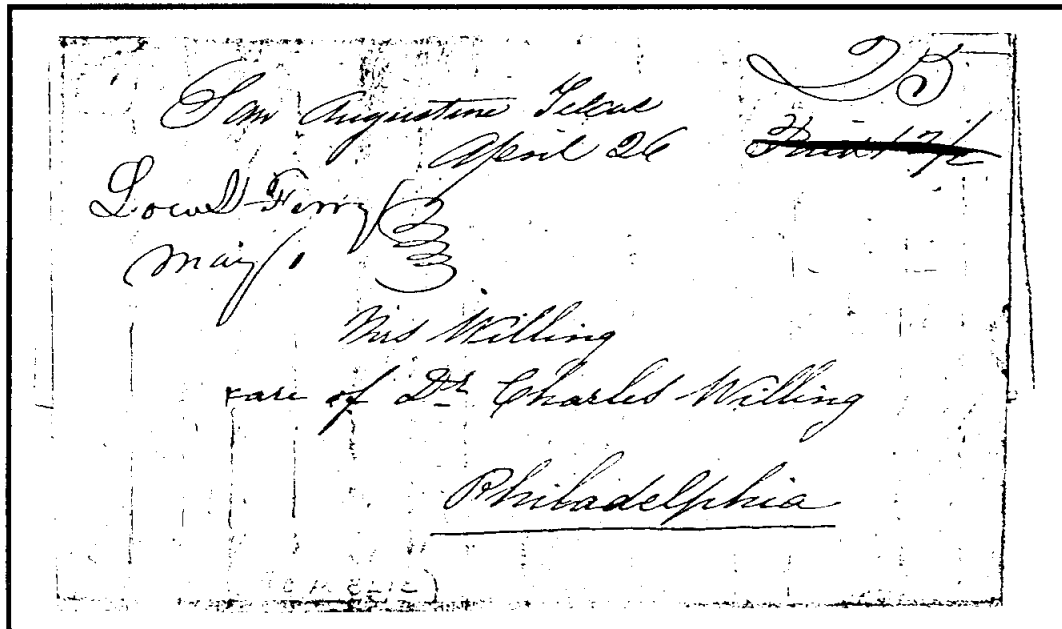
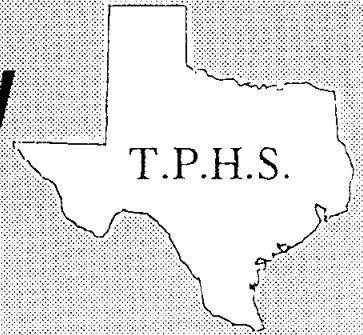


The
Texas Postal History Society
Journal



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Please send a good clear xerox copy of any cover you own with Brazos Santiago, Point Isabel or Isabel cancellations. Note any colors other than black. My address is on the opposite page. Thanks, R. H. "Jim" Stever

On the Cover

A large percentage of mail from the Republic of Texas to the United States or other foreign destinations passed through Galveston to New Orleans and beyond. Some mail exited Texas at other ports such as Velasco or Quintana and other mail travelled east by ferry across the Sabine directly into upstate Louisiana. The illustrated letter is one of the scarce latter type, a folded cover posted at San Augustine on April 26, 1840 (year date noted inside) addressed to Philadelphia. The Texas inland rate of 12-1/2 cents was paid for a distance less than 40 miles since it was going due east across the Sabine. It entered the U.S. mail at Lowe's Ferry in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana where the Texas rate was crossed out and the U.S. rate of 25 cents was added. The author of this letter was the indomitable Mrs. J. Pinckney Henderson whose husband was later to be the first governor of the State of Texas.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

From the President . . .

It doesn't seem possible but the calendar says we're a month into 1999 already. And by the time you get this issue of the *Journal*, Spring will be on its way and planning for TEXPEX '99 will be getting into high gear.

President

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

affiliated with:



A number of you have suggested that we have a T.P.H.S. get-together at TEXPEX, so I'm scheduling our next meeting at the State show in Dallas on Saturday, April 10th. I've requested space for us from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on that date. Besides a brief business meeting, the program will consist of a "Clothes-Line Exhibit". Everyone attending will have a chance to "show and tell" about some of their latest Texas Postal History acquisitions and perhaps swap or sell some covers. I hope many of you will be able to attend our meeting so we can have a full clothes-line!

And speaking of TEXPEX '99, I'd like to again remind you that it is time to prepare your Wm. B. EMERY Award exhibit for this upcoming show. There are three EMERY competition categories: Pre-1900, 1900 - 1940 and Post-1940. Your collecting interests will undoubtedly fit into at least one of them. So prepare your exhibit and compete.

Another reminder. Our Editor always needs articles, notices, and news items for inclusion in the *Journal*. Jim continually has a need for them, so write what you have to report or want to feature and send them on to him. He'll really appreciate your efforts and so will our membership.

Many of you belong to the Texas Philatelic Association and regularly receive the TEXAS PHILATELIST. And many of you do not, so I'm including the following information from the PHILATELIST. In the November-December issue, there was a book review of Muleshoe and More, the Remarkable Stories Behind the Naming of Texas Towns. The book was researched and written by Bill and Clare Bradfield. From the review, it sounds like it could be helpful as a reference work as it covers all Texas towns and details their early history. If you'd like to obtain a copy of Muleshoe and More, contact the Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas (800) 392-4390, extension 300, or use your computer:

www.gulfpub.com/books.html.

That's it for this time.
Good Collectin',

EARLY JOHNSON COUNTY

by Nonie Green

Johnson County was created out of Navarro and McLennan Counties on February 18, 1854 by the Fifth Legislature of Texas. It was organized that same year. The county was named for Col. Middleton Tate Johnson, soldier, politician and Texas Ranger. An election was held on January 18, 1855 to select a location for the county seat but failed to have a majority for any of the four sites proposed. On August 16, 1855 a second election was held with two other locations to consider. William O'Neal's donation of land was selected.

The legislature had already chosen the name Wardville to honor Thomas William Ward, a hero of the Texas Revolution. This became the third town in Johnson County. It was not a good location for three reasons, (1) it was outside the limit of six miles from the center of the county, (2) the only water supply came from the Nolan River or from shallow wells, and (3) periodic flooding inundated the site. On September 8, 1856 another election took place to relocate the county seat. Voters were given a choice of Wardville, Bailey's and Manley's. None received a majority. A second election on October 4, 1856 gave the winning vote to Bailey's. It was re-named Buchanan in honor of President James Buchanan. The location of Wardville now lies under the waters of Lake Pat Cleburne. (Refer to map, Figure 5.)

Buchanan, located four miles northwest of present-day Cleburne, lasted as a county seat from 1856 until March 23, 1867 when an election relocated it to Camp Henderson which was re-named Cleburne in honor of Patrick Cleburne, a Confederate general. The town of Buchanan was abandoned in 1892 and its cemetery is all that remains of the community.

References:

New Handbook of Texas, Texas State Historical Association, Austin 1996.

Block, Viola, History of Johnson County and Surrounding Areas, Waco, Texian Press 1970

Germann, John J. and Myron Janzen, Texas Post Offices by County, an on-going study.

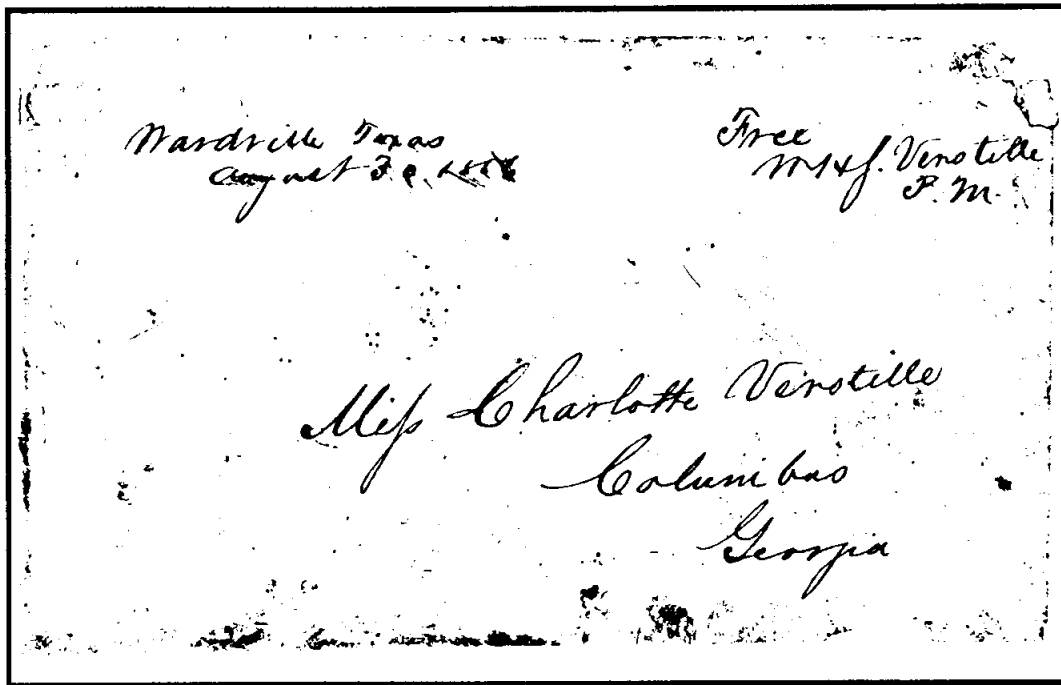


Figure 1. Wardville, Texas manuscript postmark of August 30, 1856. Free frank of postmaster W.H.S. Verstelle.

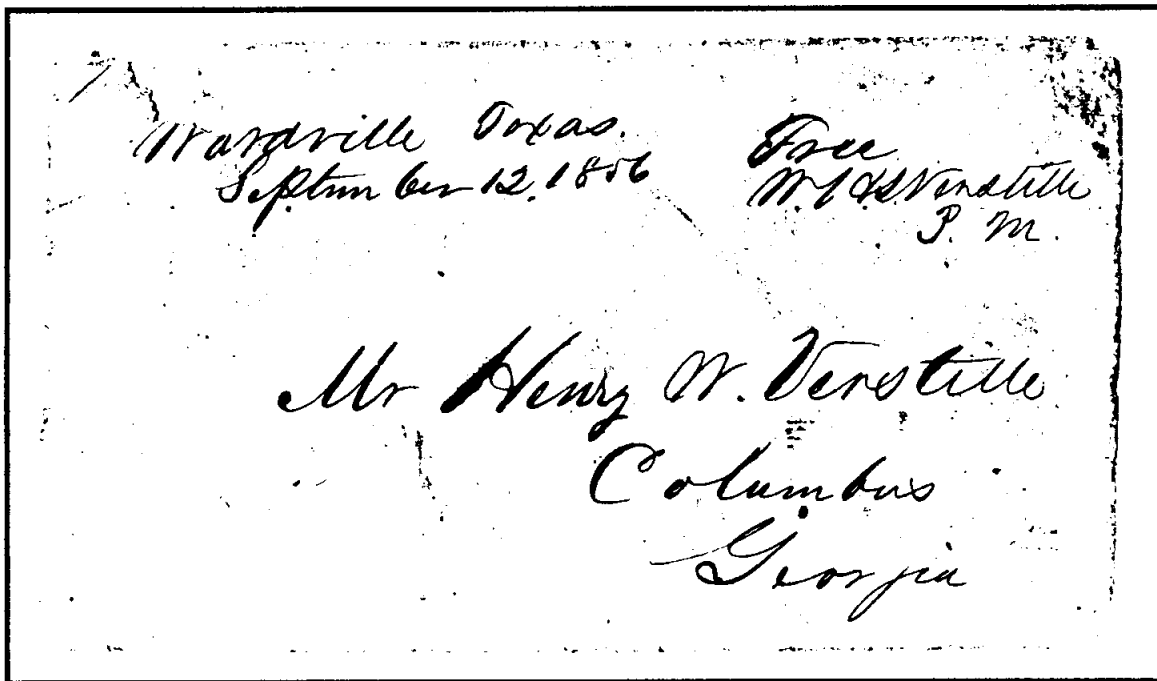


Figure 2. A similar cover postmarked September 12, 1856. Wardville existed as a post office for a little over two years, July 9, 1855 to November 27, 1857. Its first postmaster was Thomas J. Blythe.

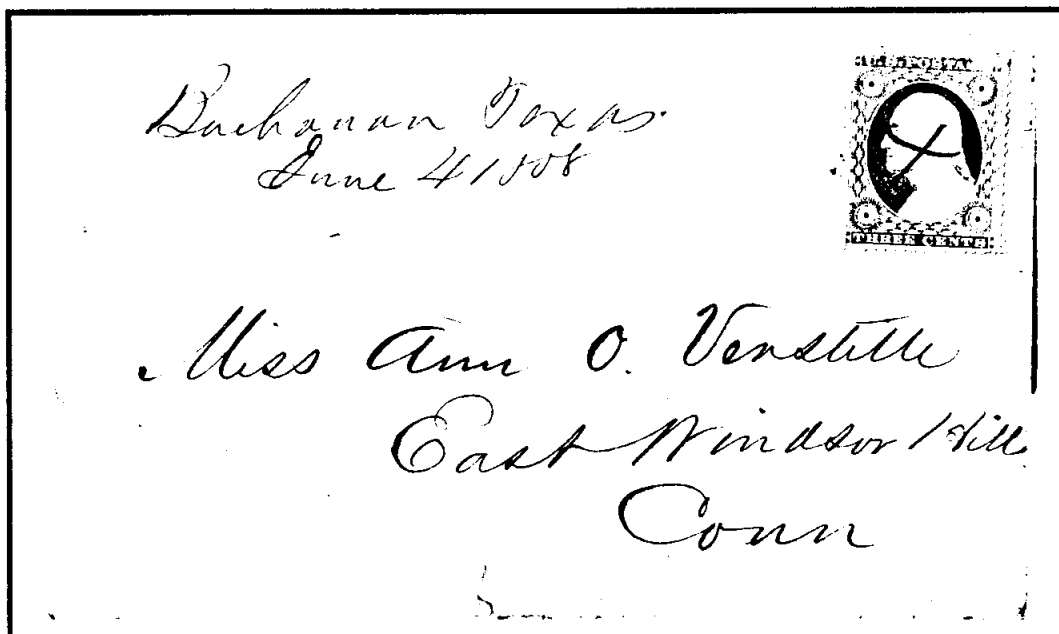


Figure 3. Manuscript postmark of Buchanan, Texas, June 4, 1858. William H. S. Verstelle became the first postmaster of Buchanan.

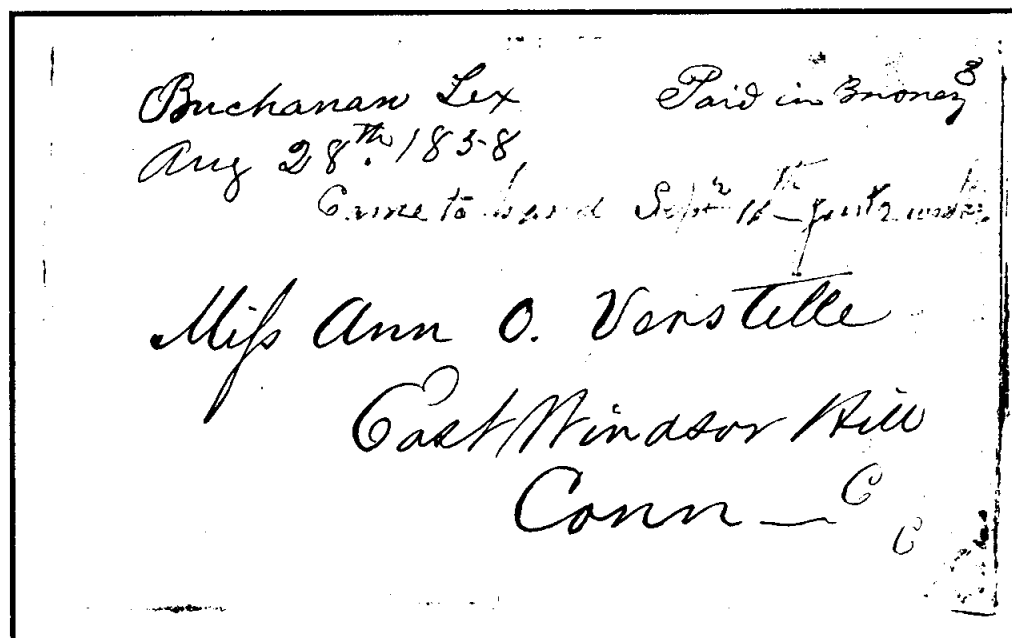
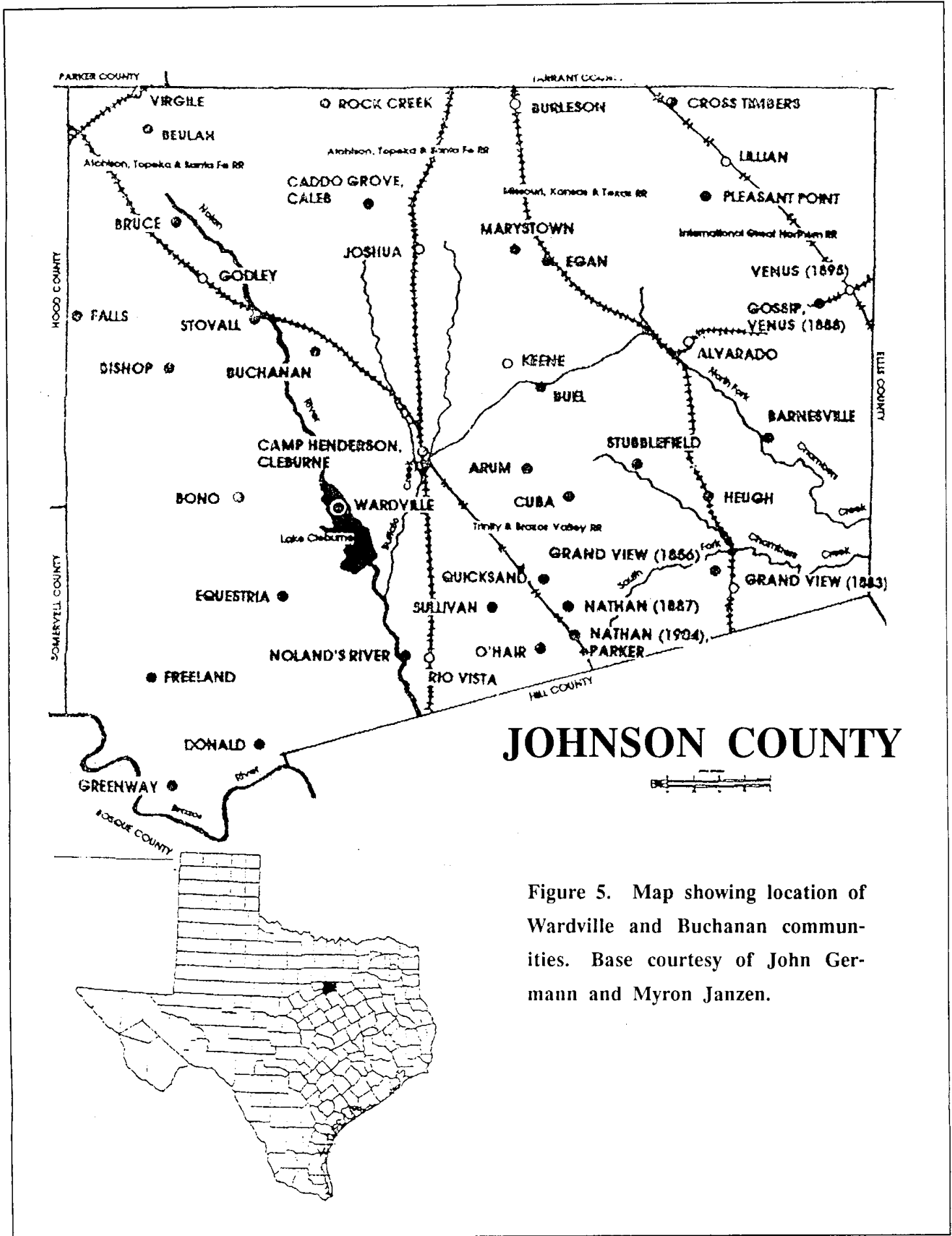


Figure 4. Manuscript postmark of Buchanan, Texas, August 28th 1858 with notation "Paid in Money 3". Obviously no stamps were available at the post office at that time.



JOHNSON COUNTY

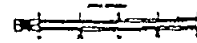


Figure 5. Map showing location of Wardville and Buchanan communities. Base courtesy of John Germann and Myron Janzen.

TPHS - MARKET PLACE

The prices realized for Sale 16 are attached. Eighty two lots were offered and twenty-nine lots were sold. We received bids from eleven of the members. The desirable material sold with reasonable bids, and some of the material received no bids, or we received bids that were less than could be considered. As we have previously stated, we let buyers make good buys, but we do not give away our consignors' material. We are constructing Sale 17 now, and have on hand considerable material. However, we could receive a few more solid lots.

I would note that the sales offered are a real source of Texas postal history. Our sales are a great source of material for city, county, and regional studies. The reasonable price you offer is the price you compete with.

Our organization and sales are a source for the better material, the in-between covers, and the lesser but interesting material. Check out our next sale - the one you need may be there.

Regards, Ed.

TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY PRICES REALIZED, SALE 16

LOT #	PRICE	LOT #	PRICE	LOT #	PRICE	LOT #	PRICE
1	6.00	16	150.00	47	70.00	61	8.00
7	150.00	17	14.00	48	33.00	64	10.00
9	9.00	25	40.00	50	4.00	71	120.00
11	5.00	28	22.00	51	8.00	72	6.00
12	4.75	30	15.00	54	18.00	74	8.00
14	10.00	31	6.00	55	25.00	77	8.00
15	10.00	33	70.00	60	85.00	78	10.00
						80	80.00

TEXAS POST OFFICES BY COUNTY -- AN UPDATE

It looks like Myron and I are going to outlive what my wife, Caro Ann, called a "lifetime plus" project. The idea and the research for identifying, locating, and gathering information on every independent civilian post office that ever opened its doors in Texas started back in 1983. Since that time the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Texas State Archives, the (Barker) Center for American History, and the Houston Public and Genealogical Libraries have seen a lot of me. The General Land Office, historical societies, and local records divisions of county libraries have heard a lot from me. Myron has stayed loyally with me; so too have many subscribers. The first set of six counties was published in the summer of 1986, and packets have appeared semi-annually ever since. And now the end is in sight, or at least the "first end" is. As of December, 1998 there are but 33 of the existing 254 counties to go; we will also add a 255th - Greer County, lost to Oklahoma in 1896 via a United States Supreme Court ruling. The last of the counties should be mailed out in the Spring of 2000 (has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?) There will be a sigh of relief. But the sigh will be only momentary, for there is a cd-rom, or whatever the appropriate technology is, at the time. That will require quite a bit of re-formatting and standardizing. I am also toying with the idea of adding lists of Texas RPOs, HPOs, Stations and Branches, and military officer -- if there are lists available by then and if I can get the permission of the compilers to use them; that, too, will take a good while. Then the real sigh will come. But it will be a good sigh. Back in 1983 Caro Ann asked me, in a most supportive fashion, why I might want to start something which I might never finish. My reply was that it was something very worthwhile to me and maybe to others, and that if no one ever starts a project, there is never a chance for anyone to finish. With just a little more time it looks like Myron and I will do both.

John Germann

TEXAS POST OFFICE MAIL by R. H. Stever

Official envelopes illustrated herein are of post-Civil War 19th Century vintage. This is by no means a complete representation but rather is a sample of typical Post Office Department letters sent out by Texas postmasters.

Entires were printed in two colors, lemon and white. Other government department envelopes were printed in the same colors plus amber and blue. Between January 1873 and July 1884 these envelopes bore a black postage indicia. Afterwards there was no denomination indicated.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 bear the printed 3-cent black "official stamp" of the earlier period. Each has a printed official notation at lower left but does not have the familiar \$300 penalty notice for any use other than government business. The well-known postal historian Richard Graham says the bold red "Short Paid Stamp" on Figure 2 is a puzzler. He is of the opinion this marking was applied at St. Louis and that the official letter was a notification to the St. Louis postmaster that a letter had been received at Marshall which was short paid -- less than one rate -- such as a previously used stamp or an attempt to use an internal revenue stamp or some such matter. Figure 4 is apparently from the same time period but with a 3-cent official adhesive instead of a printed stamp.

Notice that figures 5, 6 and 7 have a printed office of origin in plain serifed print between "Post Office Department" in Old English and a bold block-lettered "Official Business." The Lewisville cover (Figure 7) is different in that the origin and penalty notation are at upper right instead of lower left.

These envelopes were used for miscellaneous post office correspondence deemed necessary by a local postmaster, for money order business and for registry business. Some had the business use printed on the front (Figures 1, 3 and 7). Registry service began in 1855. The initial fee was five cents and applied only to first-class mail but no indemnification for loss. Later this service was extended to all classes of mail and limited indemnification added. Postmasters were supposed to confirm receipt of registered letters by use of official business stationery as illustrated here. In the case of money order business, postal regulations required the issuing postmaster to transmit particulars of the order to the postmaster at the office of payment. This service was commenced during the Civil War for the convenience of military personnel.

Figure 8 is a gray return postcard styled "Registry Bill" for use by postmasters acknowledging receipt of registered mail. Apparently registered mail wasn't always acknowledged. Figure 9 is a POD form letter requesting evidence of receipt of a registered letter. The octagonal Corpus Christi cancel was never used on ordinary outgoing mail, only on official business. It's possible the Lewisville postmaster used his octagonal device in similar manner.

Finally, Figure 10 is another item of Corpus Chrsiti post office correspondence. It is a narrow ruled memo-pad type form for short informal notes. Availability of this item may be the reason the Corpus Christi envelopes are the larger POD size 6 instead of the narrower size 3 shown in the other figures.

As stated in the first paragraph, this is just a sample of what could result from a concentrated collection and study of post office department official mail. There is a good possibility that many collectors of a county or several counties have not bothered to acquire official covers from their area. This is a mistake as these covers can prove interesting and informative, especially if an enclosure is present. Also, a fascinating one or two frame exhibit of Texas usages could certainly be developed and would probably do well in our Emery award competition.

References:

- Beecher, Henry W. and Anthony S. Wawruliewicz, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993, Traditions Press, Shawnee-Mission, Kansas, 1994.
Graham, Richard B., personal communication
Scott Catalog, Official envelope section
United States official Postal Guide, April 1878
U.S. Postal Service Historian, Washington, D.C.

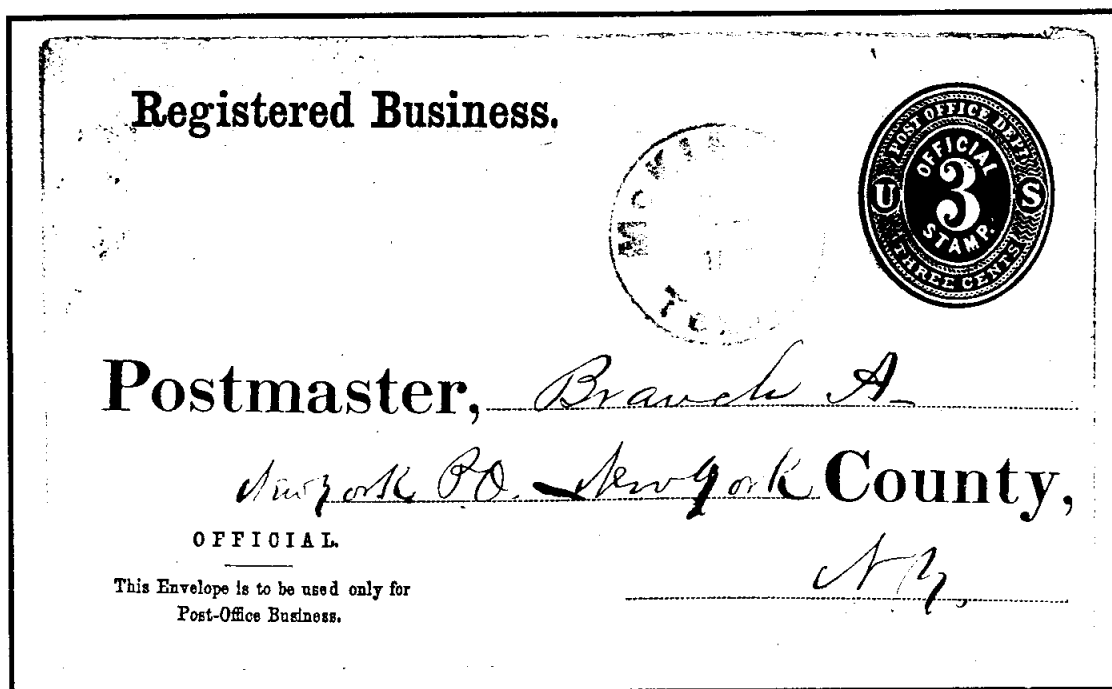


Figure 1. Pale red McKinney, Texas postmark dated June 17, 1878. Addressed to Branch A (Station A) of the New York post office which was located at 595 Broadway. Printed "Registered Business" at upper left indicated the McKinney postmaster was confirming or inquiring of or notifying the New York postmaster about previously sent registered mail. Lemon yellow envelope.

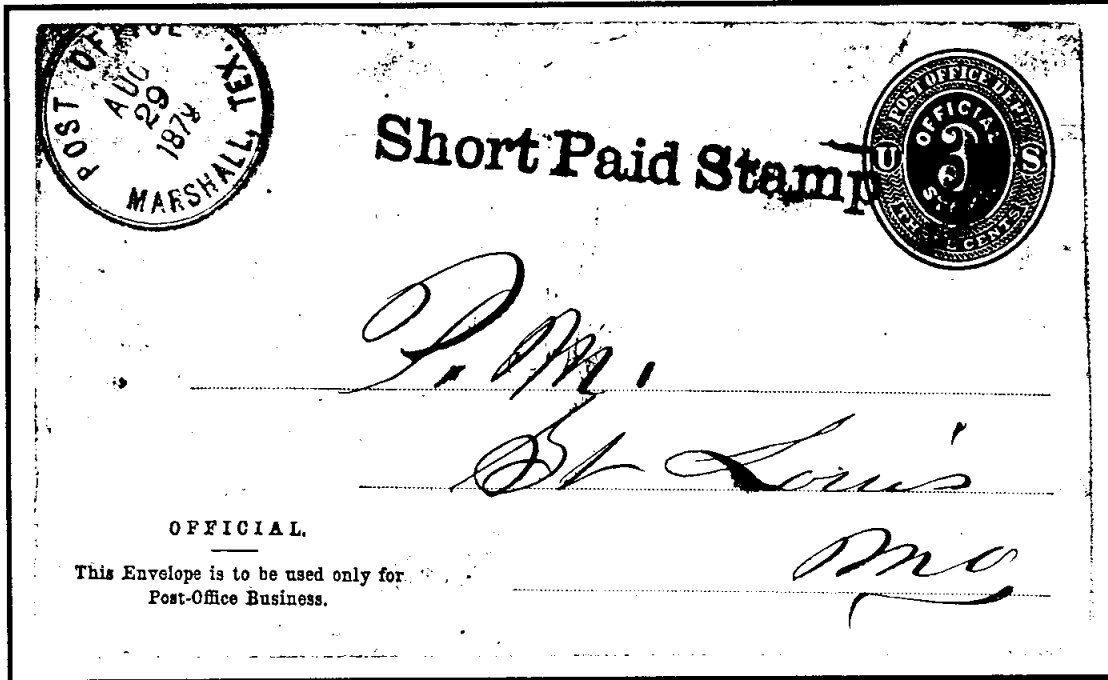


Figure 2. Red or magenta double circle CDS reading "Post Office Marshall, Tex." with date Aug. 29, 1879. Addressee is postmaster at St. Louis, Mo. The heavy bold red straightline "Short Paid Stamp" across the top of this lemon yellow official envelope was probably applied at St. Louis.

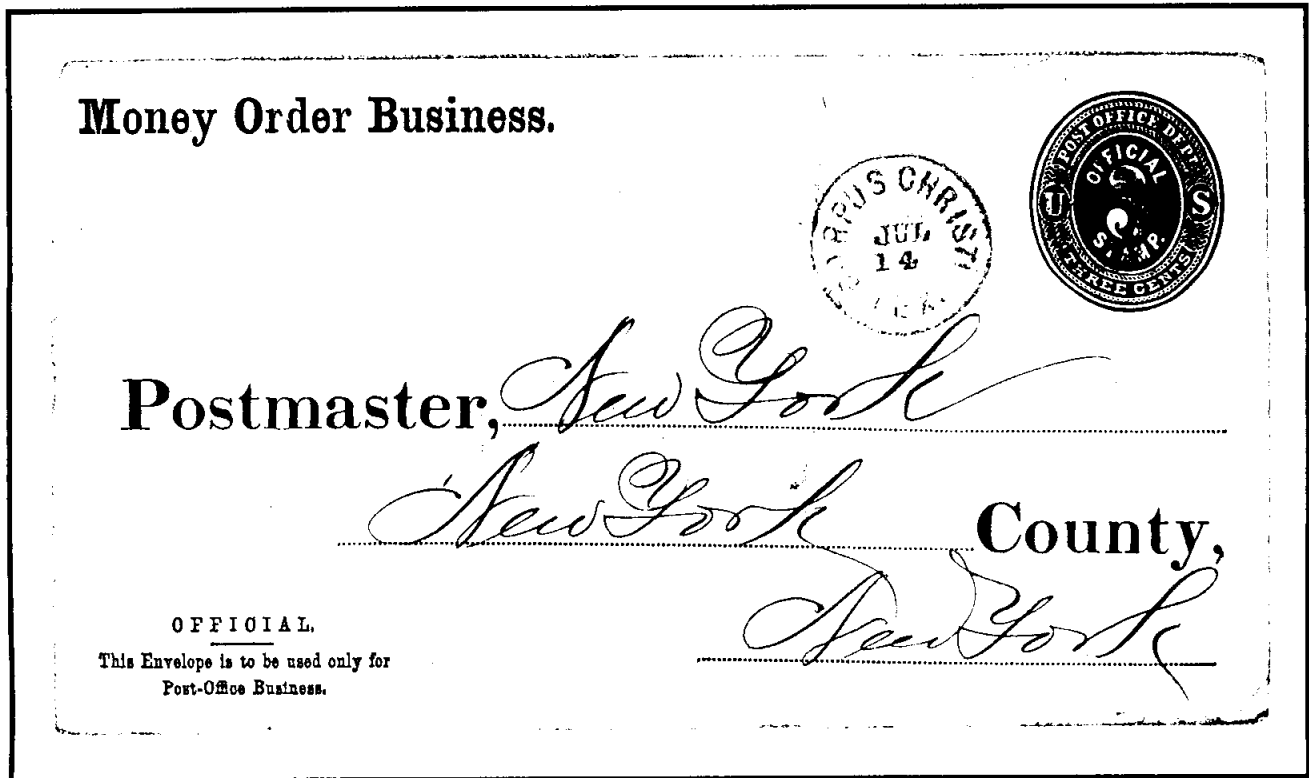


Figure 3. White "Money Order Business" envelope posted at Corpus Christi on July 14th. New York backstamp indicates year was 1879. M.O.B. service at Corpus Christi established Sept. 9, 1867.

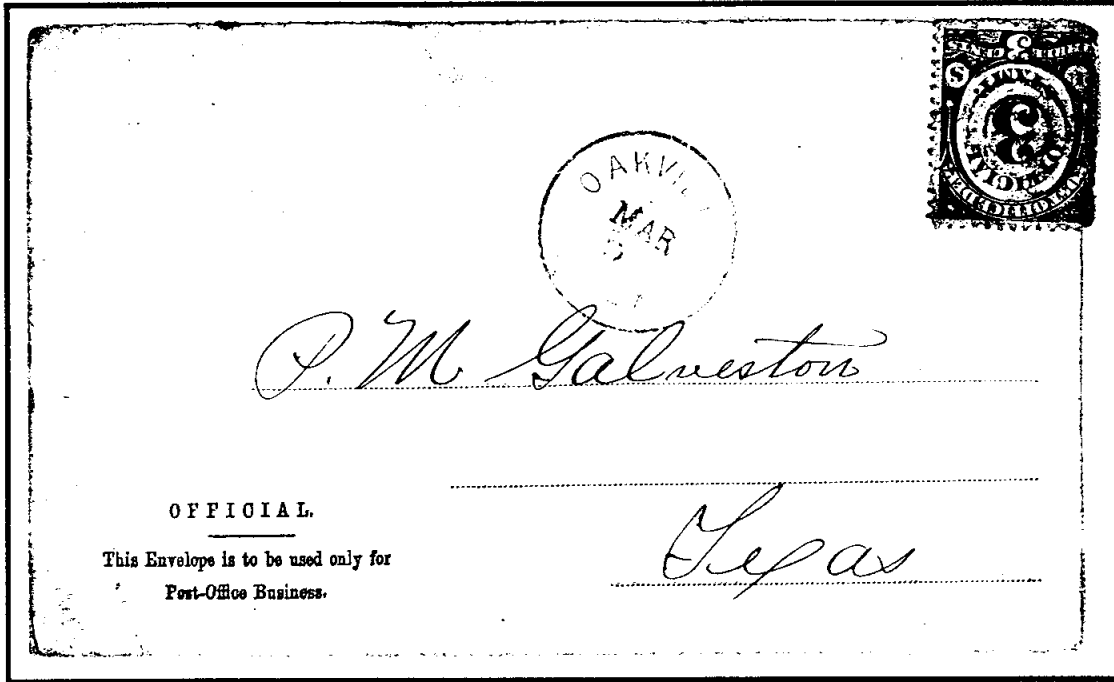


Figure 4. Post office business letter to the postmaster at Galveston from the postmaster at Oakville, Tex. (Live Oak County). The village postmaster apparently had no stamped envelopes and had to use an official POD adhesive. Early pre-penalty notation envelope in lemon color.

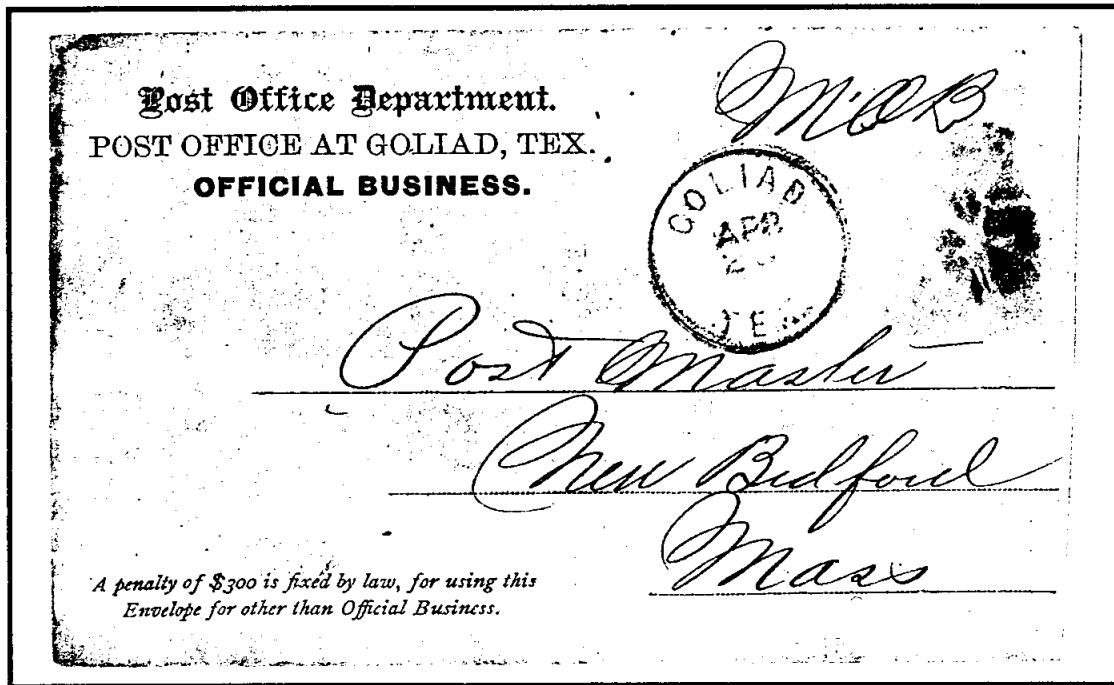


Figure 5. Manuscript "MOB" (money order business) on lemon yellow post office department penalty envelope posted at Goliad on April 23rd, year unknown, to postmaster at New Bedford, Mass.

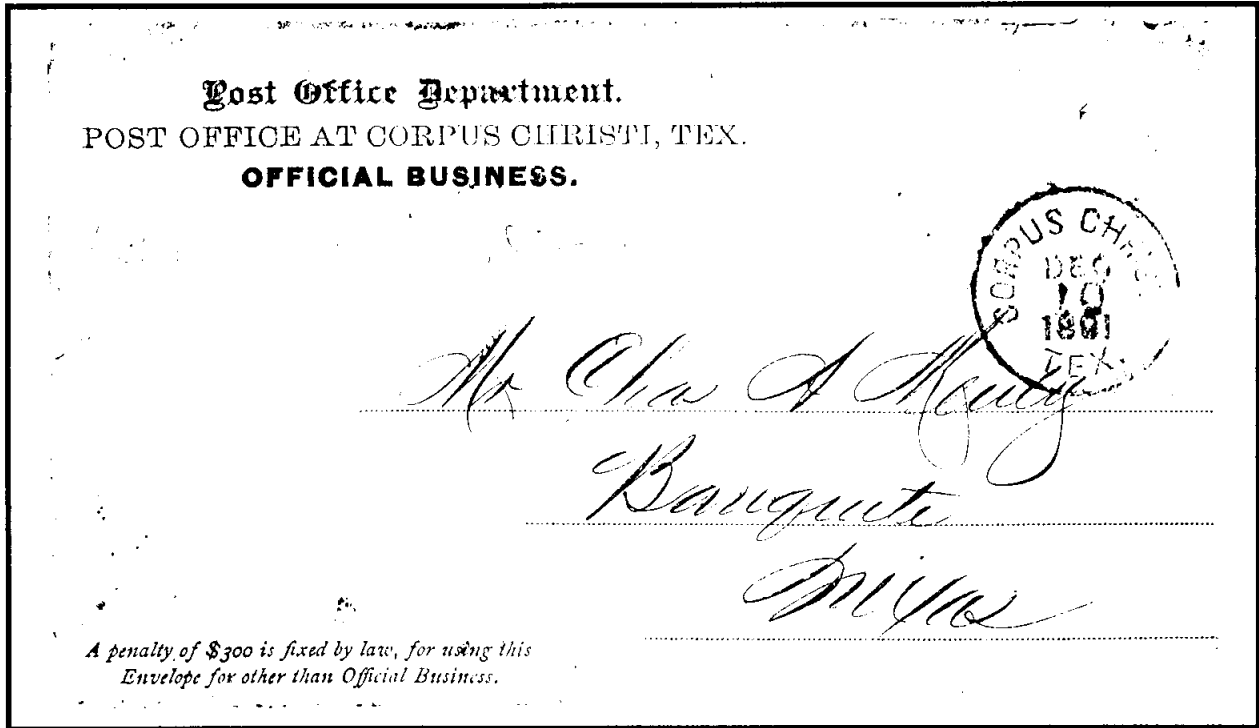


Figure 6. White post office department penalty envelope posted at Corpus Christi on Dec. 10, 1891. Pencilled notation below "Official Business" reads "John M. Swisher, Jr. - P. master" Letter to a private individual at Banquete, Texas.

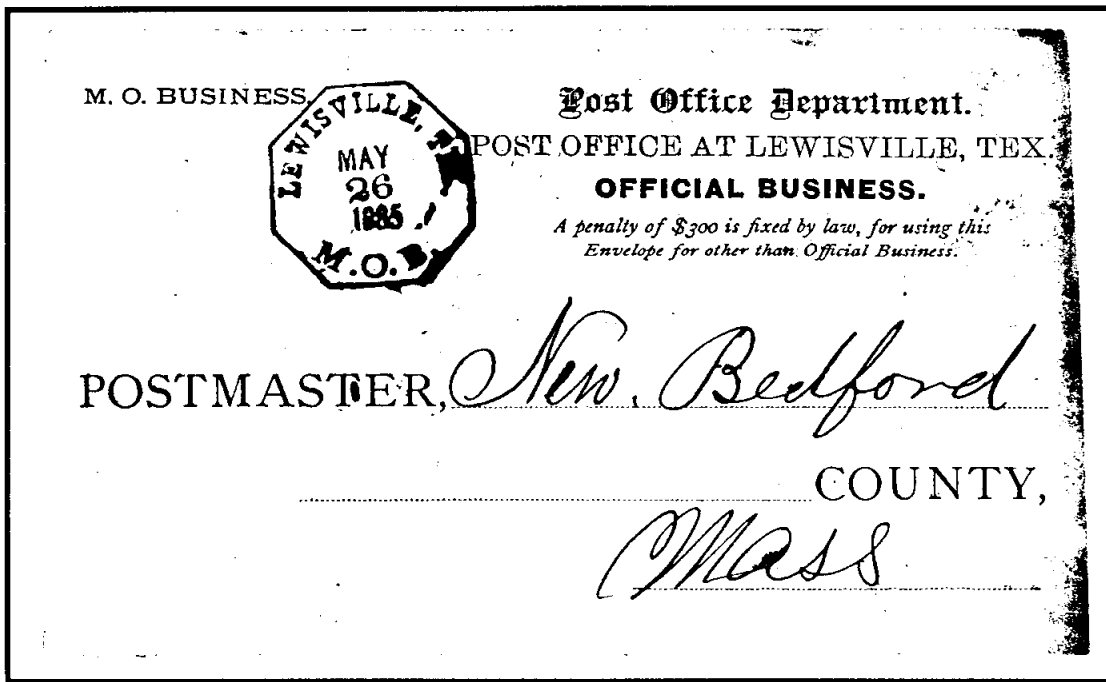


Figure 7. Lemon money order business envelope with black or navy blue Lewisville (Denton County) octagonal postmark dated May 26, 1885 to postmaster at New Bedford, Mass.

The Postmaster making up Registered Letters, &c., for dispatch, will fill up the other side of this Bill, and write the name of his Post Office, County, and State in the blank address on this side.
 The Postmaster receiving this Bill in Registered Package will at once compare entries with letters, &c., inclosed; make entries on record of registered matter received; stamp postmark below; sign this Bill on other side, noting any errors, and return it to the mailing Post Office without cover.
 A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card on other than official business.

Post Office Department.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Post Office at **LIBERTY HILL** TEXAS. **MAR 29 1887**

RETURN TO:

Postmaster at *Sheep Ranch*
 County of *Calaveras*
 State of *California*

FRONT

REGISTRY BILL.

March 19th, 1887.

REGISTERED LETTERS, etc., from *Sheep Ranch Cal*

To P. O. at *Liberty Hill Tex.*, in Reg. Pk'ge No. *28*

All Registered Letters or Parcels sent in this Package with this Bill must be described below.

REG. NO.	CLASS.	ADDRESSED TO—
<i>28</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Mrs. Mary Denrody Liberty Hill Texas</i>

SENT BY *A. A. ...* P. M. RECEIVED BY *J. G. Ward* P. M.

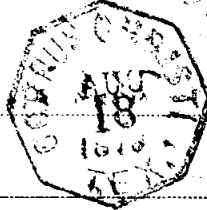
BACK

Figure 8. Gray "Registry Bill" postcard returned by postmaster J. G. Ward of Liberty Hill, Texas to the postmaster at Sheep Ranch, Calaveras County, California on March 29, 1887 confirming receipt of registered item No. 28. Handsome black Liberty Hill oval postmark with portion of fancy duplexed killer at right.

(9.)

Please return this with your answer

Post Office;



To the P. M. at Hallettsville Tex

Sir:

You have not acknowledged the receipt of
Registered Letter No. 12 ——— addressed to
Mrs Lizzie Buckhardt ———

— R. R. 500 —, mailed to your Office
on the 6th day of July

Please inform me if the letter referred to has
been received at your Office.

Yours respectfully,

James W. Ward
Postmaster.
Vaughn ask

Figure 9. Printed form letter from the postmaster at Corpus Christi to his counterpart at Hallettsville requesting acknowledgement of receipt of a registered letter. Blanks were apparently filled in by assistant postmaster Vaughn who signed for postmaster James W. Ward.

JOHN M. SWISHER, JR.,
POSTMASTER.

Post Office,

Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dec 10th 88

Respectfully returned to
Mr Chas A. Mealy
Banquete Mex. with
the information that
there is no Post Office
in Texas by the name
of Hot Springs.

I am very truly yours
John M. Swisher Jr.

Figure 10. Informal POD note enclosed in the envelope shown in Figure 6.

BE AN ACTIVE TPHS MEMBER

- Pay your dues
- Recruit new members
- Write articles
- Attend meetings
- Exhibit Texas PH
- Participate in auctions

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY / TREASURER

MEMBERSHIP

Since the last membership report in the Third Quarter of last year, we have added 6 new members and one has resigned. Here are their names and home cities:

New Members: (6)

Carol Arndt, Odessa, TX
 Larry F. Ballantyne, Katy, TX
 Thomas N. Crocker, Creston IA

Paul L. Martin, Montgomery, TX
 Rosenberg Library, Galveston, TX
 David J. Simmons, Galveston, TX

Resigned: (1)

Phil Bansner, West Lawn, PA

DUES


Our membership roll is now at 98 members. As of January 1, 81 have paid their dues for 1999. The 17 that have not paid have a "Dues Reminder" on their mailing labels. If your mailing label is marked, send in your \$10.00 dues as soon as possible to keep receiving the TPHS Journal.

FINANCIAL DATA

Activity for 1998 compared to 1997 results is shown below:

	1997	1998
<i>Income:</i> Dues	\$1,020.00	\$1,220.00
Old Journals and Index	3.50	82.50
Journal Advertisements	.00	30.00
Interest Income	39.94	15.99
Other	.00	.10
 Total Income	 \$1,063.44	 \$1,367.45
 <i>Expenses:</i> Journal Preparation	 \$ 915.57	 \$1,093.77
Emery Award	0.00	214.58
TPA Dues	10.00	10.00
Member Retention	10.03	21.11
Advertising Expense	0.00	4.16
Postage	7.52	21.32
 Total Expenses	 \$ 943.12	 \$1,364.94
 Net Income / Expense	 \$ 120.32	 \$ 2.51
 Balance of Funds	 \$2,534.37	 \$2,536.88

Submitted by:


 Lyle Boardman, Secretary/Treasurer
 3916 Wyldwood Road
 Austin, Texas 78739-3005

1/12/99
Date

WHEN IS A COVER "PHILATELIC"

by R. M. Arndt

How does one decide if a cover is "Philatelic"? There are articles periodically appearing in the philatelic press with differing points of view on this subject. Most agree that first day covers, event covers, pictorial cancel covers and hand-back items that do not go through the mail qualify as "Philatelic". There are others, though, who will accept any cover that has passed through the mail system, considering all such as "commercial".

More exacting cover collectors will classify as "Philatelic" those covers which are to or from known collectors or dealers. The problem comes with the definition of "known". For those seeking answers to this question, the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) will check, for a modest fee, their roster of members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and its forerunners, the roster of the now defunct Society of Philatelic Americans (SPA), and miscellaneous dealers lists, not every roster is on file but they probably have the largest number of any such organizations. Also, archives of some of the state societies can be of help. Here in Texas we are fortunate to have a very helpful archivist in Jane King Fohn of the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA) and some of its forerunners. TPA is now in its second century. Again, not every year is available.

Where is all of this going? To learn more, if possible, about the illustrated cover (Figure 1). It was canceled at Bandera, Texas in 1912 and was franked with a 2-cent perforated Shermack (Type III) vending machine coil. Since the watermark determination has not been made, it could be either Scott #344 or #384. Because the top edge appears somewhat ragged, this is probably Scott #344 which was made from imperforate sheets. The first government imper coils (Scott #384) were issued January 3, 1911 in rolls of 500 and 1000 with single line watermark and with clean straight edges, top and bottom.

The question of philatelic use of this cover is raised first by its use in a small South Texas town. Use of a Shermack coil quite distant from the Mail-O-Meter offices in Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis and New York City is difficult to explain. Did the attorney (the sender) visit one of those cities with stamp vending machines and return home with stamps which were later used on regular mail? A possibility. Furthermore, there are two punctures approximately 6-1/2 mm apart on the face of the stamp which do not penetrate the cover. They may have been from a staple attaching the stamp or a strip of stamps to a letter, perhaps for return postage for a business inquiry. More plausibly, they may have been attached by the Mail-O-Meter Company in response to a philatelic request.

The number of privately perforated coil stamps, particularly multiples, is no doubt very small. They are probably found today used mostly as singles on or off cover, had not the private companies sold to collectors at a premium.

APRL has no record of the sender or receiver of the illustrated cover being members of APS or SPA. The TPA records also yielded negative results. The Texas Handbook shed no light on either party and the I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) confirmed the Del Rio Lodge had closed and no records that would help are available.

So we are now back at Square One. Is this a "Philatelic" cover? Are there other Shermack Type III covers from Texas? If anyone has seen one, contact the author - whether it is "Philatelic" or not.

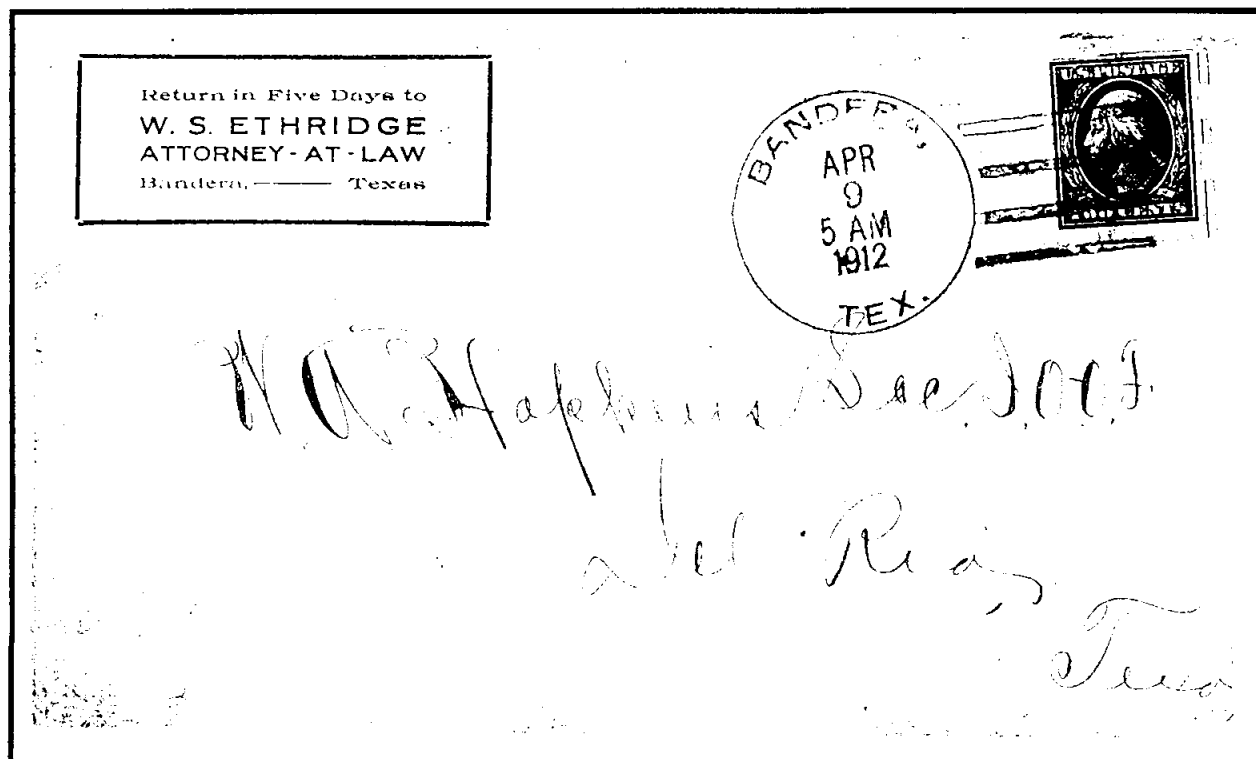


Figure 1. Uncommon Texas use of a Shermack Type III coil stamp on a letter from Bandera to Del Rio. Is this a contrived "philatelic" item or an unusual and possibly unique commercial use?

THE FORTHCOMING MAY 1999 ISSUE WILL HAVE TPHA AUCTION NO. 17.

TEXAS

POSTAL

HISTORY

- STAMPLESS
- CONFEDERATE
- D.P.O.
- ADVERTISING
- 1936 CENTENNIAL - AND RELATED
- ETC.

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