

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



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Shown on our cover is a nice example of an advertising cover for Galveston's second Annual Cotton Carnival in 1910. The all-over advertisement is printed on the reverse of the cover in a pretty green color.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$5 per year, payable to Secretary-Treasurer

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

With this issue we complete four full volumes of the Texas Postal History Society Journal. Congratulations are due to many members who have made contributions, but to our editor should go major thanks from each of us for a difficult job well done. The next time you see Charles, tell him how very much you appreciate his efforts. I'm sure it will be well received.

At the start of my term I challenged each member of our society to become more involved. To share your knowledge and your talents that our society might grow, develop, and become the very best of its kind in the nation. In each issue thereafter, I have tried to recognize the achievements of our members as they became known to me. If I have inadvertently overlooked your achievements please accept my apologies. It was not intentional.

Since the last issue of the T.P.H.S. Journal I have read two articles in The American Philatelist written by members of our society. The first was, "The Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893" by Gordon Bleuler and Jim Doolin appearing in the November issue. The second was in the December issue of the same journal by William K. McDaniel and was titled, "The US 3-Cent Issues of 1851-1857: Identifying the Major Varieties". Such national exposure helps focus the attention of out-of-state philatelists on our Texas group; building membership in our society, respect for our research activities, and interest in the writing talents of our publishing members. I want to publicly compliment them on the quality of their articles and sincerely thank them for the timing of their release.

There may be many reasons for the TPHS continued growth but I believe it has something to do with activity and enhanced interest. According to the membership roster at the close of 1979 the TPHS stood at an all time high of 103 paid up members. We need more; but I remain confident more and more postal historians will join as they come to recognize that Texas Postal History Society has become one of the most active groups in the United States. If each of us does our part there is little doubt we will be the number one postal history unit in the nation.

SPRING MEETING: The spring meeting of the TPHS will be held March 1st and 2nd in Austin, TX. This year the meeting will be held in conjunction with the Austin Stamp Club's Show--Auspex--80 at the Quality Inn, South. The Quality Inn, South is located at 2200 South Interregional (I-35) on the south side of the city. (Tel. 512-444-0561)

With a central location, excellent facilities, and a wide range of attractions this should be a great place to bring the whole family. We look forward to having a big turnout.

I urge each of you to make an early decision, call for reservations as soon as possible, then set back and await the coming of a great experience. There is reason to warn members that room reservations at a later date could be scarce. Austin is to be the site for a state-wide basketball tournament to be held during the same weekend.

OTHER MATTERS: Mr. Ed Leissner has generously offered to contribute a copy of the Wheat Study to the TPHS for inclusion in a library in the Central Texas area. Tentatively we have selected the Southwest Texas State University Library at San Marcos. Once arrangements have been completed the membership will be informed on how and when this very valuable resource tool can be utilized.

Bill Emery

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS

You will doubtless notice this issue of the Journal has only two articles. I would prefer to have more, but these were the only two on hand. How about helping your society out by writing a short article on an interesting cover in your collection. I'll be glad to provide any editorial assistance needed, so please let me hear from you.

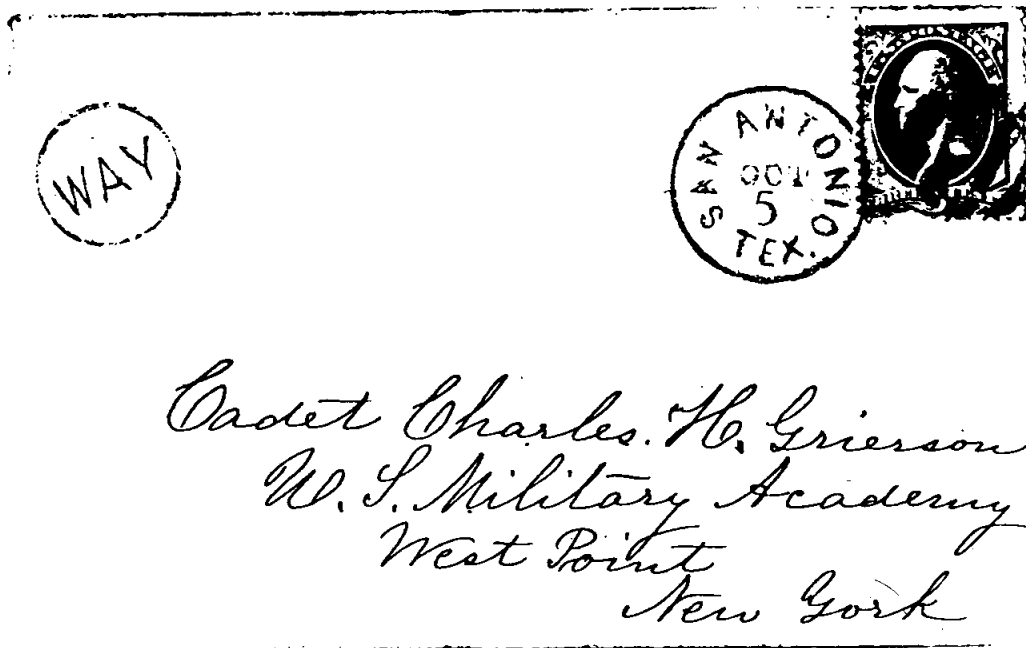
Charles Deaton

A "WAY" COVER FROM THE EL PASO MAIL AND EXPRESS LINE (1872-1881)

By Bill Emery

This cover (Fig. 1) represents a classic example of what many postal historians search for. It provides a key to a whole chapter of exciting and colorful Texas history. The story includes a rare postal marking, a famous military figure, hostile Indians, pursuing cavalry, Buffalo Soldiers, a marauding Indian chief, imperiled mail coaches and the colorful locale of West Texas.

Figure 1:

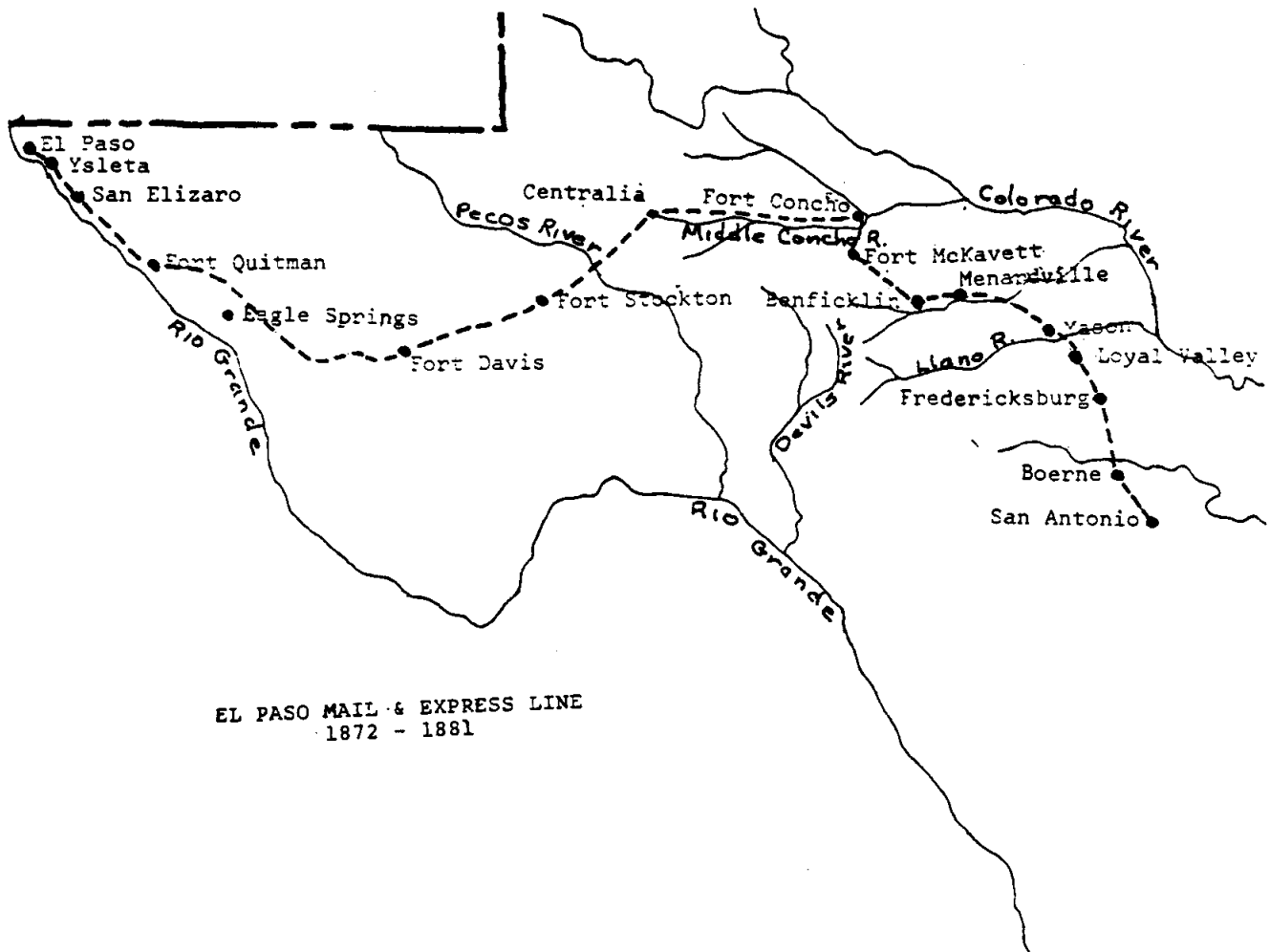


The rare postal marking on this cover is an 18mm, black, circular "WAY" mark applied in the upper left hand corner of the envelope. It was applied by the post office in San Antonio along with the circular dater and the oval 4-bar cork killer used to cancel the stamp. During this period, postal regulations authorized contract-mail carriers such as stage-coach drivers, ship captains and railroad conductors to accept letters on their routes. This unpouched mail was delivered to the post office at the end of the line. The postmaster paid the mail-carrier a fee for each letter, added this fee to the normal postage, wrote "WAY" against such charges in his bills, and stamped the letter with his "WAY" mark.

It seems probable, from information given later in this article that the letter shown in Figure 1 was delivered to the stage-coach driver at Fort Concho too late to be placed in the locked mail-pouch. The stage-coach driver, desirous of helping expedite the mail service, accepted the letter and carried it into the San Antonio post office for cancellation and the small fee due on his extra service.

The El Paso Mail and Express Line which carried this cover was operated by C. Bain and Co.'s from 1876-1880 under contract to the U.S. Post Office Department. Postal records indicate that the upper route via Fort Concho to El Paso was known as U.S. Mail Route number 8067 and covered a distance of 735 miles. The equipment consisted of four and six horse covered stages. According to advertisements in the San Antonio Daily Herald March 15, 1878, stages left their offices on Alamo Plaza daily except Monday at 7:45 AM. Their route (see figure 2) passed through Leon Springs, Boerne, Doebblers, Meenardville, Coglans Fort McKavett, Benficklin and into Fort Concho. Time to Fort Concho was 57 hours, including 8 hours rest at Fredericksburg. Mail and passengers for El Paso would transfer to tri-weekly stages that passed via Centralia, Fort Stockton, Fort Davis, Fort Quitman, San Elizario, Ysleta and El Paso. Total time San Antonio to El Paso was seven days. Cost for one way passage on the mail-coach to Fort Concho was \$22, while thru to El Paso the fare was \$72.

Figure 2:



The famous military figure alluded to at the start of this article was Benjamin H. Grierson; father of Cadet Charles H. Grierson to whom the cover shown in Figure 1 is addressed. For those familiar with either the history of the Civil War or with the West Texas Indian Activities, the name of Grierson is a prominent one.

Benjamin H. Grierson was a colorful and courageous cavalry colonel who, in April 1863, led 1700 men from La Grange, Tenn. southwest to Baton Rouge, La. His action not only cut several major railroad lines supplying the Confederate troops but also served to divert attention from Gen. Grant and the final preparations that he was making for the assault on Vicksburg. Gen. Grant, in his personal memoirs, gave significant credit to Col. Grierson for the fall of Vicksburg. Grierson was later promoted to Brigadier General in June 1863 and to Major General in May 1865.

After being honorably discharged in April 1866, Grierson re-enlisted in the regular army and was given the rank of colonel. On July 28, 1866 he was ordered to join the 10th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Sill in Indian Territory. In April 1875, the tenth Cavalry moved its headquarters from Fort Sill to Fort Concho where six companies were quartered. The remaining troops were dispatched as follows; two companies to Fort Griffin, two to Fort McKavett and one each to Fort Davis and Fort Stockton. Their mission was to protect the mail and stage lines and to take appropriate action against hostile Indians. The hostile Indians were primarily bands of Apaches and Comanches who refused to remain on reservations. Their trails led troopers far into New Mexico, over the grim fastness of the Guadalupe Mountains, across the deserts of the Staked Plains, and into the bad lands of the Rio Grande and Big Bend areas.

Entries from the 10th Regimental returns of 1876 and 1877 read like the saga of a Wild West movie.

1876-Company C-Fort McKavett. "The company returned from scout duty in the field against hostiles after absence of six months and seven days."

1877-Headquarters-Fort Concho. "1st Lt. R. G. Smither, Adjutant, with 16 men, started on scout August 3rd to Bull Creek, Tx., distance 140 miles, in 41 hours, for relief of Captain Nolan's command which was reported in suffering condition on Staked Plains. Men and horses dying from lack of water. Returned to Fort Concho August 14th."

1877-Company G-Fort Griffin, Texas. "Captain Lee, Lieut. Jones and 42 men, left post April 9, 1877 in pursuit of hostile Indians, surprised Comanche Village at Lake Quenado, Tex., killed four Indians, captured six squaws, and 69 horses. 1st Sergeant Charles Baker (was) killed in action. Distance marched 750 miles."

1880-Col. Grierson on scout with six men was attacked by an Apache band near Eagle Springs. In a dramatic, last minute reprieve Col. Grierson was rescued by 15 men of Company C. Later, Companies A and C came up, driving the Apaches off after a four hour fight. The pursuit carried all the way to the Rio Grande.

The army troops assigned to the difficult and trying duty in West Texas and New Mexico were largely negro soldiers with white officers. They belonged to four regiments; the 9th and 10th Cavalry together with the 24th and 25th Infantry. The Indians observing the kinky hair of the negro soldiers, dubbed them the "Buffalo Soldiers". These men however, had extreme pride in their uniform, great individual morale and a esprit de corps surpassed by few units of the regular army. It was mainly the "Buffalo Soldiers" of the U.S. Army that put down the uprising of the marauding Apache and Comanche warriors under the leadership of chiefs like Victorio, Nana, Cochise, Mangas, Coloradas, and Geronimo.

Victorio was one of the most notorious of the marauding Indian Chiefs. In 1879 he began a series of campaigns in Texas, and New Mexico. Reinforced by the Mescalero Chief, Caballero, he commanded between 100 and 200 warriors who were opposed by a combined force of over 4000 United States and Mexican troops. On November 7, 1879, he ambushed a party of Mexicans from Carrizalon and wiped out the rescue party sent to find them. In 1880 he fought a battle with the 9th Cavalry on the Puerco River, N.M. Later in June of the same year he attacked a stage-coach on the Fort Davis road, killing the driver and all the occupants of the stage. It is estimated that during his campaign in Texas and New Mexico, Victorio's band of Indians killed as high as two thousand persons. It was Col. Grierson and his troops from the 10th Cavalry that repeatedly harassed Victorio and his warriors forcing them south of the Rio Grande. Victorio, after suffering several defeats at the hands of Col. Grierson's troops during the summer of 1880 retreated to his stronghold in the Candelaria Mountains of Mexico. On October 14, 1880, Col. Joaquin Terrazas with his Mexican troops and a large force of volunteers surprised Victorio's band of Apaches at Tres Castillos. The Indians were literally annihilated and Victorio was killed. After this Indian defeat there were few actions of any kind that endangered the U.S. Mails or Stage-coach lines in West Texas.

As a conclusion to this saga, it is interesting to note that Cadet Charles H. Grierson graduated from West Point in the spring of 1879. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. and assigned to the 10th Cavalry at Fort Concho. Thus the son of an old Indian-fighter came to do battle in his fathers command.

A TEXAS BISECT?

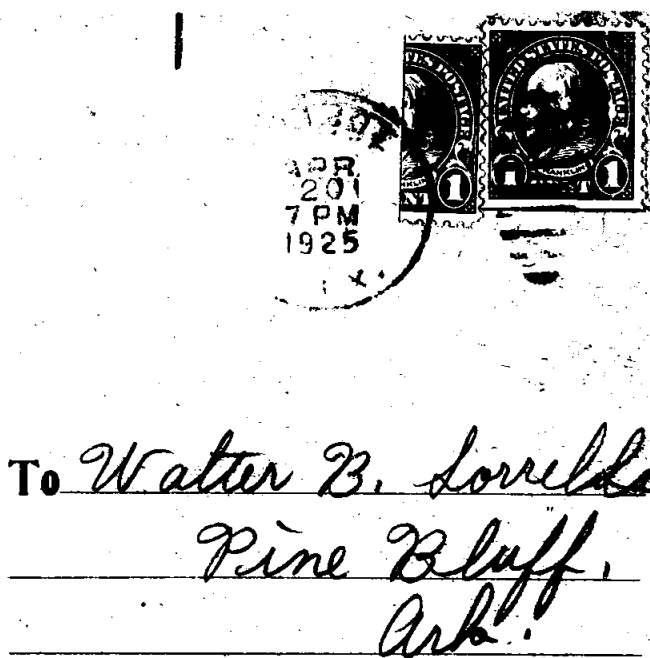
By Charles Deaton

Genuine examples of non-philatelic bisected stamps are quite scarce in the postal history world. The card in Figure 1 may be an example of such a usage. It was mailed by a Conroe, Texas nurseryman in 1925, with a single and one-half of another single of the 1¢ Green Franklin definitive attached to pay 1½¢ postage.

Figure 1:

T. W. WALTON
CONROE, TEXAS

WE GROW PLANTS Because our heart is in the work
 This, coupled with proper soil, and
 favorable climate insures the production of plants of the best
 quality, with strong root systems, which grow and produce re-
 sults. We rejoice in your success with them, and try to give
 100 cents value for every \$ received; making our prices as low
 as possible for the quality. We do not advertise "freeze proof"
 plants. Any cabbage, onion, beet or lettuce will stand temper-
 ature below freezing; th degree depending upon the state of
 growth; thus, by stunting to extreme they are made to stand
 lower temperatures. We aim to produce a plant that is as
 hardy as is consistent with a thrifty, productive condition. We
 buy our seed from reliable seedmen, paying much higher prices
 than some ask, so that we may feel sure of having the right
 quality. We make prompt shipment. Safe arrival guaranteed



The bisected stamp is clearly tied across the cut edge, and appears to be a legitimate commercially-used bisect. There may be a reason for this, such as a temporary shortage of 1¢ stamps in the Conroe post office. Or, perhaps nurseryman Walton did the cutting at home and persuaded the postmaster to accept the cards. Can anyone shed any light on this matter? Does anyone have similar examples in their collections? The author would appreciate any correspondence on this subject.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Additions to membership roster (some of these are new members, and some were inadvertently omitted from the roster in the last issue):

Dallas Public Library, c/o Periodicals Asst., 1954 Commerce St.,
Dallas, TX 75201

Jackson, Tom, 3000 Telinois #15, Midland, TX 79701

Jeffrey, Billy P., 2211 McDuffie, Houston, TX 77019

McHenry, Gordon, P. O. Box 117, Osprey, Fla. 33559

Morris, A. W., 7213 Inspiration, Austin, TX 78724

Murphy, William J., 1616 Ruidosa, Wichita Falls, TX 76305

Perutz, George, 11405 St. Michaels Dr., Dallas, TX 75230

Rogers, Jim, Rt. 3, Box 223A, Harlingen, TX 78550

Russell, Phil M., 1308 West 3rd, McGregor, TX 76657

Smith, Jack M., 5217 Edmonton, El Paso, TX 79924

Vickers, Edward M., P.O. Box 2303, Sta. A, Meriden, CL. 06450

Whitehead, John, 1501 S. 9th Street, #402, Waco, TX 76706