

# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

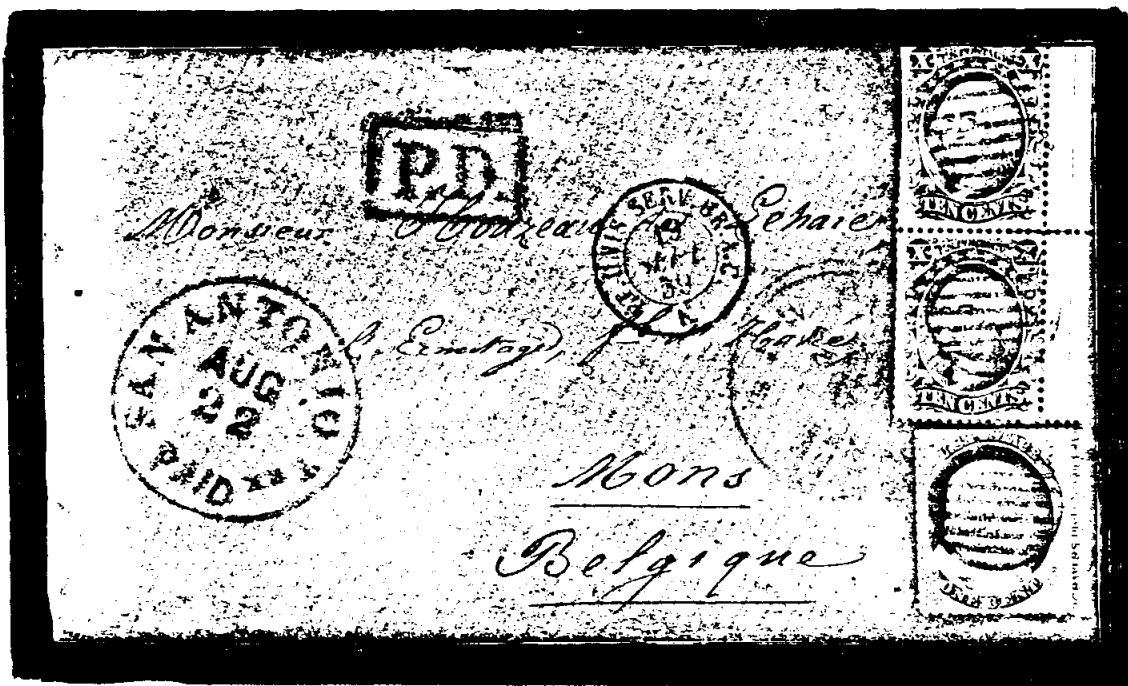


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Illustrated on the front cover is a trans-Atlantic envelope to Belgium from San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 22, 1859. The San Antonio postmark is 33mm. in diameter, black, and is classified as Type SA - 13. It was used from Apr. 1855 - Oct. 1862. The 21¢ rate paid was distributed as follows: 3¢ for U.S. internal postage, and 18¢ for British Packet Service to Calais. The steamship "AMERICA" sailed from New York on Sept. 7, 1859 carrying it across the Atlantic. It arrived in Mons, Belgium Sept. 20, 1859.

# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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Our meeting at TEXPEX '94 was another good one. John Germann used humor as well as expertise to tell how he used reference sources to secure background on Texas D.P.O.'s. Those in attendance really enjoyed this presentation and were given a pass out list of places John has used in his research.

Bill Emery, our long time editor, has officially informed me that he will end his job next year. He will complete Volume 20, and then step down from his editorship which means he will cease being T.P.H.S. Journal editor at the end of 1995.

So we must have a replacement ready to go well before the end of next year. I'm therefore officially giving notice that the job needs to be filled early in 1995. That isn't as far off as it seems. At this time, I'm asking anyone interested in becoming Editor to write or call me so that we can discuss what is involved. I'll go over the candidates with the other officers and we'll proceed with securing a replacement for Bill, hopefully early next year. Let me hear from you if interested in this challenging and rewarding job.

Two new suggestions came out of the TEXPEX meetings;

- 1) Should we open up the Journal to advertisements (or swap and sell notices) from members?
- 2) Should we accept ads from dealers?

Contact me with your reactions on both of the above questions. The officers and I need to know your thinking on them. Write or Phone me --Please! Sorry - no fax machine available here at the house.

Bill Emery still needs more articles for your Journal. Write up your latest "finds" and send them to the editor.

That's it for this time

Good Collectin'

Ed

## J. BRENT CLARK, TEXIAN AGENT

By R. H. Stever

Throughout its life the Republic of Texas maintained an agent in New Orleans. This individual (or company) performed various consular services for the Republic such as purchasing agent, handler of drafts, chartering vessels and forwarding mail to and from Texas.

There were several of these agents, the appointment often being politically motivated by whomever was in authority back in Texas. Some of the appointees were poor choices. It seems that whenever there was an agent problem or vacancy they would fall back on William Bryan. He served three times. The other notable forwarder of the Texian mails was Sam Ricker. Unlike Bryan, Ricker was never the actual appointed agent but was instead an employee of the Toby Bros. firm which acted as agent.

Both Bryan and Ricker had personal handstamps which they applied to letters they handled. These devices were exactly the same size, 50 x 35 mm ovals, and were alike except for each man's name at the top. Covers struck with Bryan or Ricker ovals are neither rare nor common. There are, however, other different handstamps used by Bryan and Ricker which are relatively scarce on cover and which command substantially higher prices at auctions.

Bryan and Ricker weren't the only individuals who handled Texian mails in New Orleans. A list of postal agents, their terms of office and their markings are found on page 66 in Alex ter Braake's Texas, The Drama of its Postal Past. This information is to a great extent based on cover evidence and may be subject to revision. For example, with the possible exception of Ricker, all of the handlers of Texian mails including Bryan placed manuscript markings on letters. Apparently ter Braake was unaware of early Bryan manuscript markings. His list does show one other individual to have used a handstamp. That was J. Brent Clark, who handled Texas mail for the Toby firm between August and December 1837.

Most covers handled by Clark bear manuscript markings. However, from October to December 1837 Clark employed a small oval handstamp measuring only 22 x 26 mm which he struck with greenish black or blackish green ink. Covers with the J. Brent Clark oval handstamp are exceedingly rare. A blowup of a Clark oval is shown in Figure 1. It reads, "Agency of the Texian Post Office, New Orleans."

Alex ter Braake stated he had seen only four covers with J. Brent Clark ovals. In the recent "Camina" sale of Texas postal history (Robt. A. Seigel Auction Galleries) lot 182 was a cover bearing a Clark oval (Figure 2). It was estimated at \$1,000-\$1,500 but realized \$1,600 hammer price. The catalog description stated "only four of his markings have been recorded and this is one of the few that is non-archival". Two covers with Clark ovals are

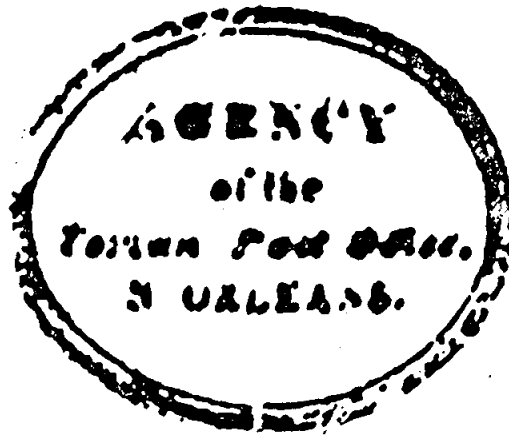


Figure 1. Enlargement of the J. Brent Clark oval handstamp. Actual size is 22 x 26 mm. To date five covers are known bearing this marking, all in late 1837.

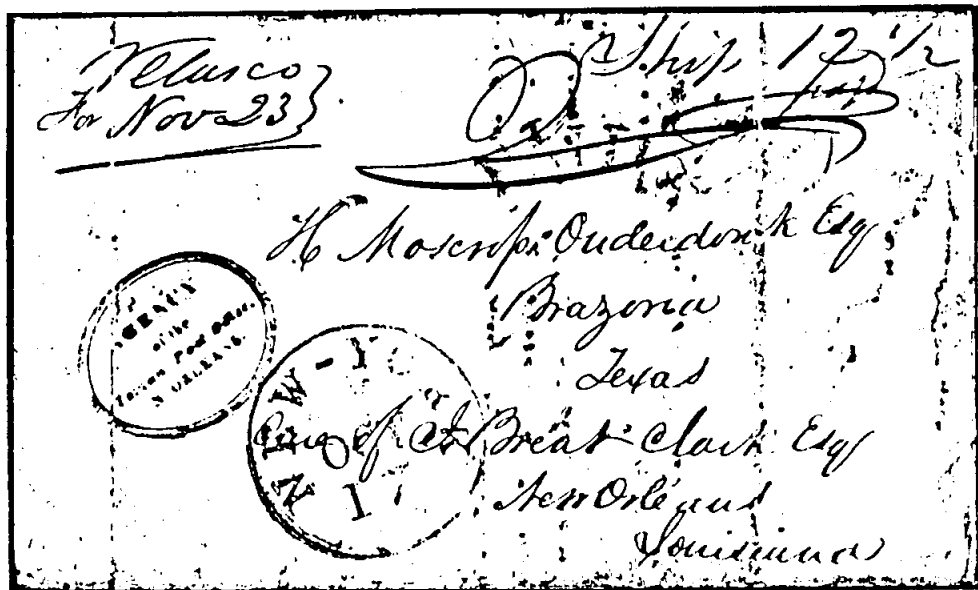


Figure 2. Posted at New York October 17, 1837 paying 25¢ U.S. postage. Handstamped at New Orleans with J. Brent Clark green oval and marked "Ship 12 1/2" Texas postage being 6¢ ship rate plus 6¢ inland rate to Brazoria. Forwarded at Velasco November 23.

illustrated in ter Braake, one on page 59 (Figure 3) and the other on page 100 (Figure 4). Since ter Braake gave credit to individuals whose covers he used only the one on page 59 is possibly archival. Another cover (Figure 5) with a Clark oval appears on page 58 in Harry Konwiser's Texas Republic Postal System. Counting the Camina cover, that's four known. However, this writer knows of a fifth Clark oval (Figure 6) in private hands. Also, a member TPHS claims to have one in a box of "mislaidd" Republic covers. If this is so, there could be six or it could be the Konwiser cover or the ter Braake "archival" cover. (How anyone could mislay a box of Republic covers for fifteen years is hard to fathom, but that is the claim.)

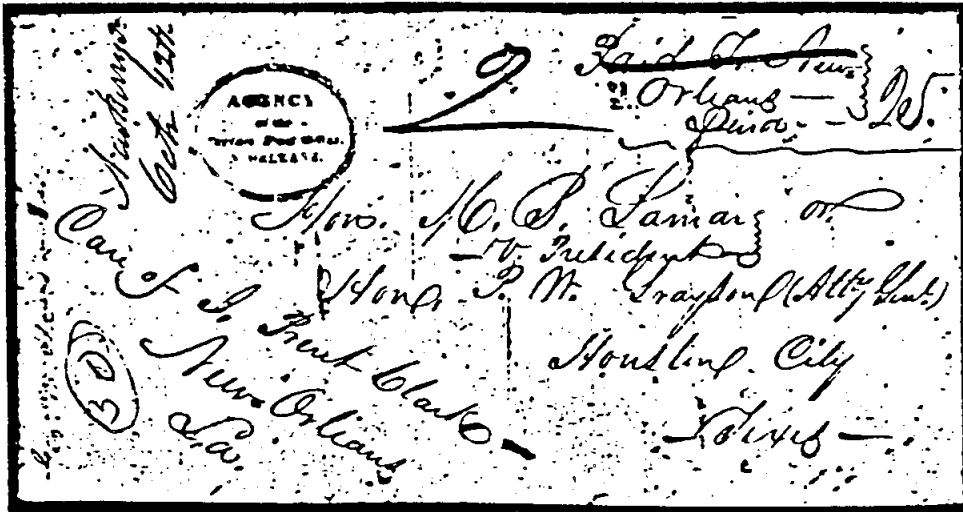


Figure 3. Posted at Newberry, Pa. October 12, 1837 addressed to Houston. (Cover photo reduced) Paid 25¢ U.S. postage to New Orleans. Ship captain's fee of 7¢ charged for transit on non-contract vessel. Forwarded by J. Brent Clark with oval agent's handstamp. No Texas postage charged since the letter was addressed to a government official, vice-president Mirabeau B. Lamar. (Courtesy American Philatelic Society)

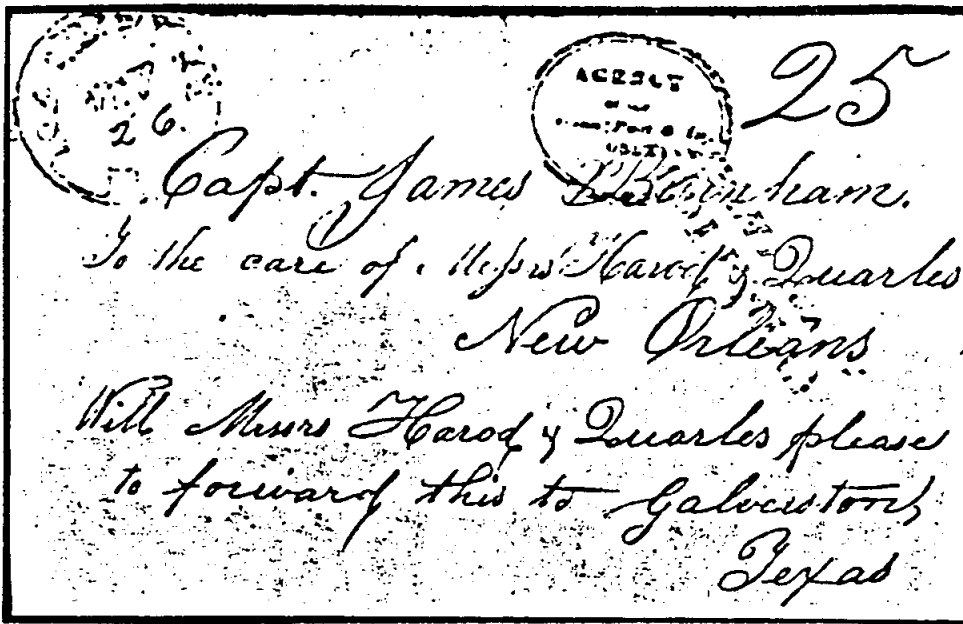


Figure 4. Posted at Kennebank, Me. November 26, 1837 with 25¢ U.S. postage paid to New Orleans and request to a New Orleans firm to forward to Galveston for captain of a stranded brig. J. Brent Clark oval and Steam Packet Columbia straightline handstamps applied at New Orleans. (Courtesy American Philatelic Society)

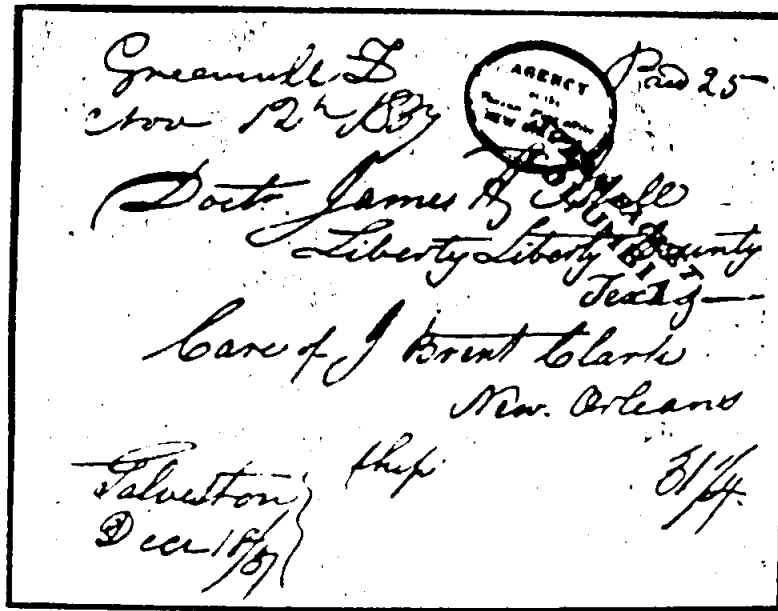


Figure 5. Posted at Greenville, Tenn. November 12, 1837 to Liberty, Texas. (Cover photo reduced) U. S. postage of 25¢ paid. Routed to New Orleans in care of J. Brent Clark who applied oval handstamp and Steam Packet Columbia straightline. Clark noted Texas rate of 31½¢ being 6½¢ ship rate plus 25¢ 1837 rate for distance over 100 miles (Galveston to Liberty). Manuscript Galveston marking dated December 18, 1837. (Reported by Harry Konwiser)

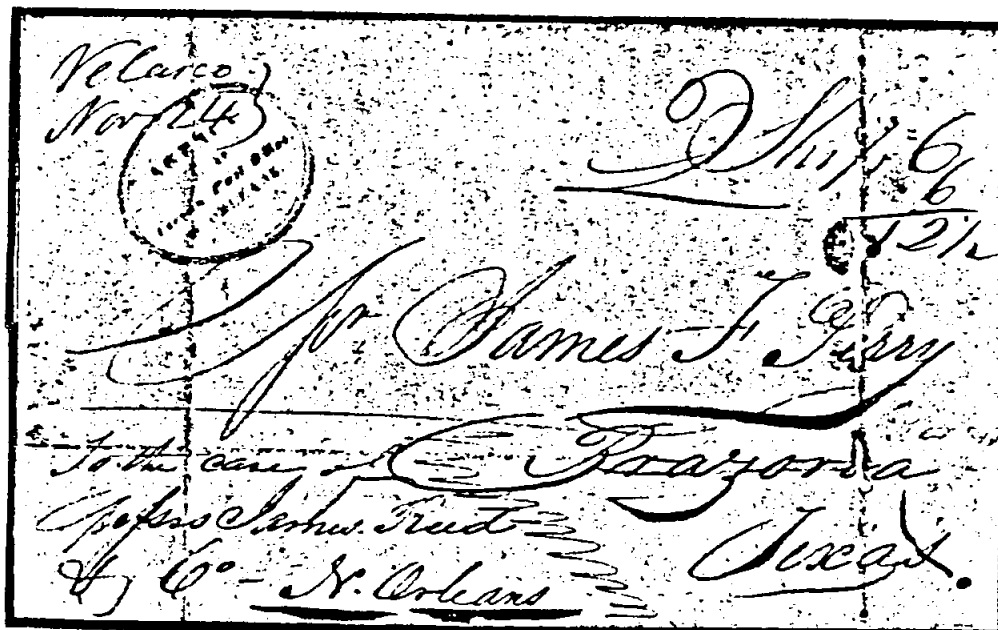


Figure 6. Originated at St. Louis on October 13, 1837, hand carried to New Orleans and left in care of James Reed & Co. Forwarded by J. Brent Clark of Toby firm to Velasco, Texas for transport inland to Brazoria. Clark green oval handstamp plus manuscript "Ship 12" for Texas ship rate and inland postage to Brazoria. Large manuscript "2" for ship captain's fee, possibly Mississippi riverboat captain. Forwarded at Velasco on November 24.

Figures 2 through 6 prove there are at least five covers extant with J. Brent Clark ovals. One reason they are so rare is that Clark, as noted above, handled Texas mail for only four months and used the handstamp only two months more or less. Like Ricker, Clark was not the agent but was an employee of a business firm. ter Braake offers proof of Clark's association with the Toby firm. Two of the letters illustrated herein were directed to other firms, however. There is the distinct likelihood that Republic of Texas letters, not just Clark letters but all Republic letters, were not necessarily handled by the individual or firm designated by the senders. In all probability when the mail ship docked at New Orleans the Texas letters were carried to whoever was handling the Texian mail at that time regardless of the individual or business firm noted on the letters.

Some insight into J. Brent Clark is found in the Ward correspondence (reference David Connaly, Houston). Clark wrote from New Orleans on July 11, 1837 asking Major Ward to sell "my lumber" and explaining that he was "hard pushed for funds to make both ends meet." This is about the time he took the job with Toby handling Texas mails. During his time with Toby two individuals in Houston to whom Clark owed money filed a suit against Clark and got the judge to issue an order whereby the plaintiffs attached his lumber. That was Sept. 2, 1837. Major Ward must have written Clark about this as on November 1 Clark again wrote Ward expressing surprise at the action and explaining that he had Mr. Toby lined up to purchase the lumber. The cover illustrated in Figure 5 was docketed at Galveston December 18 which indicates Clark handstamped this letter a few days earlier that month. By February 1838 Sam Ricker was marking Texian mail and J. Brent Clark was apparently out of a job.

Clark had in the meantime moved to Matagorda, Texas where on June 23, 1838 a letter to Major Ward was franked with a lovely Matagorda double oval cancel and sent "Free" by the postmaster - J. Brent Clark.

#### ADDENDA

The "Steam Packet Columbia" double straightline on two of the above covers is somewhat of an enigma. Not all Texas covers that passed through New Orleans have this marking. It is thought that these covers were late arrivals and the handstamp was employed to indicate a 2¢ fee is due the ship captain. Note the other three covers have a manuscript "2"

R.H.S.



I'M LOOKING FOR . . .

POSTAL HISTORY — what a challenge. Going through an accumulation of Railway Post Office (RPO) cancels and trying to organize them according to the U.S.R.P.O. Catalog, originally edited by the late Charles Towle and being revised by Mobile Post Office Society members John Kay and Fred MacDonald, many interesting surprises come out. First, there is always the surprize of having an example of a unlisted cancel. Secondly, some of the covers/cards have postal cancellations in sequence. This is what brings this article about.

R.P.O. buffs, check your holdings. Along the way a 4-day run of the LONGVIEW & LAREDO R.P.O. has come along. The hang-up is that day 3 of the run is missing. In Figure 1 strikes are shown for NOV 22, 23, 25, 1910, TR 9. Nov 22 and 25 are identical except for the date (wording around the circle is the same). Nov 23 is different in that it indicates N.D. (North Division) in the lower part of the circle. Needed is a strike of Nov 24, 1910 TR9 to see if there is a different canceler than Nov. 22 and 23.

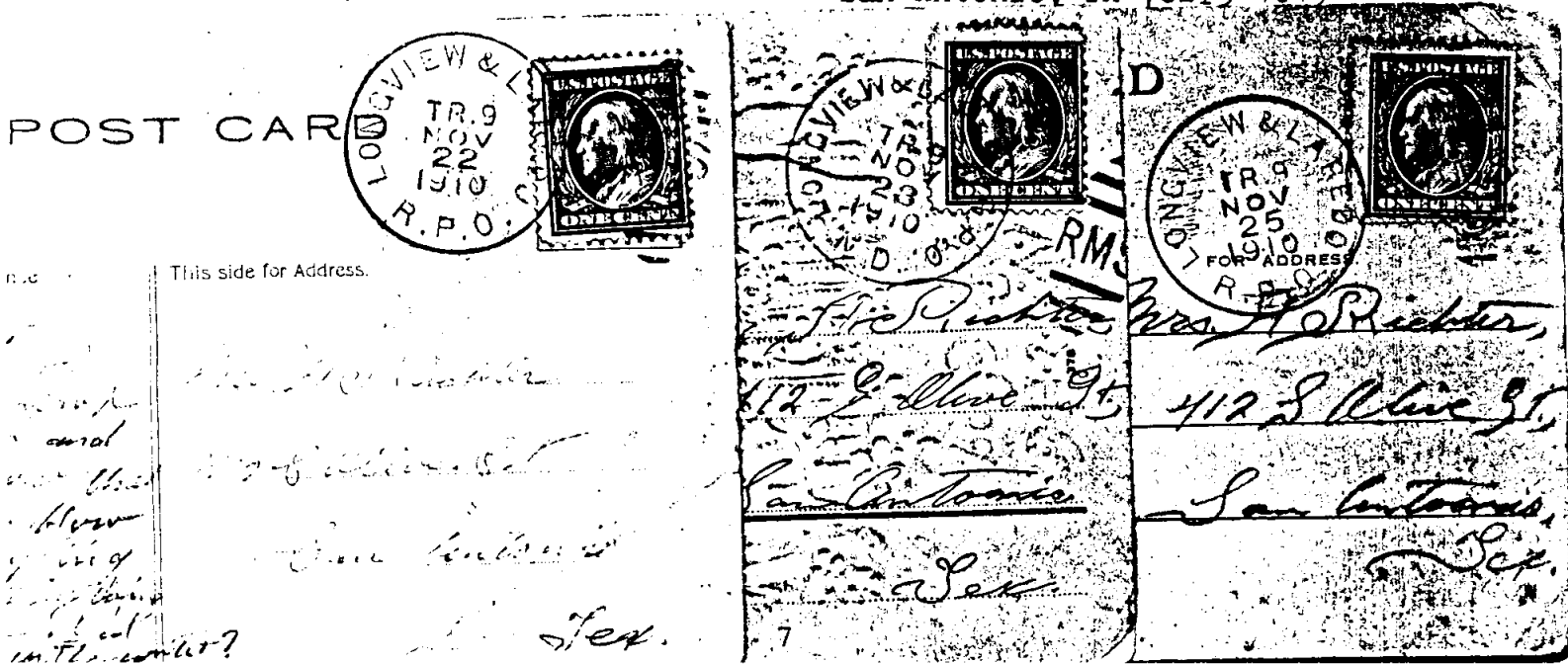
All three cards that show this information are from the same correspondence — to Mrs. H. Richter on S. Olive St. in San Antonio, Tex. Her son is writing, wishing good health and on two cards is inquiring about possibly winning a prize in a contest.

LONGVIEW & LAREDO RPO had two divisions, that is the complete run had two sets of crews. North Division operated from Longview to Austin for 262 miles. South Division operated Austin to Laredo for 233 miles. Later the line was reorganized to LONGVIEW & SAN ANTONIO and SAN ANTONIO & LAREDO. This writer made his first student trip on the San Antonio & Laredo in February 1951. A week or so later a substitute assignment found me on the Longview & San Antonio RPO.

Anyone having samples of the Nov 24, 1910 LONGVIEW & LAREDO RPO please send a copy to the undersigned. Happy to reimburse any costs.

Richard E. Spies  
350 Nassau  
San Antonio, TX 78213-4049

Fig. 1



## FIRST MUSIC HOUSE IN TEXAS

by Jane King Fohn

Move a piano lately? Pianos bumped across the prairie in wagons as the frontier pushed west. Transportation of these massive instruments was facilitated by removing the legs.

Pianos were on the Texas frontier by 1839--Stephen F. Austin's colony boasted one or two. Texas pianos were mostly in the homes of affluent coastal residents. By 1846, nearly every settlement had at least one piano, and it was not unusual to find pianos in log cabins on dirt floors.

The Goggan brothers had Irish determination, courage, and confidence in America and Texas. In 1866, Thomas and John Goggan founded the first Texas music house in the coastal city of Galveston. Later, branch stores were opened in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Waco, Dallas, Lufkin, and Port Arthur.

The featured Thos. Goggan & Bro. cover is graced by an intricate Kelly-green design. The "GALVESTON OCT 5 11-PM 1898 TEX." flag cancellation is one of many flag designs used from 1894 through 1940. The reverse bears an "AUSTIN OCT-6 4-PM 1898 TEX." cancellation noting day received, in the same flag design.

Austin history of the Goggans begins with their first entry in the 1887-88 Austin City Directory, which located the company at 711 Congress Avenue. The last Goggan entry in the 1898-99 Austin City Directory listed them at 813 Congress Avenue.

The first piano in Austin is believed to have been in the Bullock Hotel. By 1839, Bullock had built his hostelry on Congress Avenue between Pecan and Bois d'Arc Streets. There were cabins around a courtyard; and the center cabin housed the piano.

William D. Wallach, a Matagorda newspaper editor, wrote a series of articles titled "Indians in Austin." He reported that after a nocturnal Indian raid in 1841, he returned to the Bullock courtyard where

"...[He] was seated at the piano, banging away most unconcernedly amid the din, which was 'confusion worse confounded.' What a remarkable taste for music! Mozart himself, who used to eat, drink, and sleep on it, would not have been so completely absorbed by 'la douce passione,' under such circumstances; for the rattling tramp of three or four hundred armed men, as they hurried to and fro--the crying of lots of children, not knowing what to make of the muss--and the anxious clatter of fifty or sixty female tongues, formed an accompaniment which appeared to us, sufficient to drive all Italy mad."

Thos. Goggan & Bro. stayed abreast of the times. In 1926, the company led as a radio equipment house, and maintained the only Galveston radio station. A 1931 newspaper clipping details an array of electric appliances, one of which was a GE washer and ironer combination. The company carried ten makes of pianos and a complete stock of musical merchandise. The Goggan enterprise disappeared after the listing in the 1932-33 Galveston City Directory.

References:

Austin City Directory. 1887-88. P. 149.

Austin City Directory. 1898-99. P. 148.

Barkley, Mary Starr. History of Travis County and Austin: 1839-1899. (Austin: Printing Crafts, 1975), p. 48.

"Flag Cancel Society." Linn's Stamp News, 24 June 1985.

Galveston City Directory. 1866-67.

Galveston City Directory. 1932-33.

"Gengler's Fifteen Years Old When Goggans Opened First Texas Music Store." Galveston Daily News, Special Gengler Edition, 16 June 1926.

"Goggan Observes 65th Anniversary." Galveston Daily News, 23 October 1931, p. 14.

Hogan, William Ransom. The Texas Republic. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1980), pp. 169-171, 182-183.

GOGGAN, Thomas & Bro., Inc., Galveston, oldest music house in Texas. Brief history

## GENGLER'S FIFTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN GOGGANS OPENED FIRST TEXAS MUSIC STORE

SEE CITY DIRECTORY LISTING

The Peter Genkler Company was fifteen years old when the first music store in Texas was opened in Galveston, founded in 1866 by Thomas and John Goggan. The Thomas Goggan & Bro. Company of Galveston now is recognized as the oldest music house in Texas, and one of the leading distributors of music and instruments in the South. Several years after the founding of the Galveston store, a branch under the management of Mike Goggan, a brother of the two founders. Stores also were opened in Houston, Austin, Waco and Dallas, and later in Lurkin and Port Arthur.

In 1903 Thomas Goggan died while on a visit to Ireland, his native country. John Goggan was drowned in 1908 while he was on a fishing trip.

The Goggan business was incorporated in 1907, and in 1914 was divided into two corporations. The heirs of Thomas Goggan received the interests in the Thomas Goggan & Bro. stores of San Antonio, Dallas and Waco. Mrs. John Goggan and her daughter received the Galveston store, the Houston, Lurkin and Port Arthur stores as their share of the estate.

The original books of the company, started in Galveston, are still in existence. They show that the first Chickering piano was sold in 1866 in Texas, and the first Emerson in 1872. The company is the oldest agent in the South handling the Emerson piano, and perhaps is the oldest in the United States, having handled the piano for fifty-four years.

The Galveston store has occupied its present location for the past forty years.

Under the present management in Galveston the company has more than doubled its business and has increased the capital stock in less

than two years to more than \$275,000. The sales force has been doubled and the company has a total of twenty-two employees.

The company also has kept abreast of the times and is now one of the leading radio equipment houses in the city as well as maintaining the only broadcasting station in Galveston. Plans are now being completed to increase the power of the Goggan station so that Galveston may be advertised over the entire country as the port and playground of the South. When completed, the new station promises to be as good as any in the country.

The Thomas Goggan & Bro. Company officers recognize a fellow worker for this city in the Peter Genkler Company. It was declared: "It is with great pleasure and privilege that we extend to our good friends and business associates our sincere wishes and congratulations on their seventy-fifth anniversary," they declared.

NEWS MEDIA IN DATE 1933  
Special Genkler edition

## GOGGAN OBSERVES 65TH ANNIVERSARY

GALVESTON MUSIC STORE ESTABLISHED SHORTLY AFTER CIVIL WAR.

Thos. Goggan & Bro., oldest music house in Texas, is observing its 65th anniversary this week.

There is romance in the history of a music firm which started when pianos had to be dragged across the plains of Texas in primitive schooners, and kept tight up with the times until modern radios and electric refrigerators are delivered by steamship and railway train.

Just after the close of the civil war, in 1866, the business of Thos. Goggan & Bro. was established in Galveston by Thomas and John Goggan, brothers. They had confidence in this country and state. Basing Irish, they had both integrity and courage. The first business home of the Goggan firm was the old Tribune building at 22d and Postoffice. Eleven years after its establishment, the firm built the three-story brick building at 22d and Market, which it occupied for more than 45 years. In October, 1929, the company moved to its present location across the street from its old home—into the corner location formerly known as the McCarthy bank building.

The Goggan company has seen the development of the piano from the old square type to the upright and the beautiful grands which enact the human touch of the world's greatest artist merely by the turning of a switch—the Ampico. And during its long period of service the firm has had opportunity to study and know musical instruments. Thos. Goggan & Bro. take especial pride in the stamp of quality on the instruments they handle, official declarations included in the make of pianos handled by the company are, Mason & Hamelin, Chickering, Marshall & Goggan, Halnes, Marshall & Goggan, Wendell, Brambach, Foster, Brewster, Gulbransen, Ampico.

The company is one of the oldest radio dealers in the state, handling General Electric, Atwater Kent, RCA-Victor and Majestic. Keeping pace with the modern age, the firm also handles electric refrigerators—the Majestic and the Starr Freezer.

The General Electric Company has appointed Thos. Goggan & Bro. as the General Electric home appliance dealer, including washer and ironer combination or individual irons, radios, vacuum cleaners, fans, sewing machines, toasters, percolators, curling irons, waffle irons, heating pads and clocks. The company also is exclusive agent for the Detroit Jewel gas range.

Complete band equipment is part of the Goggan stock, including such makes as C. G. Conn, Gibson, Paramount, Vega, and Martin drums and guitars and Ludwig drums.

A. R. Davis, manager, has been with the firm since 1923, upholding the store's policy of one price and fair dealing.

The store will be open every night for convenience of customers. Mr. Davis announced, and friends of the company are invited to visit the store during the anniversary week. A new shipment of grand pianos will be featured for display and sale during the week.

Galveston Daily News  
Fri. 23 Oct. 1931, p. 14

*Accounting Station  
Galveston, TX*

**THOS. GOGGAN & BRO.**  
**PIANO & MUSIC HOUSE**  
 GALVESTON, TEXAS.



OUR GALVESTON PIANO WAREROOM.

*A. P. Suggan Esq*  
*Co Brown Bros*  
*Austin Texas*



**THOS. GOGGAN & BRO.**  
**PIANO & MUSIC HOUSE**  
 GALVESTON, TEXAS.



OUR GALVESTON PIANO WAREROOM.

Mr. D. D. McDonald,  
 Attorney City Natl Bank Bldg,  
 City.



PRICES REALIZED

SALE #10

LOT	PRICE
3	\$ 7.00
9	9.00
11	52.00
12	25.00
16	15.00
24	27.00
26	5.00
28	20.00
29	125.00
30	50.00
39	30.00
41	40.00
58	18.00

If you have any material for the Fall sale, we will commence assembling in August.

ED LEISSNER  
AUCTION MANAGER