

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

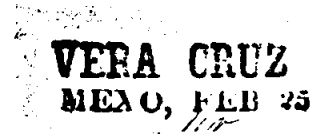
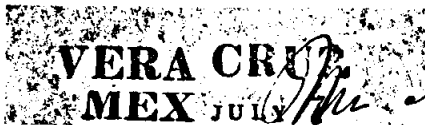


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We illustrate on this issue's cover page examples of three different cancellations used at Vera Cruz during the Mexican War period. These are from the collection of Ed Glass.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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SEPTEMBER: This was a welcome month in the Deaton household. We were tired of hot weather and were ready for Fall and football season. Already, we've had a couple of nice cool spells in Austin. This September issue contains another chapter on Austin by Ed Glass, an interesting story about an illustrious Texan and ancestor of Brian Green's, and a reprint of a valuable 1969 Linn's article on Brazos Santiago, Texas by Dr. James W. Milgram. Hope you enjoy them.

TEXPEX: Several TPHS members made the trek to San Angelo in August for the TPA annual convention. The first annual TPHS award for the best exhibit of Texas postal history went to your editor, for his display of Texas statehood stampless covers. He also gathered the Novice award (for first time exhibitors), the most popular exhibit award from the Texas Stamp Dealers Association, and a silver medal. We hope to continue this tradition by offering another award at next year's TPA convention in Houston, so you'd better start thinking about what you wish to show.

1936 TEXAS CENTENNIAL: Good news for those of you who are interested in these covers. You'll recall the listing we published last year of the "official" rubberstamped cachets applied by various postoffices for this event. Well, TPHS member Jerry Smolin (98-41 65th Ave., Rego Park NY 11374) has volunteered to work up a "catalog of sorts" of the unofficial cachets issued by various organizations and printing firms for this centennial. He would like to hear from any of you who may have examples of these covers, and says he'll be glad to reimburse your postage and xerox costs if you'll furnish him copies of items in your collection. Jerry, of course, is handicapped a bit in that he's so far away from the Texas collecting mainstream and thus needs our cooperation. Please let him hear from you if you can help. We hope to give you an update on this in the next issue.

CONSTITUTION: Work will hopefully begin shortly on a constitution for our group. We have gotten along fine without one so far, but we may have reached the stage where one will be a help to us. An update on this, too, in the next issue.

TPHS JOURNAL: You are now reading a prize-winning journal! The 1976 issues of the TPHS Journal were entered in the periodical literature section of the competition at the American Philatelic Society's recent national convention at San Francisco (stAmPShow '77), and won a bronze award.

POSTAL HISTORY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS: 1840 - 1865

By Edward B. T. Glass

Part III: Early Statehood, 1846-1849

The dates chosen for the subject matter of this particular article have no political or historical significance. They would be of interest only to a postal historian, since they are the "declining" years of the original triple circle CDS (circular date stamp), or town mark of Austin.

As I hope to show, there seems to have been at least two hand stamps that went through various stages of improvisation (varieties to me) on the part of the post masters to maintain an operational hand stamp.

A completely new CDS appears in the late months of 1849. It has been observed, with variations, between November, 1849, and December, 1859. The next article in this series will deal with it.

The transition from being an independent Republic to one of the several states making up the United States of America was, from an historical-political viewpoint, almost an anti-climax. The "Westward course of Empire" dream, that would end only at the Pacific Ocean, had been forming under several U.S. presidents. Van Buren had been dissuaded from this by the British Government, which saw a threat to their fur trapping by the Hudson Bay Co., but Tyler and Polk both saw the mutual benefits of annexation. The U.S. government would acquire a tremendous area of real estate, with of course the justification to which we have become accustomed in the 20th century: the need or "moral" (sic) obligation to protect its nationals (Anglos) from the capricious Mexican governments that seemed to change weekly. The Anglo settlers had gone into an area, both by invitation and the receipt of land grants, that neither the Spanish nor Mexican government could colonize, garrison, or administer. The simple problem was the long line of communication between Texas and the Mexican government. The basic problem to be faced by the Anglo settlers for the next 50 years after settlement was that the original settler--the Indian--had been, and would remain indiscriminant in his dislike of all newcomers.

For the Republic of Texas, the prime concern was its financial status. Annexation would bail out a huge public debt of \$11 million (this was an "inflated figure; a more "equitable" one would be \$5.5 million). This would also mean that the U.S. government would have to garrison the frontiers of Texas against the Indians and defend it against further Mexican military threats. Texas would no longer have to maintain its own Navy and Army.

The subsequent Mexican War is considered by many "historical" writers to be one of the most immoral acts ever committed by the U.S. government, possibly because it was a flagrant exhibition of power against another sovereign power rather than against small Indian tribes. But, it added another star to the flag.

As an example of high-level premeditation during the discussions preceding annexation, the U.S. government stationed two regiments of cavalry and one of infantry near the Sabine River in Louisiana, the eastern border of the Republic of Texas. On June 21, 1845, this force under Gen. Zachary Taylor sailed from New Orleans to Corpus Christi and established headquarters. (What were U.S. troops doing in the Republic of Texas at this time?) They were of course a deterrent to Mexican objections to the impending annexation, which certainly was no secret.

The Republic of Texas elections of December, 1845, in anticipation of annexation, created posts for state officers, legislators, and governor of the soon-to-be new state. These individuals assembled in Austin, and on February 19, 1846, Anson Jones, last President of the Republic of Texas, handed over all executive authority to James Pinckney Henderson, first governor of the state of Texas. By this action, customs houses and the postal service were relinquished to the U. S. government.

Less than one month later, in March, 1846, Gen. Taylor's forces started overland for the Rio Grande. On May 8, he defeated Mexican troops north of Brownsville at the battle of Palo Alto. On May 9, his troops won the Battle of Resaca de la Palma nearby. He then crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico. The U. S. declared war on Mexico on May 11, 1846.

The later postal history of Taylor's and Scott's armies during this Mexican War (1846-1848) is best studied under the Pt. Isabel, Brazos Santiago, and Vera Cruz postal markings. All are well documented elsewhere.

The majority of mail from the American armies in Mexico seems to have been routed through New Orleans. Some may have been sent through Matagorda, but, while Austin was designated a military headquarters, I have yet to see an Austin cover with the usual manuscript notation "from (or to) the Army in Mexico." Nearly all mail from Mexico was carried by sea from Brazos, Pt. Isabel, or Vera Cruz. Army correspondence on official business was "Free;" any personal correspondence paid the current 10¢ rate for the over 300 mile distance to U. S. addresses.

Governor Henderson went off to the war as a Brigadier General of volunteers, as did many other state officials. Then, as now, military service never hurt a politician's reputation. Austin may very well have become nearly a ghost town again, at least, as a functioning seat of government.

AUSTIN - 1846

By May 22, 1846, the Office of Postmaster was established and John D. McLeod was named to that position. The post office was located at the southeast corner of Congress Avenue and Pecan Street (now Sixth Street) in the Deitrich Building.

On July 8, 1846, The Texas Democrat reported that after a lapse of a week without any receipt of mail at all, the stage (from Houston)

rolled in on Sunday evening. The post office "was besieged by anxious expectants. When that was finally accomplished, and the Post Master came to a 'divide,' to our share fell the remains of four Texas exchanges -- all had the appearance of having swam all the creeks between their starting points and place of destination."

That same issue of The Texas Democrat announced that "we have learned from Judge Toler, agent of the Post Department of the State of Texas, who arrived here Saturday evening, that the mails will be continued under the arrangements entered into by the last Republic." He is, of course, referring to mail carrier contracts.

The September 9, 1846 issue of The Texas Democrat had the following comments under the heading of "The Mails": "The ladies never had half the cause to complain of the male portion creations for their irregularities than we do for our present mail arrangements, or rather derangements in Texas. If our bigger half 'Uncle Sam' doesn't mend his ways in this particular shortly, we shall be half disposed to sue for a divorce. True, our stage arrives with tolerable regularity, but the mail bag is at one time entirely barren of papers, and at the next arrival will, perhaps, be crammed with dates three or four months old."

On December 2, 1846, The Texas Democrat announced: "The following instructions relative to the arrival and departure of this place to Houston were received by the Postmaster at Austin. Mail to be transported by 4-horse coaches twice a week. Leave Houston Monday and Friday; arrive Austin Thursday and Monday. Leave Austin, Monday and Friday; arrive Houston Thursday and Monday." (Note: passenger fare for this delightful (?) three day trip was \$15.00, and certainly did not include such food and lodging as might be available today along the road.)

AUSTIN'S POSTAL MARKINGS - (1846 - 1849)

Texas after annexation naturally discontinued the Republic's involved fractional postal rates based on distance, and assumed the two zone U. S. rates. As set forth in the U. S. Postal Laws and Regulations; act of March 2, 1845, these rates were 5¢ for under 300 miles, and 10¢ for over 300 miles for a ½ ounce letter. Franking privileges were accorded postmasters and certain state officials for official mail as either writer or addressee.

1846 - The Austin CDS used during the period of March, 1846 to June 1847 (these dates are from my own observation) is the triple circle handstamp used previously, except that the TEXAS is in bold type. Month and date are in manuscript. Rates are either manuscript or handstamped. All markings, either hand stamped or manuscript are black. I presume to call this Type IIa. (see Fig. 1)

1847 - The Austin CDS used from August, 1847 to December, 1847 (my observations) is the same as Type IIa, except the month, date, and rate are manuscript and are in blue ink. I consider this significant enough to designate it Type IIb. (See Fig. 2)

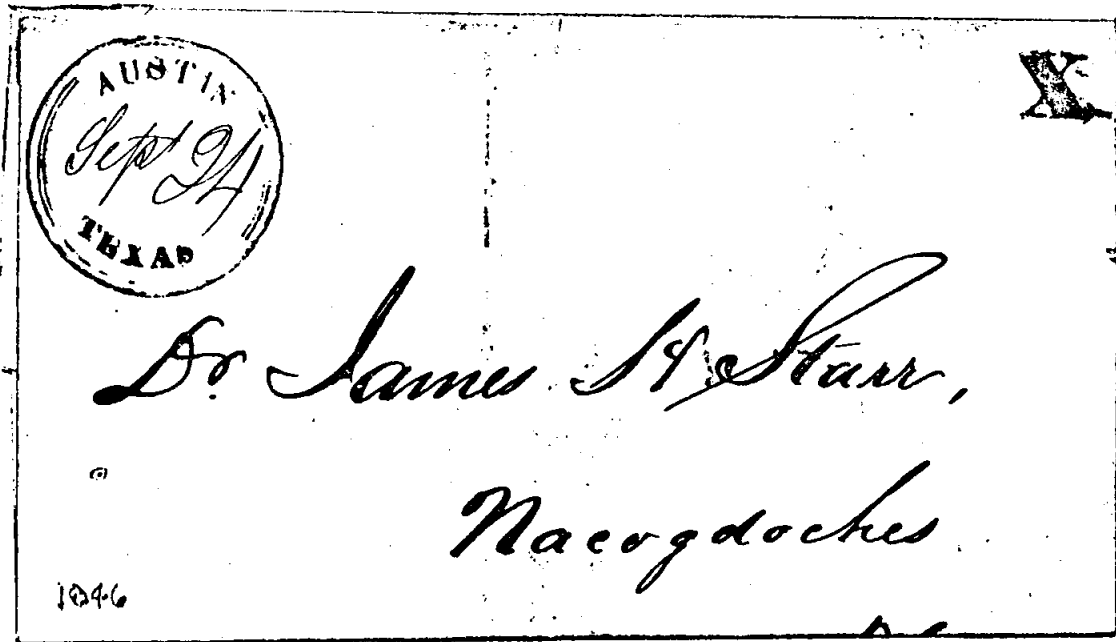


Figure 1. AUSTIN, TEXAS, Sept. 24, (1846). Type IIa. Ms. month and date in black ink. Handstamped rate "X" and CDS are black.

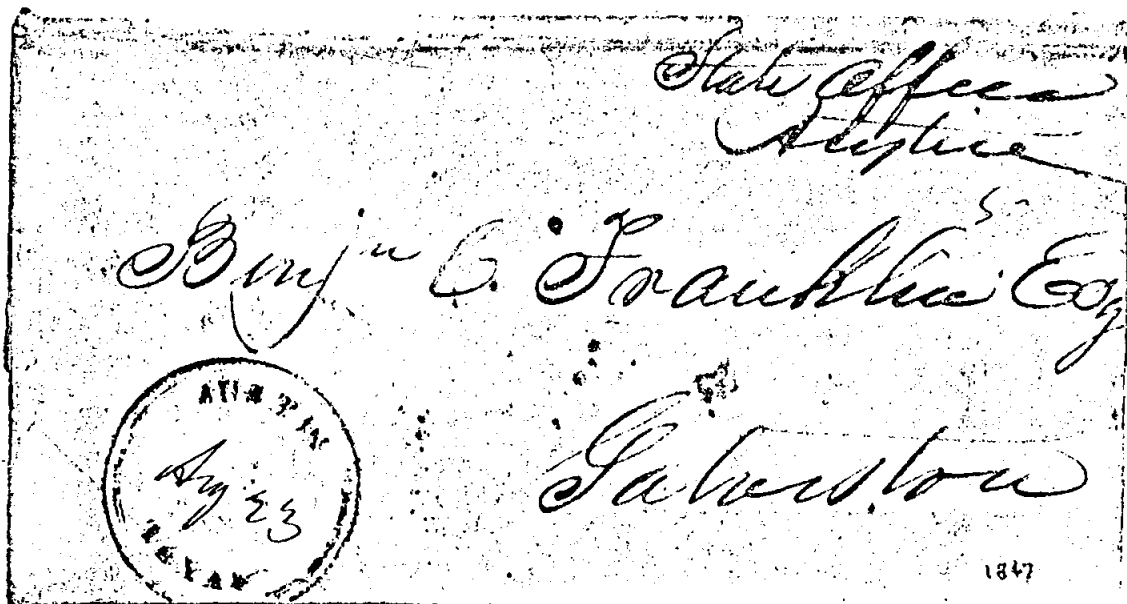


Figure 2. AUSTIN, TEXAS, Aug. 23, (1847). Type IIb. Ms. month and date in blue ink. Ms. rate "5" in blue ink. Hand stamped CDS is black.

1848 - The Austin CDS of January, 1848 is (my own observation) probably unique. It is a folded letter written December 19, 1847, and postmarked on January 3 or 8 of 1848. It is as Type IIa and IIb, except that the month and date in the CDS are all type set. Both the CDS and the rate marking are black. I designate it Type IIc. (See Fig. 3)

The Austin CDS of February, 1848, starts a new Type series with varieties. It is still a triple circle handstamp, but the letters for AUSTIN and TEXAS are in smaller type face. All notations in the CDS--month and date--are type set. All postal markings, both handstamp and rate markings, are black. It is Type IIIa. (See Fig. 4)

The Austin CDS used from June, 1848 to December, 1848 (my observation) remains the same as Type IIIa except for one change. AUSTIN and TEXAS and the month are type set, but the date is manuscript. All markings are black. It is designated as Type IIIb. (See Fig. 5)

1849 - The Austin CDS Type IIIb continued its usage from March, 1849 to September, 1849 (my observation). This CDS begins to wear out quickly. It degenerates from its early usage in 1848 to the point where it is almost illegible in 1849. Several covers have been noted where the month and date are written over the type set month because the strike is so poor. I do not believe these justify designation as a separate type, since they are at random and are only an effort on the postmaster's part to improvise a legible postmark.

(To Be Continued)

Correspondence may be sent to: Ed Glass, Box 18, UNM Sta., Albuquerque, NM 87131.

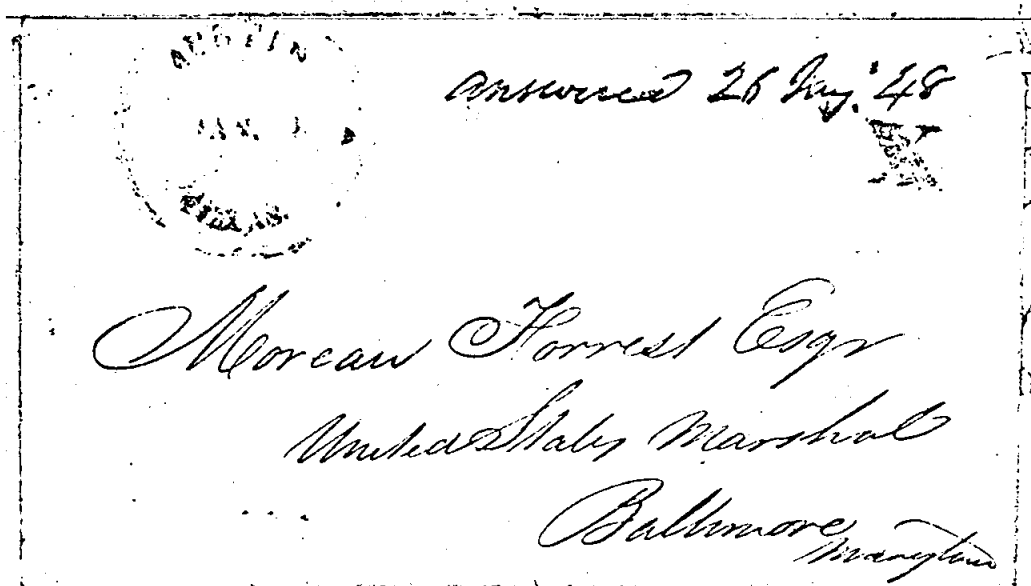


Figure 3. AUSTIN, TEXAS, Jan. 3 or 8, 1848. Type IIc. Type set month and date; all markings in black.

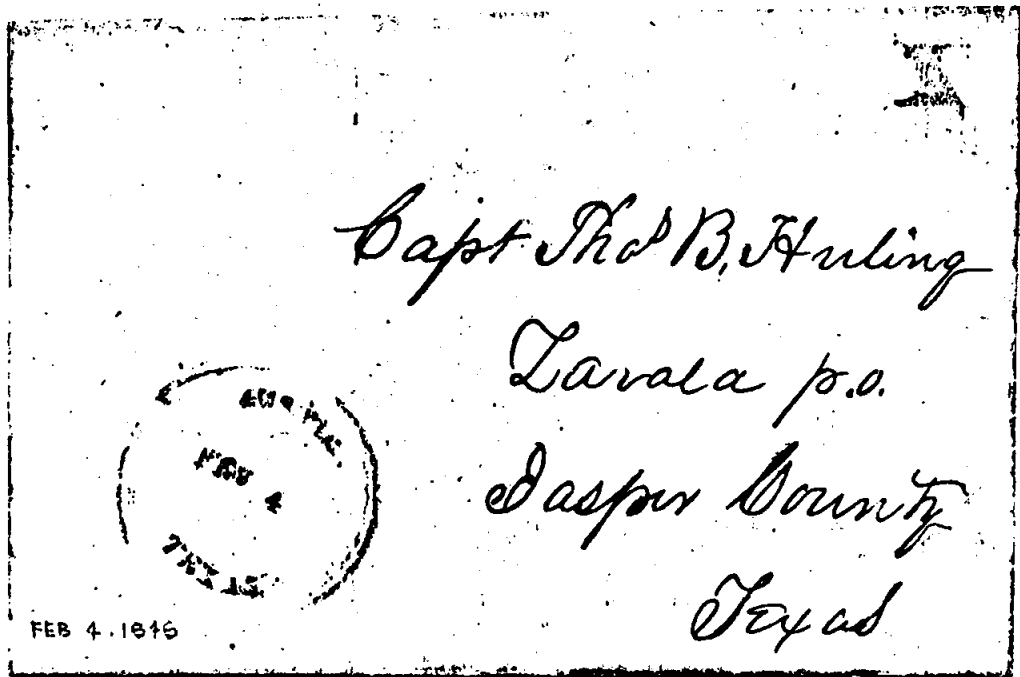


Figure 4. AUSTIN, TEXAS, Feb. 4, 1846. AUSTIN and TEXAS are in smaller letters than Type II. All markings are black. This is Type IIIa.

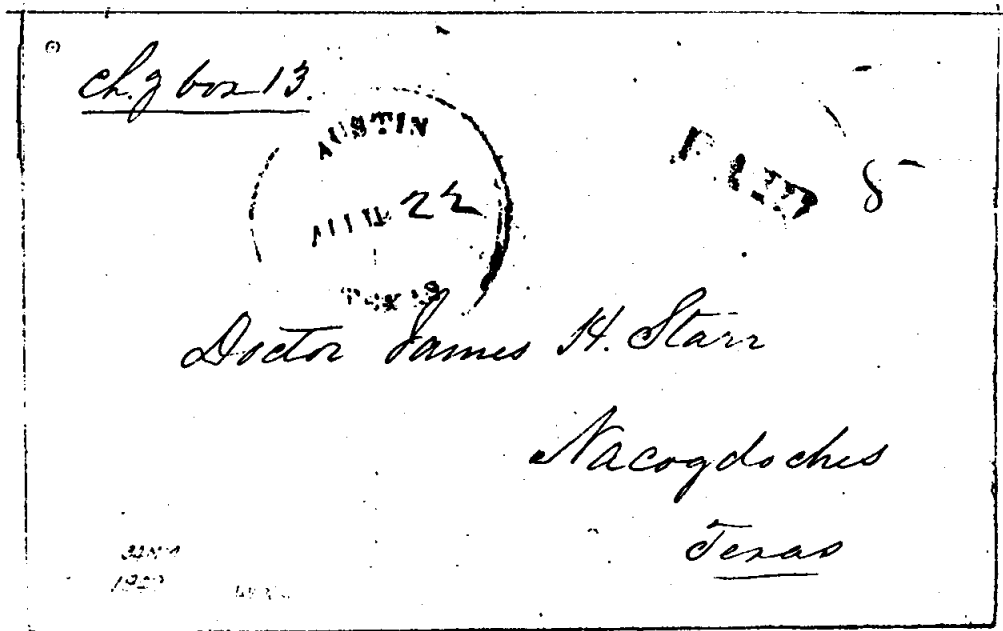


Figure 5. AUSTIN, TEXAS, April 22, (1849). Type IIIb. AUSTIN and TEXAS and month are all type set; date is manuscript. All markings are black.

RIO GRANDE POSTAL HISTORY: SIX CHAPTERS FROM TWO CONFLICTS

By James W. Milgram, M.D.

Where the great Rio Grande empties into the Gulf of Mexico was a logical place for an early outpost in Texas. There soldiers could block any traffic between the river and the ocean, and could also be supplied easily by the sea route.

There is a long sand dune along the most southern portion of the east coast of Texas with several small islands. One, Santiago Island positioned in close proximity to the mouth of the Rio Grande, served as the site of the American military base of Brazos, a critical fortification during both the Mexican and Civil Wars.

Before the outbreak of hostilities in 1846, Major Jacob Brown built farther up the river an outpost, afterwards named Fort Brown. When settlers built an adjoining town, this in turn was given the name of Brownsville.

Together with another mainland post, Point Isabel, which was situated just north of the mouth of the river, these places became the major bases early during the Mexican War.

Excerpts from a series of letters from three brothers describe the contemporary life of the soldier:

Brazos, Santiago Island
July 23rd 1846

Dear Andrew...The island is a low sandy concern and not a bush in sight but there is a very cool sea breeze all the time. There was at one time a city here but it sunk into the sea...

I have seen sights such as sharks, stingrays, flounders, crabs, &c. We got on board the ship Sea Lion the day my last letter was dated I forget now and was 9 days crossing the Gulf...

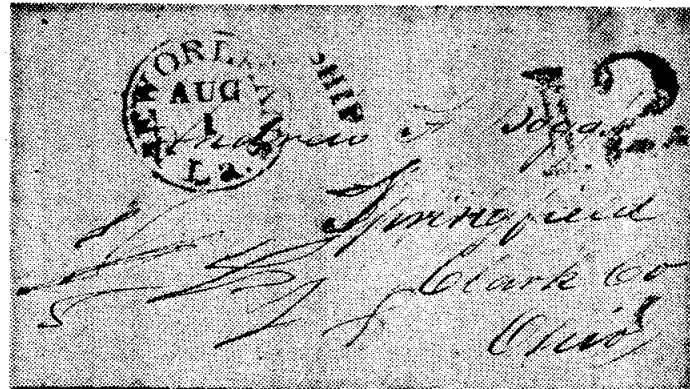


Figure 1. A stampless cover postmarked "SHIP" and "12" (10¢ plus the 2¢ ship fee) at New Orleans on a letter from Brazos July 23, 1846.

We had a good deal of sickness and three deaths, none of our company, however, an unpleasant sight it was to see them thrown over into the deep blue sea but the seas will give up their dead on that Great Day...

It is not likely that we will have a boat for a month to come if I get kilt I'll let you know...

Your affectionate Brother
Ed
Direct Edward Boggs Company E2 Ky Volunteer Infantry
Point Isabel Texas

Camp Rio Grande
Aug. 15th 1846

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and all the rest of the folks,

As another opportunity has occurred I hasten to write you a few lines. I have been in perfect health since I have been soldiering and am fat as a bear and dirty as a pig. For breakfast we (six of us) put about 12 tins full of water in a tin bucket and put it on to boil we brown our coffee in our frying pan and smash it in a tin cup with the handle of hatchet and when the water boils put it in and let it boil. Then we have some salty old side bacon which we parboil and fry then we have some pilot bread which is so hard that when we bite it the fire rolls out of our mouths...

Our company was in a pretty fix a few days since, in the first place our Capt. was placed under an arrest for getting drunk; and then he had our 2nd Lieut placed under an arrest whilst drunk for talking back in an independant manner and our 1st Lieut was very sick...

Every think shrub tree and insect varmint has either horns or thorns or a shell to protect them even there are toads with horns. There has been several very large snakes, rattle, black, and milk snakes killed, also a good many of the Mexicans cattle killed for beef...

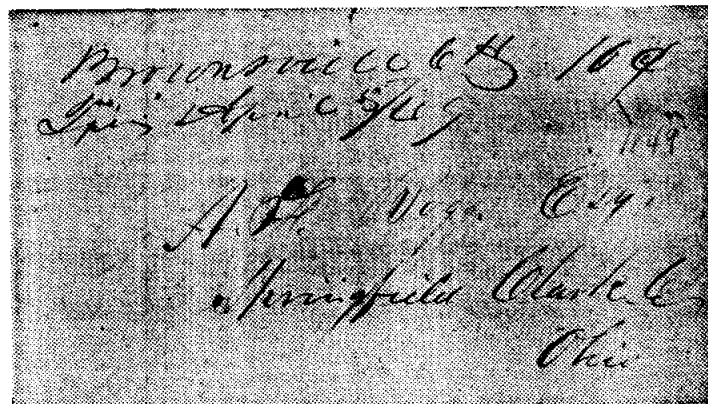


Figure 2. A ms. "Brownsville C H Texas April 5/49" postmark on a letter to Springfield, Ohio.

I have received but one letter yet and from Biddle. There is one however at Point Isabel. Lieut Kidd of Capt. Hamiltons Co saw it there and I cannot get it.

I want you to pay the postage for this reason the officers that go to the post office do not like to take letters out belonging to privates for fear they have not money to pay for them and we cannot go ourselves...

There is three men here who stole sugar they have to be drummed around the camp 4 different times have to march around a circle 40 feet in circumference carrying a burden of 25 lbs for an hour 4 times. I believe that I have given you a history of evrything. Direct your next letter to me Company e 2d Regt. Ky Volunteer Infantry Point Isabel Texas...Edward Boggs

Later, when the army had advanced farther into Mexico, these posts were used to bring supplies from the eastern ports and New Orleans to the army:

Mouth of Rio Grande
April 7/47
Dear Frank,

We arrived here safe that is Capt. Stein Major Gorman of 2nd Ind. Lieut Prickett of Ill and Buchmaster & a Capt of 2nd Miss all bound for the states. The Steamer Telegraph left Brazos two hours before we got here and we will either have to take a schooner or wait ot Brazos for a steamer.

The wind is from the south and I think I will start today. Genl. Scott has taken Vera Cruse castle and all with the loss of 40 men and 2 officers Capt. Vinton and someone else.

I expect you will have the news before this reaches you as we met it on the river. If we have luck we will be in Orleans in four days. The Rio Grand is low and crooked as a chapparell thicket. We had to stop and swing around the corners some times to run the bow in the ground to stop the boat to turn.

I hear the surf and can see the Gulf about two hundred yds off. This is quite a business place with steamboats schooners and smaller craft in abundance. I believe I have told you all I know write to me at home and oftern gove my love to Ed. and Capt. F. and believe me, yours till--Biddle Boggs

After the war when the Rio Grande formed the border between Texas and Mexico, soldiers were stationed in these same settlements to patrol along the river. Biddle Boggs, one of the three brothers, was serving here in March, 1849, just before he left for Soldier's Gulch, Calif. to seek his fortune:

Rio Grande City, Texas
March 20th, 1849
Dr. Brother

You see I am in Texas Col. Webbs company has broke up, out of ninety odd men there are but fifteen who are going with the Col. I am one of them. We had ten men died of the cholrea. W. H. Harrison was one of them. He was a grandson of Gen. H. and from Cin... he died in this house.

I was up at Meir at the time having gone there to buy mules most of the men who were encamped here came up on a steamboat to Romo a little town founded by Major Roma - Ten miles from Meir on the Rio Grande and eighteen miles by land from this place when the boat landed opposite to Romo.

I was there having returned form Meir to have the company moved up to that place. There was one man dead on the boat and I could not tell how many sick and all the worst frightened set of men you ever saw. They gathered round me and wanted to know what was to become of them as if I had the power to save them from the cholrea. I saw at once that they wanted someone to lead them.

Col. Webb had gone on to Seraloo and Mr. Audabon was at this place with the sick, dead and dying men. Col. Webb himself was not a great deal better off, and in his half-sick condition he gave his saddle bags with about 12000\$ in gold in them to one of the men.

He handed them to the barkeeper who promised to keep them safe until morning, in the morning they could not be found.

The barkeeper was arrested and while laying chained was taken with the cholrea & confessed that he had stolen the money together with another and had hid it on the banks of the river.

4000\$ was found hid that day & about the same amount several days later, the rascal is yet alive but about half dead laying in an old shed without a friend to give him a drink or a crust of bread. Some of the men have sent him enough to keep soul and body together.

Seventeen of the men never got off the boat at Romo, but went with it for home almost all the rest have since backed out & the devil has been to stay ever since. We are looking every day for a steam boat when those going Home will be off.

Goodbye & believe me,

yours truly,
B. Boggs
A. F. Boggs, Ohio

For over a decade, these posts played fairly minor roles, but then with the War Between the States, Brazos again assumed military importance when it served as the southernmost base for the blockading squadron:

Brazos Santiago, Texas
 December 23rd, 1864
 Address 62nd Regt. U.S. Colored Infantry Brazos Santiago Texas
 via St. Louis & Cairo
 Mrs. Lowe
 My Dear Friend,

I have been thinking for some time of writing you; but have neglected it until I am almost ashamed to write. Since the latter part of last July, I have been in the same regiment with Stant., he is Capt. Co. "I" 62nd U.S. Cold. Inf., was his orderly for awhile, now hold the appointment of Sergeant Major.

Genl. Sherman's late movements seem to have caused intense interest and anxiety throughout the country and it is hoped will prove a glorious and complete success. We get almost crazy for letters and news down here.

Think of the contrast between living in an enlightened and enterprising community where you get mail every day & being stuck on a little island of sand away down here among the wilds of Texas where a ship probably comes once in two weeks, but we have a good feast when a ship does come.

Before coming here, our regt. was at Morganza La. 160 miles above New Orleans. Morganza is a malarious unhealthy place, and we lost a great many men there. Had a spell of the chronic diarrhea while there, and came pretty near going under I believe, but since coming here, I am myself once more...

There is a blockade of three gun boats lying off the coast to take care of runners attempting to go up the Rio Grande. The rebels occupy Brownsville in force, also other points on the River near its mouth...The rebs have frequently come in sight but not in range.

A few days after receiving the news of honest Abraham's reelection the American Consul to Mexico landed at our post, and our Lt. Colonel volunteered to escort him over, which offer was accepted...

Before returning, we marched down close to the shore right at the mouth of the river and gave three rousing cheers for "Abraham Lincoln the liberator and President of these United States for the next four years."

It Can now be said that cheers have went up for him from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the river St. Johns. Don't you think there is something rather novel about that?

Charles Bonsall, Sergeant Major, wrote the above letter. The following letter is written by the same man, but his rank is now Lieutenant. This letter is about the last battle of the Civil War at Palmetto Ranch, Texas:

Brownsville, Texas
 July 12th, 1865
 Mrs. Lowe
 My Dear Friend,

A short time after writing your last letter I left Brazos Santiago for New Orleans for the purpose of being mustered as 2nd Lt. Arrived at New Orleans on the 19th of May and remained there 24 days before I could get transportation back to my regt. Started back on the 11th of June and did not reach the Regt. (then at this place) until the 25th of June.

I was mustered into Co. "C" (you see I am very partial to "C") and as I am the only officer in it, was put in comd. of the Co. immediately on my return, and I assure you, I have been a busy boy since my return.

I believe our regt. was in the last battle of the rebellion fought at Palmetto Ranch between here and Brazos Santiago the 12 and 13 of May. Our regt. did splendidly.

The enemy had cavalry and artillery which we had not & we were compelled to retreat.

Our regt. lost 2 taken prisoners & 5 wounded, 1 mortally.

There are a great many troops on the Rio Grande at different points, for several hundred miles up the river & the demonstration seems to have the desired effect for we hear that the French troops are ordered out of Mexico and that Maximillian is pulling up stakes.

This is a very wise notion, for otherwise they have to skedaddle mighty fast to keep out of the way of Yankie bayonets. Doubtless our regt. will be retained until its time expires (one year from next Dec.)

I am exactly of your opinion concerning President Johnson. He has back bone & a level brain & I don't believe a better man could have been selected. Who don't feel proud to live in this age?

There is much sickness here, nearly all of us are half sick, but we are going to make a desperate effort to survive all contagions &c...

Charlie Bonsall
 Lt. Co. C, 62nd U.S.C.T.
 Brownsville, Texas

Thus, postal covers and their contents reflect the time in which they were written. Because all communication was by postal routes in the early days of the country, a study of those letters which have survived the destructive usages of time can throw light on many sideroads of history.

This article reprinted by permission from Linn's Weekly Stamp News, October 13, 1969, and October 20, 1969.

INDEPENDENT STATE USAGE TO A TEXAS PATRIOT

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The War Between the States touched so many people of the period in one way or another that it is possible for a large proportion of today's Americans to relate to it through their ancestral past. The recent phenomenally extensive publicity generated by Roots has spurred many people to become interested in their own family backgrounds and ancestors. Those of us with more than a passing curiosity in the War have been aware of this interest for some time, while my fellow philatelists have an opportunity for an even deeper interest.

During my nearly fifteen years of collecting Confederate States of America postal history, I have managed to acquire two covers written to ancestors directly involved in the War Between the States. One of them pertains to Texas, and is shown in Figure 1.

This cover is an example of Independent State usage (February 1-March 6, 1861) with three singles of the 1857 1¢ Type V issue post-marked Houston, Texas Feb. 6, 1861. While interesting in and of itself, the important thing to me is the addressee, Thomas Green, who also docketed the cover along the left side.

Thomas Green (Figure 2) was born in Amelia County, Virginia on January 8, 1814. After graduation from the University of Nashville, he studied law under the tutelage of his father, a Justice on the Tennessee State Supreme Court. Moving to Texas in 1835, he fought at San Jacinto in the War for Texas Independence. During the Mexican War he served under General Zachary Taylor as captain of the 1st Texas Rifles. In the interim and subsequently, he held the office of clerk of the Texas State Supreme Court.

Green entered Confederate service as colonel of the 5th Texas Cavalry, which he led at the Battle of Valverde in New Mexico Territory. He subsequently participated in the Galveston Campaign in January, 1863, and served under General Richard Taylor in Louisiana.

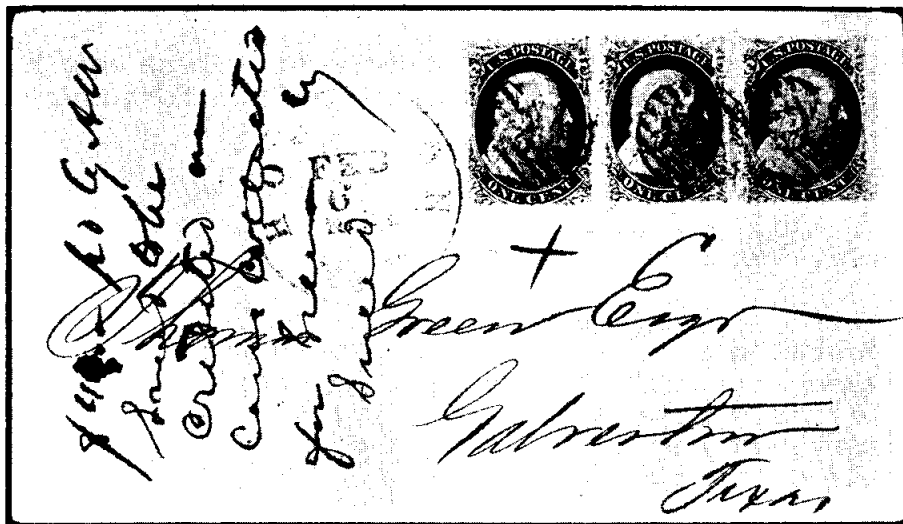


Figure 1. "Houston, Texas, Feb. 6, 1861."



Figure 2. General Thomas
"Tom" Green

On May 20, 1863, Green was promoted to brigadier general. Since he had been in command of a cavalry division for some time, his further promotion to major general was requested by General Taylor, but never materialized.

While participating in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, during the Red River Campaign, General Green was killed in action at Blair's Landing Louisiana on April 12, 1864 by a charge of grapeshot from a Union gunboat. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Austin, Texas.

Should other covers addressed to, or written by, General Green, be known to Texas Postal History Society members, the author would be most obliged to learn of their existence. A picture of his grave site, if still in existence, would also be appreciated. Please contact the author at 3219 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221.

(Editor's Note: The Handbook of Texas shows that this Thomas Green is the man for whom Tom Green County was named when it was created in 1874.)

MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS:

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postal history of LaGrange and Fayette County.
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covers, Canada semi-officials.
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