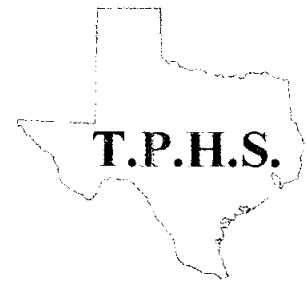


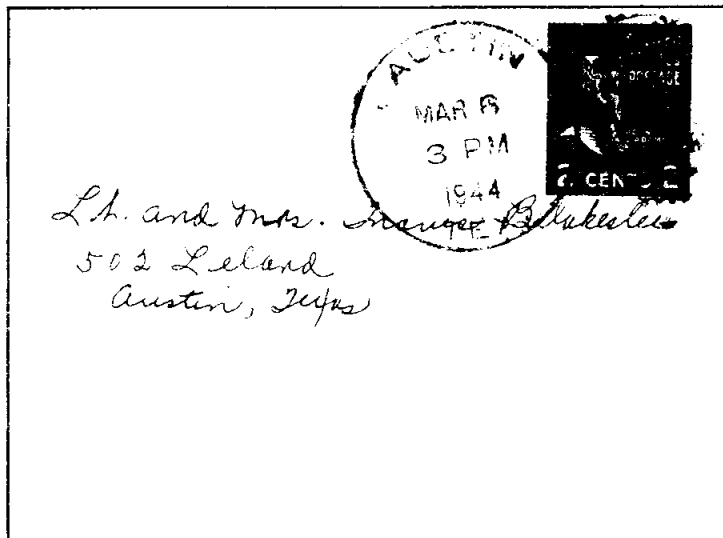
The  
 Texas Postal History Society  
**Journal**



Volume 22, Number 2 - Autumn 1997

*E.F. Christman, Jr.*, President

*Martin Margulis*, Editor



One of the smallest covers I have ever seen. Why two cent rate on an intra-city cover? Was this the regular rate?

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# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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*(Dues to the Texas Postal  
Society are \$10 per year  
payable to the Secretary-  
Treasurer.)*

Affiliated With:



## *From the President . . .*

Working out the details for the Bill Emery Award took longer than anticipated, but they are now completed. See page 6 for the information on the special "Dr. William Emery Awards."

I hope many of our members will consider entering the Award competition at next year's **TEXPEX** show and also help "spread the word" about this award to potential exhibitors. Thanks again to Nonie Green, Ferd Arndt and Jim Stever who "hung in there" and finalized this memorial award in honor of Bill Emery.

We had a great T.P.H.S. meeting at the Greater Houston Stamp Show. The 22 members and guests in attendance were treated to a superb presentation from Rick Rogers. It consisted of many types of items telling about Sam Houston and the city of Houston itself with slides and "show and tell" material which nicely complemented his philatelic items. His early covers were sensational and his background material also consisted of seldom seen books and documents.

And speaking about meetings, we are scheduling a T.P.H.S. get together at the American Philatelic Society show which will take place in Houston next February in the George R. Brown Convention Center. This A.P.S. AmeriStamp Expo will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday February 13-15. I have requested a time for our meeting on Saturday afternoon, the 14<sup>th</sup>. In case we do not have the confirmation of the date and time early enough to include in our next Journal, check the AmeriStamp Expo show program after you arrive. Regardless, mark this show on your philatelic calendar for next February, 1998.

Some more good news—I am pleased to announce that our program will be presented by member Leonard Turner of Lufkin. His title will be *East Texas Sawmill Town Post Offices*.

Don't overlook the two items inserted in this issue of the Journal. They are the ballot for officers for the coming two years, 1998-1999, and your dues notice for next year\*. Vote and mail your \$10.00 to our treasurer, Lyle Boardman. We need both your support and your dollars.

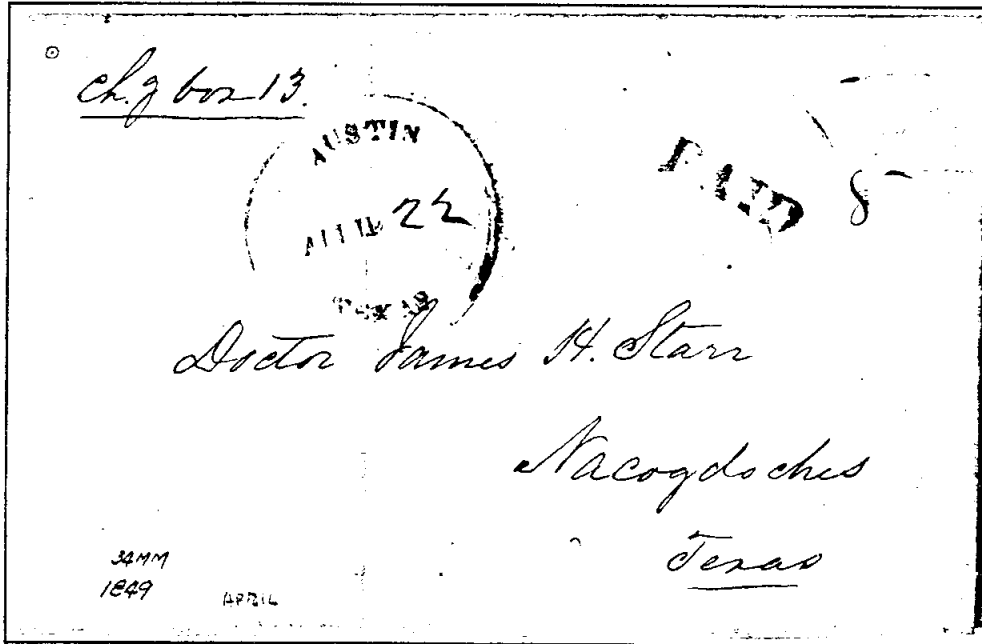
That is it for this time.

Good Collectin',  
Ed

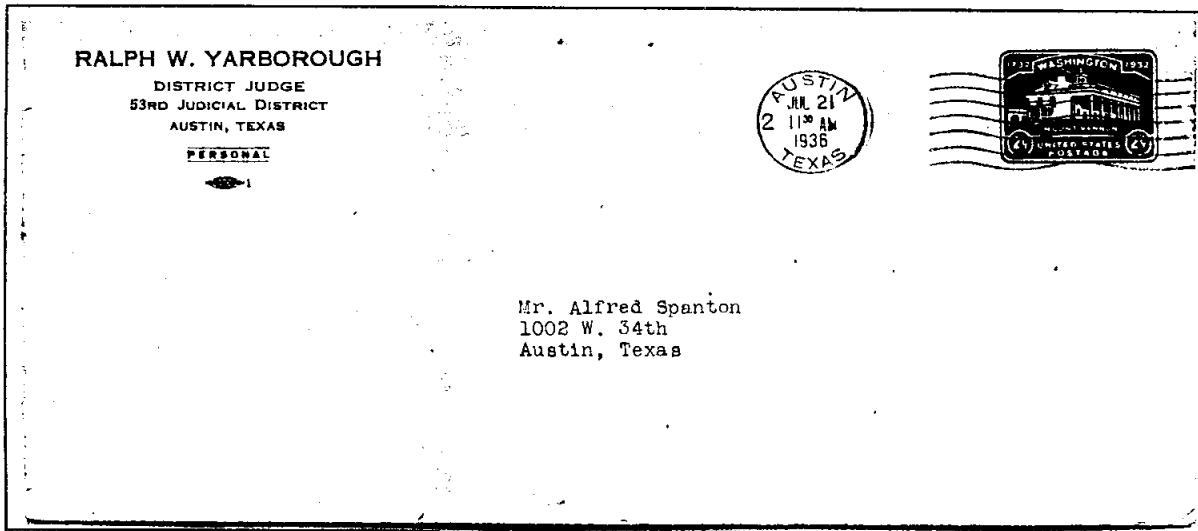
\*which contains a survey question on your collecting interests.

MISCELLANEOUS COVERS FROM AUSTIN

by Martin Margulis  
Austin, Texas



A stampless cover from a very early period of the Austin post office. The charge box indicates that the writer had an account with the post master. This account was debited for the amount of postage used.

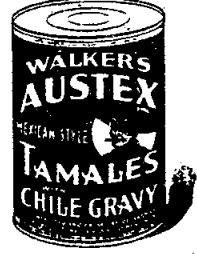
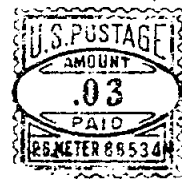
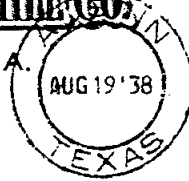


A cover from an early period in later Senator Ralph Yarborough's career in public service.

IN 5 DAYS RETURN TO

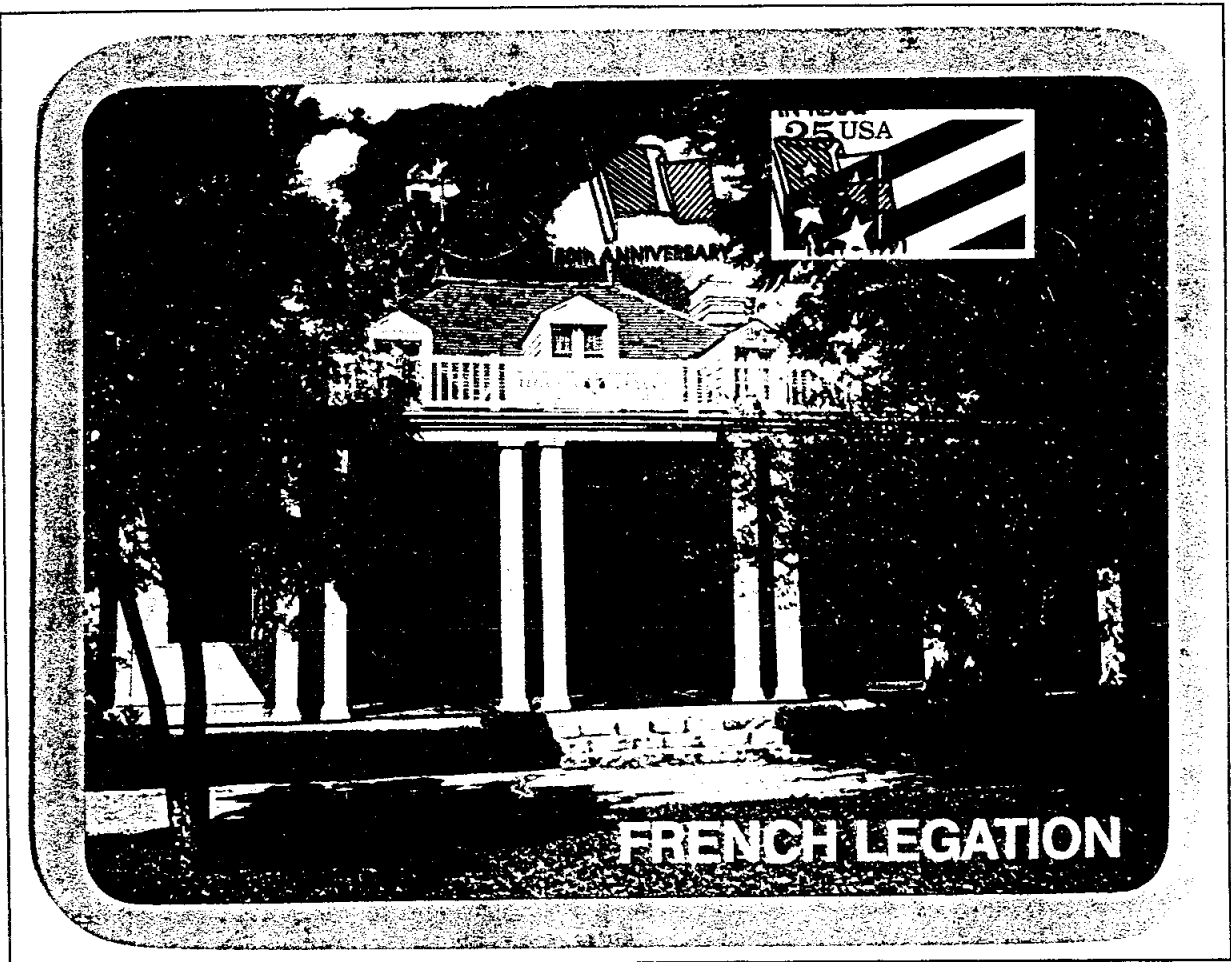
**WALKER'S AUSTEX CHILE CO.**

AUSTIN, TEXAS, U.S.A.



R. L. Holmes,  
Route 1, Box 169,  
Oregon City, Ore.

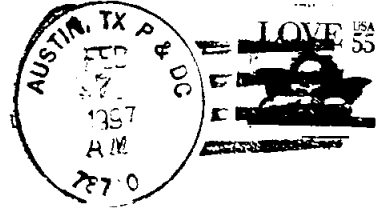
An advertising cover with a meter "stamp" from 1938. Austin in a double ring post mark.



A cover to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of French Legation. The French had a diplomatic office here during Texas' Independence Period.

Damaged in Handling USPS  
Please Accept Our Apology  
Austin, TX 78710-9998

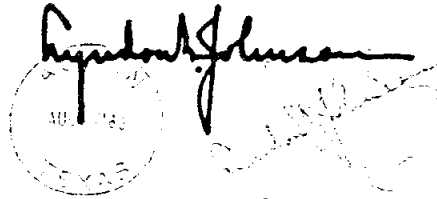
*Received  
without  
contents*



*Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lindquist  
800 Mandy Lane  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania  
. 17011.*

Austin post office "apology cover."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701



Mr. and Mrs. William B. Rank  
Big Thicket Lake Estates  
Post Office Box 674  
Rye, Texas 77369

Cover with a (no-doubt) facsimile "autograph" of Lyndon Johnson.

## EMERY AWARD

Dr. William H.P. "Bill" Emery of San Marcos died suddenly and unexpectedly earlier this year. Bill was prominent in Texas philatelic circles and was well-known nationally. He served as secretary of the Texas Philatelic Association and was a long-time editor of the Texas Postal History Society's Journal.

Dr. Emery's exhibits of Texas postal history were frequently seen at Texas shows. He also entered various national shows and invariably received a gold or vermeil award. His wealth of Texas material stood him in good stead as editor of the TPHS Journal and he often contributed articles about his personal holdings.

The bottom line here is that Bill Emery was an icon of Texas postal history and the TPHS wants to honor his memory with special "Dr. William Emery Awards" to be presented at the annual **TEXPEX** show. These awards will be for the top three Texas postal history exhibits. The Texas Postal History Society will purchase what the award committee feels will be unique and very special awards that any collector would feel honored to own. Also, the Texas Postal History exhibit "ribbons" will be Lone Star flags.

There are many collections of Texas Postal History, from very early to very recent. The idea is not to exclude anybody. Thus, the three awards will be analogous to the APS research awards, i.e., a pre-1900 award, a 1900 through WWII award and a post WWII award. Exhibits can be as small as one frame on any Texas subject. The number of frames (except the one-frame exhibits) will count towards TPA's frame requirement for a World Series of Philately show and will be judged by the regular **TEXPEX** judges panel insofar as all regular medal levels and show awards are concerned. However, judging for the Dr. William Emery Awards will be done separately by the Distinguished Philatelic Texas who are in attendance at the show.

It is fervently hoped that all collectors of Texas material will take this to heart and plan to enter something in the 1998 **TEXPEX** show. This whole concept has the potential to become a very prestigious event each year if Texans and other collectors of Texas postal history will participate. Please think about it and join in the fun.

## TPHS JOURNAL COPIES AVAILABLE

We still have copies of old Texas Postal History Journals available. Several extra copies are made of each issue to satisfy the needs of new members, and over the years, this has amounted to quite a pile of Journals. To reduce the volume to a more reasonable size (one that can be stored more easily) a special price has been established for members of the Society.

Normal price for past Journals is \$2.50 for specific issues or \$10.00 for a year set, or \$80.00 for the first 20 years, 1976 to 1995. Here are new discounted space-reduction prices:

Any single issue, from 1976 to 1995	\$ 1.50
Any year-set, from 1976 to 1995	\$ 5.00
First 20 volumes, 1976 to 1995 (81 issues)	\$75.00

Don't miss this opportunity to complete your set of TPHS Journals, including the large issue for 1986 (Volume II, #1) and the five-issue set for 1976. After this sale is over (March 1998), the extra copies will be reduced to a few and prices will revert to the original pricing.

Send your orders to: TPHS Secretary-Treasurer Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005. Makes checks payable to "TPHS." Include 55 cents postage for the first journal and 23 cents for each additional.

### ***REMEMBER TO VOTE AND TO PAY YOUR DUES!!!***

All of our current officers have "volunteered" to run again. Return your ballot quickly! And, pay your dues of \$10.00 at the same time. Find the ballot and dues slip enclosed with this issue. Return them in the pre-addressed envelope today!

## TOWN OF PRESTON

The attention of the people is called to this town about to be laid off at the head of Bay Prairie on the land of the undersigned. With a considerable population immediately around and located in the centre of the richest body of land in Texas—perhaps in the known world—it possesses the first requisite of a town—a surrounding country of such nature as to require a mart and ensure its support.

It is upon the direct road from Matagorda to Bastrop (about 40 miles from the former place) and is the nearest route to Houston, going by the mound, and crossing the Brazos at Little's; it is within four miles and a half of the Colorado, the overflow of which will not permit a nearer site, and within two and a half of Caney. The ground is high and perfectly dry, the water as good as the Republic affords, and the situation in every respect the most eligible within many miles.

A petition will, at the next session of Congress, be made by the entire Northern half of Matagorda County for a separation, and the constituting and defining of a new county. Should it succeed (and there is more than the number of Free Male inhabitants required by the Constitution for that purpose), this town being central and combining more advantages than any other spot in the region, will undoubtedly be the county seat; and it is almost unnecessary to add, that the three-fourths of the agricultural population of Matagorda County residing thereabout, will under any circumstances, sooner trade in Preston than ride ten miles or more for that purpose. Arrangements and making for the manufacture of bricks in the neighborhood and about 20 houses will be commenced as soon as the town is laid off.

To merchants and business men of every description, the opportunity offered is a profitable one, and the proprietors will afford every accommodation to those who wish to build in the place. Early applicants will be especially favored.

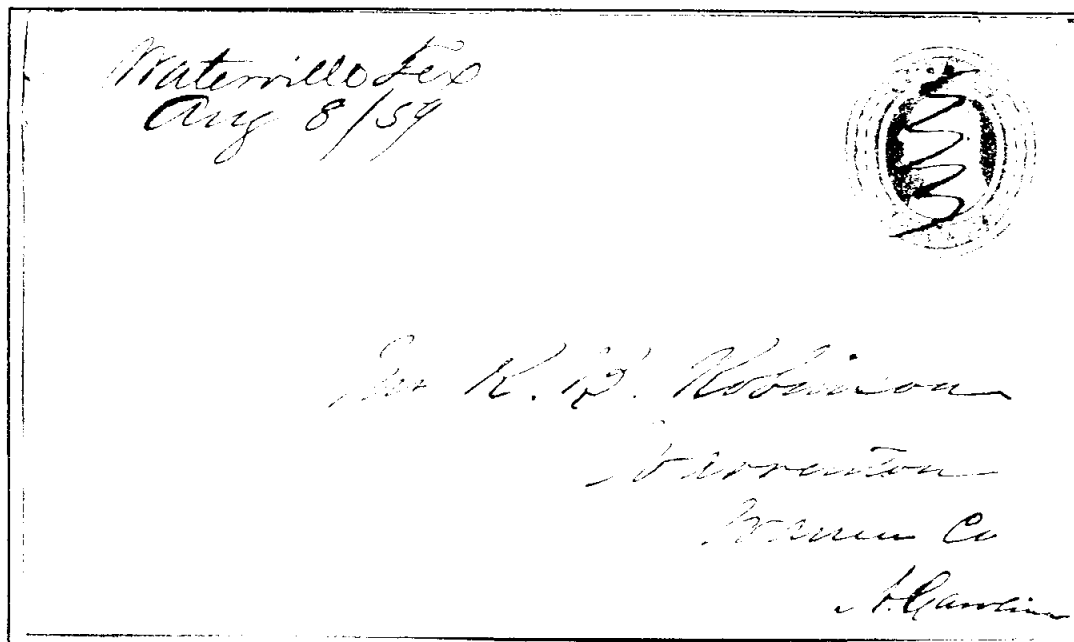
The first public sale of lots will be upon the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April next ensuing when a limited number will be offered.

D. David D. Baker)  
John Huff ) PROP.  
Charles DeMorse )

For any information apply by letter or otherwise, to either of the first two near the premises or the last at Matagorda.  
Matagorda, February 5, 1838

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Records show Baker and DeMorse fought in the Battle of San Jacinto; Huff was a blacksmith from Pennsylvania who received title to a sitio of land on July 10, 1824.



Waterville, Texas  
July 11, 1861

Dear Brother and Sister,

Yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> of May is just at hand this morning which offers me much pleasure to read, and finding you all well. This leaves me well. I have nothing of importance to relate to you at present. We have hard times in this country, though we have plenty to eat. In a short time, we have plenty of corn that is too hard for roasting ears. It is said that we have the best crops that ever was raised in Texas. It is said that corn will make from forty to seventy-five bushels per acre, and we have plenty of beef to eat, but not much hog meat.

I was over to see M. M. Bailey this week. He is well. I was at Lawrence Stockton's, Huggin Long's. I think Adline & Bill Long is as classy folks as I ever saw. Dolf and Dick is ( ) pick. They are all good friends of mine. Mrs. Long has been sick but has got better. I have not been sick since I came here except (for) the headaches.

We have some excitement in this part but not as much as there was a short time back. The people are all drilling. You wrote to me to come home; it may be if they is attacked, and I get out of business that I will come home this year, but if I can make money then I will stay longer. What means that belongs to me is in the hands of other men and if I could get what is coming to me, I would leave for N.C. (North Carolina) but there is no money in this country though it is on good men of the war. Since I think I can make some money that ( ) but if the blockade continues, I will go home. M.M. Bailey says he don't know when he will go home; he can't get home on the account of the blockade. You said that you had written me two letters since you had received an answer. I answered them both by the Steamer; had stopped from Galveston to New Orleans and the letters were detained. What for crops is they in North Carolina. I have been anxious to learn as we have such good crops in this country. I think that I will go over to see Aunt Mary Johnson in July if nothing happens and will also go and see Bas (sp?) Tomlinson some time. I think that I will go home then. To look at it on the other hand, I don't know what to do. I don't know what kind of business that I could get in that I could make money and if I stay here, I can make some money this year if the blockade ceases so that cotton can pay.

You wrote that Joney Harbin has got home; has he settled ( ) self. I ( ) yet it depends all to gether on the times whether I come home this year as not nothing more at present. Is the Campbell land to be sold - where will Betty and Salla go - my love to them ---- also to Mr. Pickert family, my Moth & Dad & RMG & family ( ) G. C. Watts. Why is it that they have quit writing to me. My love to Uncle J.F. H. Family Jones, all inquiring friends. If I go to the war, I think that I will come there and go. Nothing more at present.

Your Obediance,

J.F. Harbin

My love to Mat

How does that fine girl get on? Have you named it yet?

Write soon to

WATERVILLE  
Wharton County  
TEXAS

J. F. HARBIN

Excuse bad writing & spelling. \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ tell \_\_\_\_\_.

JIM



Westerly Texas  
Dear Brother  
Sister your

of the 10<sup>th</sup> of May is just at hand  
this morning which offers me much  
pleasure to read and finding you all well  
this leaves me well I have nothing  
of importance to relate to you at present  
we have hard times in this country  
tho we will have plenty to eat in  
a short time we have plenty of  
corn that is ~~the~~ hard for ~~robins~~  
it is said that we have the best  
crop that ever was raised in Texas  
it is said that corn will make from  
forty to seventy five bushels per  
acher and we have plenty of beef  
to eat but not much hog meat  
I was over to see M. Bailey this  
week he is well I was at Lawrence  
Stockton's Groggin Longs I think Aline  
Bill Long is as clever folks as I ever  
saw Dolf and Dick is ~~at~~ Dick  
they are all good friends of Ann  
Mrs Long has been sick but has  
got better I have not been sick since  
I came here except the head ache

WHARTON CO

1. Preston
2. Waterville
- Water Hole Creek

