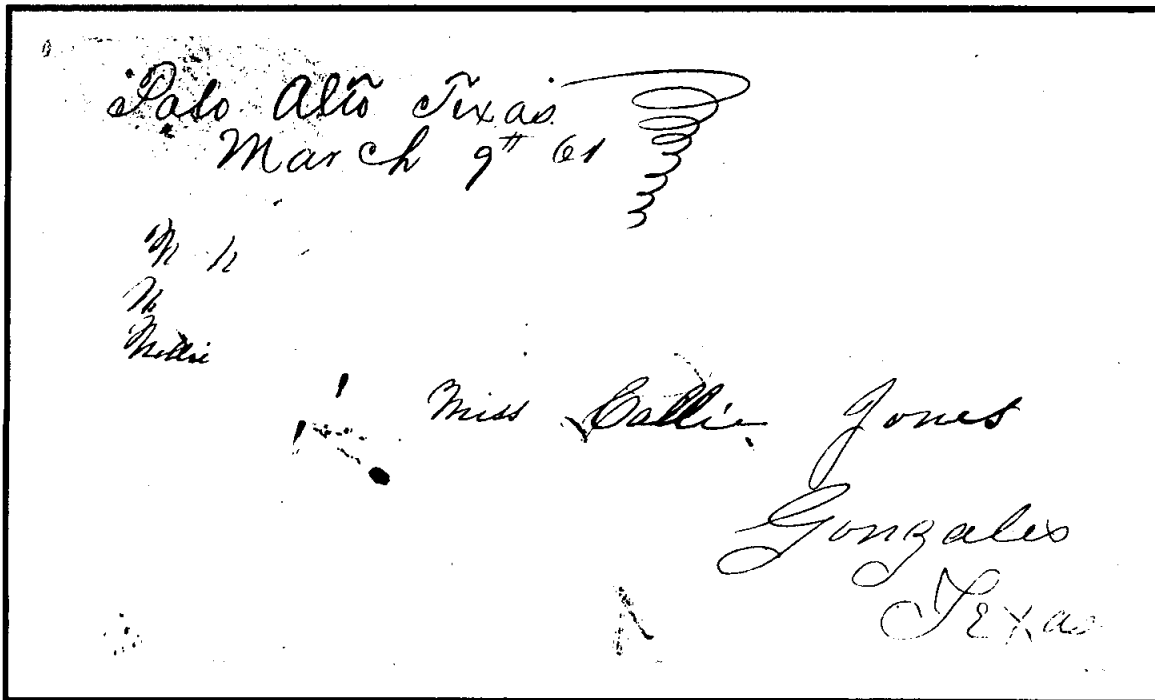
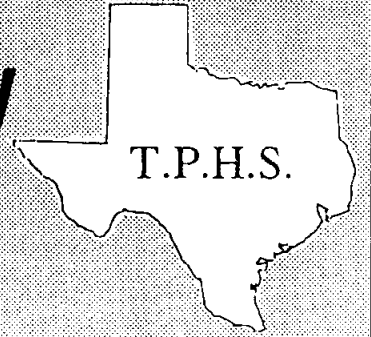


The

Texas Postal History Society Journal



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Much has been written about the "Ghost Towns of Texas." Postal historians know them as DPO's if they once had a post office. Of course, there are DPO's that are not ghost towns. They are communities that still exist but do not now have a post office for some reason such as inclusion in a large urban area or a population that has become too small to warrant a separate post office. What has commonly happened is a name change has caused the "old" name to be considered a "DPO" even though there is still a post office - albeit now under a new name. This entire issue is devoted to illustrations of covers from a very small percentage of what is probably several thousand Texas DPO's. Coverage is from both 19th and 20th centuries and from many areas of the state. Post office information is mostly from Deaton and Schmidt plus the German-Janzen county study and *The New Handbook of Texas*.

On the Cover

A manuscript Palo Alto Texas March 9 '61. This small community was in northern Gonzales County near the Caldwell County line. Its post office existed from Oct. 4, 1856 to Nov. 5, 1866 when it was closed by the USPOD as part of a blanket order that closed many ex-Confederate post offices after the Civil War. The March 9 date is only three days after Texas officially joined the Confederacy (March 6) and is thus a very early CSA usage. A stamp, probably a 3-cent 1857, has been cut out of this envelope. In the 1870's and early 1880's there was another Palo Alto in Bell County.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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E. F. Christman, Jr.
5419 Jason
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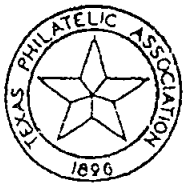
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*(Dues to The Texas Postal
History Society are \$14 for
the year 2001 payable to the
Secretary-Treasurer.)*

Affiliated with:



From the President . . .

It is with much sadness that I report the death of member Jim Hambright on October 29, 2000. Jim suffered a stroke early last year and never recovered.

Jim, an ardent U.S. philatelist, had one of the best collections of Beaumont and Jefferson County Postal History I've ever seen. Jim, a close friend, will be personally missed.

I'd like to pass on this information about John Amberman, a Postal History Dealer. He sends out a TEXAS list of covers about every two months. His lists consist of photo copies of each cover he has for sale. He makes it easy to order from his stock by telephone, fax, regular mail and E-mail.

If you want to get on his mailing list, drop him a request note at:
Post Office Box 4119

Clifton Park, NY 12065

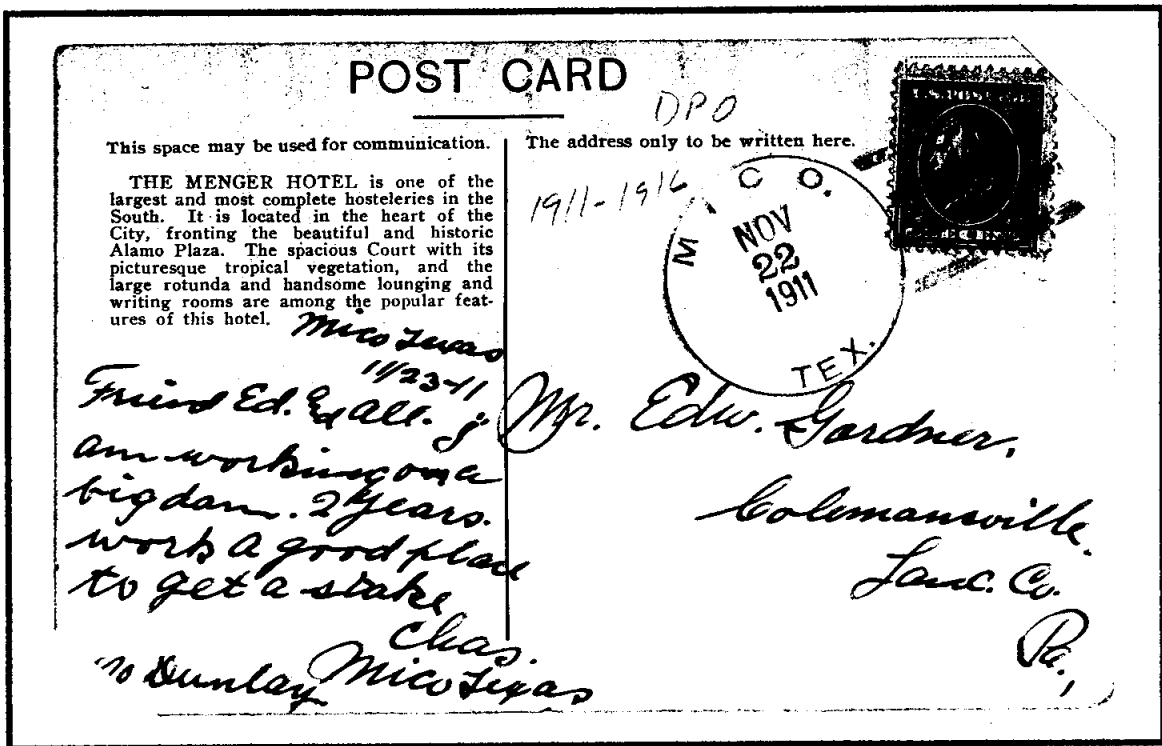
This year's TEXPEX 2001 is still two months off, but its not too early to get the state show on your philatelic calendar. The TEXPEX '01 location will again be held at the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel. Show dates are April 6th through 8th.

We will have a TPHS meeting on Saturday, April 7th in the afternoon. Bring some of your "Texas" material for "Show and Tell" and bring a friend and help introduce him to the collecting of Texas Postal History.

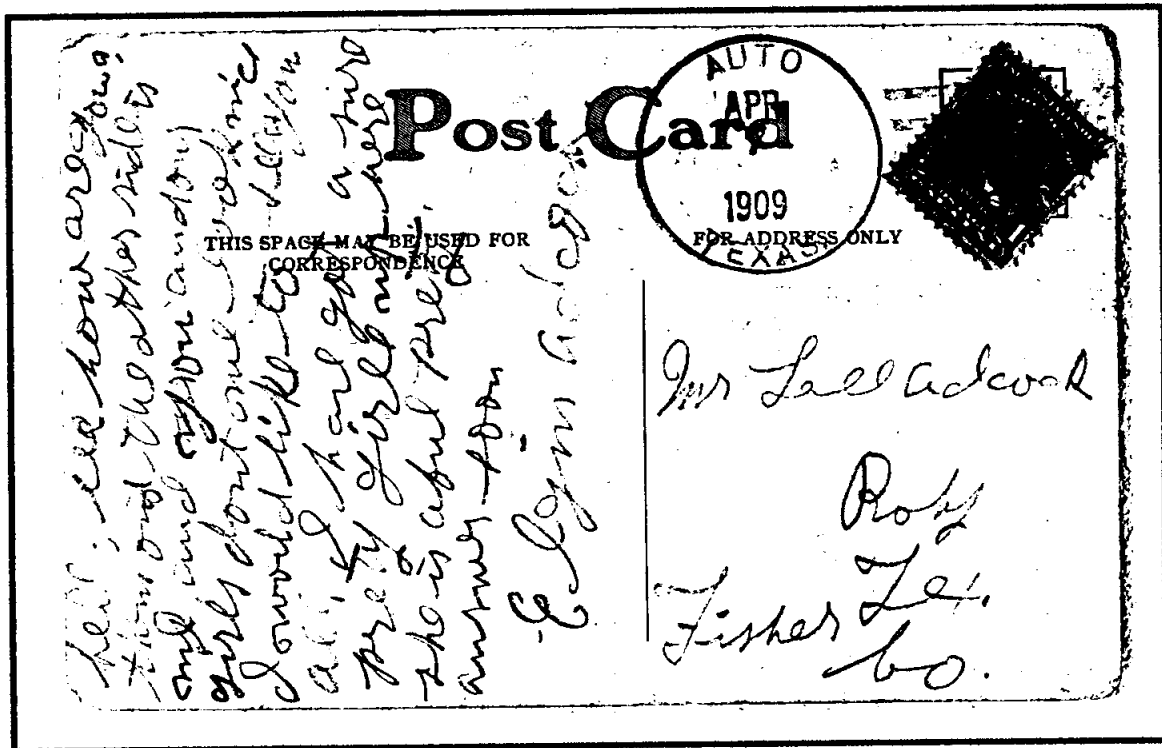
That's it for this time. Hope to see all of you in early April at this year's TEXPEX meeting.

That's all for this time.

Good Collectin',



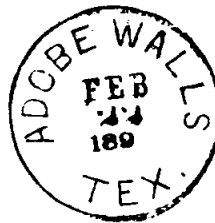
MEDINA COUNTY. Postcard mailed at Mico, Texas November 22, 1911. This short-lived post office was established August 21, 1911 and discontinued December 12, 1912. It was re-opened for four months in 1916, closed until second re-opening in 1923. Permanently closed October 20, 1967. (Jane King Fohn)



HOWARD COUNTY. A 1909 post card from Auto, Texas. Office established August 21, 1907 and discontinued April 15, 1913. Origin of the name is unknown but one could guess the new-fangled horseless carriage loomed large for a location out in the "boonies." (John Germann)

Return to
COBURN, within five days,
ADOBE WALLS, TEX.

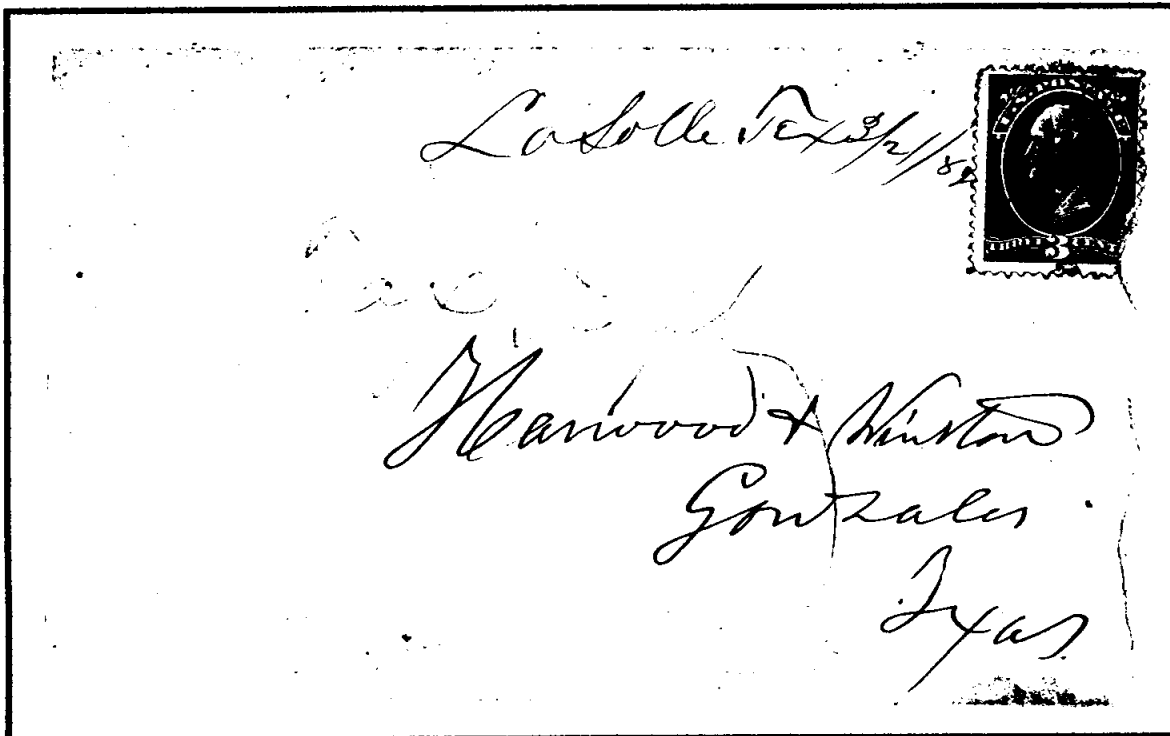
Write Coburn Mar 23/96



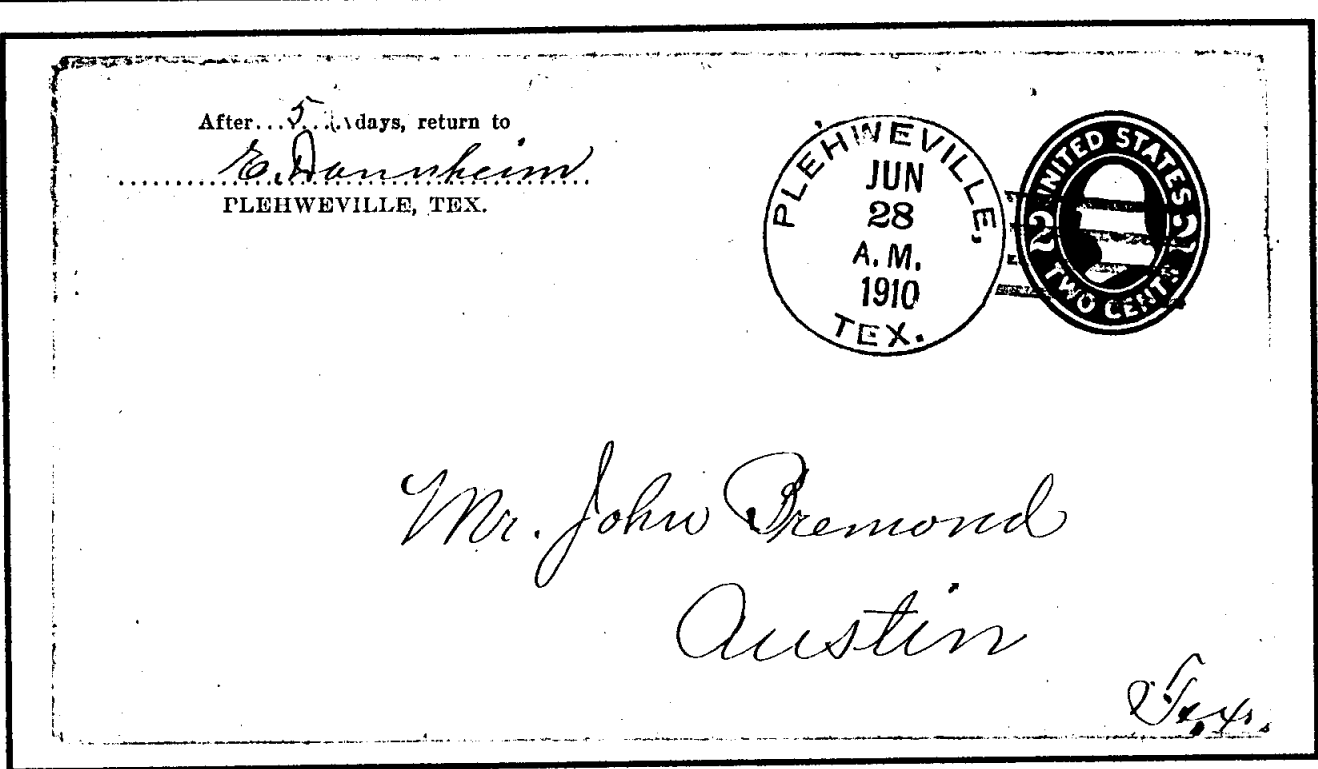
Ben B. Cain Esq.

*Dyer
Tex*

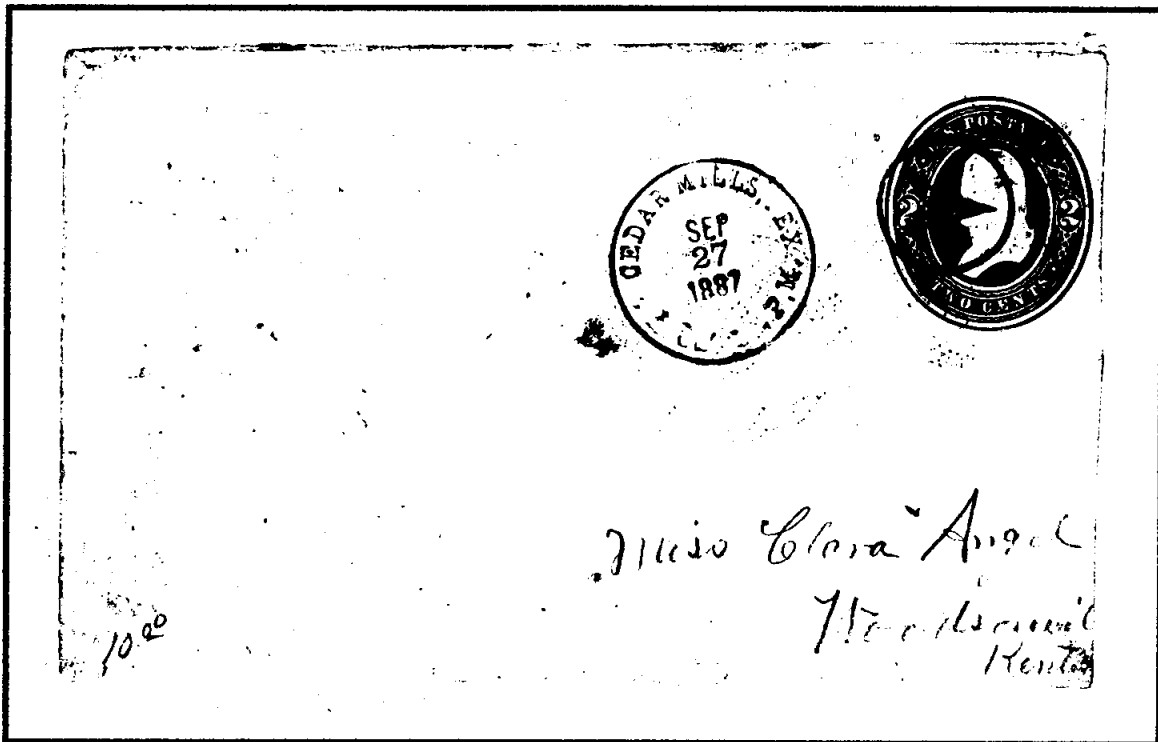
HUTCHINSON COUNTY. Posted February 22, 1896 at Adobe Walls located on the Canadian river. This Texas panhandle office was named for the ruins of Fort Adobe, deliberately blown up. It then became the scene of several pitched battles with Indians. The post office began in 1887 when Billy Dixon, a survivor of the second of those battles and a pioneer cattleman, homesteaded and established a ranch supply store at the site. The office, never serving more than the ranches of the area, closed in 1921. *(John Germann)*



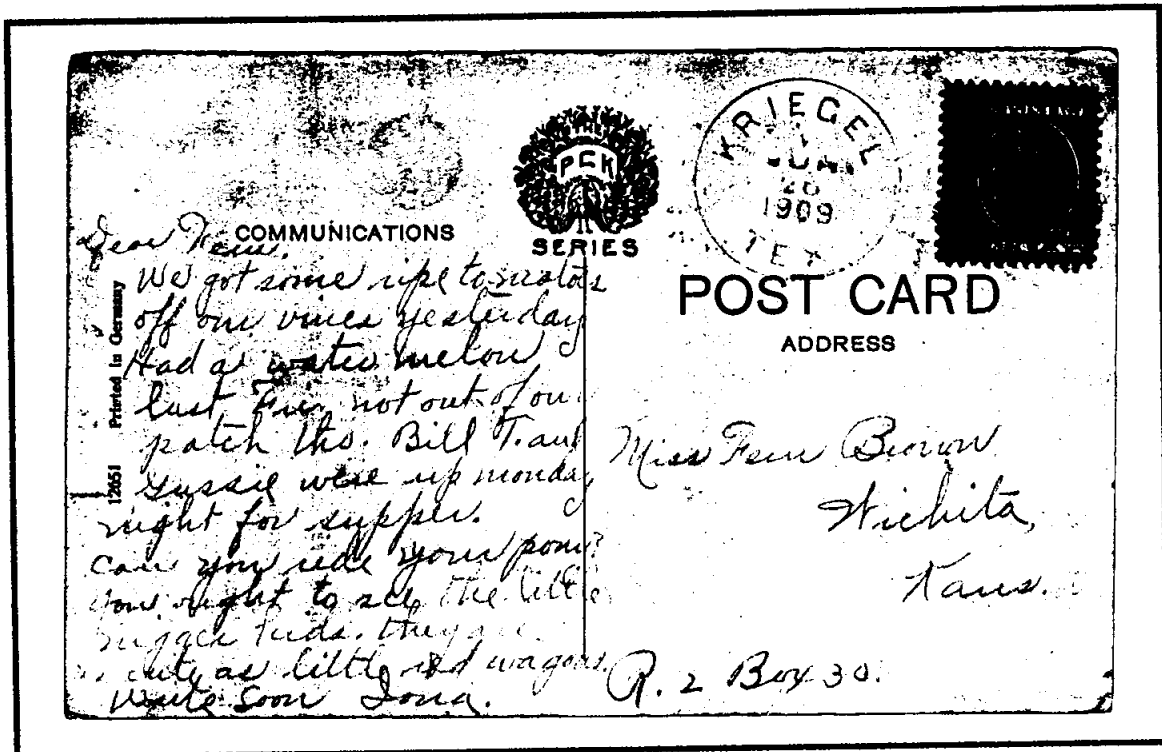
LA SALLE COUNTY. Posted at La Salle, Texas on March 21, 1882. This post office was established November 7, 1881. Its name was changed to Cotulla August 16, 1883. A rare DPO. *(Jim Stever)*



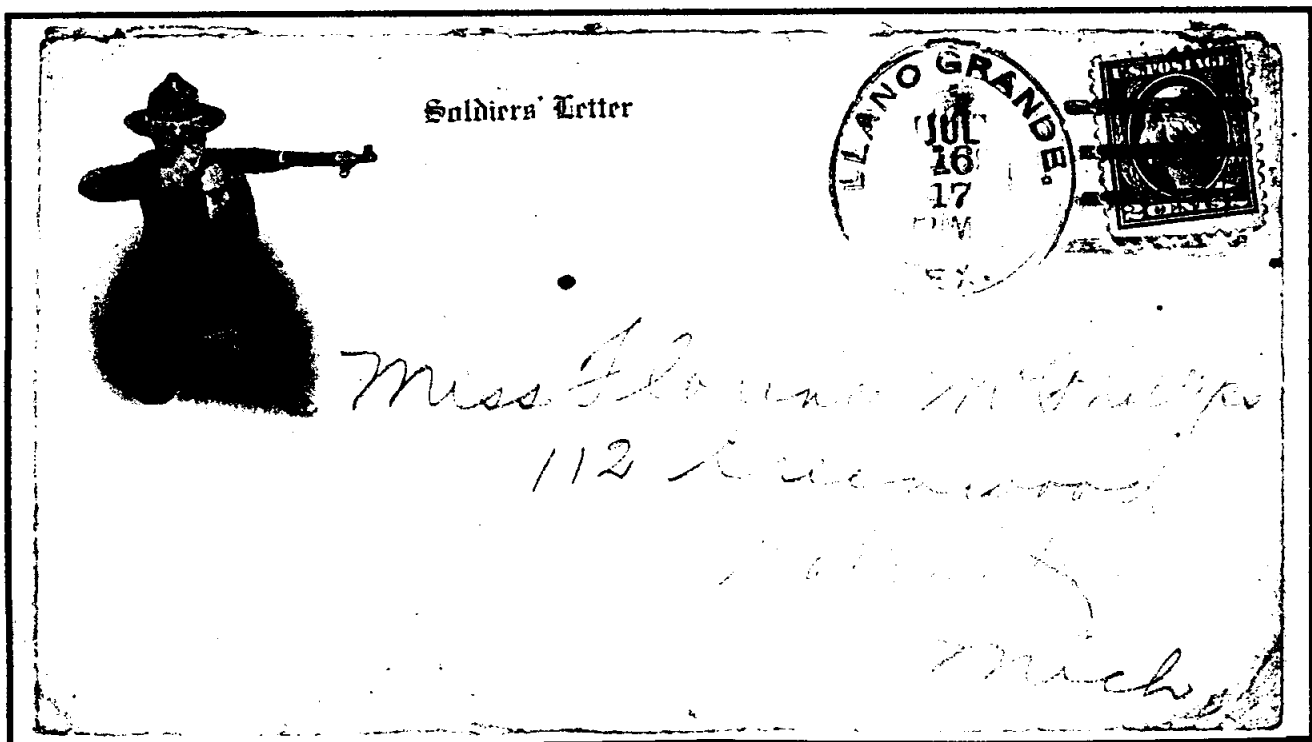
MASON COUNTY. Clear CDS of Plehweville, Texas dated June 28, 1910. This central Texas post office established March 29, 1886, was named for the first postmaster, Otto Plehwe, who was a store owner. Town name changed to Art in December 1920. (David Connally)



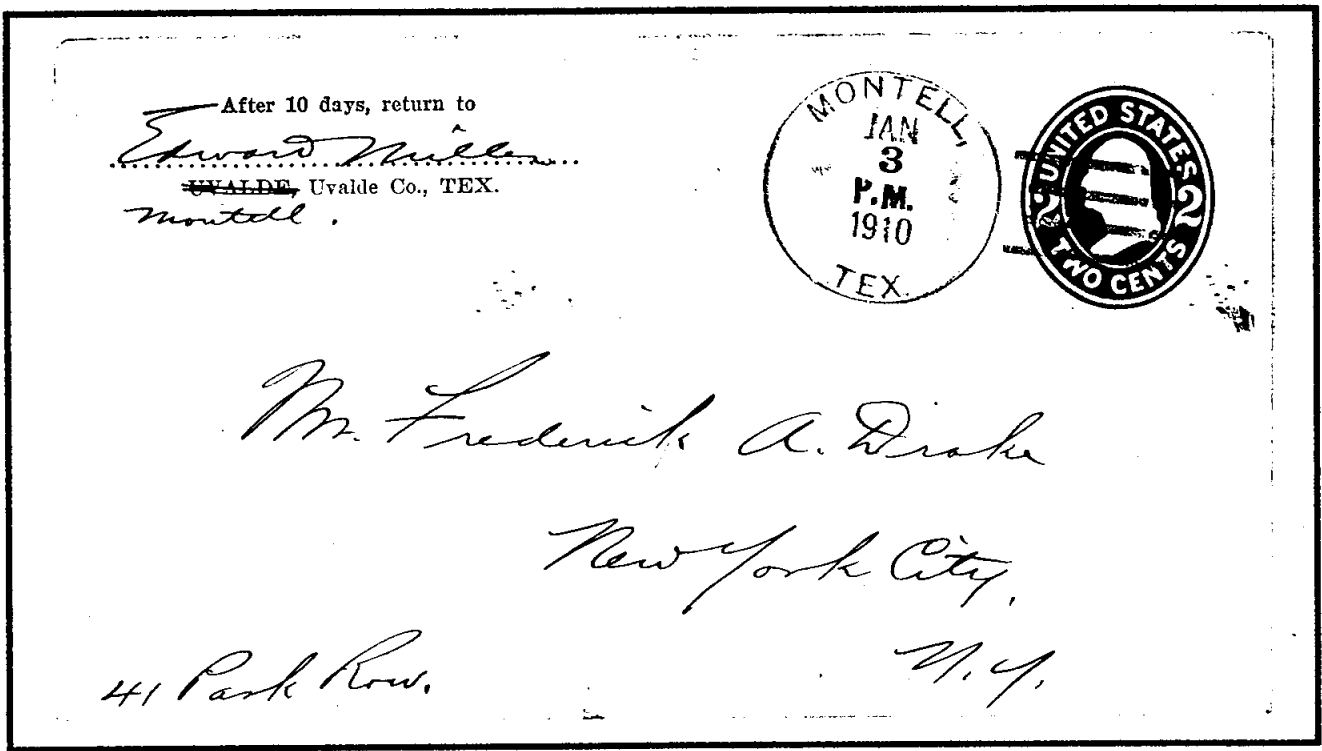
GRAYSON COUNTY. Posted at Cedar Mills, Texas on September 27, 1887. A lumbering and farming community with grists and sawmills in cedar groves near the Red River, the Cedar Mills post office opened October 7, 1872 and was closed April 15, 1907. The townsite is now submerged under Lake Texoma. (Tom Koch)



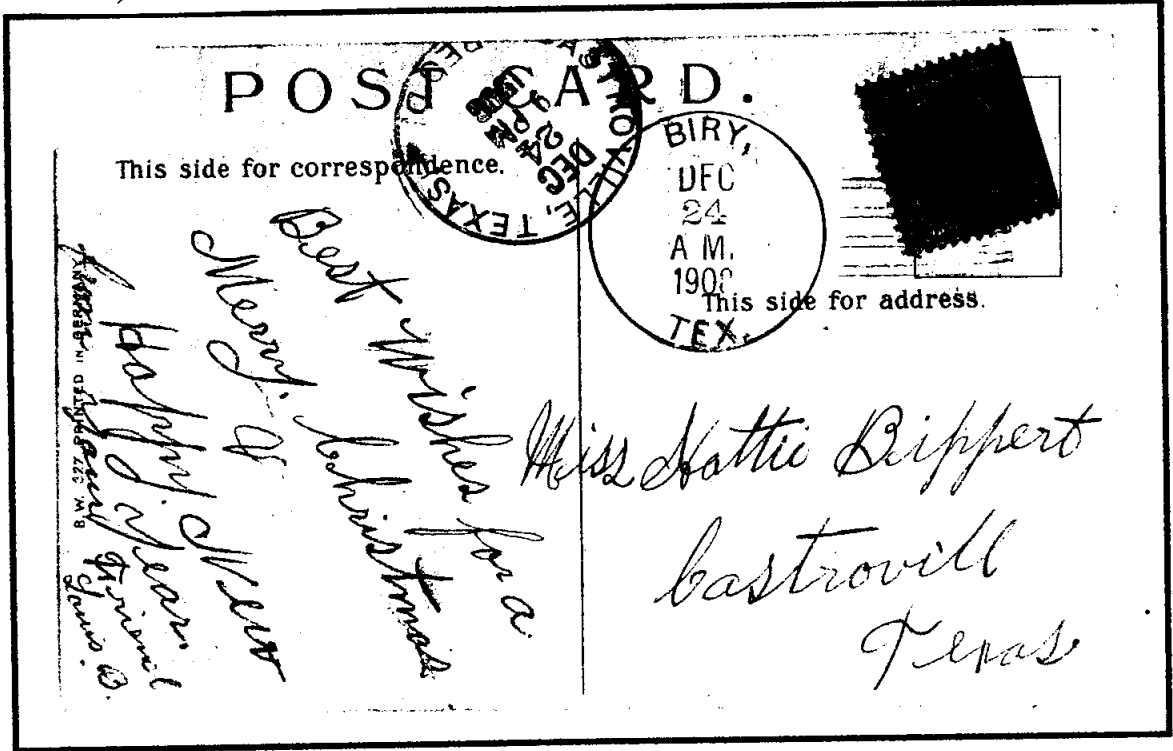
WHARTON COUNTY. Posted at Krieger, Texas June 28, 1909. This post office, located at a general store owned by Charles Krieger, was established March 2, 1899 and closed May 17, 1910. Mr. Krieger was its only postmaster. (Norma Watz)



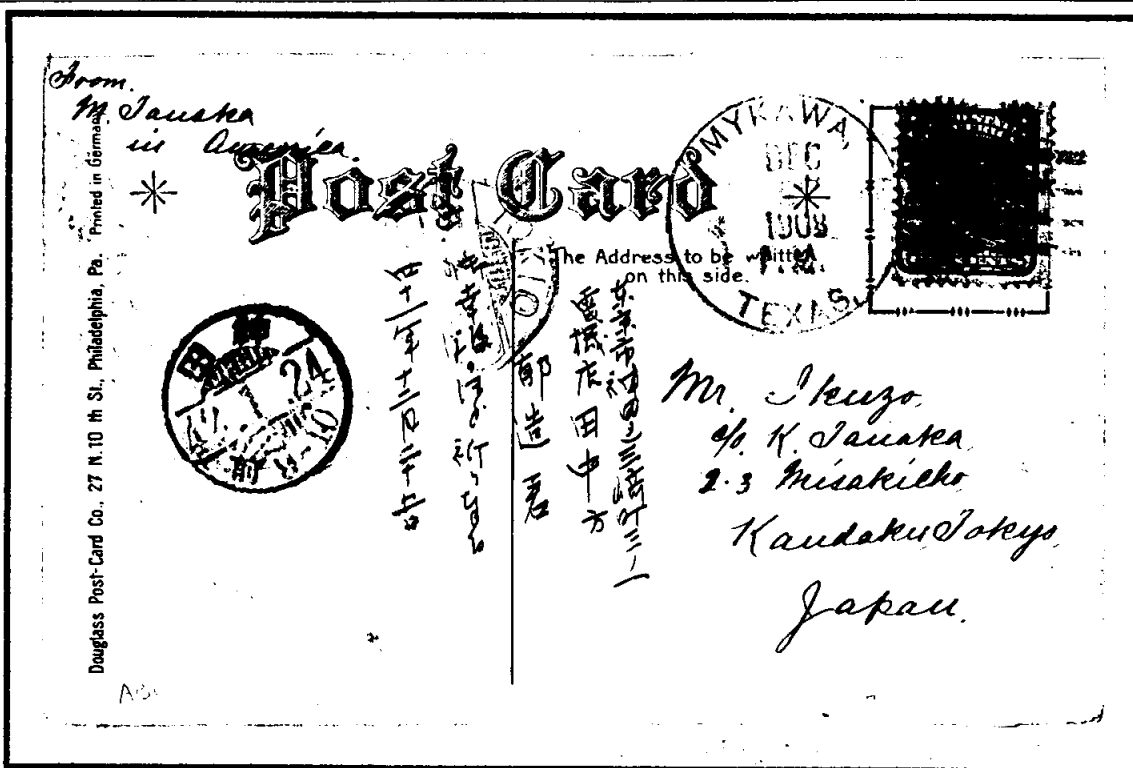
HIDALGO COUNTY. A post office at Llano Grande, Texas was established January 16, 1906 to handle mail for a cane sugar company and discontinued August 24, 1916. Prior to closure the office used an American machine cancel with flag killer. This cover, dated July 16, 1917, is apparently after a re-opening during the "border incident" to handle soldiers' mail and used an ordinary handstamp. (Barbara Stever)



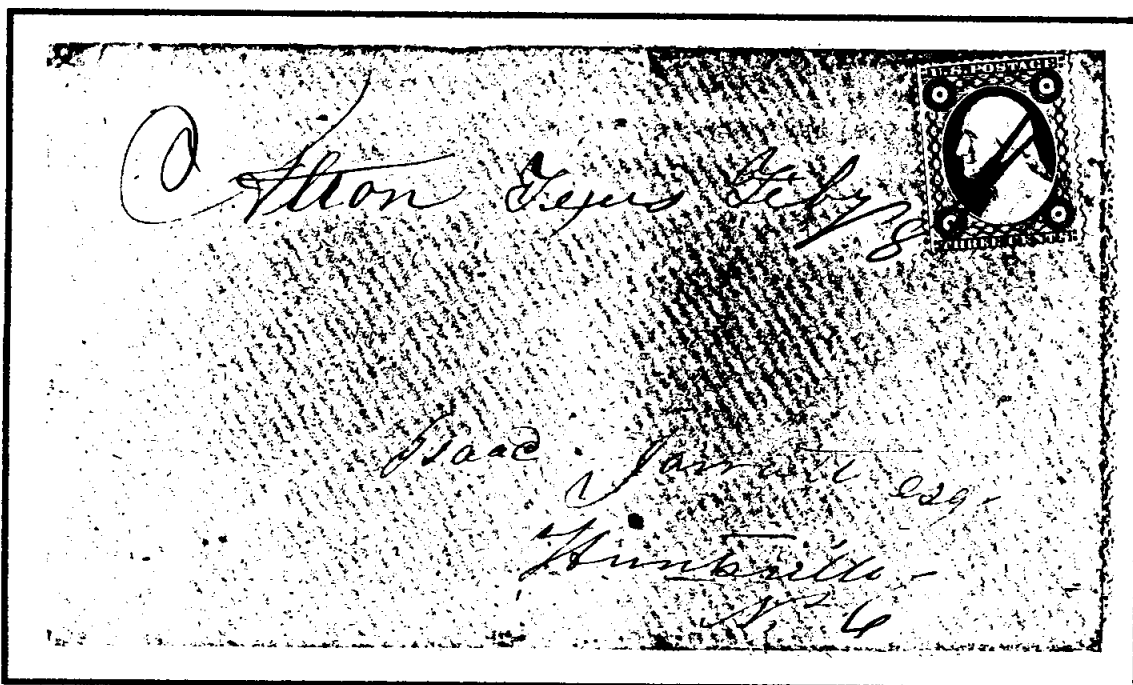
UVALDE COUNTY. Cover posted at Montell, Texas January 3, 1910. Post office established November 13, 1879 and discontinued March 31, 1964. A remote spot in the northwestern part of the county, Montell is well on its way to becoming a ghost town. Its 1990 population was — 10. (Jim Stever)



MEDINA COUNTY. Post card from Biry, Texas to Castrovill. Biry office opened September 26, 1907 and closed August 31, 1911. The community was named for pioneer settler and town founder, Jacob Biry. Postmaster when this card was mailed, December 24, 1908 was Joseph Franger. (Jane King Fohn)



HARRIS COUNTY. Postcard to Japan from Mykawa, Texas dated December 27, 1908. This DPO was named for Shinpei Mykawa, a Japanese nurseryman who introduced rice farming to the area in 1906. Post office established June 22, 1907 and discontinued October 14, 1933. (Ed Christman)



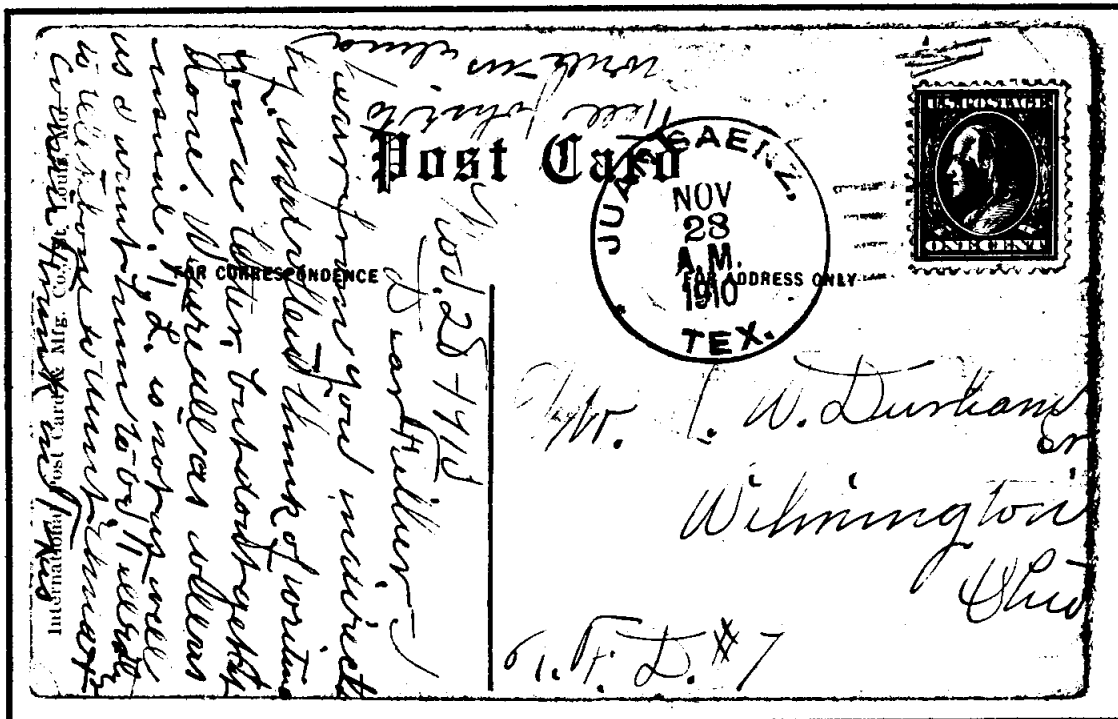
DENTON COUNTY. Cover posted at Alton, Texas February 8, year unknown. This office was opened June 22, 1848 and closed May 5, 1859. Because the stamp is a 3-cent 1857 the year date of this letter is either 1858 or 1859. Alton's original location was near Corinth where it was the second county seat. In 1850 the town moved to a location about 5 miles south of present-day Denton and was the third seat. In 1856 the seat moved to Denton. (John Germann)

After 5 days, return to
Dr. Minnie Hubbard
 Go Training School
 SEMINARY HILL, TEXAS.

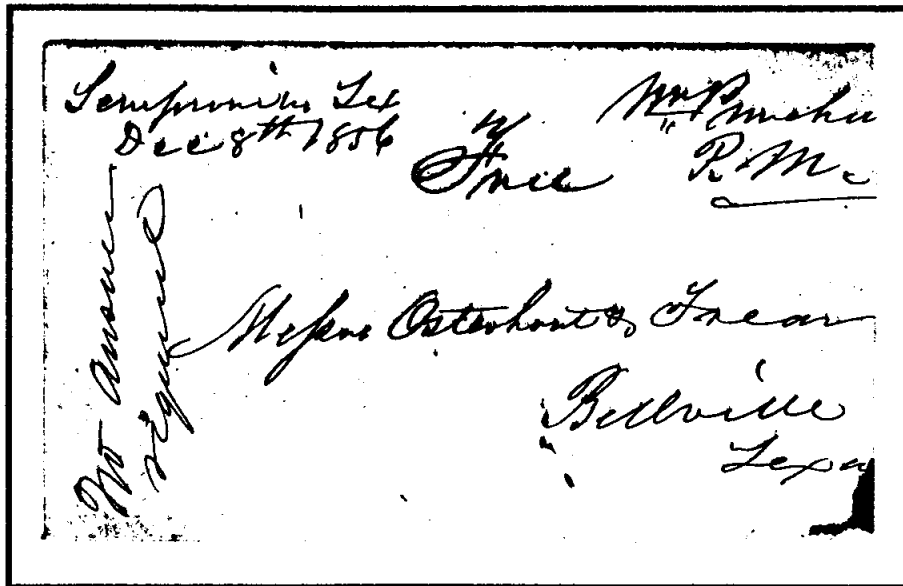


Los Angeles Tract Society
Los Angeles
Cal.

TARRANT COUNTY. Posted at Seminary Hill, Texas on January 30, 1929. There is confusion as to the life of this post office. According to Deaton the office is listed as 1920 to present "which would indicate it is not a DPO." However, Schmidt says April 14, 1920 to October 31, 1944 while Germann and Janzen report May 7, 1920 to October 31, 1944. (R. M. Arndt)



NUECES COUNTY. Post card which originated at Juan Saenz, Texas November 28, 1910. This was a predominantly negro community now within the Corpus Christi city limits. The post office opened March 29, 1906 and closed April 30, 1914. (Jim Stever)



AUSTIN COUNTY. Stampless cover in manuscript dated December 8, 1856 with free frank of the second postmaster, William Punchard. (Cover shortened at right)

A Republic of Texas act written to amend and reduce into one several laws regulating the Post Office Department includes this description of a mail route: "No. 20. From San Felipe to La Grange, via Dr. Punchard's, Center Hill, Cedar Creek, Washington Independence, Gay Hill, Oak Grove and Ruterville. Source: *Post Office Papers of the Republic of Texas 1839 -1840*, compiled by James M. Day, Texas State Library, 1967.

The Handbook of Texas (Vol. II, Texas State Historical Assn., 1952), says Sempronius was first settled in 1837 on the south side of Caney Creek in northern Austin County. The rural community's primary growth period was when German immigrants came in the early 1880's. By 1885 Sempronius had a cotton gin, two churches, a school, a steam gristmill and a population of 150.

An Encyclopedia of Texas Post Offices (Walter Schmidt, 1993), shows that Sempronius had a Republic of Texas post office headed by Enoch King from May 10, 1845 to May 22, 1846. King served as postmaster under a United States administration from May 22, 1846 to April 7, 1852.

After a brief down period, William Punchard served as U.S. postmaster from Jan. 16, 1854 to July 12, 1861. At that time he became the Confederate States of America postmaster until November 5, 1866. The office was closed by the U.S. during this period of reconstruction.

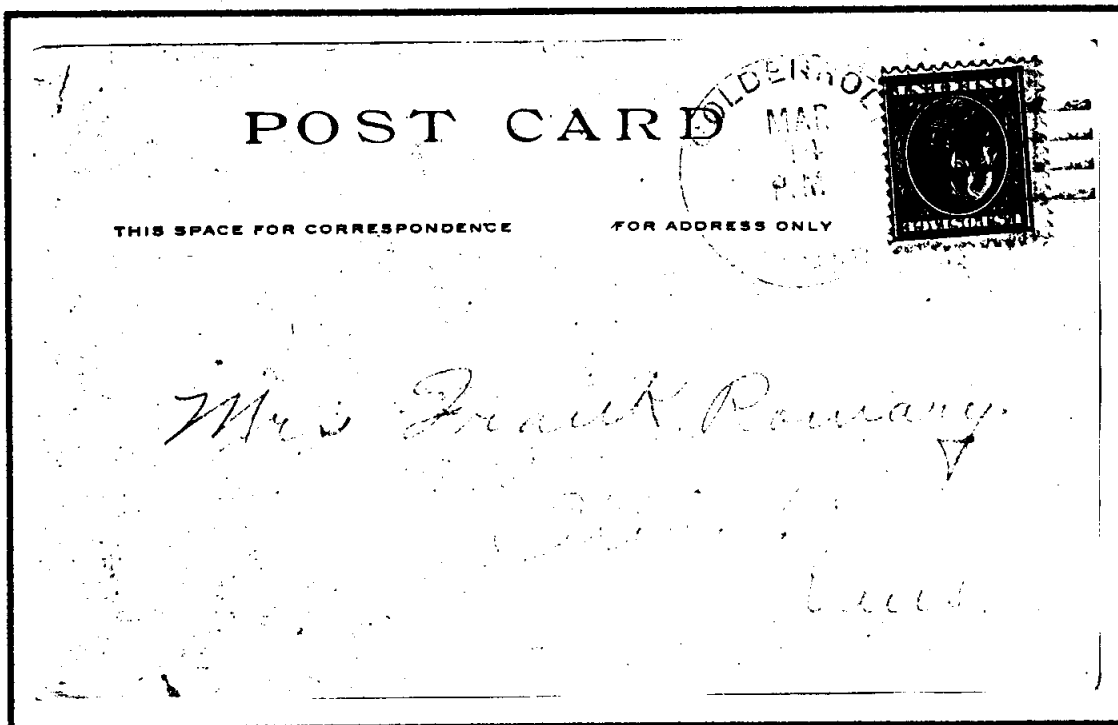
On June 22, 1870 the post office was reopened with James H. Murray as postmaster. He served until March 15, 1905 when the post office was finally closed. Sempronius mail was then handled by Chapel Hill post office.

The village lost population as migration spread north and west. The townsite was abandoned in 1915. Town was supposedly named after a Shakespearean character who appeared in *Timon of Athens*.
(Tom Koch)

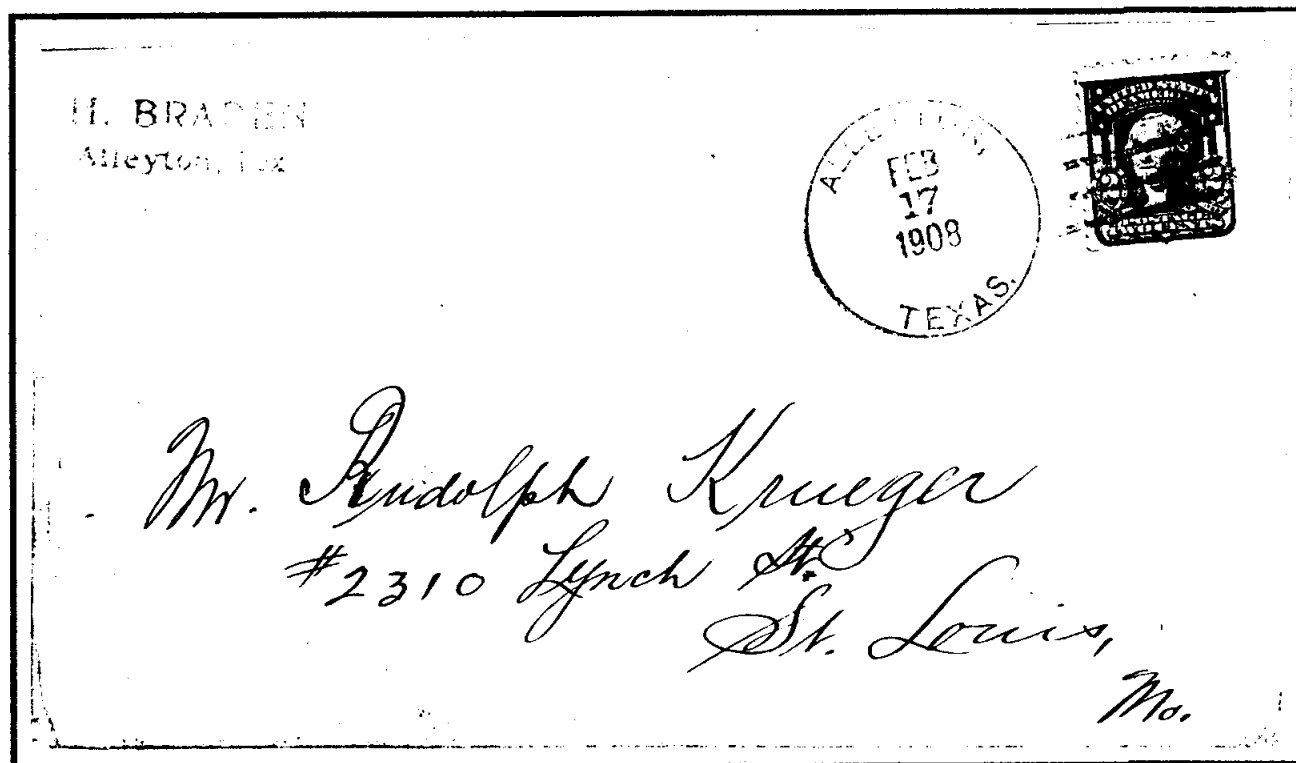
JAMES WILLIAM HAMBRIGHT

1926 - 2000

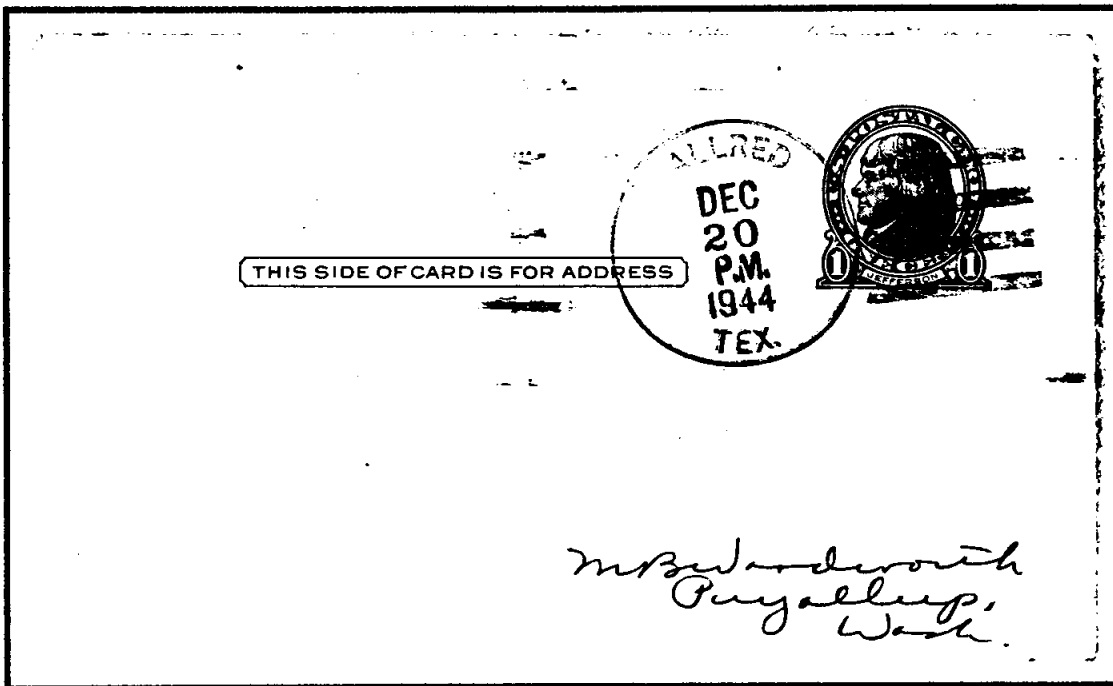
Long-time TPHS member Jim Hambright passed away October 29, 2000. Jim was an attorney of national renown, having argued before the United States Supreme Court in the area of labor law. He was an avid collector of Beaumont-area postal history and will be sorely missed by the philatelic and historical community of Southeast Texas as well as those in the Texas Postal History Society who knew him. Our sympathies go out to his family.



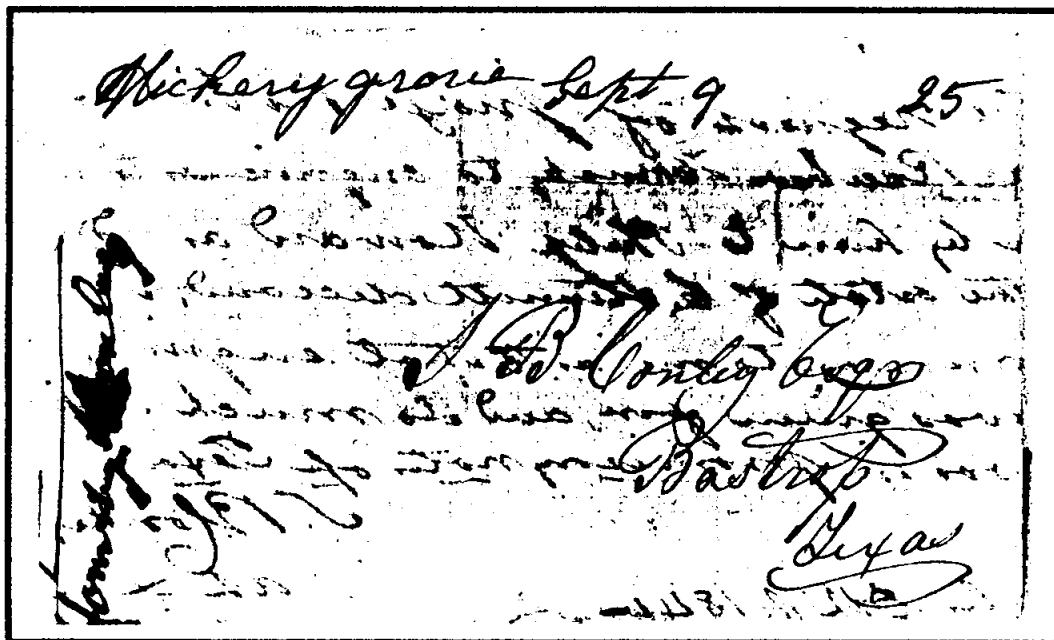
WHARTON COUNTY. Posted at Goldenrod, Texas March 14, (1909). The stamp was issued December 2, 1908 and the post office closed February 1, 1910. It was established January 17, 1895. Goldenrod community was located at the western fringe of Wharton County. (Norma Watz)



COLORADO COUNTY. Cover posted at Alleyton, Texas February 17, 1908. The Alleyton post office was opened June 29, 1860 and closed November 30, 1958. During the Civil War Alleyton was the railhead for cotton shipments on the so-called "Cotton Road". These shipments were loaded onto wagons for the trip to the Rio Grande and eventual loading onto British and French steamships at Matamoros for transet to textile mills in Europe. (Ed Christman)

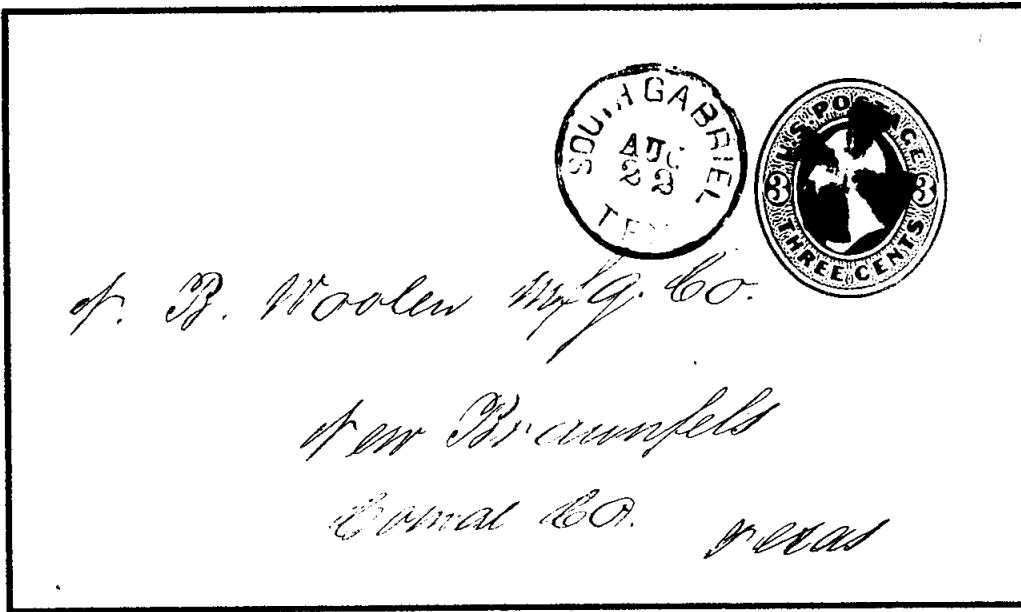


YOAKUM COUNTY. Posted at Allred, Texas December 20, 1944. Allred was located 70 miles southwest of Lubbock and was an oil boom town in the late 1930's. It was named for the then-current Texas governor, James Allred. The post office was established May 17, 1938 and discontinued February 23, 1957 with mail to Denver City. (John Germann)

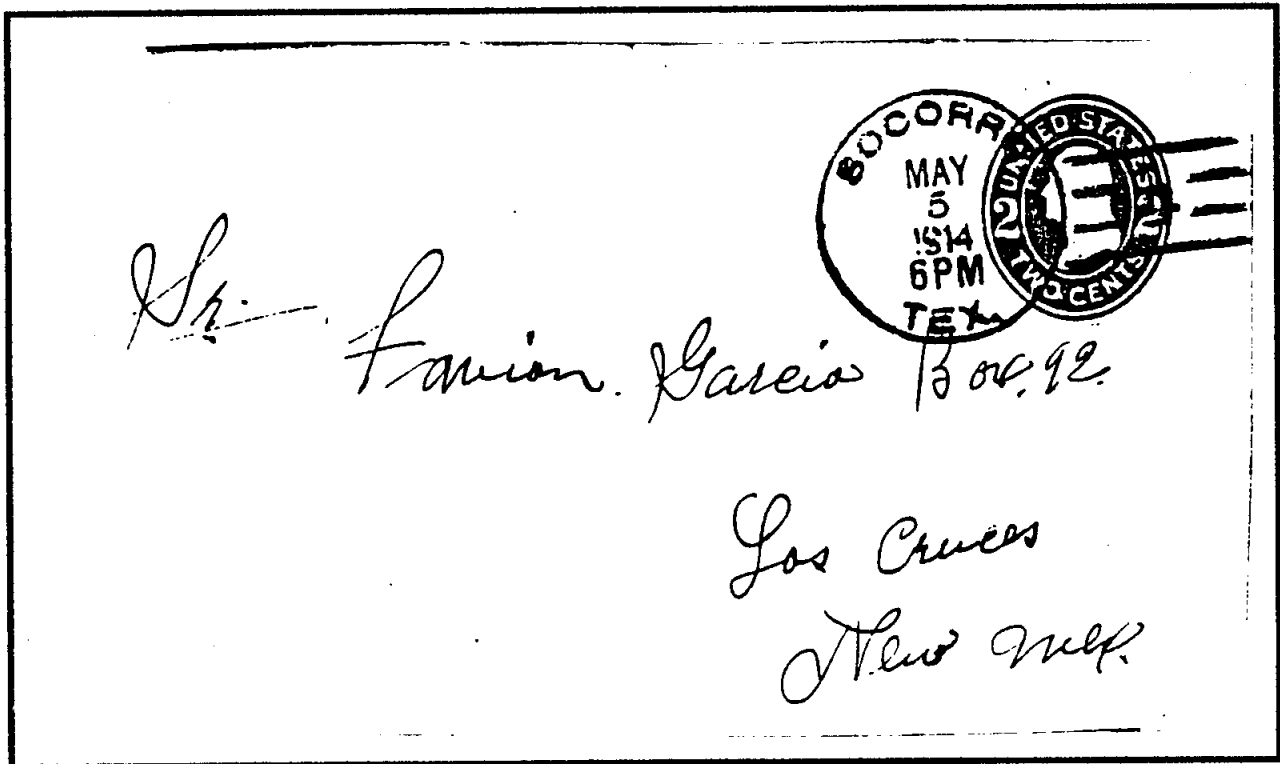


TRAVIS COUNTY. Folded letter posted at Hickory Grove, Texas September 9, (1841). Year date determined from inside letterhead. A Republic of Texas post office was established in Bastrop County January 15, 1840 and discontinued sometime in 1841, obviously after this cover date. Present location of the site of Hickory Grove is in eastern Travis County in an area that was originally part of Bastrop County. Travis County was created and organized in 1840.

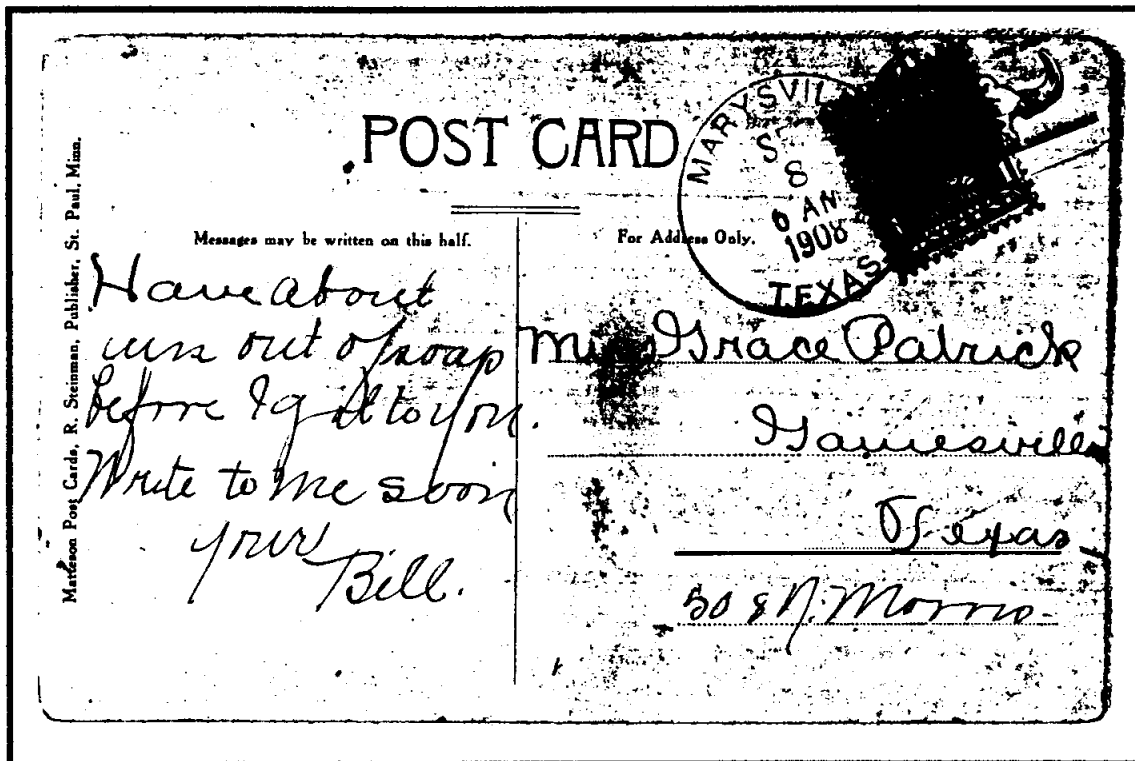
(Jim Stever)



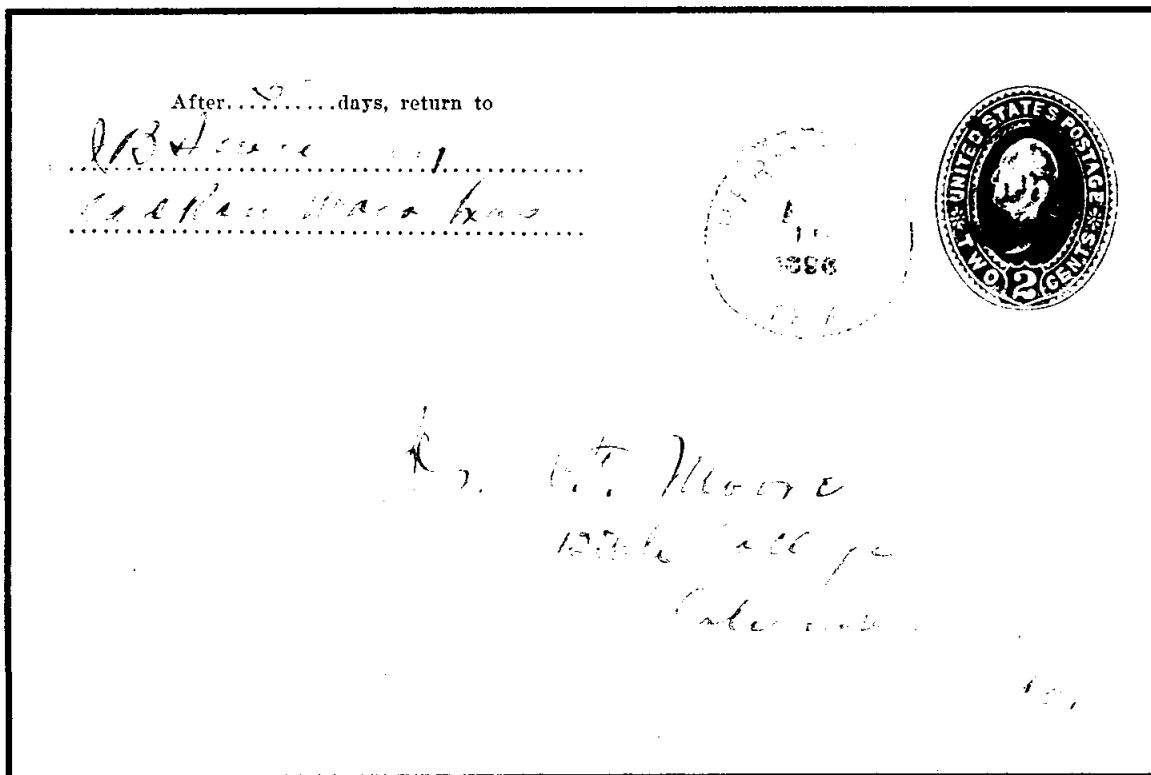
BURNET COUNTY. South Gabriel was originally in Williamson County. Its post office was established September 29, 1871 and closed December 8, 1882. The town location, on the South Fork of the San Gabriel River, is marked today only by the cemetery. Cover posted August 22, year unknown, to New Braunfels. (R. M. Arndt)



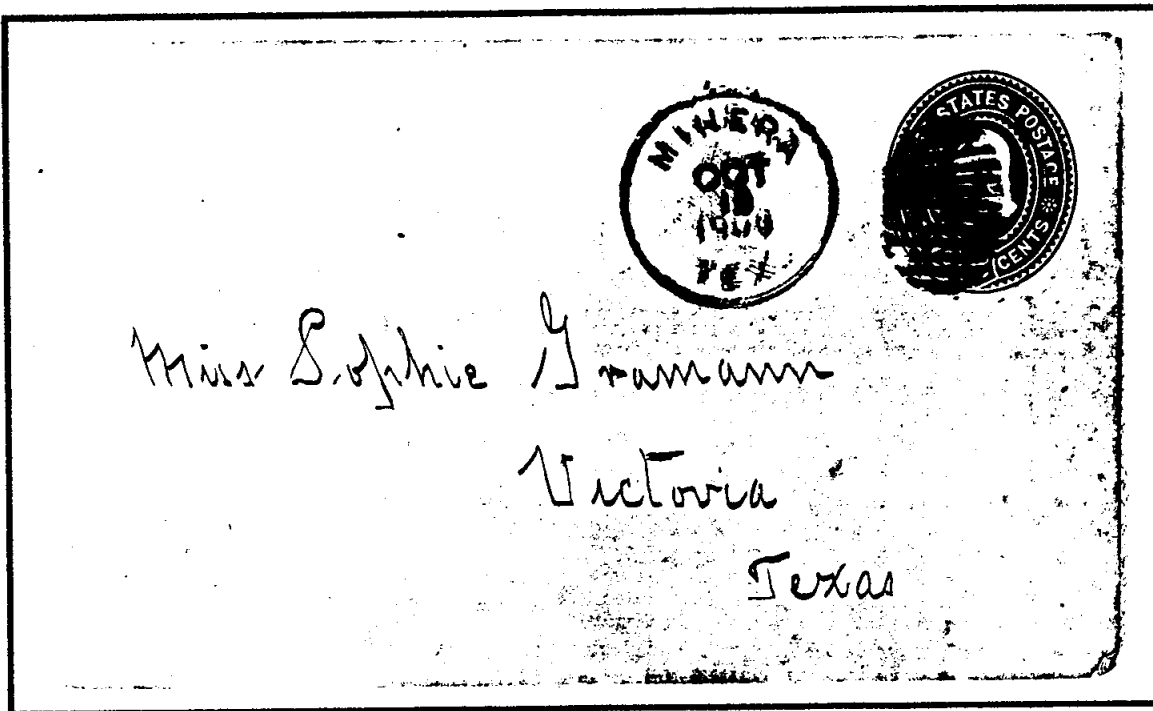
EL PASO COUNTY. Posted at Socorro May 5, 1914. Dome cancel. The post office that handled this cover opened October 26, 1892 and closed December 15, 1915. Between 1869 and 1874 there was an earlier Socorro office. Actually, the name Socorro is a short version of the village Nuestra Senora De La Concepcion Del Socorro. (Richard Wadsworth)



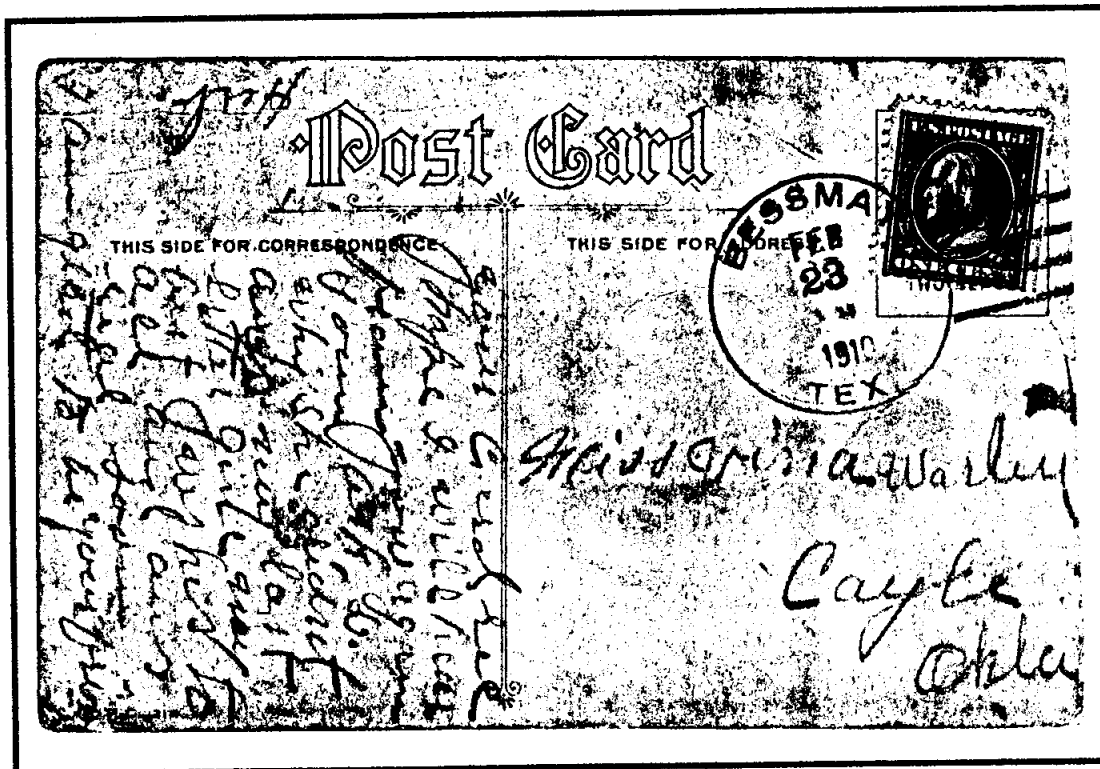
COOKE COUNTY. Postcard mailed at Marysville, Texas September 8, 1908. This post office was established January 13, 1873 and discontinued November 30, 1942. Town founder R. A. Fitch named the community after his sister Mary. (Rev. Elwood Poore)



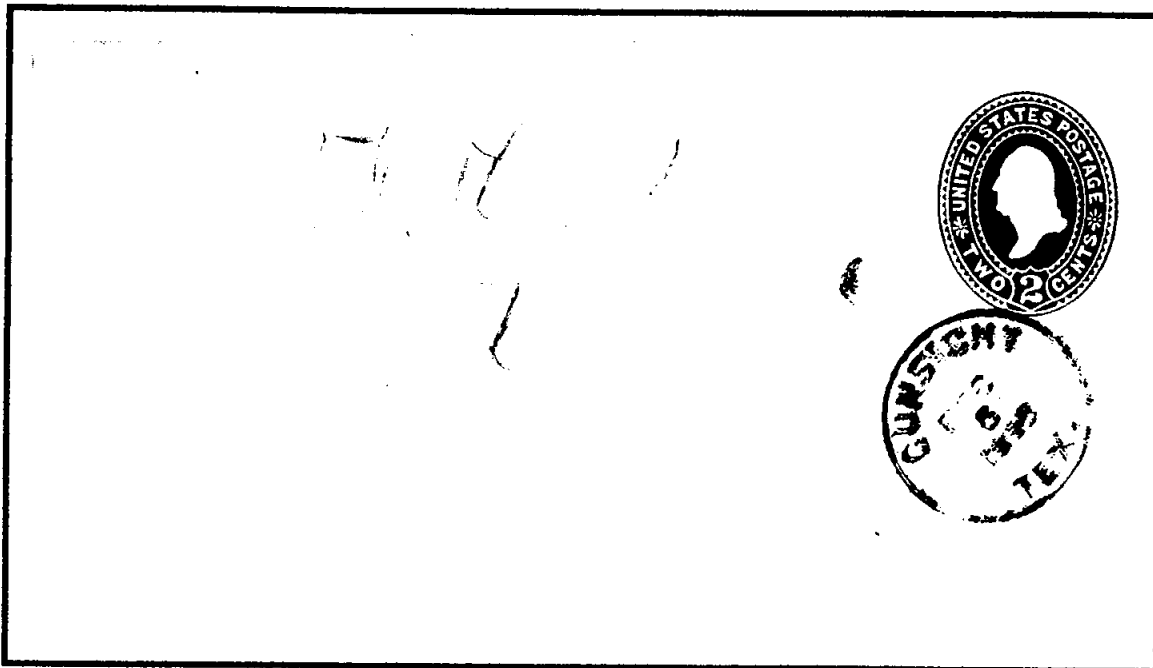
MCLENNAN COUNTY. Posted at Hermoson, Texas April 12, 1898. This Waco suburb had a post office from April 24, 1894 to March 6, 1903. Note the "Add Ran Waco Texas" in the return address. Add Ran College attempted to move to Waco in 1895 but most faculty wanted to stay at Thorp Spring. Add Ran is now Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. (R. M. Arndt)



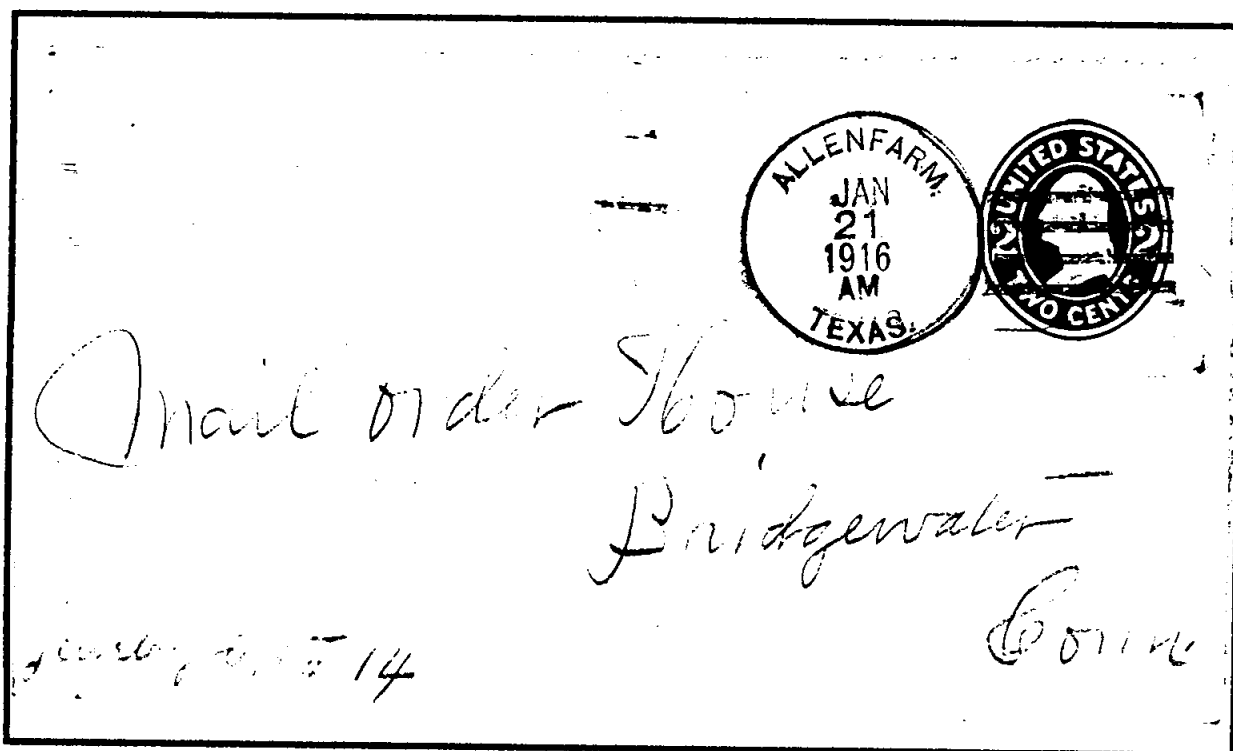
WEBB COUNTY. Minera was a coal mining town on the Rio Grande northwest of Laredo. Handsome light blue entire posted October 13, 1900 and received (backstamp) at Victoria October 15. Minera post office opened May 11, 1891. On July 14, 1915 (Schmidt) or August 8 1915 (Germann/Jansen) the name was changed to Santo Tomas which post office eventually closed November 15, 1918. (Jim Stever)



JASPER COUNTY. Bessmar, Texas was located one mile north of Buna and 37 miles north of Beaumont. Its mail service was via the Longview and Beaumont R.P.O. A lumbering community, its post office opened September 16, 1903 and lasted until August 23, 1957. (Richard E. Spies)

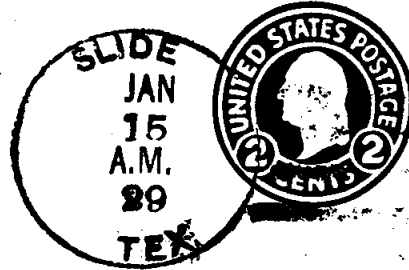


STEPHENS COUNTY. Gunsight, Texas CDS dated December 6, 1913. The post office, established March 31, 1880, was located in J. W. Shepard's general store. The community, located on the Wichita Falls and Southern Railroad, became an oil boom town. Its post office closed September 30, 1936. (R. M. Arndt)



BRAZOS COUNTY. Allenfarm was located 24 miles south of Bryan in southern part of county and named for Robert A. Allen, area plantation owner. Cover posted January 21, 1916. The post office opened January 1885, was closed for five years between 1888 and 1893, but reopened and finally closed May 31, 1948. (John Germann)

J. Davis
Postmaster.



Miss Geraldine M. Zix
P. O. Box 34
Indianapolis, Ind

LUBBOCK COUNTY. A 1903 resurvey of land 15-20 miles southwest of Lubbock showed land settlers owned was 2 miles west, so they began the "slide" of their houses and belongings. The POD in 1904 approved the name Slide to commemorate the move.. (John Germann)

Return to

L. A. Kenhart.
KINKLER, Lavaca County, Texas,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Germania Publishing Co.

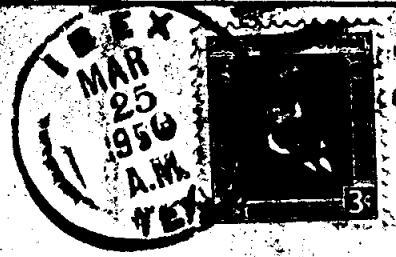
Geo. Baurnder

286 west Water Street.

Milwaukee Wis.

96-05
LAVACA
DPO

LAVACA COUNTY. Early settlers in northeastern Lavaca County found the area had suitable grass and water for livestock raising and farming. The Kinkler post office was established September 14, 1886 and closed September 14, 1905. In 1893 the town had a general store and a cotton gin. It is one of forty six current DPO's in the county. (Richard E. Spies)



Eugene O. Mooring
Birmingham V.A. Hospital
Ward D-8 South
Van Nuys
California

SHACKELFORD COUNTY. Posted at IbeX, Texas March 25, 1950. Located twenty miles east of Albany, the community was named for the IbeX Oil Company of Colorado, discoverer of oil deposits in the area. The IbeX post office opened August 4, 1923 and closed September 30, 1953.

(Richard E. Spies)

Last day of mailing from
this Post Office.



Henry Ades Fowler,
189 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Ill.

SABINE COUNTY. Posted at Time, Texas on June 30, 1931, the last day of a post office that was first established January 15 1896. Between December 1911 and August 1912 there was a short period of closure. In the late 1960's the Time townsite was flooded by the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

(R. M. Arndt)

The end of Time (above) marks the end of this DPO issue of the TPHS *Journal*.

TEXAS

POSTAL

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