

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

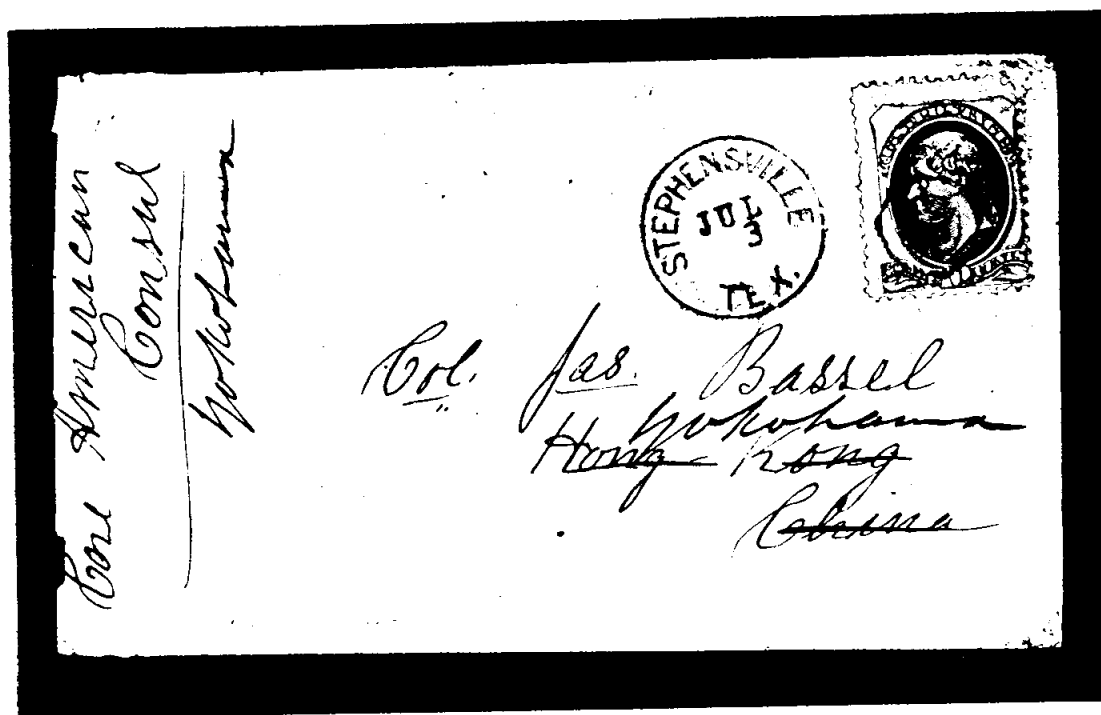


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On the cover of this issue is a reproduction of a cover sent from Stevensville to Hong Kong, and forwarded from Hong Kong to Yokahama, Japan. This cover bears a Hong Kong backstamp, dated September 5, 1875. Stevensville, now called Stevenville, was on one of the stage routes discussed by Nonie Green in her article in this issue, continued from the last issue.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

My thanks to Nonie Green and Fred Ekenstam for the fine articles appearing in this issue of the Journal. You will see from reading these pieces that Nonie and Fred have both put a great deal of time and effort into researching and preparing their subjects. In future issues, we will have articles from Norma Watz, Ronald Simplon, John German, William H. P. Emery, and others. Y'all keep those articles coming, folks! Also, if you have any material that would look good gracing our front cover, send me a good picture or photocopy and a description or background of the piece. All your help will be appreciated.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$7 per year, payable to Secretary-Treasurer

Affiliated With:

President:
Nonie Green
2401 Colorado
San Angelo, TX 76901

Vice-President:
Norman A. Cohen
P.O. Box 29543
Dallas, TX 75229

Secretary-Treasurer:
Jim Alexander
5825 Caldwell
Waco, TX 76710

Journal Editor:
John Whitehead
P.O. Box 966
Longview, TX 75606



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

At our meeting in Corpus Christi in June, we had John Germann tell us about the project that he and Mike Ludeman are working on. It is a monumental task that needs the help of each one of us. Their goal is to make a county by county survey of all Texas post offices and the handling of mail from the Spanish, Mexican, Confederate and Statehood periods. The information included about each location would consist of name, dates of operation, founding postmaster, origin of name, other names of town, population statistics, vignette of history and chronological listing of each county's post offices. Maps showing the location of each and a study of the cancellations would also be a part of the project. In order to get the information into the hands of postal historians before the lapse of too much time, it will probably appear as various segments are developed. This would certainly be helpful to our society members as well as others. If you can supply these two members with information, they would welcome your assistance.

I doubt if this issue of the journal reaches you before the APS Stampshow meeting in Dallas. We are going to try to have a meeting there if possible with Norman Cohen in charge. We will also greet members and converse with prospective members at the affiliates booth at the exhibition.

We wish to express our appreciation to member, Jim Stever and Seagull Stamp Club for their hospitality in Corpus Christi.

Our members did well at Texpex '84 and are congratulated on the following awards:

RESERVE GRAND AWARD - Bill McDaniel - Three Cent Montage

FINCHER AWARD, Best Postal History - Gordon Bleuler - Postal History of Confederate State of America, Period 1861-1865

TPA PRESIDENT'S AWARD, Best Confederate - Gordon Bleuler

BEST POSTAL STATIONERY - Ottis Bobbitt - U.S. 1893 Columbian Postal Stationery

TEXPEX GOLD MEDALS:

William K. McDaniel - Three Cent Montage

Gordon Bleuler - Postal History of Confederate States

Bill Emery - The 19th Century Postal Markings of Austin, Texas

Ottis Bobbitt - U.S. 1893 Columbian Postal Stationary

TEXPEX VERMELL MEDALS:

J.R. Keeling - Texas Usage of the General Issues of Confederate States of America

Bill Emery - 19th Century Postal Markings of Galveston, Texas

TEXPEX SILVER MEDALS:

Richard Spies - Railway Post Offices in Texas

TEXPEX BRONZE MEDALS:

Sherman Ashmore - Centennial of Texas Independence: First Day Covers

" " - Approved Centennial Cachets for Texas Cities

At the June meeting members expressed a desire to hold another meeting in the fall and after some discussion chose the site of Fort Concho at San Angelo, Texas. I am pleased to report that arrangements have been made and the schedule is as follows:

Dates: October 26th and 27th, 1984

Place: Quarters #8 Fort Concho, San Angelo, Texas
Friday, October 26th

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Check in and get acquainted

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Break

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Exchange material, ideas, information, etc.

Saturday, October 27th:

9:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. (time not finalized yet) - Tour of Fort Concho

After tour return to Quarters #8

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. - lunch at Quarters #8

1:30 p.m. - Program

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 Further informal discussion and sharing

We recommend the following hotels/motels and directions from them to Fort Concho: University Inn - North bound Throughway and South Jackson - depart from motel getting on South bound Bryant Throughway, at fourth signal light turn right on Washington Drive, stay on same until second signal light, there turn left on Oakes St., go about a half block distance and turn right at first street - this is grounds of Fort Concho - proceed to building marked "8".

Holiday Inn or a new Sheraton completed this year are both on Rio Concho Drive which is located a short distance from downtown - leaving either one of these places, go west on Rio Concho Drive until you reach Oakes St., turn left, cross bridge over Concho River, cross railroad tracks and at E. Avenue D turn left, this is grounds of Fort Concho, proceed to building marked "8".

We hope that many of you will come to this meeting to share material, knowledge and friendship with other Texas Postal History Society members and also avail yourself of an opportunity to visit one of the frontier forts of Texas constructed in 1867 and 1868 and see it first hand. A restoration program is in progress at the site which should be completed in a few years. The building for the meeting was an officers quarters during the time the fort was occupied by troops.

SEE YOU OCTOBER 26th and 27th IN SAN ANGELO.

Your hosts - Ottis Bobbitt, Bill Strauss and myself are looking forward to having you here.

TEXAS COUNTY AND POSTMASTER

CANCELLATIONS: 1856 TO 1911

By Fred Ekenstam

This project of recording the use of either a postmaster's name or the county of origin in the cancellation started as a result of being frustrated. I had purchased a GOLDTHWAITE, TEX. / W. Marshall, P.M. cover and could not find it listed in Miss Edith R. Doane's compilation of County/Postmaster (Co/Pm) cancels in Billig Handbook 31. I thought I really had something! Then I learned of an additional listing of Co/Pm cancels by Dr. H.K. Thompson in Billig Handbook 10. I checked the Handbook 10 out of the American Philatelic Research Library and behold: there was the Goldthwaite cancel. I was disappointed at not having a new discovery, but I was delighted at the "new" information. But it was inconvenient to have two partial listings, so I began to consolidate the two and in the process I realized there were many cancels not recorded. I appealed for help from the members of the TPHS and the U.S. Cancellation Club for new listings, new years of usage, and photocopies of covers, where possible. Miss Doane and Dr. Thompson had a total of 105 cancels in their listings. The following list is for 149, and many new years of usage have been added.

But let's go back to the beginning. Why do these Co/Pm cancels even exist? Why are they collectible? It may have been a matter of personal pride, ego, an attempt to be different, peer pressure, subtle advertising for commercial ventures which the postmaster was involved in, or an attempt to eliminate confusion in routing letters. All of the following cancels are from the very smallest post offices--fourth class-- which had little annual business and not much interference or direct supervision. Some of the post offices did so little business, in fact, that they never did buy a hand canceller. These are the most basic--manuscript-- but none the less, very collectible.

The earliest recorded use of a Co/Pm cancel in Texas is from WHEELOCK / ROBERTSON / COUNTY / TEXAS in 1856 and the latest is from FOWLERTON, / LASALLE CO. TEXAS in 1911. The main usage of these cancels came during the late 1870's and through the 1880's. Generally the use declined after the mid-1890's when the post office prohibited their use.

By using the following abbreviations, it is possible, in large part, to visualize what a cancel looks like, even if no tracing accompanies:

- P - plain outer border
- D - double outer border
- I - one inner border
- DI - two outer borders and one inner border
- F - fanc
- C - circ
- Ov - oval

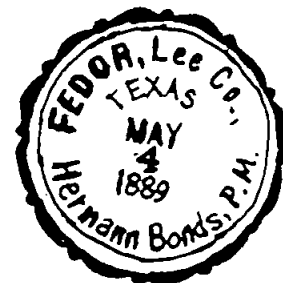
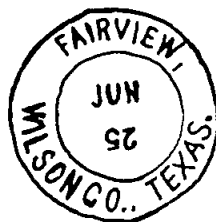
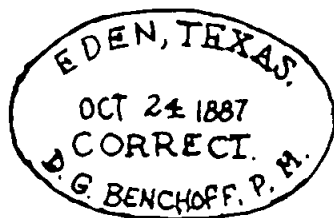
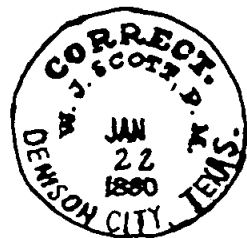
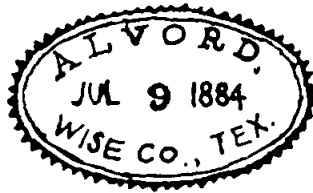
Rec- rectangle
 Oct- octagon
 SL - straight line, single or multiple
 ms - manuscript
 U - information left out is unknown

The asterisk is used to denote a cancel in a color other than black. At one point, I was going to indicate all the colors used but it got to be too cumbersome to delineate brownish-black, blackish brown and was the cancel -purple, magenta or what? and then some of the post offices used multiple inks.

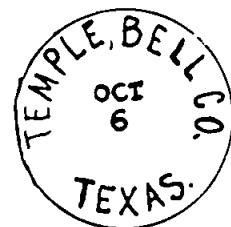
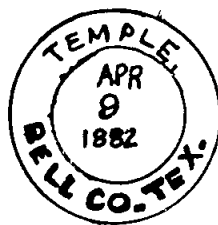
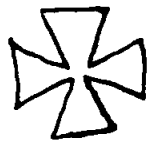
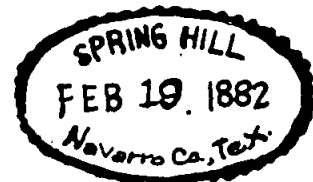
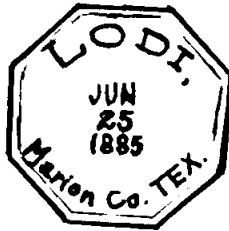
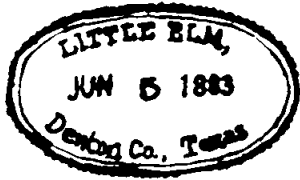
A dash between year dates indicates usage is known for all the years in between. A comma means only those years listed are known.

If a cancel is listed in all capitals, that is the way it appears on the -cancel. If it is a mixture of capitals and lower case, that is the way the cancel appears. The use of the diagonal line reflects the end of a line starting from the top or the left side of the cancel.

<u>CANCELLATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CANCEL TYPE</u>
ACME, TEX. / EL PASO CO.	1884	CDI
ACOMB, TEXAS. / Robt. T. Dennis, P.M.	1879	CD
ALEXANDER, TEX. / J. B. St. Clair, P.M.*	1886	CP
ALVORD, / WISE CO., TEX.	1884,1886	OvDF
ARGYLE, TEXAS. / H.B. Fehleison, P.M.	1883	CD
BANDERA, P. O. TEX. / C. Schmidtke, P.M.*	1878-1880	CP
BAIRD, CALLAHAN CO. / Texas	1884	CP
BIG FOOT, TEX. / James Connelly, P.M.	1885,1888	CD
BIG SANDY, TEXAS / CORRECT / R. L. FERRELL, P.M.	1887-1888	OvP
BLANCO, TEX. / C. P. Boon, P.M.*	1880-1881	CDI
BOLIVAR, TEX. / S. A. McAdams, P.M.	1880	CP
BOWIE / Montague Co., Texas*	1883	OvDF
Brandon Hill Co. Texas	1874	SLms
Brazos Bottom, / Burleson Co., Tex.	1856	SLms
BRYAN CITY, TEX / G. W. Gardiner, P. M.*	1868	CI
L. D. CARRINGTON, P.M. / BUDA	1888-1889	CP
CAMP RICE, TEXAS. / A. J. Warren, P.M.	1886	CD
CENTRALIA, TEX. / D. H. Hamilton, P.M.	1887	CP
CHANDLER, TEXAS / JOHN A. DUNHAM, P.M.	1886	CD
CHICO / Wise Co., Texas	1883, 1885-1889	
CHILLICOTHE / HARDEMAN CO. / Chas. E. Jones, P.M. / TEXAS*	1886	CF
CHRIESMAN, Burleson Co., / TEXAS.	1885-1886	CD
CLIFTON, TEX / H. T. HART, P.M.	1885	CP
COKE P.O. / McLENNAN CO. TEX.*	1877-78,1880	CP
COLLINS, / NUECES CO., TEXAS.*	1880	CDI
COLLINSVILLE, TEXAS / GRAYSON CO., / J. H. DOYLE / POSTMASTER / Texas*	1884	CI



CROWELL, TEX / JAS. L. LEE, P.M.	1885	OvP
DAVILLA, / Milam Co., Texas*	1882	OvDF
CORRECT / W. J. SCOTT, P.M. / DENISON CITY, TEXAS*	1880	CP
DERDEN, / HILL CO. TEXAS	1882-1883	CDI
DEPORT, TEXAS / M. C. Nobles, P.M.	1886	CD
D'HANIS, TEX. / J. G. FRY, P.M.*	1884	CD
DUNCANVILLE / DALLAS CO. / TEXAS*	1887	OvP
L. D. CARRINGTON, P.M. / DUPREE, TEX.	1885-1886	CP
EAGLE SPRINGS, / R. MUIRHEAD, P.M./ TEXAS / CORYELL CO.*	1880-1881	RecDI
EDEN, TEXAS / CORRECT / D. G. BENCHOFF, P.M.*	1887	OvP
ELKHART, TEX. / JAMES W. BRYAN, P.M.*	1884-1885	OvP
ELKHART, TEX. / CORRECT . JAMES W. BRYAN, P.M.	1882,1884	OvP
ERSKINE, / CONCHO CO., TEXAS	1885,1887	CDI
W. H. Burgin, P.M. / ETHEL, Texas.	1894	CD
EULOGY, TEX. / C. W. Smith, P.M.	1886	CDI
EULOGY, TEX. / Z. E. Mickey, P.M.*	1887-1889	CDI
EVERGREEN, TEX. / BENJ. F. ELLIS, P.M.	1886	U
EZZELL,/ LAVACA CO., / TEXAS.	1894	CP
FAIRVIEW, / WILSON CO., TEXAS*	1884	CI
FEDOR, Lee Co., / Hermann Bonds, P.M.	1889	CDF
Farmers Institute, Tex. / J. P. Crim, P.M.	1889	CD
FINIS, JACK COUNTY, TEXAS*	1889	CDI
FOWLERTON, / LASALLE CO. TEXAS.*	1911	SL
FRANKLIN / E. REYNOLDS, P.M. TEXAS	1883-1884, 1886,1897	CP
GAUSE, / MILAM CO. / TEXAS.	1889-1890	CF
GIDDINGS, / LEE CO. / M. A. CLARK, P.M. TEXAS	1886	CDF
Glenfawn, Rusk Co., Tex.*	1876	SLms
GLORY, TEXAS / Samuel C. Ratcliff, P.M.	U	CD
GOLDTHWAITE, TEX. / W. Marshall, P.M.	1886	CD
HALLETSVILLE, TEX. ? D. B. Howerton, P.M.*	1883-1885	CP
HARRISBURG, HARRIS CO. / Texas	1882	CDI
HAW CREEK, P. O. / Fayette Co., Tex.	1883	OvDF
HENRIETTA, TEXAS. / S. M. Sears, P.M.	1879	CD
HENRIETTA, CLAY CO. / W. A. SPIRES, P.M.	1883,1888	CP
Texas		
HOCHHEIM, TEXAS / C.T. Schwab, P.M.	1887	CD
HOMER, TEXAS. / Henry J. Mathews, P.M.	1883	CD
HONDO CITY, TEXAS. / MEDINA CO.	1890	CP
HONDO CITY, / Medina Co., / TEXAS	1891	CP
HOPE, TEXAS / R. W. Dodd, P.M.	1886	CP
HUTTO, TEXAS. / Jno. A. Blanton, P.M.	1880	CD
INDEPENDENCE, Wash. Co. / TEXAS. / D. Jackson, P.M.	1883-1884	CDF



INGRAM / KERR CO. / TEXAS	1887	OvDP
JONES PRAIRIE, TEX. / U , P.M.	1883	CP
JOSHUA, / JOHNSON CO., / TEXAS	1886	OvD
JUNCTION CITY, TEX. / N.C. Patterson, P.M.*	1884	CD
KELLYVILLE, TEX. / L. BOWN, P.M.*	1882	CD
KENO, LIBERTY CO. / TEXAS*	1888	SL (arc)
LA GRANGE, FAYETTE CO., / TEXAS*	1880	CI
LARISSA, P. O. TEX. / U , P.M.*	1882	CD
LIPAN, TEXAS / Geo. A. Morriss, P.M.	1883	CD
LITTLE ELM, / Denton Co., Texas*	1881-1883	OvDF
LODI, / Marion Co., TEX.	1885	OctD
MACY, / TEXAS / G. A. HUNT, P.M.	1884	OvD
McDADE, TEX. / W. C. Stewart, P.M.*	1884-1886	CP
MANSFIELD, TEX. / Tarrant Co.	U	OvD
POST OFFICE / MARLIN FALLS CO. TEXAS*	1878	CP
Marienfield, Martin Co. Texas	1890	Oct
MARTINSBURG, / GILLESPIE CO., TEXAS*	1879	CDFI
MELISSA, / Collin Co., Texas	1879,1882-1883	OvDF
MIDLAND, / MIDLAND CO. / TEXAS	1885,1887	OvD
MINK, TEXAS. / John F. Dobbs, P.M.	1887	CD
MOFFAT, TEXAS / Wm. H. Lykes, P.M.	1886-1888	CD
MONTEREY, / HILL CO., TEX.*	1879	CP
MOORESVILLE / FALLS CO. TEX.*	1879,1881,1888,	CP
	1896	
MT. MORO, TEXAS. / A. C. Brewer, P.M.	1887	CD
J. A. KERR, P.M./ NOPAL, TEXAS*	1881	OvDF
OAK VALLEY / HILL CO. / TEXAS	1879	OctD
OENAVILLE, TEX. / Bell.Co., Tex .	1885	OvDF
ORANGEVILLE, TEX. / O. H. CLARK, P.M.*	1891	CP
OYSTER CREEK, / Brazoria Co., Tex*	1884-1885	OvDF
PEARSALL, / FRIO CO., TEX.	1882-1883	CD
PEASE, / HARDEMAN CO., N. W. TEX.	1880	CDI
PILOT GROVE, TEX. / T. P. Dumas, P.M.*	1879	CP
RED OAK, / Ellis Co Texas	1885	OvDF
REED, COOKE CO / TEXAS.	1896	CP
RICE'S CROSSING, TEX / J. B. Hutchinson, P.M.	1884,1886	CD
Richmond, Tex. / D. Ferguson, P.M.*	1883,1885	CI
ROSEBUD, / FALLS CO. / TEXAS.	1891,1893	CD
ROSEBUD, FALLS CO., / TEX.	1894-1895	CP
ROSTON, TEX. / THOS. WILLIS, P.M.	1882	OvD
ROUND TOP / FAYETTE CO. / TEX.	1889,1892-1894	CP
RUTERSVILLE, TEXAS, / H. Hmberg, P.M.	1889-1890	CD
SAN ANGELA / TOM GREEN CO. TEX.*	1882	CDI
SANTA ANNA. / COLEMAN CO/ W. J. CROSEY,	1886,1896	CF
P.M. / TEXAS		
SIPE SPRINGS, TEX. / P. K. Stamey, P.M.*	1884	CD
SMITHFIELD, TEXAS. / Louis B. Brown, P.M.*	1884,1889	CDF
SMITHS POINT / Chambers Co. Tex.	1884	SL
SOUTHMAYD, TEX. / J. A. BOHRER, P.M.	1882	OctP

OAK VALLEY
HILL CO
DEC 5 1879
TEXAS.

TRENTON, TEX.
DEC
13
1892
J.W. MORRISON, P.M.

EAGLE SPRINGS.
CORDELL CO.
1881
R. MURHEAD, P.M.
TEXAS.

WYAN HORN, EL PASO CO.
MAY
4
1888
TEX.

XENO, LIBERTY CO.
TEXAS.

WEESATCHE
JUN
22
1891
GOLIAD CO. TEX.

WAXAHACHIE
FEB 25 1884
ELUS CO
TEXAS.

UTOPIA,
UNION CO.
MAY
22
1886
GEO. A. BARNER, P.M.
TEXAS.

WELLBORN, TEX
JUL 23 1884
J. N. FARQUEAR, P.M.

WOODVILLE
MAY 2 1883
TYLER CO. TEXAS.

WHEELOCK
ROBERTSON
3 2
APR
TEXAS.

YORKTOWN, TEX
JUL 28 1881
F. B. Gahmert, P.M.

Spring-Harris Co.	1877	SLms
SPRING HILL, / Navarro Co., Tex.*	1882	OvF
STUEBNER, HARRIS CO. / TEX.	1893	CDI
SUMNER, TEXAS / J. R. COX, P.M.	1886	CD
SYLVAN, TEX. / J. M. BOONE, P.M.	1884	CP
TARREN, TEXAS. / TYLER CO.	1886	CP
(This is error for Warren)		
TASCOSO, TEX. / G. J. HOWARD, P.M.	1883	CD
TEMPLE, BELL CO. / TEXAS	1882	CI
TEMPLE, BELL CO. / TEXAS	1883	CP
THOMASTON, TEX. / J. W. PRIGDEN, P.M.	1885-1886	CD
TILDEN / McMullen Co., Texas*	1880-1884	OvDF
TRENTON, TEX. / J. W. MORRISON, P.M.*	1892	CI
TRYGILLO, / Oldham Co. Texas.	1881	OvDF
Twinsisters, Comal Co. / Texas	1857	SLms
UTOPIA, / UVALDE CO. / GEO. A. BARKER, P.M. / TEXAS	1886	CFI
VAN HORN, EL PASO CO. / TEX.*	1888	CI
VILLAGE MILLS, / HARDIN CO. TEX	1885	CD
WARREN, TEXAS. / TYLER CO.*	1887	CP
WAXAHACHIE, / ELLIS CO., / TEXAS	1884	OvD
WEESATCHE / GOLIAD CO., TEX.	1891	CP
WELLBORN, TEX. / J. N. FARQUHAR, P.M.	1884	OvP
WELLS, TEXAS, / E. D. SPINKS, P.M.	1886	CD
WESTON, TEX. / J. S. B. Apollos, P.M.	1883	CI
WHEELOCK / ROBERTSON / COUNTY / TEXAS	1856-1857 1862(Confederate)	CP
WHITE MOUND, / Grayson Co., Texas.*	1880-1881	OvDF
WILLOW POINT, TEX. / J.W. GREENFIELD, P.M.	1885	OctP
WITTING, / LAVACA CO. / TEXAS*	1888	GDF
WOODBURY, / HILL CO., / A. T. MANN, P.M. TEXAS	1885	CF
WOODLAND, / Red River Co. / J. W. Houston, P.M. / TEXAS	1890	CF
WOODLAWN, / Harrison Co. / TEXAS*	1891	CP
WOODVILLE, / TYLER CO., Texas*	1883	OvDF
YORKTOWN, TEX / F. B. Gohmert, P.M.	1881	CP
ZAPP, P.O. TEXAS. / Chas. T. Zapp, P.M.*	1888,1890-1892	CD
ZAPP, P.O. TEX. / C. F. GARLIN, P.M.*	1892-1894	CD

There are a number of the cancellations which need to be highlighted. The WHEELOCK / ROBERTSON / COUNTY / TEXAS cancel is the only one so far recorded which was used before and during the Civil War. It is also the only usage on a Confederate cover. The MINK, TEXAS. / John F. Dobbs, P.M. cover is the only one I have seen to a destination outside the United States. The MONTEREY, / HILL CO., TEX. is cancelled in the brightest, most unusual almost incandescent imaginable.

I would like to thank the HJMR Company for the permission to use the information previously published in Billig Handbooks 10 and 31. I also want to thank the many people who shared information for this listing. I especially want to thank Jim Alexander for initially encouraging me in this work.

In a future article I plan to show the distribution of Co/Pm cancels by county and how that looks plotted on a map of Texas.

SAN ANTONIO-ELPASO STAGE LINES AND OTHER LINES SERVING THE

SAME ROUTES AT LATER DATES: 1868 TO 1887

By Nonie Green
(Continued from last issue)

The railroad gradually began to eliminate some of the stage route stations so that by July 19, 1876 the terminus of the line became Fort Worth on the stage traveling southwestward to Granbury, Stephenville, Dublin, Comanche, Brownwood, Coleman and then Fort Concho.

In 1877 the Bain & Company's route was much the same as in 1876 from San Antonio to Fort Concho except that the railroad had now reached San Antonio and the company advertised the fact that it provided a connection to same from Fort Concho. The coaches left daily except on Mondays for Leon Springs and Boerne, from there on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with the same stops as previously noted but Doebbler's and Mason were added, Kickapoo Springs discontinued and Ben Ficklin added. Two hack services were listed, one from Boerne to Comfort on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays; another from San Antonio for Lavernia and Sutherland Springs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. F.C. Taylor was superintendent for Bain & Company and A.A. Muncey was the agent at an office across from the Menger Hotel in San Antonio.

In 1878 when government mail contracts were up for bids again Bain & Company secured the portion of the El Paso Mail Line lost by Francis Taylor in 1875. This line was extended into New Mexico and went to Canetilla and Mesilla in that State. Several new stops were added between Fort Concho and El Paso.

Auxiliary line of the company were operated on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays out of San Antonio to Laredo via Pleasanton, Tilden and Fort Ewell. Charles K. Reaves became the agent for Bain & Company about this time.

Francis Taylor died on June 4, 1879 only a few months after the death of his wife, Ester. His funeral was attended by large numbers of people and the businesses at Fort Concho, Ben Ficklin and San Angela closed their doors on the day of his burial to honor his memory. Taylor's sister, Mary Jane Metcalfe, assumed the duties of managing the stage and mail operations from Concho Mail Station after his death and remained in charge at that location until August 24, 1882 when the Concho Mail Station and Ben Ficklin were destroyed by flood and Mrs. Metcalfe lost her life in the disaster. (See story in Texas Postal History Journal, December, 1982)

After the devastation, remaining postal records at Ben Ficklin were taken to Fort Concho. The Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. wrote several communications to the postmaster at Ben Ficklin reprimanding the office for not forwarding the usual reports required of a post office. An official communication to Washington, D.C. was prepared by postmaster Sam Pollock and that document is illustrated herewith. Other documents pertaining to the post office records after the flood are also reproduced here and it is supposed they were sent from an office at Fort Concho since the mail operations originated from there following the disaster.

San Angela, the town across the river from Fort Concho, had made several attempts to obtain a post office but was unsuccessful until 1881 when the government approved one and appointed Nathan Osmer as postmaster. He was succeeded in the office by his daughter, Ellen Osmer, whose appointment in January, 1883 is shown on an accompanying Post Office Department document. Later, Ellen Osmer became the wife of Louis L. Farr, rancher and surveyor, who was the great uncle of the writer. Mail from San Angela was carried on the stage lines of the area at the time. A controversy developed over the name of the town. Since "San" was masculine it could not be combined with the feminine "Angela", so it became "San Angelo" on October 26, 1883 with the post office officially using it in the postmark from that time.

From 1879 up to the middle 1880's C. Bain & Company continued to operate the mail and stagecoach routes much as they were listed in 1879 with a few changes now and then on the schedules and the locations of stations. After the early 1880's the routes began to be shortened as stations were eliminated by the railroads coming into their areas. Stage lines as such began to disappear as the railroads took over and the equipment and stock animals were sold to persons interested in short runs where communities were still in need of this means of transportation and mail service. From the middle 1880's to 1888 stages were still going from San Angelo to Ballinger, a distance of thirty-six miles north-east, to Fredricksburg, a distance of one hundred sixty miles southeast and to Fort Stackton one hundred sixty miles west. When the Santa Fe Railroad came into San Angelo on October 1, 1888, the Stage coach era for the southwest part of Texas was virtually ended.

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Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4, 1883.

Sir: The Postmaster General has appointed you Postmaster at San Angela, County of Tom Green, State of Texas, in which capacity you will be authorized to act upon complying with the following requirements:

1st. To execute the inclosed bond, and cause it to be executed by two or more sufficient sureties, in the presence of suitable witnesses; the sufficiency of the sureties, and their oath or affirmation, to be certified by a duly qualified magistrate.

2d. To take and subscribe the oath or affirmation of office inclosed, before a duly qualified magistrate, who will certify the same; also to appoint an assistant, who must also take the oath; and deposit these papers in the mail in an envelope addressed to me.

After the receipt at this Department of your bond and qualification, duly executed and certified, and the approval of the same by the Postmaster General, a commission will, in due course of business, be sent to you. Until this commission shall have been received, you will not be justified in incurring any expense or performing any act as postmaster.

On the receipt of your commission you will be entitled to enter upon the duties of the office and take charge of the public property belonging to the Post Office aforesaid, such as desks, cases, boxes, tables of the Post Office, laws and instructions, mail-keys, blanks, letters, and papers on hand, and stationery, a list of which articles you will send to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

If you accept the appointment, the bond and oath must be executed and returned without delay. If you decline, notice thereof should be immediately given to this Office.

It will be your duty to continue in charge of the office, either personally or by an assistant, until you are relieved from it by consent of the Department, which will be signified by the discontinuance of your office or the appointment of your successor.

Very respectfully,

James E. Moran
First Assistant Postmaster General.

Ellen C. Osmer, Esq.

- N. B.—The quarters expire on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December. Accounts must be rendered for each quarter within two days after its close.
- Postmasters are not authorized to give credit for postage. Want of funds is, therefore, no excuse for failure of payment.
- A postmaster must not change the name by which his office is designated on the books of the Department without the order of the Postmaster General.
- Be careful in mailing letters and transient newspapers to postmark each one, in all cases, with the name of your office and State. In stamping letters, great care should be observed to render the impression distinct and legible.

The Postmaster will notify the Department whenever a change occurs in the office of the Principal Assistant P. M., and send the name of the person so appointed to the First Assistant Postmaster General, with the required oath of office.

Archives Fort Concho Museum

Official appointment of Ellen Osmer as Postmistress for San Angela

In all communications to this Department be careful to give the name of your Office, County, and State.

You are directed to inform the First Ass't P. M. General of the date you take possession of the office.

STAR SERVICE.

(Form 5201.)

DO NOT FILL ALL THE BLANKS OF THIS HEADING.

RECORD OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES for the month of October, 1882

Ben Ficklin post office, County of San Juan, State of Texas
 Route No. 31666, from Ben Ficklin to Shawwood Tex

Contract time of Arrival _____; Contract time of Departure _____
 Name of Contractor, _____; Name of Carrier, _____
 Mode of carrying the Mail, _____; Trips a week required, _____

Estimated average weight of mail carried each trip, _____ pounds.

Days of the Week	Of Month	TIME OF ARRIVAL OF CARRIER	TIME OF DEPARTURE OF CARRIER	Days of the Week	Of Month	TIME OF ARRIVAL OF CARRIER	TIME OF DEPARTURE OF CARRIER
	1				17		
	2				18		
	3				21		
	4				22		
	5				23		
	6				24		
	7				27		
	8				28		
	9						
	10						
	11						
	12						
	13						
	14						
	15						
	16						

None to be shown

Service performed on this Route during the month of October

No service performed on this Route during November

As there has been no service on this Route from this office since Dec 26 1882 on that date the office and contents were swept away by a flood. The mails have been going from Ft Comch to Shawwood

Report causes of all failures on back of Record.

The postmaster must sign Record in person unless necessarily absent or sick, in which case it may be signed as follows:

I certify the above report to be correct.

By Sam Pollock, P. M.
 Assistant P. M.
 Archives Fort Concho Museum

Communication from Sam Pollock, Postmaster at Ben Ficklin to Washington, D.C. notifying them that the post office had been swept away by a flood.