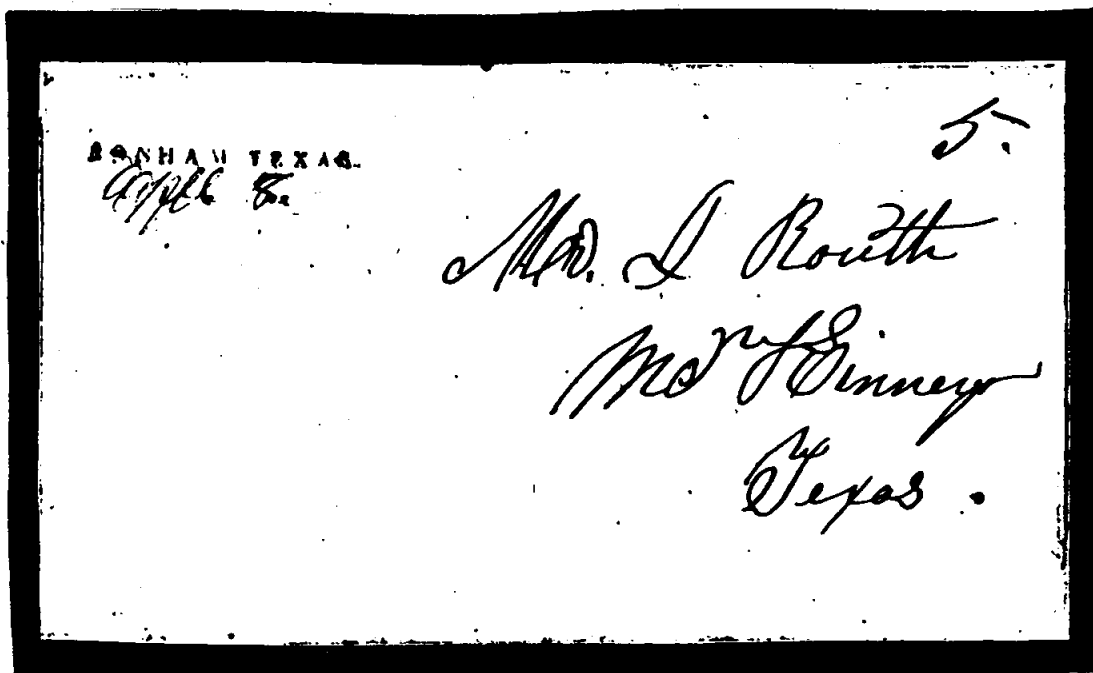


THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



Shown on the front cover is a discovery copy of Bonham, Texas straightline, dated 8 April 1851, to McKinney, Texas. This fine cover is from the collection of Mr. David L. Jarrett of New York, a T.P.H.S. member.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The President's Page.....	1
Excerpt - The Postal History of Wharton County.....	3
Texas Gems.....	8
Again For What?.....	12

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We welcome Nonie Green to our list of contributors with her interesting article on "Agent for What?" Nonie has promised another one soon and we look forward to it.

Thanks again to Gordon Bleuler and Norma Watz for their contributions. Comments and praise from our members should certainly encourage them to continue their series in many future editions.

From time to time we have considered additional features in our journal but cost limitations prevent expansion at this time. This will be one of many topics for discussion at our annual meeting in Austin.

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:

A.W. (Bill) Peterson
1314 Wilson Heights
Austin, TX 78746

Secretary-Treasurer:

Jim Alexander
5825 Caldwell
Waco, TX 76710

Journal Editor:

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

Affiliated With:



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Stapled to the face of this issue of the Texas Postal History Society Journal is a dues envelope for your convenience in transmitting your 1982 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer. Your prompt attention to this matter will benefit both the T.P.H.S. and yourself. For you it assures uninterrupted delivery of your T.P.H.S. Journal and helps forestall the need to raise dues, despite the increasing costs of production and postage. For your President and Secretary-Treasurer, it means less work when reminders to tardy members can be avoided.

POST OFFICE DEDICATION

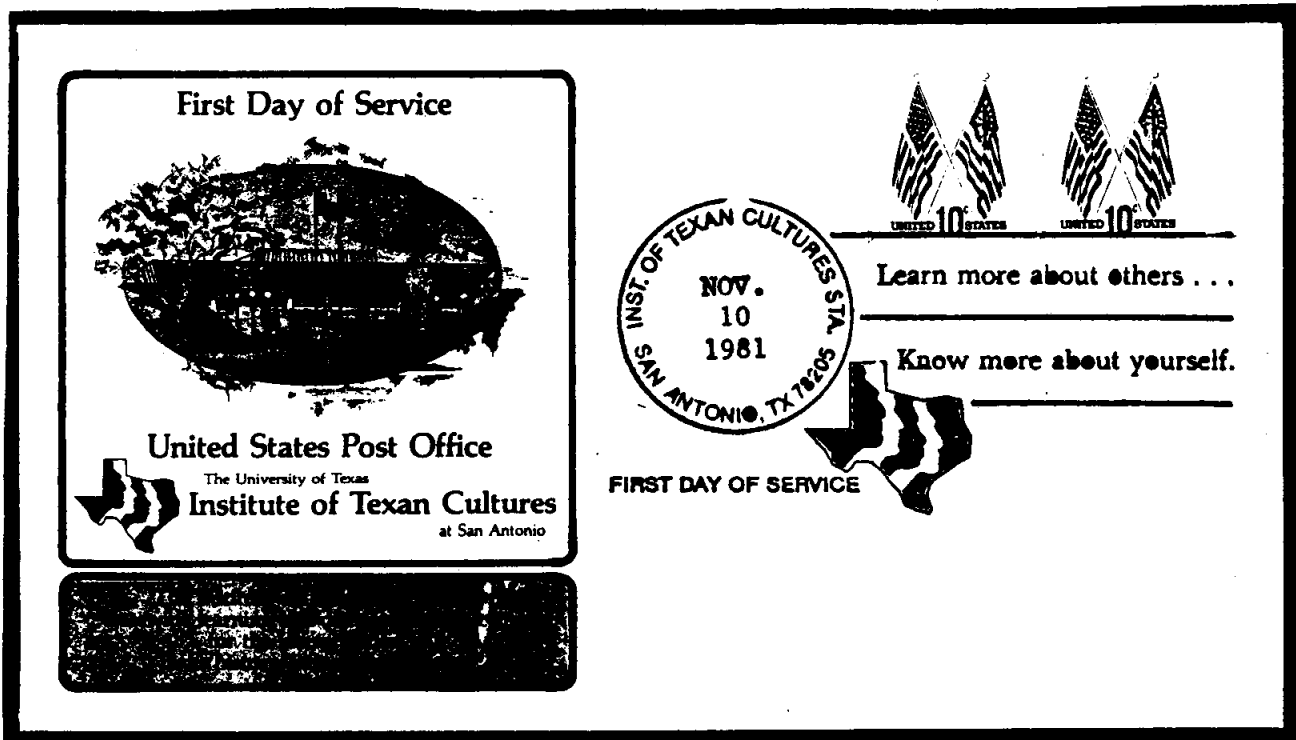
On November 10th the dedication ceremony for the "old time" Texas Post Office was held at the Institute of Texan Culture in San Antonio. This nineteenth century post office from Geronimo, Texas was recomissioned as an operating outlet of the United States Postal Service by Mr. Robert Hardesty, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service. Assisting him in the ribbon cutting ceremony was Mr. John Saldana, Postmaster of the San Antonio Post Office. Mrs. L.C. Heinemeyer who so graciously loaned the Institute her "old time" post office was the guest of honor and performed the actual ribbon cutting.

While the postal sales of this post office may never make news, there are several quite unique features to this outlet. When was the last time you recall having seen or heard of a United States Post Office staffed by all volunteer help? How many other facilities do you know where you can find a postal clerk ready to help on Sundays and holidays? These features combined with the antiquity of the facility and its artifacts make this exhibit at the Institute of Texas Cultures a "MUST" on your next visit to San Antonio, Texas.

Each year several hundred thousand visitors enter the Institute to view the various exhibits. Now, as a result of the foresight and imagination of Gordon Hyatt, our editor, the postal historians of Texas have an interesting and informative exhibit which pictures a part of our postal past. The benefits that may accrue to our hobby from such extended exposure seem limitless.

The officers and members of the Texas Postal History Society congratulate all those whose time, talent or contributions have helped in the creation of this exhibit.

Shown below is a copy of a "First Day of Service" cover issued at the new post office. These covers are available to collectors by writing to "Institute of Texas Cultures Sta.", San Antonio, Texas, 78205. Enclose SASE with \$2.50 + .14 tax or \$2.64. Your order will help support the fine work they are doing.



SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the T.P.H.S. will be held March 6th in Austin, Texas. This year the meeting will be held in conjunction with the Austin Stamp Club's show--AUSPEX-82 (Mar. 6 and 7)--at the Quality Inn South. The Quality Inn South is located at 2200 South Inter-regional (I-35) on the south side of the city. (Tel. 512-444-0561). Quality Inn brochures advertise that you may call toll free 800-323-5151 for reservations at any Quality Inn.

The central location, excellent facilities, and a wide range of attractions make this a great place to bring the whole family. Plan now to be with us for this biggest, best, and most interesting postal history get-together of the year.

Excerpt from

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF WHARTON COUNTY

by Norma Watz

An Act by the First Legislature of Texas approved April 3, 1846, created the County of Wharton and established the County Seat at Wharton, formerly Peack Creek. Named for William Harris Wharton, and his brother John Austin Wharton, who had settled in Texas in 1827, its 1,079 square miles had first been home to the Tonkawa and Karankawa Indians.

Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca was the first to cross this area, in going from Galveston Bay where he was marooned in 1528 to Culiacan, Mexico. Robert Cavalier de La Salle landed near Matagorda Bay in 1685, and Alonso DeLeon traversed this rich valley of the Colorado River in 1690. No permanent marks were made however until Stephen F. Austin took over the colonization of Texas after the death of his father, Moses Austin, in 1821.

Mary Austin Holley, Stephen F. Austin's cousin, described this land in "Texas in 1836" as follows: "The undergrowth of the best land is cane, and a species of laurel, the leaves of which taste like the kernel of a peach stone, and is called a wild peach by the colonists. Hence, when a colonist wishes to describe land as first rate, he says it is all PEACH AND CANE LAND. The canebrakes are of immense extent, especially on Canebrake Creek, or Caney, as it is usually called. On this creek there is an uninterrupted canebrake 75 miles long, from one to three miles wide. It extends on both sides of the creek from within 12 miles of its mouth into the Gulf of Mexico to its source which is only a few hundred yards from the Colorado River."

A group of Alabama plantation owners had settled at Texana, Jackson County, in 1829, and when they found they did not like the location, they moved to a spot on the Colorado River where they became established. The name "Egypt" was chosen since its lush productivity was likened to that of the valley of the Nile River.

Soon after the colonists entered Texas, they found themselves in the midst of the revolution against the Mexican government. Egypt was in a strategic position on the route to Harrisburg. Letters written by Captain Heard to his mother were dispatched from Gonzales and directed to her at "Colorado, Egypt"--a story of the Texan defense is outlined in the letters now retained in the Northington-Heard Museum at Egypt.

Settlers who entered Texas by way of Matagorda Bay formed a settlement in 1838 which became known as Preston. The sale of lots at Preston were advertised in the February 5, 1838 issue of the "Matagorda Bulletin" newspaper.

Egypt and Preston were on mail routes that had been established in 1837. In 1837, the "Matagorda Bulletin" announced that mail would be established from Matagorda to Columbus (Colorado County) and that a route was already in operation from San Felipe and Richmond to Mercer's on the Colorado River. Mercer was Eli Mercer, who had a plantation at Egypt.

Mail Route No. 10 for the Republic was set up in November, 1837, to go from Richmond to Texana by way of Egypt. This distance of 100 miles was to be covered once every two weeks, with mail leaving Richmond on Tuesday at 8 A.M. and arriving in Texana on Friday at 8 P.M. Still another route went from Matagorda to Columbus by way of Egypt, and on to the LaBahia Crossing on the Colorado River.

In 1847, the mail route from Matagorda was well established to Columbus, by way of Preston, and another route went to LaGrange by way of Caney, Wharton, Egypt, and Eagle Lake.

Egypt cover (see illustration) is Scott U5 on diagonally laid paper; watermark is of the first variety used by George F. Nesbitt and Company from 1853 to 1870. Cancellation was made February 23, 1856. The post office at Egypt is still active and is located in a portion of an old store building. (see photo). In June, 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Hassan Marzeban of Cairo, Egypt, visited in the museum-home of the George Northingtons of Egypt, Texas. After 150 years, President Sadat had stated it was time to send someone to check out its young namesake in Texas! Mr. Marzeban at that time was the Egyptian Minister of Culture.

A folded stampless letter (see illustration) from Preston, dated August 7, 1847, from D.B. Anderson reads as follows:

"Dear Sir - I learn that you own the tract of land in this neighborhood upon which the place known as Will's Water-hole is. I write to know if you will sell me 1 or 2 hundred acres from it, including the situation at the water-hole, and if so, what are the lowest and best terms upon which you will sell it to me -- my means are but small, yet the practice of my profession - viz, medicine, alone I expect would enable me to be punctual if you could make the terms favorable to me.

Be pleased to answer this by the return mail, and let me know positively what are your lowest and most favorable terms. With much respect, Sir, I am, Yours sincerely, S/D.B. Anderson."

Will's Water-hole, to which the writer refers, was originally called "Peyton's." The Telegraph and Texas Register, newspaper published in 1837, called it "Bay Prairie Creek" and described it as a small stream of clear, pure wholesome water. This was quite a contrast to the muddy water of the Colorado River and Caney Creek.

Isham Thompson had been appointed Postmaster of Preston May 22, 1846; Phillemon H. Petty was appointed October 9, 1846, and Maclin S. Stith took over July 9, 1847, serving until Petty was again appointed in 1849. In a letter written from Preston in 1846, it was stated "Isham Thompson is in bad health. His wife has good health. They have four children. Thompson is getting rich fast."

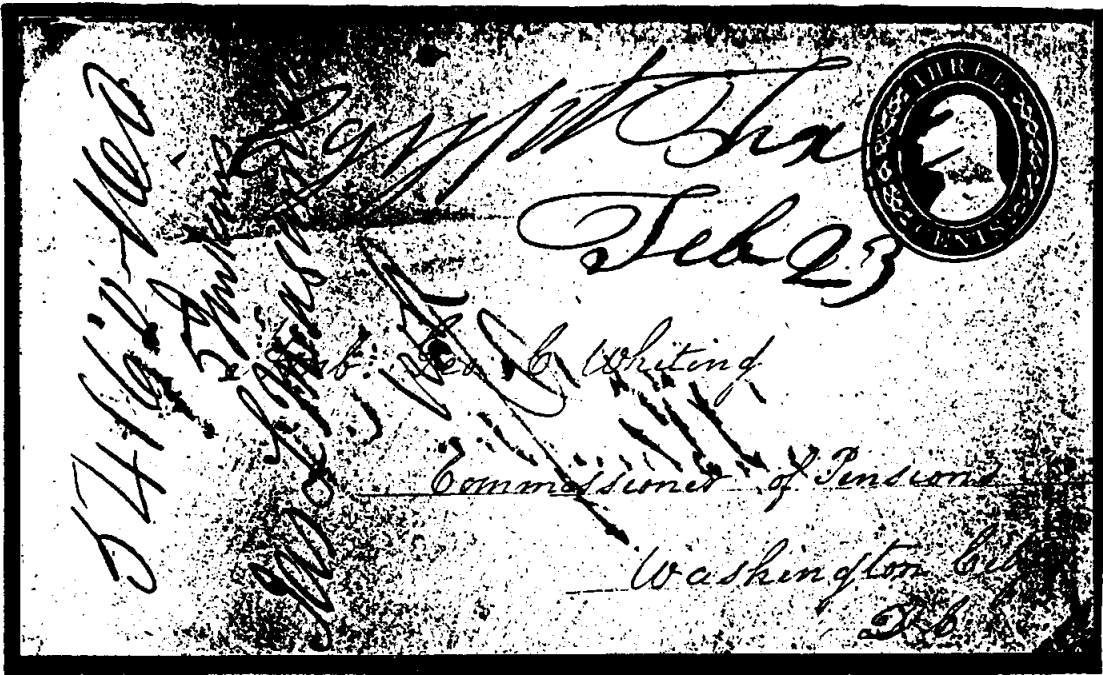
Shadrach Cayce was the last Postmaster of Preston when mail was discontinued October 1, 1857. Junior Historians placed a marker in 1960 (see photo) near the old Preston Cemetery, where tombstones of the pioneers look out across the Bay Prairie, still the most beautiful portion of Wharton County.

In 1859, Nehemia H. Goss was appointed Postmaster of Waterville, which succeeded Preston as a center for nearby plantations. Waterville's location was near Will's Water-hole, which was re-named Water Hole Creek, the name by which it is called to this date. Goss was succeeded by William H. Albertson May 10, 1859. Postmaster Albertson became 1st Sgt. Albertson in joining the Wharton Rifles, a volunteer company, organized in June 1861, after the vote for secession tallied 249 in favor and only 2 against it. This group joined Terry's Texas Rangers, and Albertson was later wounded and captured in East Tennessee on January 17, 1864.

War thus again touched the lives of these early settlers. The Civil War also ended the Columbia Tap, a railroad that started to Wharton in 1858 from Brazoria County, but the need and the call for better transportation was in constant evidence. Egypt, Preston, Wharton, and Waterville would be the last Post Offices to originate before the 1860's when railroads would become a reality in Wharton County.

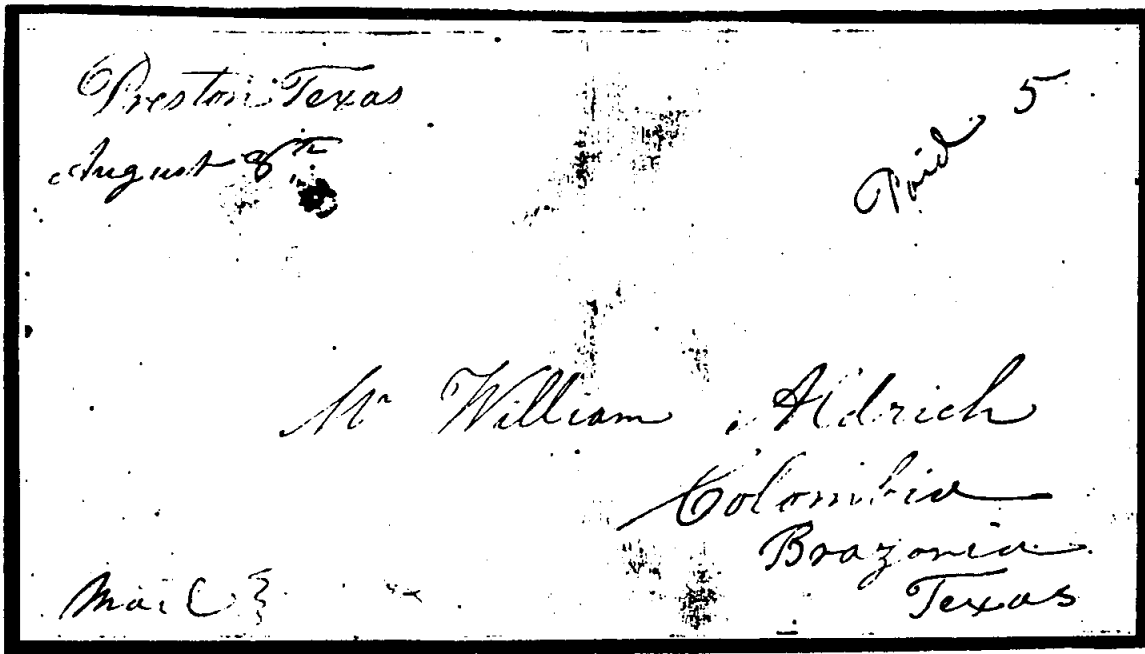
(to be continued)

NOTE: COPYRIGHT RESERVED
This article may not be
reproduced without the
express consent of the
author, Norma Watz

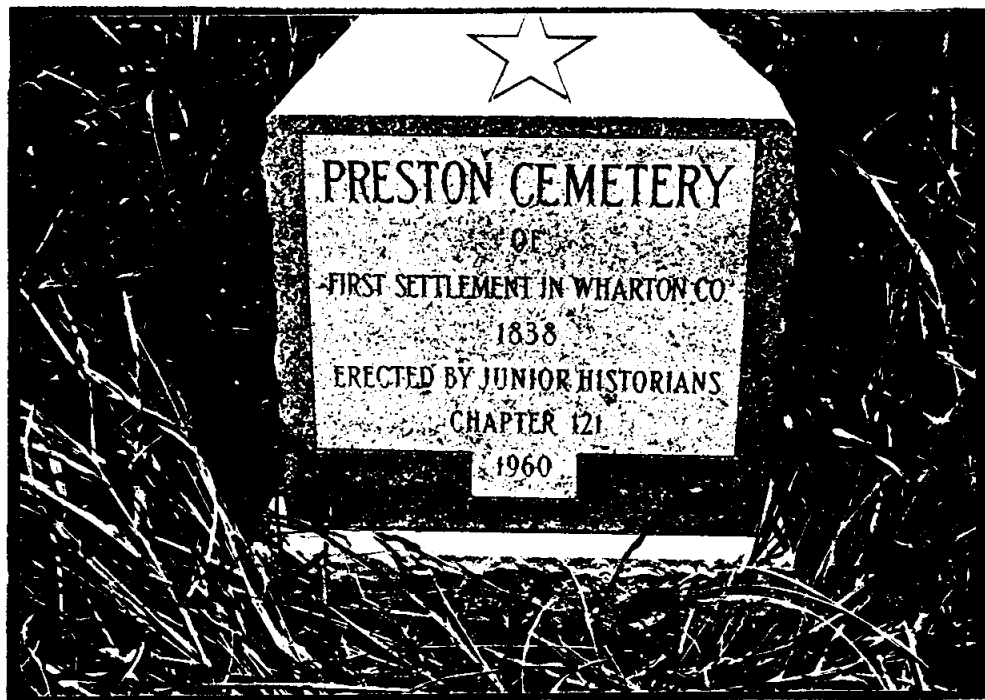


EGYPT, TEXAS
Republic - Operating





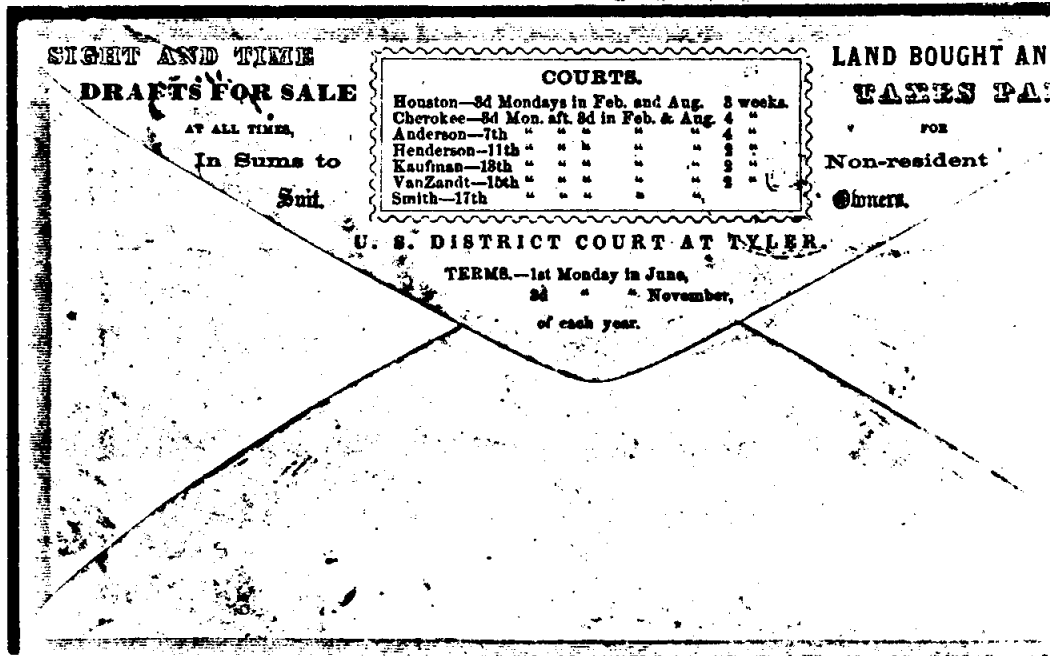
PRESTON, TEXAS
Republic - Closed 1857



Dallas, Texas
(Confederate State Usage - 1861)



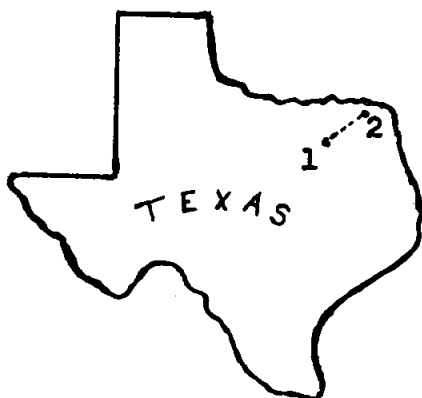
(A) Cover Illustration (front)



(B) Cover Illustration (reverse)

Points of Interest:

1. Illustrated envelope postmarked Dallas, Tex., Aug. 20, (1861), black handstamp town marking with manuscript "paid and rate"....."Pd 5".
2. Fancy "all-over" illustrated envelope printed in rose and green. Central design in green is a rural scene with printed advertising at left. Balance of the envelope is printed in light rose with negative letters. Advertising on reverse flap is printed in green.
3. Negative lettering on front: "Exchange, Law and Collection", John C. Gooch, Palestine, Texas.
4. Envelope is addressed to Paris, Texas.
5. Enclosure is headed Dallas, Aug. 19, 1861.



Map Illustration

1. Location of Dallas, Texas in Dallas County.
2. Location of Paris, Texas in Lamar County.

Cover Description:

Illustrated advertising envelope reflecting Confederate usage postmarked Dallas, Texas, Aug. 20 (1861) with postmaster's manuscript "Pd 5" addressed to F.W. Miner, Esq., Paris, Texas.

Texas was admitted to the Confederacy on March 7, 1861, as the "Seventh" State to join the C.S.A. The Confederate Postal System went into operation effective June 1, 1861.... with postal rates of 5 cents and 10 cents based on distance, and multiples based on weight. During the stampless period in 1861, prior to the printing and distribution of postage stamps by the Confederate Post Office Department, it was necessary for the individual Confederate postmasters to resort to other means for indicating prepayment of postage on the letters they handled; thus we find the Postmaster Provisional stamps and envelopes, and, the usage of Postmaster's Handstamps and manuscript "paid" and "rates" reflecting the postage charged.

The illustrated design on this envelope is one of the most beautiful and unusual to be found on an envelope with Confederate usage. The pastoral scene printed in green depicts farming, farm animals, farm implements, early train in background, indian and deer at right.

The design has general similarities to the rural scene engraved on the \$500 Confederate Montgomery note issued in 1861.

Advertising on envelope of John C. Gooch, Palestine, Texas, concerns Exchange, Law and Collection with claims collected in Texas and remittances made on sight drafts on Galveston, New Orleans or New York. The reverse flap lists Courts and dates in session in various Texas towns as well as the U.S. District Court at Tyler, Texas.

The letter enclosure is signed by Jno. A. Campbell and concerns contract and land problems as a result of the war.

Dallas, Dallas County, Texas (town notes)

The first settler in this area was John Neely Bryan, who built a log cabin near the present courthouse square in 1841. He was joined in 1842 by the Gilbert and Beeman families. The settlement had a population of 12 and a post office in 1884 under the Republic of Texas. Dallas County was created in 1846. The Dallas "Herald" was established by J.W. Latimer in 1849. Population in 1860 was 775. The business section of the town was consumed by fire on July 8, 1860. The town was rebuilt and became a center for banking, cotton gins, flour mill, leather from buffalo and cattle hides, etc. by 1879. The Houston and Texas Central Railroad arrived in 1872, and the Texas & Pacific Railroad reached Dallas in 1873. Thus, you have some of the elements that were to form the great metropolis you see today.

Post office in Dallas under the Confederacy:

Established Aug. 5, 1861 with Thomas F. Crutchfield as postmaster.

Harvey Shepard became postmaster on March 14, 1865.

Paris, Lamar County, Texas (town notes)

The area was settled in 1839 by Geo. W. Wright in what was then Red River County (Republic of Texas). The town at this place was originally called Pinhook. Paris became the county seat in 1844, and the town was incorporated in 1845. The town was to become an important railroad center in the 1870's. The Texas and Pacific reached Paris in 1876, followed by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe. The St. Louis and San Francisco in 1887 and the Texas Midland in 1893. Paris was to become a progressive city with fine business establishments, educational institutions, etc.

Post office in Paris, Texas under the Confederacy:

Established Aug. 5, 1861 with John Moore as postmaster.

H. Burnett became postmaster on Oct. 3, 1861.

Comments:

Although Dallas, Texas was to become one of the great cities in the South during the twentieth century...Dallas, at the time of the war in 1861, was a very small town. Envelopes reflecting Confederate usage from Dallas are seldom found. It appears that sometime in 1862 the cancelling device was lost, for Dallas town postmarks that I have seen reflecting usage in 1863 and 1864 have all been in manuscript.

Confederate advertising and "all-over" illustrated envelopes used in the south during the war period are seldom found. Those with designs in "two" colors are extremely scarce. The envelope shown here is the most attractive Confederate advertising envelope I have seen, and with a Dallas, Texas postmark it is a real Texas Gem.....

NOTE: COPYRIGHT RESERVED
This article may not be reproduced without the express consent of the author, Gordon Bleuler.

AGENT FOR WHAT ?

Nonie Green

Oftentimes we purchase items and are not sure exactly what they are but they command some attention or interest.

Three covers are illustrated and were thought to be three different things by different persons and turned out to be none of them as far as I can see after careful study of the covers and the contents of one of them.

Item #1. is the first one the writer acquired about two years ago. It is posted at Tarentum, Pa., Nov. 19. Registered backstamp of large "U" with "Nov. 20 83", inside it pinpoints the year. The magenta handstamp "Eliza M. Johnston, Agent - Tarentum, Pa." ties the stamps to the cover and has the appearance of being postally connected in some manner with its mailing. To the left in manuscript is the same name and a registry marking. On the back of this cover lightly in pencil is the notation - "s.l. Postal Agents mkg. ties stamps - Scarce", probably inscribed by a dealer or philatelist.

Item #1


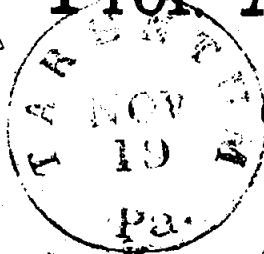
My Eliza Johnston Tarentum Pa

Reg 76

Eliza M Johnston Ag
Tarentum
Pa.

Ledger p 154 #209

Prof. A. W. ALLEN,
Testimon 8829
604 GRAND STREET,
5.20
NEW YORK.

Registered. Signed on back

Item #2. is the next acquisition and is a Texas cover mailed in Cooke County. A stamp dealer's label affixed to the pouch housing the cover reads "Rosston (Cooke) TX oval town pmk. and PM Dame at the left on Reg. Cover". The magenta handstamp indicated here as being that of the postmistress in the town. Upon close examination of the oval pmk. in black it says "Rosston, Tex. - May 12, 1882 - Thos. Willis P.M." so it would seem the lady who was

the agent was not in charge of the post office. Again in manuscript at left is the name in the handstamp, town of mailing and registry marking "Reg Letter No. 11".


Item #2

*Delilah Edge
Rosston Tex
Reg Letter
No. 11*

Delilah. Edge, Agent
Rosston MAY 12 1882
Cooke Co Texas

PROF. A. W. ALLEN,
47373
604 GRAND STREET,
NEW YORK.

150 *1595*




Item #3. recently added in July helped to solve the situation, at least presumably. It has a blue double banded oval cancellation reading "Suter - Feb. 1, 1882 - B. & O. R.R. PITT. DIV.". When I acquired the cover I thought immediately that it confirmed my own belief about the magenta handstamps being those of railroad agents but this cover had an enclosure which is shown. The communication is from "Levi Smith" (see handstamp on cover) and he is enclosing money (\$3.00) for medicine sold and is ordering one dozen more packages.

Item #3

Levi. Smith, Agent
Sutersville
Westmoreland Co Pa

PROF. A. W. ALLEN,
33801
604 GRAND STREET,
NEW YORK.

1230



My conclusion is that all the magenta agent markings were agents of Prof. A.W. Allen to whom all the covers are addressed and they were engaged in selling patented medicines for him. Two covers have money amounts (1.50 & 5.00) written on them which I believe to be amounts enclosed in them and the enclosure in the third one mentioned money contained in it. All the handstamps are uniform in their lettering and all are in the same color although from several locations, which lends more credence to the conclusion. This article is written to alert postal historians to the fact that sometimes things have an appearance of being one thing but in actuality are not and descriptions can also be mis-leading at times.

The Professor Allen correspondence is interesting and I wonder how widespread his agents were. If any Texas Postal History members have any other Allen covers with agents in Texas or elsewhere, I'd like to hear from you and anything about Professor Allen's activities that may be known.

Tutwiler.
Feb 1/85
Prof Allen

Dr Sir

Enclosed
find \$3.00 for medicine
sold please send one
Dozen Bkgs

Yours
Levi Smith
Tutwiler
West Va Co
Pa