

Robert Sours

Atto Christie Co
Leva

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The President's Page.....1
Texas Gems.....2
The Post Offices of Presidio County, Texas.....11

Shown on the front cover is an 1882 postal cancel of Homer, Texas, probably at its peak as county seat of Angelina County. Shortly afterwards, the county seat was moved to Lufkin, and from then on it was all downhill for Homer. By 1928, it was a Ghost Town.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

President:

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

Vice-President:

Rick Rodgers
2612 Greenleaf
Houston, TX 77009

Secretary-Treasurer:

Edgar L. Leissner
711 Canterbury Hill
San Antonio, TX 78209

Journal Editor:

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

Affiliated With:



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Texas Postal History Society is entering its sixth year of existence, appearing stronger, more enthusiastic and certainly more active in the promotion of our hobby than at any time since our formation. Membership renewals testify that the organization is needed and is serving the purposes for which it was created; thus the advancement and understanding of Texas Postal History via collection, research, publication and exhibition. It is time for the membership to look to the future. The objectives of the past should be reviewed to determine those that should be continued, and plans should be laid for new and important goals that the society may achieve in the future.

The Spring Meeting of the TPHS to be held in Waco, Texas, on March 21st, at the Sheraton Inn Waco, holds promise of being the largest, most important, and most interesting meeting we have ever held. I urge each of you to attend, and to share with us your ideas on what you believe would make for a more active, improved and vital postal history society.

As in the past our program is quite informal, and at this stage somewhat tentative. Two very knowledgeable and interesting members of our group have been invited to speak during the afternoon session. We have also scheduled a brief business meeting to formalize plans for our future activities.

The bulk of the day, however, is set aside for the showing, buying, selling, trading and talking about postal history covers.

Make your reservations now, by phone or by card, to:

Sheraton Inn Waco
801 South Fourth Street
Waco, Texas, 76706
Telephone: 817 - 753-7361

It would also be helpful for you to drop me a card at 1421 Schulle Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666, to give me some idea of the number of members who plan to attend.

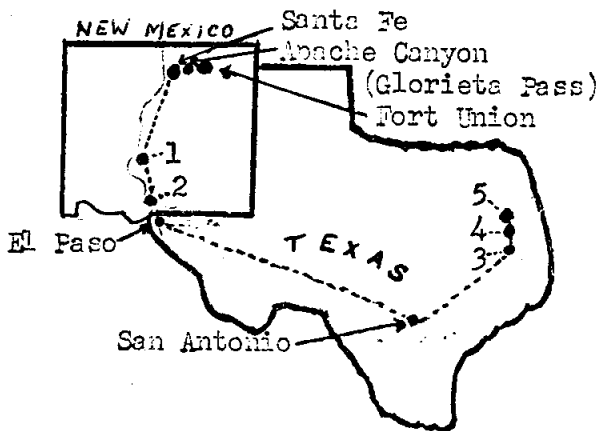
EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Only two articles this issue, but both are well done and exceedingly interesting. Looking forward to the meeting in Waco this month; see y'all there.

TEXAS GEMS

Second of a Series
Page 1 of Series

by Gordon Bleuler
Dallas, Texas
January, 1981

Map Illustration:

1. From soldier in the field north of Mesilla, New Mexico Territory (probably carried by military courier).
2. Location of Mesilla, New Mexico Territory (Confederate States Occupation).
3. Homer, Angelina County, Texas, C.S.A. (destination).
4. Second Usage: Nacogdoches, Texas, C.S.A.
5. Second Destination: Rusk, Texas, C.S.A.

Cover Illustration: Points of Interest

- (A) 1. New Mexico (Territory)..Confederate Usage..Due 10¢.
2. Endorsement: Soldier in (General) Sibley's Regiment.
3. Letter Destination: Homer, Texas, Confederate States of America.
- (B) 4. "Turned" Cover: Reduced in size (note cross-hatched area on illustration).
5. Pair 5¢ blue Confederate Local Printings affixed and postmarked Nacogdoches, Texas.
6. Second Destination: Rusk, Texas, Confederate States of America.

Cover Description:

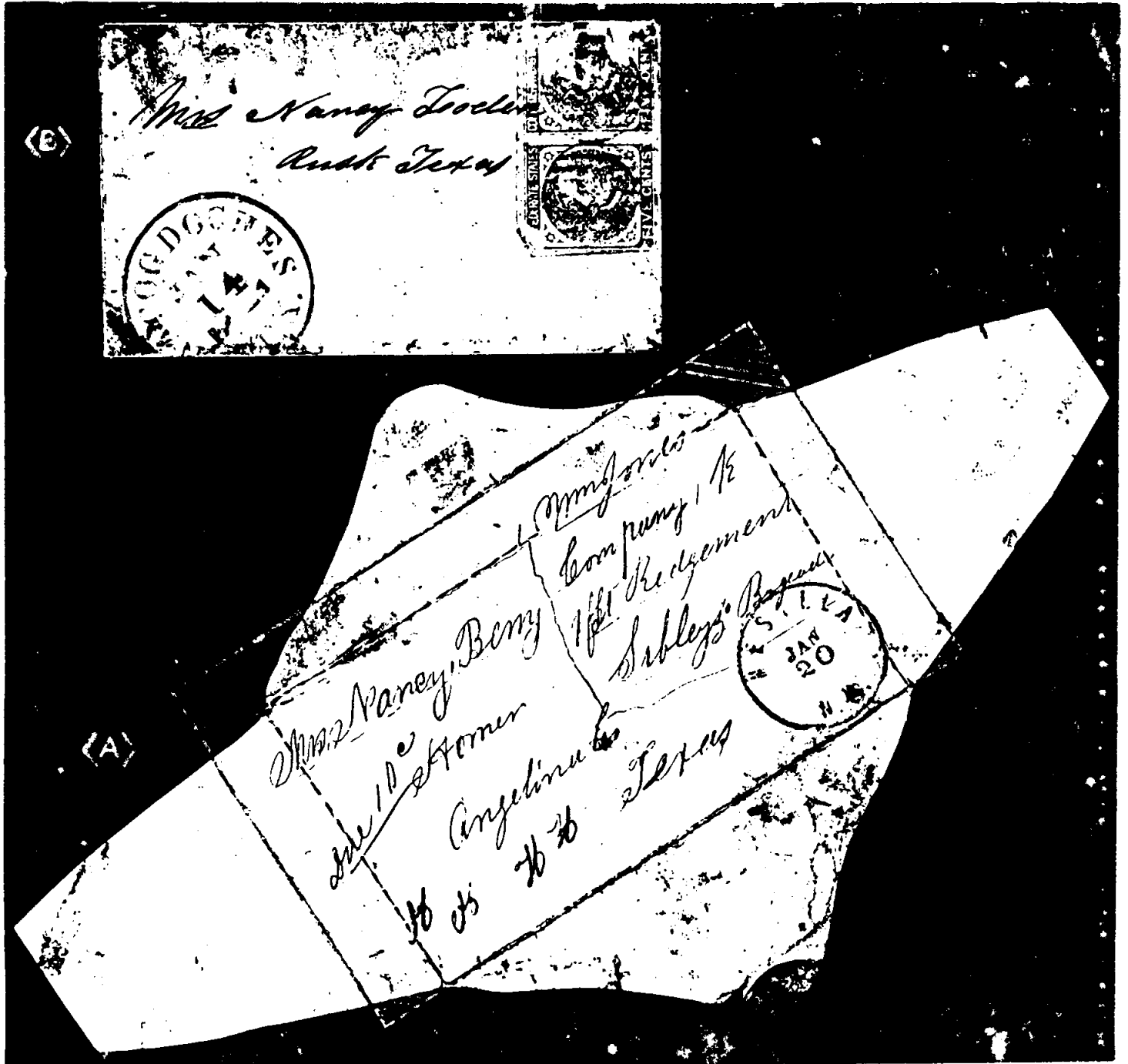
Illustration A shows a stampless soldier's letter from Wm. Jones, Company - K, 1st "Redgement", Sibley's "Brgead", postmarked with black circular handstamp marking of Mesilla, N.M., Jan. 20 (1862) and "Due 10¢" (Confederate postal rate) in manuscript, addressed to Miss Nancy Berry, Homer, Angelina Co., Texas. At the time the New Mexico portion of the letter was written, probably around January 13, 1862, the Confederate forces under General Sibley were some sixty miles north of Mesilla, New Mexico, near Fort Thorn.

The envelope was used a second time about a year later (Illustration B), "turned", reduced in size (note cross-hatching on illustration where the original envelope was cut down), and smaller size (note dashed lines) where it was refolded. A pair of 5¢ dull blue Jefferson Davis (Richmond local printing) issues were affixed and postmarked Nacogdoches, Tex., Jan. 14 (probably 1863), and cancelled with circular grid killers. The envelope is addressed to Mrs. Nancy Lodgers, Rusk, Texas.

"Texas Gems"

Mesilla, New Mexico - Territory
(Confederate Occupation)

Nacogdoches, Texas, C.S.A.



Mesilla, Dona Ana County, New Mexico Territory (town notes):

New Mexico was claimed for the United States in August, 1846, by General S. W. Kearny. The area was ceded to the U.S. by Treaty with Mexico on February 2, 1848. New Mexico became a Territory in 1853. The original treaty included all of what is now New Mexico, Arizona and portions of Colorado and Nevada.

The Mesilla post office was probably established around 1857 - 1858. The town was located about thirty-five miles north-northwest of El Paso, Texas, on the Rio Grande River near the present city of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mesilla was a stopping point on the Butterfield Stage Route which operated just before the Civil War. A note from the U.S. Register as of September 30, 1859, indicates that the Mesilla Postmaster was Charles A. Hoppin during the period April 6, 1858, to February 28, 1859, and his compensation was \$14.94.

Homer, Angelina County, Texas (town notes):

The town became the county seat of Angelina County in 1858. The post office was established in 1858 and was in operation until 1924. When the Houston, East and West Texas Railroad laid its line some six miles northwest of the town, most of the population at Homer moved to Lufkin, and the county seat was moved to Lufkin in 1892. Homer was left to die on the vine.

Post Office under the Confederacy:

Established July 12, 1861, with S. W. McGowan appointed Postmaster; W. W. Gunn, September 17, 1862; Hiram Bolt, September 1, 1864; L. C. Kilpatrick, April 12, 1865; Edmond Steiness, May 8, 1865. (The 1865 appointments were after the surrender of General Lee in the East, but the word hadn't reached Texas.)

Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County, Texas (town notes):

The town was named for the Nacogdoche Indians, who had originally inhabited the area dating back for several centuries. The area was visited by the La Salle Expedition in 1687. In 1716, the Spanish Mission of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches was founded in this vicinity by Domingo Ramon. The town has figured in many of the important events in early Texas history. A post office existed at Nacogdoches during the Mexican period, the Republic of Texas period, and from Statehood to date.

Post Office under the Confederacy:

Established July 12, 1861, with Fred Voigt appointed Postmaster.

Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas (town notes):

The town was named for Thomas J. Rusk, who was quite active during the Republic of Texas era. It was selected as the county seat of Cherokee County in 1846, although only one family lived there at the time. The town grew rapidly, and in 1848 the Cherokee Academy was founded there. The post office was established in 1847 and has been active to the present. Rusk has been the location of the Rusk State Hospital for a number of years.

Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas (town notes) - continued:

Post Office under the Confederacy:

Established July 17, 1861, with D. B. Martin appointed Postmaster;
Pearsall Thompson, April 26, 1862; M. G. Hines, January 27, 1864.

The Confederate Occupation of New Mexico Territory:

In the early days of the Civil War, the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona became the focal point of a grand military strategy which contemplated no less than the conquest of the entire Southwest for the Confederacy.

On the face of it, the plan as envisioned looked promising. It was believed that since the southern half of California contained a large number of secessionists, it might be taken with very little bloodshed. It was thought that the Territory of Colorado might also be taken from the inside by the strong secessionist element. It was further believed that since the Mormons in Utah were hostile to the Federal Government, they might effectively block military assistance to California from the east once California was taken for the Confederacy. The Confederate planners believed that as soon as they achieved control of Colorado and California they would have access to the gold production from those areas. They planned to use the gold to build and acquire a sufficient number of merchant vessels and military ships which would enable the Confederacy to nullify the blockade the Union had placed around all of the southern ports. Of course, it was only a dream, but certainly a dream worth dreaming if the results could be accomplished with a relatively small number of men.

In the Spring of 1861, H. H. Sibley, former Major in the United States Army, resigned his commission, and, on joining with the Confederacy, was appointed a General in the Confederate Army. It was General Sibley who was given the assignment to carry out the military conquest of the West.

Under date of August 1, 1861, John R. Baylor, Governor and Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Mounted Rifles, Confederate States Army, issued the following Proclamation (in brief terms) to the People of Arisona: "In behalf of the Confederate States of America, all offices, both civil and military, heretofore existing in this territory, either under the laws of the late United States or the Territory of New Mexico, are hereby declared vacant; and, from the date hereof shall forever cease to exist. Further, that from the date of this proclamation the territory shall be under the constitution and laws of the Confederate States of America". The town of Mesilla was designated as the seat of Government of this Territory.

General Sibley opened his headquarters at a point called Camp Sibley, which was located some seven miles east of San Antonio, Texas, and began to assemble the men and units which were to comprise his command. Some 3,500 men were gathered and mustered in during the months of July through September of 1861. Finally, in the latter part of October, the military units moved westward from San Antonio in the general direction of El Paso.

The Confederate column moved slowly westward into the harsh, barren and rocky terrain of western Texas. The men marched day after day, westward...ever westward...a thin line which stretched toward the horizon. Rations were short and water extremely scarce. In the words of one soldier, "I want to say something to you about hard times. I had never saw hard times before I started on this march across this wild

venemous country where there was no settlements. We have only drawn about two thirds rations since we left San Antonio. We only eat twice a day and dont have plenty then."

Such roads as existed at that time were hard, rocky ruts which followed the course of least resistance toward the isolated forts that formed a protective shield across the Texas Frontier. It was necessary to ford the rocky streams and cross the dry river beds. Dust devils whirled occasionally across the horizon as buzzards and hawks soared silently in widening circles in search of their prey. This was the land of rattlesnakes, gila monsters and scorpions - all deadly adversaries on their own home grounds.

On the sidelines watching the increasing tempo of the dispute between the Union and the Confederacy was the deadliest menace of all, the Plains Indians. Following the opening of hostilities in April of 1861 and the firing on Fort Sumter in the East, the Union realized the military units manning the forts across the entire frontier of Texas and the western territories were in exposed positions to military action from the Confederacy, particularly those in the Southwest. The loyal and experienced Union forces were withdrawn and those forts in the Southwest were subsequently taken over and manned by smaller units of Confederate cavalry.

The Plains Indians - Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Cheyenne and Arapaho - soon realized the forts were unable to muster the men and arms necessary to maintain any effective control over their activities, and they were relatively free to follow their chiefs in preying on the outlying settlements, stealing livestock and hostages, burning and looting, which they believed was their only hope for survival on the lands of their ancestors.

It was late in November, 1861, November 30th to be exact, when the Confederate forces under General Sibley reached Fort Davis, Texas. After marching for over forty days they had covered almost 350 miles and were still almost 180 miles from El Paso. There was a winter chill in the air as the days became shorter...and still they marched. They passed through the Davis Mountains with peaks reaching six to eight thousand feet...by El Lobo, the Quitman Mountains and Sierra Blanca...finally reaching El Paso del Norte late in December.

Early in January, 1862, General Sibley moved his forces out of El Paso, northward up the Rio Grande and through Mesilla with the intention of conquering and occupying those lands westward to the Pacific Ocean. He continued northward toward the Union stronghold of Fort Craig which was located about 100 miles above Mesilla. They encountered the Union forces under Colonel Canby on February 21, 1862, at the village of Valverde which was south of Fort Craig. The Union forces were defeated in this engagement and General Sibley continued his movement northward with the major portion of his command to occupy Albuquerque and Santa Fe in the hope of capturing the Union supply depots in those towns. At the same time he sent cavalry detachments westward to occupy Tucson and Yuma.

On reaching Santa Fe, Sibley was faced with the crucial decision of turning westward with his command towards California, or of moving eastward and taking Fort Union; then north into Colorado Territory to bring that area under the control of the Confederacy. He believed that if he could occupy Fort Union with little resistance, he might be able to replenish his supplies and munitions from the depot at that fort and thus eliminate the threat of a Union attack on his rear when he moved the major portion of his command westward to California.

The Union forces at Fort Union were small but well-equipped. In recent days, a number of Colorado miners had volunteered into the army and had reached the post by forced marches after they had learned of the Confederate threat. Rather than wait for the larger Confederate force to envelop and overwhelm the Fort, Major J. M. Chivington, who was in command at Fort Union, decided to move west and execute a surprise attack on Sibley's forces before they could leave Santa Fe.

However, Chivington was too late with this movement; and as the Union forces were almost halfway through Apache Canyon, they encountered the advance units of the Confederate forces under Colonel Scurry, which were already moving toward Fort Union. The two forces met in the afternoon of March 27, 1862, and a brief fight ensued. It was broken off in the evening as both sides waited for their main forces to arrive on the scene. The Confederate forces of some 1,300 troops under Colonel W. R. Scurry were finally in place, while the main forces under General Sibley were still some 20 miles to the west.

On the morning of March 28th, Major Chivington, along with Colonel Slough, the leader of a force of about 1,300 Colorado troops, held a council with their officers. One of those invited to attend was Colonel Manuel Chavez, a colonel of the Second New Mexico Volunteers. When no plan had been submitted which seemed to have the possibility of defeating the superior Confederate forces, Colonel Chavez presented his plan. He indicated that he knew of a steep mountain pass which could outflank Apache Canyon, and he proposed to send a detachment of around 400 men to the rear of Colonel Scurry's forces and destroy their supply train while the remaining Union-Colorado units facing the Confederate forces in Apache Canyon fought a defensive engagement. The implications of his plan were clear. If the Union forces could destroy the supply train, wagons, mules, provisions and equipment, the Confederate army would be in dire straits so far removed from their base of supply at Mesilla and El Paso.

It was agreed by the Union officers that the plan set forth by Colonel Chavez offered the best hope of success, and that Major Chivington would lead a force of 400 men with the assistance of Colonel Chavez, who would be their guide.

By nine o'clock that morning, the battle opened in the Canyon between the two small armies. As they were heavily concentrated in the narrow defiles of the steep canyon walls, there was little chance for the development of flank attacks. Gradually the larger force of Confederate soldiers with their heavier fire power gained the upper hand, and the Union forces slowly gave ground. While the battle raged in the Canyon, Major Chivington and his men marched some eight miles through a side canyon and up the steep mountain slopes following a narrow, rocky path. After some five hours of marching, they reached the summit, where they captured a sentinel who was unaware of their presence. He told them the Confederate Camp, tents and supply wagons were some 1000 feet down at the base of the mountain at a point called Johnson's Ranch. Major Chivington ordered his men to remain out of sight and rest while he and Colonel Chavez reconnoitered the area to determine the next moves of their small force.

Their decision made, Chivington and his men began the hazardous descent down the precipitous slope of the mountain. Using ropes and belts, they slowly and cautiously made their way from ledge to ledge. Unfortunately, occasional rocks began to loosen and tumble down the steep slope, and they were soon discovered by the Confederate sentinels. The camp was alerted and soon gunners were firing at the descending soldiers from all angles. Bullets whizzed and ricocheted off the rocky canyon walls.

However, the loud noise of firing and shouting by the soldiers caused panic and pandemonium as the impression was created that the Union forces had broken through the

Confederate lines and were overrunning the camp. The teamsters were terror stricken, seized the nearest horses, and rode for safety, creating further panic with the wagons at the edge of the camp.

Of the original 250 men that Colonel Scurry had left to protect the camp and wagon train, two companies of German troops had left without orders early in the afternoon to join in the battle, which had left only about 100 men to fight off the Union force coming down the side of the mountain. Although this little group of men put up a fierce resistance, they were pitted against overwhelming odds as the Union soldiers reached the floor of the canyon. Soon all resistance ceased, and the wagon train was at the mercy of the Union soldiers.

The train of more than eighty wagons was heavily loaded with food, baggage, medical stores, supplies, powder and ammunition. The soldiers overturned the wagons and put them to the torch. Soon the air was filled with smoke and flame, the smell of burning food, leather and clothing. Whenever the flames reached wagons containing munitions and powder barrels, explosions and blazing debris filled the air. There were over a thousand horses and mules which were slaughtered by guns and bayonets. In the words of one soldier, "Blood was everywhere."

The victory was complete. As the shadows from the evening sun began to reach across the canyon floor, Chivington and his men moved hurriedly back up the steep slope to make the difficult return march over the mountain to the safety of the Union forces.

When news of the holocaust reached Colonel Scurry that evening, he realized the magnitude of the disaster which had befallen his campaign. He requested an armistice to attend to the wounded on the battlefield, and at the same time gave the order for a hasty retreat. The men under his command had only the ammunition and food they carried on their persons, and they would soon be in difficult circumstances. As they retreated, they left some 200 of their wounded at a place called Pigion Ranch.

It was a hasty, disorganized retreat back toward the larger units under General Sibley. However, with the major portion of the army's transport, mules and supplies destroyed, the Confederate forces under General Sibley were virtually stranded in a barren, hostile country without sufficient food and military supplies to maintain an orderly retreat. The command rapidly disintegrated as they began the hurried movement toward Mesilla in disorganized groups. The Union forces had not followed up their victory, as Colonel Slough and Major Chivington had received strict orders from Colonel Canby, their superior, to protect Fort Union at all costs. This left them with no authority to pursue the Confederate forces across New Mexico.

And so the dream ended...vanishing like the wisps of billowy clouds on a hot summer's day. The hopes and dreams of the Confederacy to conquer the West disappeared with the defeat of Sibley's Command at Apache Canyon.

Virtually all that remains to enable us to remember such incidents in the flow of history are letters such as this. Listen to the words of a poem written on the back of a Confederate Treasury Note which tell it even better:

"Keep it! It tells our history o'er
From the birth of the dream to its last,
Modest, and born of the angel Hope,
Like our hope of success....it passed.

Show it to those who will lend an ear
To the tale that this letter can tell,
Of liberty, born of the patriot's dream
Of a storm-cradled nation that fell."

A few words in retrospect with regard to the Volunteers who had marched forth so bravely from San Antonio in October of 1861, and straggled back in small groups following the debacle at Apache Canyon. These men had marched over 1,600 miles across the most forbidding country imaginable under extremely difficult conditions during the winter months...across plains, mountains and semi-desert areas...without proper food and clothing, transport and supplies...those who made it had marched through hell and back.

As mentioned earlier, the Plains Indians were a deadly menace. The defeat of the Confederate forces in Apache Canyon was not to be the last engagement there. Just over three months later, on July 14, 1862, a Union cavalry group which was the vanguard of the California Column's wagon train entered the canyon after a long march from Dragoon Springs. They were ambushed by a large number of Apaches led by Mangas Coloradas and Cochise. The Union soldiers, led by Captain Thomas L. Roberts, fought their way through the pass, using the heavier fire power of their rifles and howitzers. Many of the Apaches were killed by the shell bursts along the rocky canyon walls. When the main wagon train arrived two days later, they were able to fight their way through the remaining Apaches with the assistance of Captain Roberts and his men. This was one of the largest engagements between the Union soldiers and the Apaches in the territory.

The Union finally recognized the importance of controlling the Glorieta Pass, and established a permanent military camp there which was later known as Fort Bowie.

Comments:

The "turned" cover illustrated, with its handling by the Mesilla, New Mexico, post office during the Confederate Occupation of the territory, is one of only a few postal examples from this ill-fated campaign. It was found by the writer in a small correspondence which turned up locally some twenty-five years ago.

Reflecting as it does the Confederate-New Mexico occupation usage, "turned" usage and Confederate-Texas usage, it is a classic postal history cover. If you will note the cross-hatched outline on the illustration which shows where the envelope was re-cut and then refolded on the "dash" lines, you will see the "thin line odds" by which all of the markings were left intact even after folding; everything was there. As a point of interest, the Dike Catalog of New Mexico Territorial Postmarks assigned this marking a top rarity rating of "nine".

Imagine the thrill of looking inside an envelope which on the face appeared to be an interesting Texas-Confederate cover and noting in the lower corner a postmark which, when deciphered, read, "Mesilla, N.M., Jan. 20", with "Due 10¢" in manuscript! This envelope was found only three months after turning up the original postal history cover from Mesilla, N.M. (Confederate usage) in a box of old stampless covers from a small dealer. Each of these covers bears the same month and day of Jan. 20 (1862), but were from different correspondences. You might say that "lightning" had indeed struck twice in the same place.

Even though this cover is a Confederate postal history rarity, the town marking was not listed in the Dietz Confederate Catalog of 1959 because "Soldier's Letters" and "Due" markings were not considered for catalog purposes. For that matter, no mention was made of Sibley's Campaign and Occupation of New Mexico and Arizona, nor was mention made of the Confederate government's efforts in the Territories west of Texas.

Yet here is proof of the existence of a Confederate post office (whether officially or unofficially under the CSA Postal Administration or under Confederate Military Administration), which was located in the Territory of New Mexico in 1861 and 1862.

As you can see, such an item is truly a major Confederate Postal History Cover, and, with the additional factors of "turned" usage and Texas-Confederate (second) usage, it is indeed another exciting Texas Gem.

NOTE: COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

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

THE POST OFFICES OF PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS

by Jack M. Smith, Sr.

Presidio County is part of the Trans Pecos Area in Texas, bounded by the Rio Grande River to the south and west, New Mexico to the north, and the Pecos River to the east, reference Map #1. El Paso and Presidio counties are the backbone of this area, as both played an important part in its development.

On January 3, 1850, Presidio County was established from a part of Bexar County, with Fort Davis as the county seat. However, the county was not organized until 1875, due to the lack of population and Indian trouble.

Before the county was organized, on May 3, 1871, a new county was created wholly from Presidio County and named Pecos, reference Map #2. Thus Presidio County was reduced in size before it legally became a county.

It was not until the early 1880's that the Texas and New Orleans (Southern Pacific) Railroad came to Presidio County. The railroad bypassed Fort Davis, the county seat. One of the stops on the railroad was in time named Marfa, and in 1885 the county seat was moved there.

The movement of the county seat was one of several reasons for the formation of four additional counties wholly from Presidio county. On February 2, 1887, Brewster and Jeff Davis counties were created. Both Buchel and Foley counties were created on March 15, 1887, reference Map #3, again reducing Presidio County in size.

Of the twenty-five post offices which existed at one time or another in Presidio County, two were never in operation and only four remain in operation within the county. The twenty-five post offices are described briefly in chronological order of their establishment.

Fort Davis: Transferred from Bexar County on July 30, 1866, this was the first post office listed on record for Presidio County and became the county seat in 1875 when the county was organized, reference Map #2. After the railroad bypassed Fort Davis, Marfa became the county seat. Fort Davis became the county seat for the newly-organized Jeff Davis County and the post office was changed to that county on March 15, 1887, reference Map #3. The earliest known cancel was used in the early part of the 1880's.

Camp Stockton: Established in Bexar County and changed to Presidio County on June 7, 1867, Camp Stockton was located in what is now Pecos County. This change was made on May 3, 1871. There are no known cancels at this time.

Presidio: A small village located on the Rio Grande River in southern Presidio County became known as Presidio in 1865, reference Map #4. When the railroad was completed to there, Presidio became a major port of entry into Mexico. The post office was established on April 30, 1868, and is still in operation even though it has been discontinued and reestablished twice. At present, the earliest known cancel is 1889. I have an 187- manuscript which may be an express office cancel.



MAP #1 (Before 1871)

San Solomon: There is no information available at this time on San Solomon. The post office was established on April 9, 1879, discontinued in 1882, reestablished in 1883 and again discontinued on June 21, 1886. There is no known cancel.

Marathon: Located on the Texas & New Orleans Railroad in present-day Brewster County, the post office for Marathon was established on February 13, 1883. On March 15, 1887, the post office was changed to Buchel County and Marathon became the county seat. There are no known cancels during its location in Presidio County.

Marfa: Established in 1881, Marfa became the county seat in 1883. Located in the northern part of Presidio County on the Texas & New Orleans Railroad, reference Map #4, Marfa is believed to have been named by the wife of the railroad's president. The post office was established on April 3, 1883, and is still in operation. The earliest known cancel was used in 1888.

McLeary: The post office at McLeary was established on October 30, 1883, but the town's name was changed to Haymond on January 23, 1884, and it is now in Brewster County on the Texas & New Orleans Railroad. There are no known cancels for McLeary.

Murphyville: This town was located on the Texas & New Orleans Railroad in what is now Brewster County, reference Map #3 (Alpine). The station house known as Osburn was renamed Murphyville in 1883, and the post office was established on December 14, 1883. On February 2, 1887, the post office was changed to Brewster County and Murphyville became the county seat. Earliest known cancel was used in 1885.

Shafter: An old silver mining town located on Cibolo Creek in the Chinatio Mountains in the south central part of Presidio County, reference Map #4, Shafter is supposedly named for General William R. Shafter, one time Commander of Fort Davis. The post office was established on March 3, 1885, and is still in operation. The earliest known cancel was used in 1890.

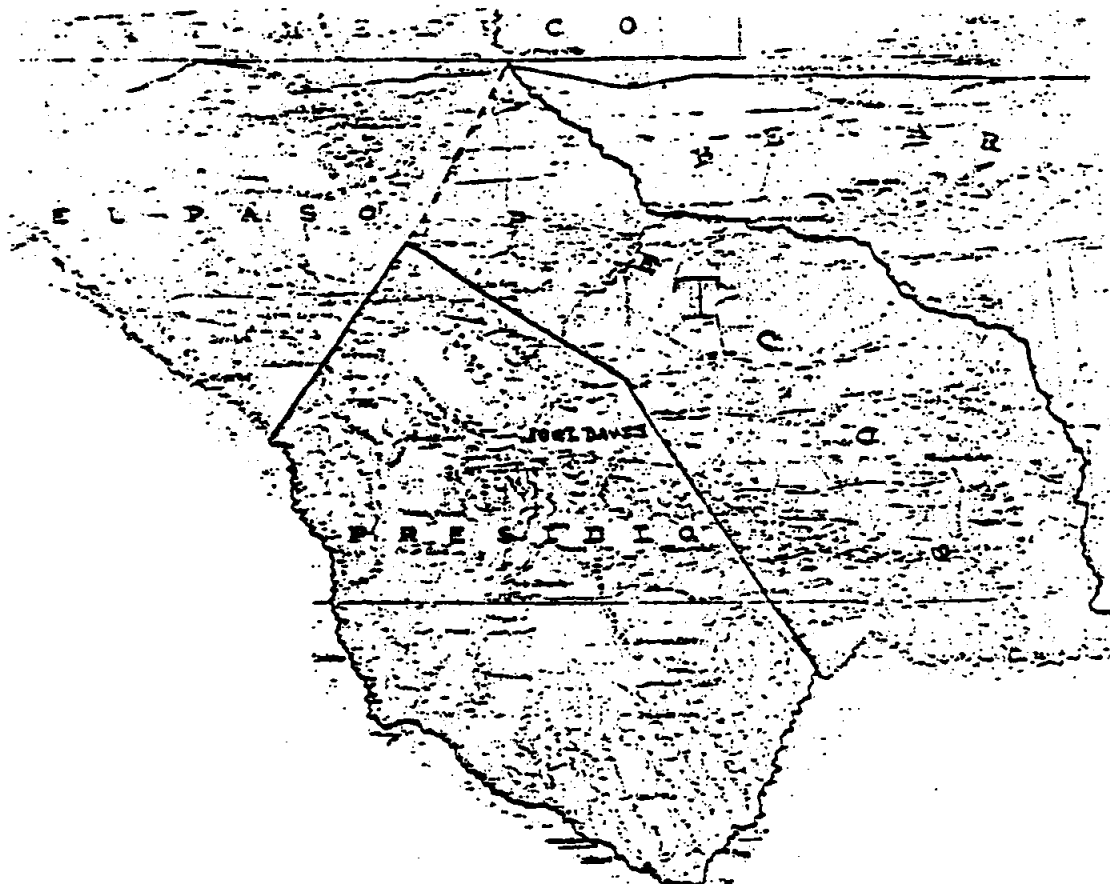
Valentine: In 1887, Valentine was changed to Jeff Davis County, back to Presidio in 1889, and returned to Jeff Davis once again in 1904. Located in the western part of the county, the post office was established on January 22, 1886. The earliest cancel available was used in 1890, and there are no known cancels prior to 1887.

Musquis: No information has been located about this town, nor are there any known cancels. The post office was established on January 8, 1886, and changed to Jeff Davis County on March 15, 1887.

Palvo: The post office for Palvo was established on January 25, 1887, and the date of its discontinuance is not known. In 1907, the post office was reestablished but was declined. There is no further information available, and no known cancels.

Dysart: The only information known about this town is the date of the post office's establishment, October 14, 1899, and discontinuance, June 14, 1902. There are no known cancels.

MAP #2 (1873)



Rindosa: The post office for Rindosa was established on March 7, 1900, and discontinued on July 21, 1900. No cancels are known, and the post office may never have been in operation.

Candelaria: Candelaria is located on the Rio Grande River in the western part of Presidio County, reference Map #4, and the post office was established January 25, 1901. In 1940, this small farming community had a population of 75. The post office was discontinued August 12, 1942, reestablished December 1, 1948, and again discontinued on February 18, 1954. There are no known cancels.

Redford: The post office was established on February 11, 1911, and is still in operation. Redford is located in the southern part of Presidio County, reference Map #4.

Casa Piedra: The town was established about 1883, and is in the southeast part of Presidio County, reference Map #4. This post office was established August 24, 1912, discontinued February 26, 1954, with no known cancels.

Ruidosa: Located in southwestern Presidio County near the Rio Grande River, reference Map #4, Ruidosa was established about 1874; but it was not until October 17, 1914, that the first post office was established. It was discontinued on September 13, 1954. One known cancel is in existence, from the 1940's.

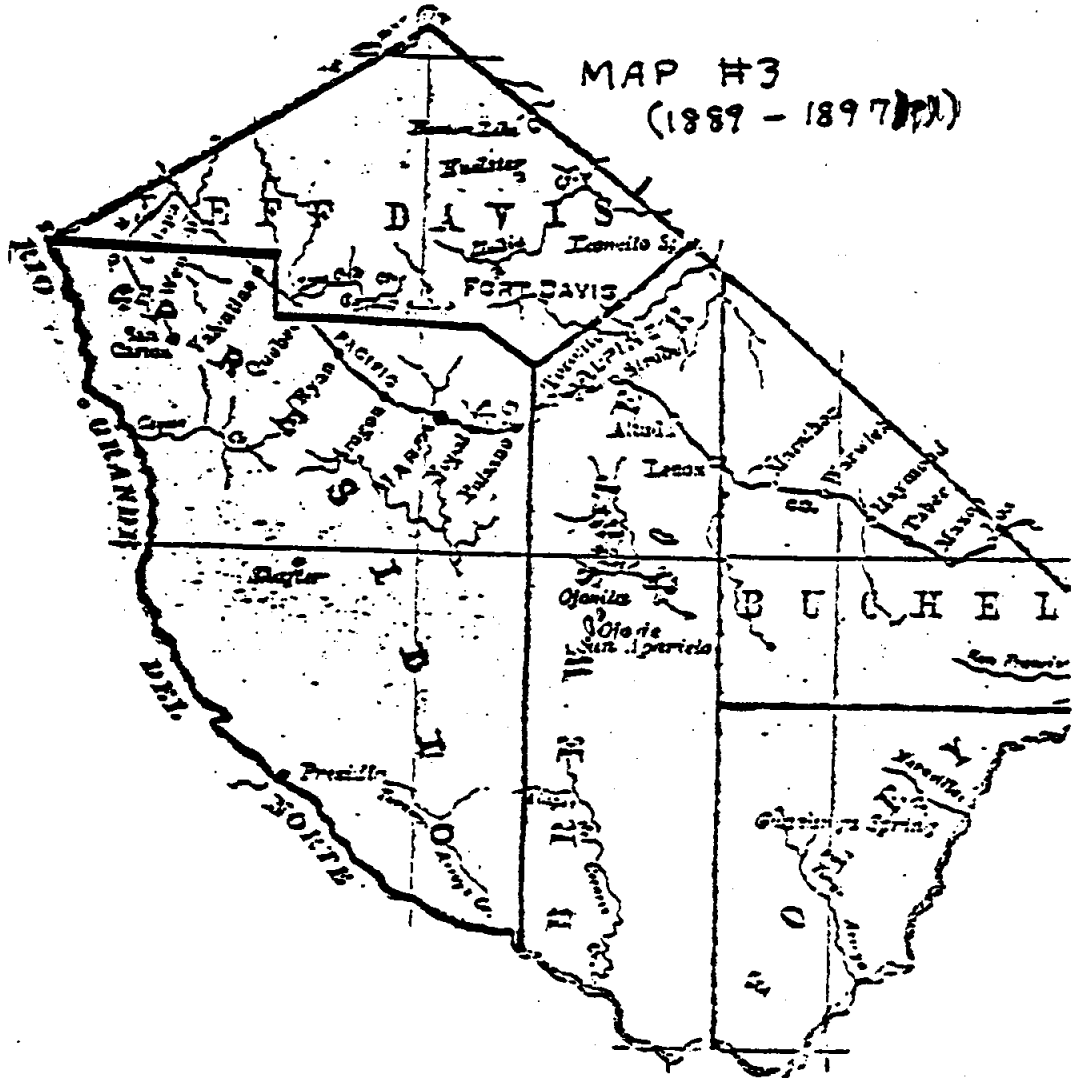
Brite: This town, established October 27, 1916, was located on the Brite Ranch, about thirty miles west of Marfa, reference Map #4. The post office was discontinued July 31, 1926, with no known cancels.

Zuline: This post office was established on February 13, 1919, but was declined and was never in operation.

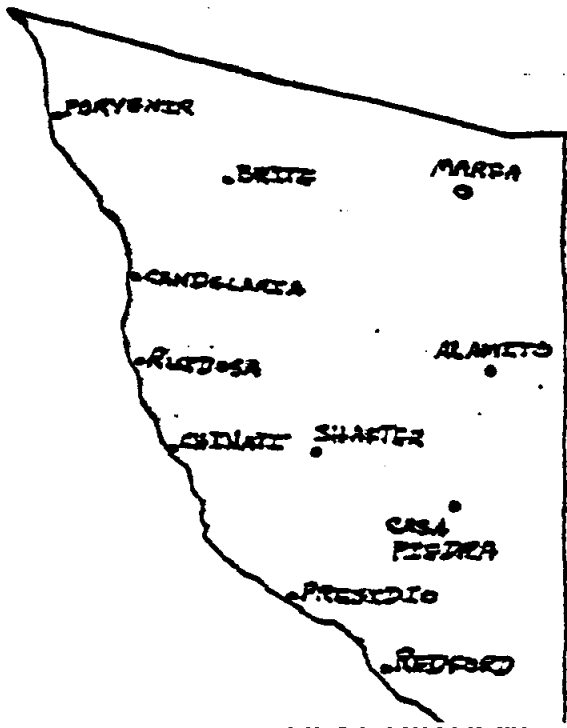
Chinati: Chinati was located on the Rio Grande River in southwestern Presidio County, reference Map #4. The post office was established May 18, 1922, and discontinued June 3, 1938, with no known cancels.

Porvenir: The town was located on the Rio Grande River in the northwestern portion of Presidio County about thirty miles or so from Candelaria, reference Map #4. Established on November 3, 1926, the post office was discontinued on November 14, 1942. There are no known cancels at this time.

Buena Suerte: As of now, there is no information about this town. The post office was established April 13, 1943, and discontinued July 15, 1945, with no known cancels.



MAP #4 (1965)



POST OFFICES

COUNTY Sheriff

POST OFFICE	WAS	DATE ESTABD	DATE DISCONTD	
ALAMITO		6-19-1884	7-7-1892	Mail to Marfa
BRITE		10-27-1916	7-31-1926	Mail to Marfa
BUENA SUERTE		4-13-1943	7-18-1945	Mail to Terlingue
CANDELARIA		1-15-1901	4-12-1942	Mail to Ruidosa
		12- 1-1948	2-18-1954	Mail to Marfa
CAMP STOCKTON	Acq. fr.	6-7-1867		acquired from Bexar Co.
			5- 3-1871	attached to Pecos Co.
CASA PIEDRA		8-24-1912	2-26-1954	Mail to Marfa
CHINATI		5-18-1922	6-11-1938	Mail to Presidio
DYSART		10-14-1899	6-14-1902	Mail to Marfa
FORT DAVIS		7-30-1866		acquired from Bexar co
			2- 2-1887	attached to Jeff Davis co
HAYMOND	McLeary	1-23-1884	3-15-1887	attached to Buchel co.
McLEARY		10-30-1883	1-23-1884	Name ch. to Haymond
MARATHON		2-13-1883	3-15-1887	attached to Buchel co.
MARFA		4-30-1887		operating
MURPHYVILLE		12-14-1883	2- 2-1887	attached to Brewster co.
MUSQUIT		1- 8-1886	3-15-1887	attached to Jeff Davis co
PALVO		1-25-1887	(?)	Ps. to Presidio
		2-2-1907		Declined
PERVENIR		11- 3-1926	11- 5-1942	Mail to Valentine
PRESIDIO		4-30-1868	1-20-1871	
		12-29-1873	2-8-1896	Ps. to Shafter
		4- 9-1896		operating
REDFORD		2-11-1911		operating
RUIDOSA		3- 7-1900	7-21-1900	never in operation
RUIDOSA		10-17-1914	9-15-1952	Mail to Candelaria
SAN SOLOMON		4- 9-1879	9-29-1882	Mail to Fort Davis
		12- 7-1885	6-21-1886	no papers
SHAFTER		3- 3-1885		operating
VALENTINE		1-22-1886	2- 2-1887	attached to Jeff Davis co
		12-13-1889		acquired fr. Jeff Davis co
			1904	attached to Jeff Davis co
ZULINE		2-13-1919		Declined