

# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

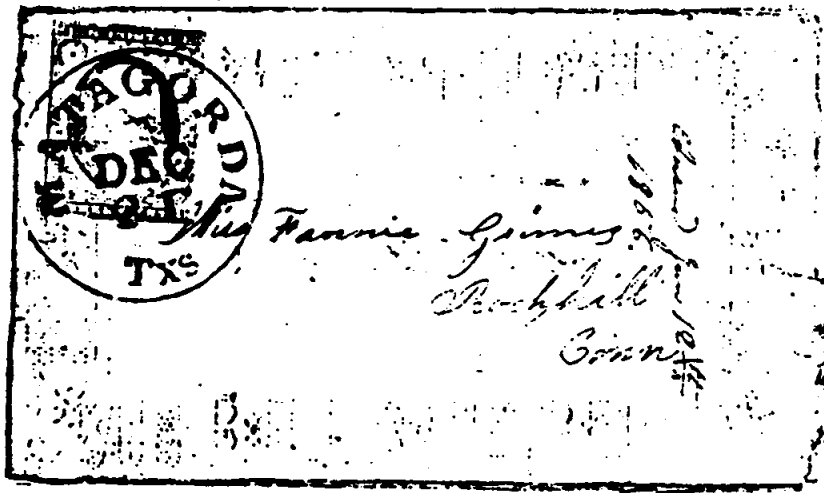


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# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

President:  
Dr. William Emery  
1421 Schulle Dr.  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Vice-President:  
Rick Rodgers  
2612 Greenleaf  
Houston, TX 77009

Secretary-Treasurer:  
Edgar L. Leissner  
711 Canterbury Hill  
San Antonio, TX 78209

Journal Editor:  
Gordon Hyatt  
235 W. Sierra Circle  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Affiliated With:



## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As this issue of the Texas Postal History Journal is written, work is nearing completion on the "old-time" Texas Post Office at the Institute of Texian Cultures in San Antonio. The exhibit will be set up and opened to the public on September 7, 1981. Dedication ceremonies are currently scheduled for Tuesday, November 10.

All members of the Texas Postal History Society will receive invitations to this dedication. It is hoped that as many as possible of our members will be present at this ceremony in a show of support and appreciation for the project. Sincere thanks are due the Board for the Institute of Texian Cultures which has provided the housing and financial support to make this exhibit possible. Dr. Phil Hewitt and Mr. Clyde Hester of the Institute have done an outstanding job in assembling the exhibit and refurbishing the artifacts. We would be remiss if we failed to cite those who have made significant loan of their artifacts for this exhibit.

Mrs. L. C. Heinemeyer of Geronimo, Texas, has graciously loaned the Institute the Nineteenth Century Post Office, complete with combination boxes, grided service counter and mail slot.

Mr. Jack H. Montgomery of Weimer, Texas, loaned the exhibit a copy of the "Postal Laws and Regulations" issued in 1887, a Parcel Post Guide of 1913, and an Official Postmasters Account Book used from 1904-1907. Other artifacts loaned by Mr. Montgomery for the exhibit include twine holder, lightning calculator, pen staff rack, ink well, receipt spike, money order cutter, Parcel Post rate indicator, U.S.P.O. Department shears, stamp moistener, paper weights and various postmark cancellers.

Mr. John J. Saldana, current postmaster of San Antonio, Texas, has loaned the Institute a brass lamp, a post office stool, an old leather mail pouch and a postal badge.

It might be of interest to point out to the TPHS members that the survival of many of these artifacts is probably due to a Post Office Department's early policy of requiring postmasters of fourth class post offices to furnish space, equipment and supplies. Since postmasters owned their post offices lock, stock and barrel, they often preserved them together with their furnishings and tools long after the U.S. Post Office Department had closed the office.

Finally, the TPHS owes Gordon Hyatt, our Editor, its sincere thanks for conceiving the idea and for the many hours he has spent in bringing it to realization.

Our TPHS constitution provides that there will be an election of officers on odd numbered years. In compliance, a nominating committee appointed by your president has advanced a slate of candidates who have agreed to serve the society if elected. Ballots containing this slate of officers are affixed to the face of your Journal. Please take a moment to mark your ballot and return it to the Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Jim Alexander, 5825 Caldwell Drive, Waco, Texas, 76710.

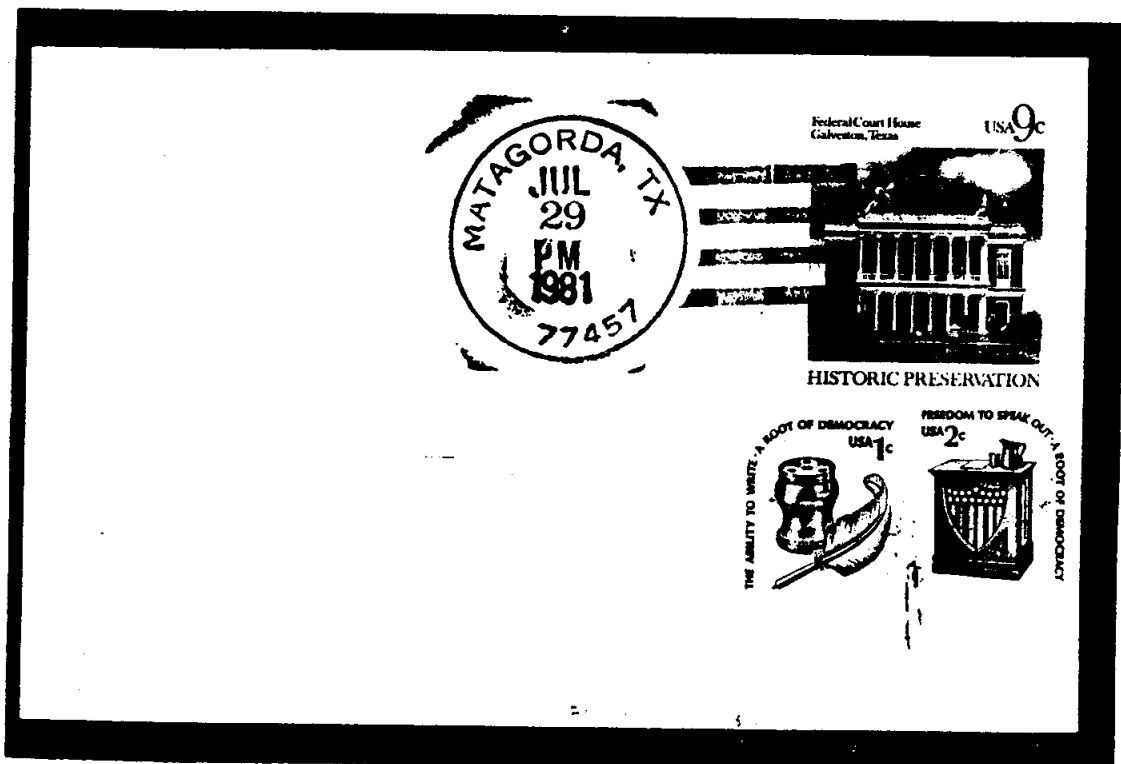
#### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We welcome our newest contributor to the TPHS Journal, Mrs. Norma Watz of El Campo. Norma's keen interest in philately are well known to many collectors in Texas and the United States, as she has written several interesting articles for the TPA Journal.

We also welcome back our ex-President and former Editor, Mr. Charles Deaton, now of Houston.

Gordon Bleuler's new "Gem" is truly an interesting bit of Texas history.

I am sure that every member will enjoy these three fine articles as I have. Also, Charlie's prices realized are a fine addition. I would like to have more of this kind of information for our members, so let's have your contributions.



Excerpt from the Introduction to  
THE POSTAL HISTORY OF WHARTON COUNTY (1846-1981)

by Norma Watz

In the year of 1838, the first post office in Texas was located in Galveston, and was housed in a small frame building on the south side of Tremont and Strand. President Sam Houston of the Republic of Texas inaugurated a mail route by horseback down west beach and crossing the ferry to Matagorda. The Galveston post office was the first post office west of the Mississippi to sell the first adhesive stamp in 1847. The first money orders written west of the Mississippi were sold at the Galveston post office in 1864. Parcel Post was first inaugurated west of the Mississippi at the Galveston post office in 1913.

From Matagorda, mail went to post offices at Old Caney, Preston, Egypt, Texana, and Richamond. Preston was at the head of the "Bay Prairie" which was a large, rich and very beautiful prairie lying between the timbered lands of Caney Creek and the Colorado River, about 25 miles apart. A petition was made to divide Matagorda County in 1838, and the remains of Preston is now located in Wharton County. Isham Thompson was appointed the first postmaster of Preston in 1846 and mail was discontinued October 1, 1857.

Four post office appointments were made in 1846 in towns that were then in Matagorda County. They were Preston, Caney, Matagorda, and Peach Creek. Samuel W. Fisher was the first Matagorda postmaster, being appointed on May 22, 1846.

Galveston Court House pictorial postal card is shown with Matagorda postmark. The card was the subject of a series of multi-color postal cards debuting in 1977. The theme is Historic Preservation and first day of issue ceremonies were held in Galveston on July 20, 1977. The Court House, completed in 1861, was the first Federal building erected in Texas for civil purposes. It was originally authorized to serve as a customs house, post office, and court house simultaneously, and was probably occupied by the first United States District Judge for Texas just before he fled to the Union as the Confederacy took over.

Over the years, the building has survived Civil War damage, fires and storms. It was restored in 1967 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The postal card was designed by Donald Moss and was printed by offset process.

Matagorda is located at the mouth of the Colorado River and thus had an important role in the exploration and settlement of Wharton County. It is fitting to have the Matagorda postmark on the Galveston Court House card since both were part of the lives of the early settlers in south Wharton County. The old townsite of Preston is located about 40 miles from Matagorda.

(Illustrated on Page Two)

## TEXAS' FIRST POSTMASTER CANCEL?

by Charles Deaton

Lynchburg is in eastern Harris County at the point where Buffalo Bayou flows into the San Jacinto River. The community was named for Nathaniel Lynch, who came to Texas in 1822 as one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists. Lynch established a ferry at this point in the 1820's. The family homes of David Burnet and Lorenzo de Zavala, prominent early Texian leaders, are located nearby.



*A. P. Delano*

*Mr. C. J. ...*  
*Orwell*

The cover illustrated above has the balloon type postmark used from Lynchburg in the late 1850's. This cover bears the free frank of A. P. Delano, who served as postmaster from May 10, 1859, to February 2, 1861. The date logo in this postmark has been replaced by the initials of the postmaster:

A.P.D.  
PM

To my knowledge, this is the first recorded example of a Texas postmaster incorporating his name or initials into a handstamp postmark. This cover sat in my collection for a number of years before its significance became apparent to me. When I first acquired it, I was delighted to find the Lynchburg postmark on a stampless cover. It was (and is) the only stampless cover from Lynchburg I have seen. At the time, I glanced hastily at the date logo, and assumed the APD meant April, and the two letters under it were just a mistake made by the postmaster when changing dates in the logo. While re-examining the cover later, it dawned on me that the letters spelled out APD, not APR. The free frank of the postmaster Delano made it easy to figure out that the initials APD/PM stood for A. P. Delano, Postmaster. County and Postmaster cancels were popular and used frequently by postmasters in Texas and all over the country in the 1870-1890 period, but this example from the 1850's is an extremely early use of this type of postmark.

The town of Lynchburg, according to the Handbook of Texas, that invaluable source, is an example of towns of the Revolutionary period which served their purpose and then faded into obscurity. Its population was 205 in 1840, but had declined to 150 in the early 1900's. The post office, which was established in 1852, was discontinued in 1927. In 1940, one store and 100 persons were reported at this community.

## PRICES REALIZED

Since auction prices for Texas covers are of interest to most all of us, I am listing herewith the prices realized for Texas material in our Public Auctions of April 18 and July 11, 1981:

April 18

TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY		Lot#	Cat. Val.
1	1824 SFL headed "Falls of Brazos, Texas." (Falls of Brazos, about 250 miles inland from mouth of Brazos). Letter carried privately to Natchitoches, La., where it received ms. post. From early settler carrying brand in Tenn. to come to Texas. Repaired and in poor condition, but still presentable example of rare Pre-Republic Texas mail. (Est. \$150.00)	1.	\$50.00
2	1840 SFL from NY to Austin, Tex. with "Springwater, NY July 6" manuscript post. Has legible strike of rare "Wm Bryan Agent of Toulon P.O." on reverse, as applied in New Orleans. Also has black "849" post from New Orleans, and Paid 25 crossed out and "56" rate marking in ms. (Est. \$150.00)	2.	Unsold
3	1848 SFL with black Houston CBS post and seal. "PAID 5" in black. File laid through post, but scarce and attractive. (Est. \$30.00)	3.	\$44.00
4	"Beau Hill, Texas Oct. 1866 1866" blk. post. on U10, Harris Co. DPO, existing from 1852-1905. Slight stains, but scarce marking. (Est. \$40.00)	4.	\$42.00
5	"Jonesville, Tex" ms post on 1859's entire to New Orleans. Very early Harrison Co. item. (Est. \$40.00)	5.	\$36.00
6	"Harrisburg TX" manuscript post on U10 - 1859's usage. Harrisburg is Harris Co. DPO, Est in 1853. (Est. \$40.00)	6.	\$40.00
7	Pretty, laid "Foot Oak, Tex" post on U10. Scarce Bexar County marking. P.O. was established in 1853 and changed to Luvonia in 1858. VF and beautiful. (Est. \$30.00)	7.	\$68.00
8	"Trove Tex April 29th/57" MS post on cover to Ohio. Matching "paid" in ms. Austin Co. DPO (1846-81). Scarce stampless item. (Est. \$40.00)	8.	\$40.00
9	"Chapel Hill, Tex" CDS on U9 to LaGrange, 1850's period. VF and pretty. (Est. \$25.00)	9.	\$27.00
10	"Dripping Springs, Texas Jan. 18, 1861" in manuscript on small cover bearing U.S. #26. Scarce Hays Co. marking, mailed about 2 weeks before Texas seceded from Union. (Est. \$50.00)	10.	\$66.00
11	"Rust, Tex" CDS with matching target tying #114 to neat yellow cover. Scarce example of 1868's used in Texas. (Est. \$20.00)	11.	\$30.00
12	"Cotterate, Tex" black CDS on 1896 cover with c/c for Decker. Early Mitchell Co. item. (Est. \$15.00)	12.	\$10.00
13	"Kona, Tex" in handsome manuscript marking on 1882 24 entire. Liberty Co. DPO (1883-1902). VF and pretty. (Est. \$25.00)	13.	\$22.00
14	"Tree Palacios, Tex" CDS on 1898 Rag'd cover to NY. Stamps are 2¢ and 5¢ Bureau. This PO existed in Matagorda Co. from 1888-1904. Extremely scarce town marking, thought to be forerunner of present-day Palacios. (Est. \$30.00)	14.	\$32.00

TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY		Lot#	Cat. Val.
15	Ornately printed c/c of W.J. Gruber, Jeweler in Brantson, Texas on 1903 cover to Ohio. Pretty item. (Est. \$15.00)	15.	\$13.00
16	"WFD/Tyler/Dec. 1, 1908/Texas" in black 4-line post on U11A. Extremely scarce Texas WFD marking. (Est. \$25.00)	16.	\$27.00
17	"Dallardsville, Tex" 1901 CDS on Rag'd cover to Kansas. Post Co. DPO (1877-1929). VF and pretty. (Est. \$10.00)	17.	\$11.00
18	Cuero, Texas "Running Turkey" flag cancel used as cachet on 1936 cover. Scarce and attractive item. (Est. \$20.00)	18.	\$30.00
19	Coll. of 27 diff. Texas flag cancels on cards and covers of 1900-32 period. Good starter lot with a few of the scarcer towns. (Est. \$40.00)	19.	\$42.00
CONFEDERATE POSTAL HISTORY			
20	"Mesilla, N.M., Nov. 3" black CDS and ms. "Due 10¢" on cover to Bostrop, Tex. from "T.J. Beavers, Co. E, 2nd Reg't, T.M.R." From member of Texas Conf. force under Gen. H.H. Shibley that invaded N.M. Terr. in 1861. This cover 18 days earlier than earliest known date. Worn and Torn at R. part thru CDS, but still presentable example of ext. rare cover. (Est. \$1000.00)	20.	\$5,000.00

July 11

TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY		Lot#	Cat. Val.
1	"Huntsville, Texas" in light but legible rimless CDS on 1848 SFL. Also matching "V". Scarce Texas stampless item. (Est. \$50.00)	1.	\$35.00
2	"Bright Star, Tex." in ms. post and #11 on 1857 FL. Scarce Hopkins Co. DPO (1854-1871, when name chg. to Sulphur Springs). Poignant love letter and orig. love verse from wanderer to girl back home in La. (Est. \$75.00)	2.	\$85.00
3	"Daingerfield, Tex" in large (34 mm) blue CDS line #11 to 1850's FL to Ark. Scarce town. (Est. \$30.00)	3.	\$40.00
4	"Houston, Tex." red CDS on 1850's cover. Black grid line #11. Fine (Est. \$30.00)	4.	\$26.00
5	"Jefferson, Tex." CDS on 1850's entire to New Orleans. Fine (Est. \$30.00)	5.	\$26.00
6	Bold "LaGrange, Tex." CDS on 1850 cover. VF & attractive (Est. \$40.00)	6.	\$19.00
7	"Austin, Tex." CDS on 1860 cover w/ #26. neat & attractive. (Est. \$30.00)	7.	\$26.00
8	"Bourne, Tex" CDS and #65 on 1867 cover to Poon. Letter from soldier at Camp Verde, Texas enclosed. Mentions Indian raid where victims were scalped "and their hearts was cut out of them." Scarce & interesting item (Est. \$50.00)	8.	\$90.00

July 11 Continued

TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY		Lot	Cat. Val.
9	Pair of covers showing diff. spelling of Cotterville, Tex. in 1886-87. Both w/ #210 tied by star cancel. Nice (Est. \$20.00)	9.	\$32.00
10	"Wilderville, Tex." DL CDS and star in circle on 1885 cover. Scarce & attractive Falls Co. DPO (1874-1904) (Est. \$20.00)	10.	\$20.00
11	Bald "Cheeseland, Texas" DL CDS on 1886 reg'd cover bearing 10¢ Bank Note. Rare Angulina Co. DPO (1857-1886) Very nice (Est. \$30.00)	11.	\$28.00
12	"Marshall, Tex." CDS and #207 on 1888 adv. cover w/ seal of Wiley Univ. Scarce Tex. college cover (Est. \$25.00)	12.	\$29.00
13	"Gallagher's Ranch, Tex." in nice strike of CDS on 1889 cover. Rare Madina Co. DPO (1877-1909). Very nice & pretty (Est. \$40.00)	13.	\$50.00
14	"Carman, Tex." CDS on 1889 pc. Fayette Co. DPO (1886-1892, when name chg. to Carmine). Scarce (Est. \$20.00)	14.	\$21.00
15	"Rutersville, Tex. N. Amberg, P.M." CDS on 1889 pc. Scarce & attractive pmk. (Est. \$50.00)	15.	\$40.00
16	"New Creek, Tex. in ms. pmk on 1889 pc. Fayette Co. DPO (1872-1906). Scarce & attractive (Est. \$20.00)	16.	\$20.00
17	"Marionfield, Martin Co. Texas" in purple octagon pmk on 1890 pc. This PO existed 1882-90; unfiled Co. pmk (Est. \$60.00)	17.	\$50.00
18	"Climo, Tex." CDS on 1896 reg'd cover bearing 2¢ & 8¢ Burdett. Uvalde Co. DPO (Est. \$20.00)	18.	\$16.00
19	"Wardheim, TX" in ms. pmk on 1896 pc. (Delimit Co. PO) (Est. \$20.00)	19.	\$15.00
20	"Wehdom, Tex" CDS on 1904 cover. Rare Austin Co. DPO, with PO existing only 2 yrs. (1904-06) (Est. \$30.00)	20.	\$30.00
21	"Sharp, Tex" CDS on 1905 cover. Scarce William Co. DPO (1900-1907) (Est. \$20.00)	21.	\$20.00
22	"Rock Creek, Tex." CDS on 1905 cover. Scarce Parker Co. DPO (1891-1909) (Est. \$20.00)	22.	\$15.00
23	"Galveston Military Branch, Tex." pmk on 1913 pc. Scarce & unusual cancel (Est. \$15.00)	23.	\$ 7.00
24	"Texas: The Drama of Its Postal Post." by Alex ter Braake. APS handbook, now out of print. Essential; one of finest of all state PH works. VF (Est. \$50.00)	24.	\$50.00

Richard Frajola's auction of June 13 also had some Texas material. Three separate Republic stampless letters with STEAM PACKET COLUMBIA straight lines brought in the \$210-\$325 range. Another Republic stampless with the Wm. Bryan oval on back brought \$325. A San Antonio stampless to Germany via Prussian Closed Mail brought \$170. A Pt. Isabel straight line of the Mexican War Period brought \$325. Two 1850's period covers, both #U10, with Jasper and Burkeville postmarks brought \$85 and \$80 respectively. A #U10 used from Matagorda went for \$65. A cover with the scarce unframed San Marcos CDS used as a forwarding mark on #26 sold for \$80. Another Republic item, this a folded letter headed Victoria but postmarked New Orleans, brought \$32. Frajola's address is: Moody Lane, Danbury, CT 06810.

--compiled and reported by Charles Deaton

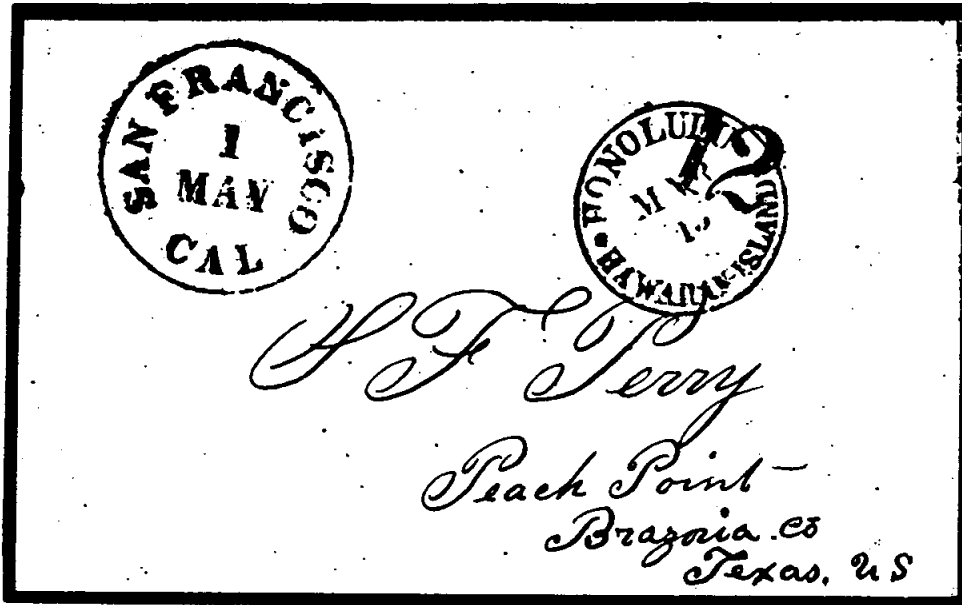


## TEXAS GEMS

Hawaii (Sandwich Islands) to Texas

Fourth of Series  
Page 1 of Series

by Gordon Bleuler  
Dallas, Texas  
July, 1981



## Cover Illustration: Points of Interest

1. Stampless, blue lettersheet postmarked Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, Mar. 13 (1852) in bright red.
2. Enclosure headed: Lihue, Kauai, March 5, 1852.
3. San Francisco, Cal., May 1 (1852), and "12" all handstamped in black.
4. Addressed to S. F. Perry, Peach Point, Brazoria Co., Texas, U.S.

Map Illustration:

1. Incoming mail from the Hawaiian Islands by way of San Francisco, California, Isthmus of Panama, New Orleans, Louisiana, or Galveston, Texas, Brazoria, Texas.
2. Destination: Peach Point (no post office - Peach Point Plantation, Brazoria County, Texas, U.S.

Cover Description:

Stampless, blue lettersheet headed Lihue, Kauai, March 5, 1852, with bright red postmark of Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, Mar. 13 (1852). Letter was handled during the Fifth Period of Hawaiian Postal History, which was in effect from September 13, 1851, to March 31, 1855. The rate for single letter postage from Hawaii to the United States was "5 cents" to be "prepaid". The rate for mail on which the U.S. postage to the east was "collect" was 12 cents per half ounce.

Stampless was carried by ship to San Francisco, California, where it was delivered to the postmaster who paid the Ship's Captain his fee of 2 cents, and postmarked the cover on May 1 (1852) with the rate of "12" cents (2 cents paid to the Ship's Captain, and 10 cents for the U.S. rate which was "10 cents per 1/2 oz. for a distance of over 3000 miles"), or an amount of "12" cents to be collected from the recipient. It appears in this instance the distance was under 3000 miles since the letter was addressed to Texas, but such was not considered in the rate charged.

Letter was probably carried by ship to the Isthmus of Panama, thence overland across the Isthmus where it was placed on a sailing vessel which was probably headed for New Orleans or to Galveston, Texas. It was then carried by ship to Brazoria, Texas, where the 12 cents due was charged to the account of S. F. Perry. There was no post office at Peach Point, so mail was probably picked up by a slave-driven plantation wagon, which probably made a weekly trip to Brazoria for supplies.

Historical Background:

The letter becomes even more interesting and intriguing when the addressing and contents are considered. The stampless is addressed to S. F. Perry, Peach Point, Brazoria County, Texas, U.S.

Stephen F. Perry was the son of James Franklin Perry and his wife, Emily Austin Bryan Perry. His mother was the sister of Stephen F. Austin. Their plantation home was located west of the Brazos River, about ten miles south of Brazoria, at a place called Peach Point Plantation. The family settled at this place in December, 1832, after stops at San Felipe and Chocolate Bayou.

Stephen F. Austin drew plans for his sister's house, and encouraged the planting of orchards and a garden. The east wing of the plantation house was reserved for Austin and was considered his home. When Austin died in 1836, his body was returned from Columbia, Texas, to Peach Point for burial at the nearby Gulf Prairie Cemetery.

In the early years, the plantation was primarily engaged in the growing of cotton, and the work was performed by slave hands. In the 1850's, sugar cane became the leading crop and a sugar house and mill were constructed. Products and supplies were hauled to Brazoria or to Crosby's Landing.

The Letter:

The enclosed letter is written by E. T. Austin, who may have been one of the sons of Henry Austin, a cousin of Stephen F. Austin, who had settled in the Brazoria Area in 1831.

Letter is headed Lihue, Kauai, March 5, 1852...."Dear Stephen, you wrote me a letter a year ago, which has just come to hand, after taking a cruise through the mines (gold) of California, and although it has been so long in coming, it is nevertheless truly welcome.

You had little idea when you wrote, that I should read your letter on an island some two thousand miles from the mainland; yet, so it is, and I have no idea now where the next March may find me. For I am about to move again. It is said 'a rolling stone gathers no moss', and I have fully proved the truth of the adage, being no better off in a pecuniary point of view than when I left Texas.

I have seen several of this far famed group of Islands, and have seen the spot on which the famous navigator Cook was killed by the natives; it is marked only by a pile of stone and the stump of a cocoanut tree. Cook's monument is not made with hands, it is rather like Fulton's, every where that ships go in these seas there Cook's name is known and stands first among Navigators.

The great body of the inhabitants here are indians, and nominally they have control of the Government, having the majority of votes; but, in reality the Kingdom is under Yankee rule. The King having a cabinet without whose advice he can do nothing, and he does not pretend to have anything to do with the business as long as they give him plenty of brandy he lets them have matters their own way. The Missionaries have the chief power and have made most of the laws, some of which are equal to the Old Blue Laws of New England.

There are many plantations on the islands belonging to Europeans and Americans. The working force is composed of natives and Chinese coolies, the last of which have only been introduced within the last two months. I have been overseeing a gang of them, since their arrival, and I have found them willing and humble. I have whipped most all of them since I have been with them, and they took it as though they were used to it.

This is a glorious climate so far, the country is healthy, the water good, and fruit, vegetables and meats abundant. If I had all my interest and friends here I would be willing to end my days on this island.

Guy in his letter of 21st Oct. asks the question "for what do we toil and labor here?" My answer is "to try to make life bearable". At least, that has been my object, an humble one enough. Yet I have hardly attained it.

Life to me as a laborer is a burden, and I as well as other men labor that some time or other we may throw off the burden, and live without labor. I was full of hope in California, and it was through no fault of mine that I did not succeed in part, sickness overtook me and rendered me helpless. God took pity on me and raised me up friends even there. I came here feeble and destitute; yet here I found friends, who have lightened the burden of life somewhat, and I thank God that I have not yet felt the sting of want. For though my purse has been low, I have had good spirits; a light heart and clear conscience go a long way towards making a man happy.

Guy says 'life is a bubble and man is a fool'. I agree to the first part but not the second. Life is essentially a bubble, and afloat on the ocean of time the least flow of wind may burst it, but man taken as a whole is not a fool. God has given him certain instincts as the rules he must go by, and has furnished him with a small spark of his wisdom to light his path, and as long as this guides him he is no fool, but an intelligent being working out the great purpose of his Creator.

I will write you again when I reach the coast. At present I shall close by wishing you good luck in all your undertakings. Yours, E. T. Austin"

Comment:

A most unlikely mixture of origin and destination points reflected on a stampless letter from the Island of Kauai, Hawaiian Islands, during the early Missionary Period to a point in the State of Texas. Such a combination results in a truly unusual postal history gem, for both Texas and Hawaii.

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