultaneously on May 29, 1964, with the "First Day of Issue" slogan cancellation available only in Boston. Throughout the country, collectors were able to purchase the stamp and obtain May 29 postmarks from as many cities as they wished. Several collectors prepared covers in quantity with the intent of building a trading inventory to trade with others.

In Texas, covers are known canceled from 115 different towns, cities and stations. See chart below for a list of these cancels.

This collector has often wondered if there was any pattern to the geographical distribution of these town cancels. Many counties, particularly in less populated areas of the state are not represented. Quite expectedly, concentration of covers known canceled from the larger population centers. Dallas and El Paso counties are represented but not as well as one might expect.

This collector has been amassing such covers from throughout the country for almost a decade. Undoubtedly many, many more such covers exist. Quite unfortunately these covers are worth only pennies and are

being or have been discarded. In addition to collector inspired covers, incoming commercial mail has been a source for uncovering more material.

There is lots of work remaining in this project. Please contact Mr. Scheuer with additional information and, when possible, enclose photocopies of covers you know to exist from cities not listed here.

Henry B. Scheuer may be reached at P. O. Box 535, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10010.

1	Aransas	Fulton	Texas
2	(2)	Rockport	Texas
3	Bell	Belton	Texas
4	(8)	Harker Heights	Texas
5		Holland	Texas
6		Killeen	Texas
7		Nolanville	Texas
8		Salado	Texas
9		Temple	Texas
10		Troy	Texas
11	Bexar	Randolph Air Force Base	Texas
12	(2)	San Antonio	Texas
13	Blanco	Blanco	Texas
14	(2)	Johnson City	Texas
15	Burleson	Caldwell	Texas
	(1)		
16	Burnet	Marble Falls	Texas
	(1)		
17	Cameron	Brownsville	Texas
	(1)		
18	Castro	Summerfield	Texas
	(1)		
19	Collin	Allen	Texas
20	(6)	Josephine	Texas
21		McKinney	Texas
22		Melissa	Texas
23		Plano	Texas
24		Renner	Texas
25	Colorado	Eagle Lake	Texas
	(1)		
26	Cooke	Gainesville	Texas
	(1)		
27	Coryell	Copperas Cove	Texas
	(1)		
28	Dallas	Addison	Texas
29	(7)	Carrollton	Texas
30		Dallas	Texas
31		Mesquite	Texas
32		Richardson	Texas
33		Seagoville	Texas
34		Terminal Annex-Dallas	Texas
35	Deaf Smith	Dawn	Texas
36	(2)	Hereford	Texas
37	Denton	Denton	Texas

38	El Paso	Canutillo	Texas
39	(6)	Clint	Texas
40		El Paso	Texas
41		Fabens	Texas
42		Newman	Texas
43		San Elizaro	Texas
44	Gillespie	Stonewall	Texas
	(1)		
45	Gonzales	Ottine	Texas
	(1)		
46	Gray	Hoover	Texas
	(1)		
47	Grayson	Tioga	Texas
	(1)		
48	Guadalupe	Schertz	Texas
	(1)		
49	Hale	Plainview	Texas
	(1)		
50	Harris	Houston	Texas
	(1)		
51	Henderson	Trinidad	Texas
	(1)		
52	Hidalgo	Alamo	Texas
53	(5)	Donna	Texas
54		Mission	Texas
55		Pharr	Texas
56		San Juan	Texas
57	Hill	Hubbard	Texas
	(1)		
58	Hunt	Quinlan	Texas
59	(2)	Wolfe City	Texas
60	Jackson	Cordele	Texas
61	(8)	Edna	Texas
62		Francitas	Texas
63		Ganado	Texas
64		La Ward	Texas
65		LaSalle	Texas
66		Lolita	Texas
67		Vanderbilt	Texas
68	Jefferson	China	Texas
	(1)		
69	Karnes	Kenedy	Texas
	(1)		
70	Kaufman	Crandall	Texas
71	(6)	Elmo	Texas
72		Forney	Texas
73		Kaufman	Texas
74		Kemp	Texas
75		Terrell	Texas
76	Kerr	Kerrville	Texas
	(1)		
77	Lampasas	Lampasas	Texas
	(1)		
78	Llano	Kingsland	Texas
	(1)		

79	Lubbock (1)	Lubbock	Texas
80	McLennan	Eddy	Texas
81	(4)	McGregor	Texas
82		Ross	Texas
83		Waco	Texas
84	Montague (1)	Bowie	Texas
85	Nacogdoches (1)	Cushing	Texas
86	Newton (1)	Bon Wier	Texas
87	Nolan (1)	Nolan	Texas
88	Nueces (1)	Corpus Christi	Texas
89	Parmer (1)	Friona	Texas
90	Potter (1)	Amarillo	Texas
91	Randall	Canyon	Texas
92	(2)	Umbarger	Texas
93	Reeves (1)	Pecos	Texas
94	San Patricio (1)	Taft	Texas
95	Smith (1)	Tyler	Texas
96	Swisher (1)	Happy	Texas
97	Tarrant (1)	Fort Worth	Texas
98	Taylor (1)	Abilene	Texas
99	Tom Green (1)	San Angelo	Texas
100	Travis	Austin	Texas
101	(2)	South Austin Station-Austin	Texas
102	Van Zandt	Ben Wheeler	Texas
103	(5)	Canton	Texas
104		Grand Saline	Texas
105		Myrtle Springs	Texas
106		Wills Point	Texas
107	Walker (1)	Huntsville	Texas
108	Williamson	Bartlett	Texas
109	(7)	Georgetown	Texas
110		Granger	Texas
111		Hutto	Texas
112		Jarrell	Texas
113		Round Rock	Texas
114		Taylor	Texas
115	Wood (1)	Quitman	Texas

A CALL FOR A CANCEL

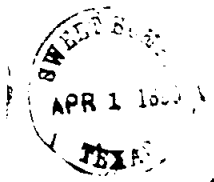
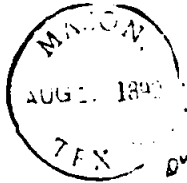
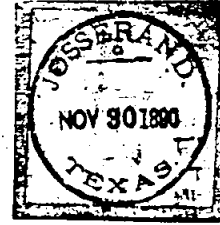
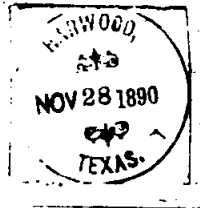
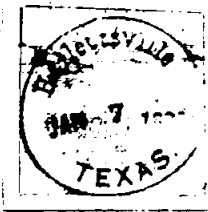
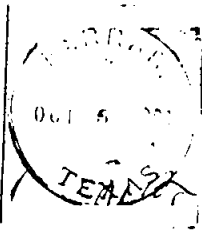
In the late 1880s and well into the 1890s a very attractive and distinctive cancellation appeared in quite a few Texas post offices. Unlike other standard cancellations before and since, it contained a straight-line month, day, and year in the center of the circular date stamp. By the turn of the century its usage had all but disappeared, perhaps in part because the date portion of the canceller proved unsatisfactory, since the date often registered indistinctly.

I have pored over the Postmark Collector's Club's microfilmed holdings of Texas markings and I have browsed through my own covers in order to begin to gather names and dates of Texas post offices which used this device, and I include several photocopies of same in this article. My intention is to make a study and a list of such cancels used in Texas, for future publication in the TPHS Journal. I am interested in finding out about any and all such copies extant - standards, variations, "knock-offs", forerunners, etc. - regardless of whether they fit into these decades or not.

Please send photocopies, or descriptions of these cancels noting which of the illustrated types (if any) that they resemble, to:

John J. Germann
12102 Whittington
Houston, TX 77077-4911

Thanx beaucoup.



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"Lieu W.E. Jones
Fort Euwell
Texas"

by Tom Kean

In the September 1992 issue of THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL, I introduced the story of Lt. William E. Jones (later Brigadier General, CSA) and the tragic death of his wife enroute to Fort Merrill, Texas. The article was centered around a letter to Jones from his father-in-law.

After the article appeared, several members of the Society were kind enough to contact me. It is nice to meet new people and fellow collectors this way. It is also encouraging.

I also heard from Mr. Jim Warren, Live Oak County's Archeologist. I noted in the earlier article that Mr. Warren had been a valuable source of information about Ft. Merrill. After he saw the first article, he noted that Ft. Merrill is now located on private property and the landowner doesn't allow just anyone to enter. I apologize if anyone followed the directions for locating Ft. Merrill in my article and was turned away. Mr. Warren also noted that Ft. Merrill was the easternmost fort in the line extending across Texas to El Paso. The foundations that remain are from the Commanding Officer's Quarters and the Post Bakery. I want to publicly thank Mr. Warren for his contributions in helping me assemble information on Lt. Jones and Ft. Merrill.

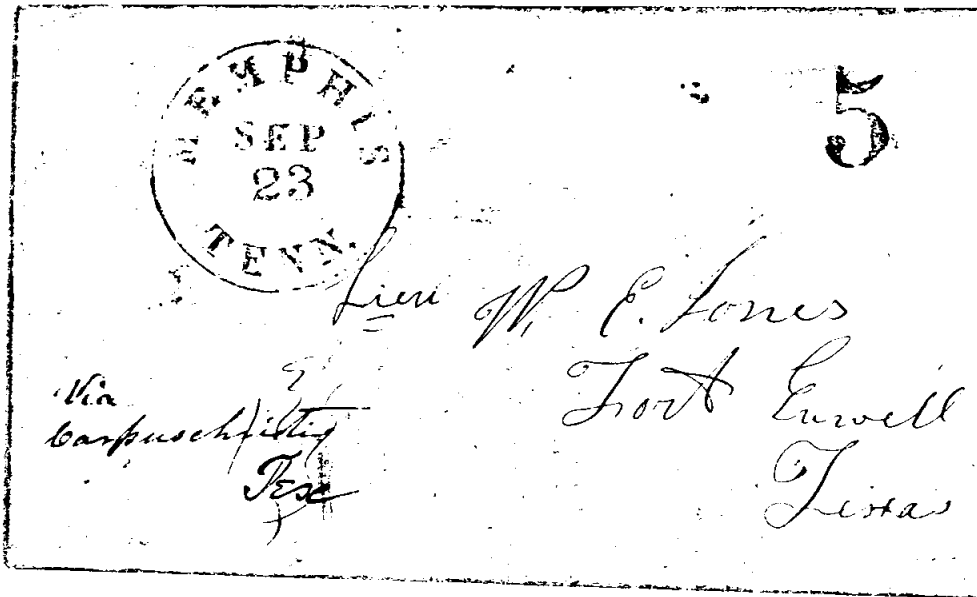
This article is based on another letter sent to Jones. It also discusses some of the ways that the National Archives can aid in searching for information about the people who served in the early Texas forts and provides a few more facts about Jones and his time in Texas, as well as some information about Ft. Ewell.

I've noted that when I bid on the cover that was the centerpiece of the September 1992 article, I really didn't know why I did it. Proceeding in an equally blind fashion, I later bid on a cover that was described only as a folded letter from Tennessee and addressed to Ft. Ewell. Imagine my very pleasant surprise when it turned out to be addressed to Jones! I suppose that coincidence was what really aroused my curiosity and began this search for information about Jones.

The cover, illustrated on the next page, was postmarked at Memphis on September 23, 1852. Like the first cover, it is a stampless, folded letter and was wax sealed. It bears the handstruck "5" valuation and the inked notation "Via Corpus Christi Tx". In a small bit of irony, Ft. Ewell in the address is misspelled, as was

Ft. Merrill on the cover illustrated in the earlier article. Both misspellings appear in the verbatim titles of the two articles.

In another bit of coincidence related to the letter in the first article, this letter is also from a relative and is the first letter from the writer since the death of Jones' wife.



A verbatim (except where I couldn't read the handwriting) transcript of the contents of the letter follows:

Memphis, Sept. 20, 1852

Dear Brother,

It has been sometime since I have received a letter from you whether you ever started any or not, I can't tell. But be it as it may be, I write, hoping that the reception of my letter may urge you to write. I heard of the sad calamity that befell you in crossing the gulf. It is a loss I grieve much and would be happy to console you, but as consolation can alone come from a higher power, it would be folly in me to attempt. So if the frowns of fortune, have caused you to forget me, I hope the heaviness of mind that seems at present to bear upon you, may speedily be removed, and your former feelings of ease and happiness restored.

Since I last saw you, nothing of importance has occurred with me. I moved into the bottom and settled on a quarter section of land joining (H.B.E.'s). I am to pay \$10 an acre for it and deem it a good bargain. My crop of corn is very fine. It will yield from ten to fifteen barrels per acre. I have had two spells of billious fever, since I have been here. They lasted me some 10 or 12 days only. Since I recovered from my last attack, I have enjoyed better health than I enjoyed in (VA). My dyspepsia is gradually leaving me, by fall I think I will be entirely clear of it.

I was over at (Jeffs) the other day, and found them generally well. Mother had a slight attack of diarrhea, but she has recovered with the exception of weakness. (Eliza's) baby grows fine, & in appearance, is decidedly partial to the (Greer) stock. The rest of the relations are well with the exception of occasional chills. I suppose you have heard of the death of cousin (Mariam) (Rosbranch) & and Jack Edmundson. Henry Edmundson has just returned from a trip to (VA). He found the relatives all well but, Florence (Denum), who had been very sick but was on the mend. There has been a great deal of sickness in (VA) during the last spring and summer in the form of (flush), which has killed several. Among the numbers is (Doc) John Buchanan, (Roseanna) Clark, Frank (Hutton), & others whom I disremember at present. Henry brought with him his boy Charles, being the third or fourth (trial), he says some of the people of (Tarwell) were very much enraged at seeing the boy taken from them, and showed a willingness to release him, but seem it wouldn't do. I learned Uncle Tom (Clans) address and wrote to him about your note, a few days before James received your letter. He has written nothing in regard to it yet, & from the time he has had, it seems don't intend. I stand very much in need of the money and dislike to see his negligence in paying it. You had better write to him relative to the matter. His address is, Pike Co., (Hinderhook) Ill. Uncle Andy has something similar to a (felon) on his hand, which gives him a good deal of pain. The rest of their family are (well). You may tell Ellen and Andy their children are well and send their love to them, and that they may write and tell how they are.

Write soon, R. (Campbell) Jones

P.S.

Tell Tom the fulfillment of his promise when we parted seems to be a devil of a hard task, in consequence of the inefficiency of the mails or his neglect in putting letters in the office directed to me. I don't know which of the two, but I fear the latter.

Interestingly, Jones' brother expresses his wishes that Jones will recover his good spirit and happiness after the tragedy of his wife's death. As we saw in the first letter, Jones' father-in-law had similar sentiments. Unfortunately, neither man's advice was to be followed and "Grumble" Jones was the result.

Most of the rest of the letter contains interesting, but unresearched tidbits of gossip. There is also a bit of preoccupation with illness which I found interesting since I am a public health professional. It is possible, I suppose, that the "Tom" mentioned in the postscript to this letter is the same as the "Tho." mentioned in the earlier letter. Who that is, I have no idea, although he appears to be in the dog house over something.

This letter arrived after Jones' had been at Ft. Ewell for only a couple of months. In fact, according to THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS, Ft. Ewell was established in May of 1852 as a frontier outpost and to guard the road from San Antonio to Laredo. It apparently had a lousy location on the south bank of the Nueces in southern La Salle County and there was a lot of sickness among the troops. The fort was abandoned in October of 1854 under orders of the War Department.

THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS notes that in June of 1853 one W.G. Freeman inspected the post and reported on its buildings. Coincidentally, I have a copy of a document co-signed by Jones dated July 4, 1853 reporting on the conditions of the fort buildings and the funds needed for repairs in the coming year. As can be seen from the transcript below, the fort was in awful condition. One wonders if Freeman's inspection and this report didn't prompt the War Department in December of that year to order the fort to close "as soon as convenient".

Fort Ewell Texas
July the 4th
1853.

Sir

In obedience to General orders No 14 May 23rd 1853, we submit the following report of the present condition of the Buildings, Hospital and tents of Ft. Ewell & of the probable expenditures that will be required for the ensuing year.

The buildings consist of

One Adobe House, eighty feet long & twenty wide, has two ten foot rooms at the ends & two thirty foot ones in the center. Was intended for Company Quarters, but when roofed the walls were found to be too weak to sustain the lightest superstructure. They had to be () with out and fastened together within by iron bars. It can never be used but as a Store House. It has a shingle roof.

One Adobe House sixty feet long & twenty wide with an old canvas roof - a Commissary Store House,

One Adobe House, forty by twenty, with an old canvas roof - a Blacksmith Shop.

All the buildings are fast going to ruin from the rain. The walls of two other buildings intended for Company Quarters were put up last fall, but for want of roofs are in ruins.

A (local) stable, one hundred and eighty feet long & thirty wide, without roof, and will be in ruins in a year.

All these were erected in the past year.

The troops both sick and well are in tents. The Hospital Tents and those of Company "G" are good, but those of Companies "E" and "I" are almost entirely worn out.

The erection of Buildings is much needed for the preservation of public property, as well as for the comfort and health of the soldiers. Materials for the most ordinary temporary Quarters, cannot be had in this vicinity. The Building was suspended last year by a department order.

The plan (f)or extent of the Post is not in our possession, but we presume, can be found in the Quartermaster Generals Office, also an estimate of the probable cost of the Buildings. These we understand were forwarded last year.

Maj Genl Thos Jesup
Quartermaster General U.S.A.
Washington
D.C.

Respectfully Your Obedient
Servants

(J). S. Simonson
Capt () RMR Comdg Post

W.E. Jones
2nd Lieut R.M.R.
A.A.Q.M.

In the process of assembling information on Jones, I was fortunate early on to have local access to the National Archives since, at the time, I was living in Washington, D.C. I had been to the Archives several times to see the standing exhibits, but was really unaware of other opportunities there. However, I had noticed a door on the backside of the Archives that directed people through it who were interested in the Nixon tapes. When my mother asked me to help her find a relative on a ship manifest, I went through that

door and a whole new world opened up. After a number of questions, I eventually found my way to the Military Reference Branch where I met Mr. Richard Cox who patiently explained the various sources I might use to run down information on Jones. (Actually, at that time I was more interested in a guy named Liscum, but that's another article someday. As a teaser though, Liscum served as a Captain at Ft. Brown. Like Jones he became a general, and later was killed during the Boxer Rebellion.)

One of the most interesting sources I was introduced to was post records. These are contained on microfiche. When I first walked into the room where the microfiche rolls are stored, I couldn't believe it! There seemed to be endless rows of shelves crammed with boxes containing microfiche rolls. However, they are very well organized and easy to use. Once I spent a little time in trial and error searching, I figured out how to find and use the post records to trace a particular person's movements while assigned to a particular fort. Since the transfer of officers is noted on the post records, one could easily pick up the trail as an officer moved around. The records themselves are interesting in that they contain brief tidbits of information on any significant events, such as certain officers being assigned to court martials or temporary duty at other forts.

To illustrate how these records can be used, let's take the example of Lt. Jones during his time at Ft. Merrill. The post records for Ft. Merrill are contained on a single microfiche roll that covers the period from March of 1850 to November 1855, almost the entire period of the fort's existence.

The first reference to Lt. Jones is in the February 1852 record where he and another officer are listed as absent without leave (AWOL) "since January 3, 1852". I find this really fascinating since this was about the time that Jones was getting married and starting out on his ill fated journey to Texas. This record also notes that the company that Jones was to command, Company G, "joined from New Orleans February 11, 1852".

In the March 1852 record, Jones is still listed as AWOL along with two other officers. The record further states that he was AWOL "since March 15, 1852. Left Regiment Nov 3, 1851."

Jones "joined from absent without leave and relieved Lt. Ransom in command of G: April 11, 1852." This notation was in the April 1852 post record.

The May 1852 report notes that Company G consisted of 2 officers and 63 men.

Finally, Lt. Jones was transferred on June 12th, 1852 when the company left for Fort Ewell.

These are just some samples of the information contained in post records. Out of this experience, I learned how to track someone through the records as well as the utility of the records in describing fort life and events, although cryptically for the most part.

I also learned two other things. First, I think AWOL perhaps meant something different in those days and had different consequences than when I served in the military in the late 60's and early 70's! The other thing I learned was that even "way back then" bureaucracy was alive and well. The post records were prepared in standard formats and submitted regularly. Somehow I had a more romantic vision of life on the frontier that didn't include a lot of paperwork! One interesting thing I casually noted was the relatively small amount of time between a report's date and its receipt in Washington, sometimes just a matter of days.

I know several people that have copies of various microfiche records that can be obtained from the Archives. While it was nice to have direct access to them at the Archives themselves, now that I am in Colorado I will probably need to obtain the microfiche records for any serious research.

There are other ways to utilize the Archives and the various resources there. I'll describe these in my final article on Jones when I report on various documents that he generated while at both Ft. Merrill and Ft. Ewell. Some of these I got from the Archives and some were kindly provided by Mr. Warren from Live Oak County.

By the way, Mr. Warren also believes he has a microfilm record of a document that describes the death of a mail rider in the Nueces River at Ft. Ewell. That would be interesting to hear about!

Once again, if any of you have information on Jones during his Texas years, I would love to hear from you.

RESUME OF SALE NO. 8

The results from our Mail Sale No. 8 were very good. Of the 52 lots offered, 26 were sold. The unsold lots failed to receive a bid, or were withdrawn. The prices received reflected that desirable material brings good prices. Lot No. 15, a historic cover originating in Clinton and destined for France, realized \$305.00. An attractive cover, No. 27, to San Antonio from Helena, realized \$200.00. Excellent buys included Lot 8, an Indianola w/#11 at \$67.50, and Lot 22, a Houston stampless w/nice marking, for \$90.00. The prices as a whole for the material were typical of auction results.

We believe that the higher quality material, along with better illustrations, helped the sale.

Did you fail to bid? Look for our next offering, we have some better material coming in, but a few more select items are solicited. What do you have?

PRICES REALIZED, T.P.H.S. SALE #8

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
3	\$ 15.00	15	305.00	33	9.00
4	110.00	16	9.00	34	7.00
5	25.00	18	8.00	37	10.50
6	30.00	19	10.00	38	5.00
8	67.50	22	90.00	43	12.00
10	62.00	24	10.00	48	3.50
12	15.00	27	200.00	50	20.00
13	28.00	30	5.00	52	5.00
14	30.00	31	18.00		