

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Bayard ~ July 27, 1879

The fort was established in the Santa Rita Mining District in 1866 to help subdue the Apache uprisings that so disturb the intensive copper mining going on in the area. The fort was garrisoned with three companies of about 350 men in the Black Mountain district at 6,000 feet. The troops enjoyed a mild climate in this mountainous area. The fort remained active much longer than most forts in New Mexico, and was finally closed in 1899 just a few years after the surrender of Geronimo's band in Skeleton Canyon in 1886. This cover displays the *Type 3* purple cancellation with star, and was generally in use from July 1879 to November of the same year.



Fort Bayard, New Mexico Territory Circa 1880's

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Buchanan New Mexico Territory

A yellow cover originating in Mexico with red boxed "Franco En Alamos" postmark and their matching "3" reales rate handstamp on reverse. The cover entered the U.S. mails addressed to Mrs. W. A. Rowntree, Sacramento, Alta California with 3c dull red (#26) tied by clear strike of "Fort Buchanan, N. M. dated Feb 28" and carried by the Butterfield stage, a rare interesting and unusual usage one of two known covers.

This fort was located near the Sonoita River about 40 miles southwest of Tucson in what was then the New Mexico Territory many years before the establishment of the Arizona Territory in 1863.

The first detachment of U. S. First Dragoons under Col. J. V. F. Blake arrived at the site to begin construction on the fort on Nov. 17, 1856,. They first called it Camp Moore, however the construction preceded rapidly, and the name was changed to Fort Buchanan on May 29, 1857. It was a crude and rough establishment in the early days, but played an important part during the Indian wars against the Apaches and other tribes scattered through the area. The Post Office was established on June 5, 1857 and later discontinued on October 21, 1863.

During the early months of the Civil War the fort was burned on July 21, 1861 by Union troops to keep it from falling into the hands invading Confederate forces coming from Texas. The Confederate troops had plans to take over all of New Mexico and Arizona.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Craig New Mexico Territory

The fort first started taking shape in 1853 as a result of the abandonment of Fort Conrad. The new fort stood on a bluff overlooking the river bottom, and had walls of adobe four feet thick and ten feet high; the large supply building could hold enough materials for 3,000 soldiers.

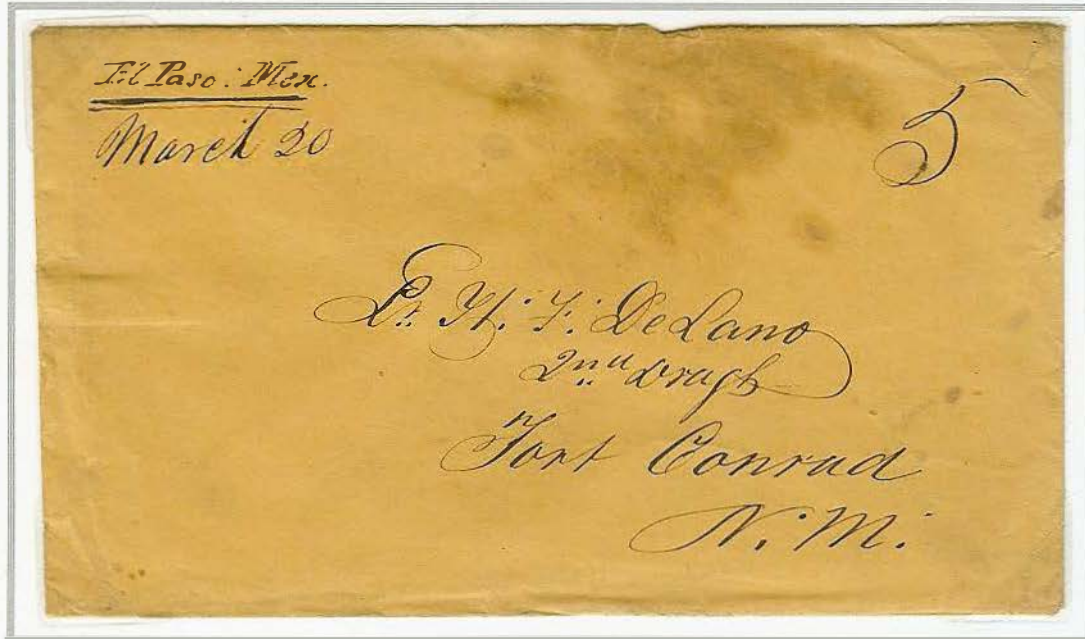
The Civil War broke out in April 1861, and the soldiers from Fort Craig were soon involved in a major battle in February 1862. They won a decisive victory over Confederate troops at Val Verde, which turned the war in the West in favor of the Union. This cover displays a fine early *Type 1* postmark with manuscript dated Feb 21st. The letter enclosed written to her mother Mrs. Mary Martin in North Bloomfield, Ohio, describing life on the frontier, and dangers of the Apache and Navajo Indians in the area. Her husband was 2nd Lt. Martin V. B. Lewis 8th U. S. Infantry.



General View of Fort Craig Looking South, Circa 1870's

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

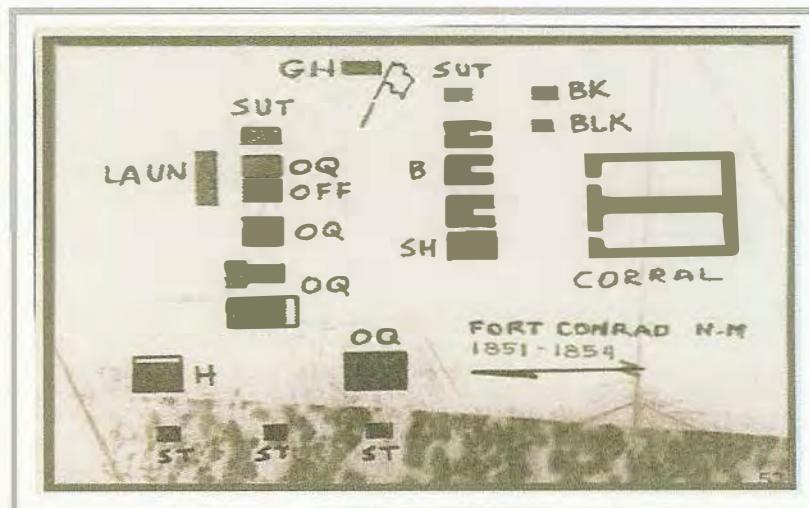
Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Incoming To ~ Fort Conrad

This early incoming cover from El Paso, Mexico dated March 20, addressed to Lt. H. F. De Lano 2nd Drag's Fort Conrad, N. M. This fort had no post office being in early stages of construction. The cover carries the "5" cent rate

The construction of Fort Conrad began in 1851, however, the Army committed two major blunders when selecting the site along the Rio Grande river. The area selected was mistakenly built on private land, and very near some low marshy ground that proved to be very unhealthy with outbreaks of malaria that plagued the troops stationed at the garrison. This resulted in Fort Conrad's life being a short one, as it was abandoned in April of 1854. Captain Daniel Chandler the commander of the post led two companies of the 3rd Infantry Regiment down the river to a new, and much better site where Fort Craig would be constructed.



Fort Conrad ~ Circa 1851 to 1854

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890

Pinos Altos, N. Mex.
December 15th and 22nd, 1867

Dear Brother

It is unfeigned pleasure I take my pen in hand this calm Sabbath evening to answer your kind and ever welcome letter of Oct. 30th which was rec'd received the 20th of Nov. It found John and Ran both in excellent health and the subscriber hopes that this will find Ad and the other members of the Hartzell family all "Estah Buena".

John is and has been for sometime with Jim A. Miller at a little place call Central City some 15 miles south of Pinos Altos. I very much fear Central City will share the same fate that befell Cave City. I think that before many months have rolled around Central like Cave City will only be inhabited by Coyotes and Jack Apaches.



Fort Cummings ~ December 26, 1867

Letter to A. R. Hartzell, Esq. Dodgeville, Iowa. with "Type 1" postmark, and Paid 25 fee from Pinos Altos to Fort Cummings. A two part letter written on Dec. 15th and Dec 22nd 1867. The postmark is two years earlier then listed reference. Fort Cummings Post Office opened 1866.

The Indians killed two men lasts Wednesday some ten miles below Ft. Bayard took four mules. I was well acquainted with one of the men his name was John Moore was with us at Cave City last Winter. The demon Jack Apache is High Mucky muck in this country.

A shooting affair came off here in town last night. The keeper of a Baile Room got into some difficulty with an other man while Gambling drew his revolver and shot him dead. I thought for a while the miner's would hang the murdered. I was mostly in favor of it since that is speediest way of getting rid of such desperadoes. I must close now, remember me kindly to our Family.

Yours Truly, Ran.

FORT DEFIANCE, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

October 27th, 1859

A fine descriptive letter written by the Topographical Engineer while on a mission to the Navajo tribe. He describes all the sites in this barren land that were seen during the journey. The suffering of his men was great due to the total shortage of water for six days travel. The long march took Company of soldiers as far west as the great Canyon de Chelly in the heart of Navajo land.

Fort Defiance, New Mexico

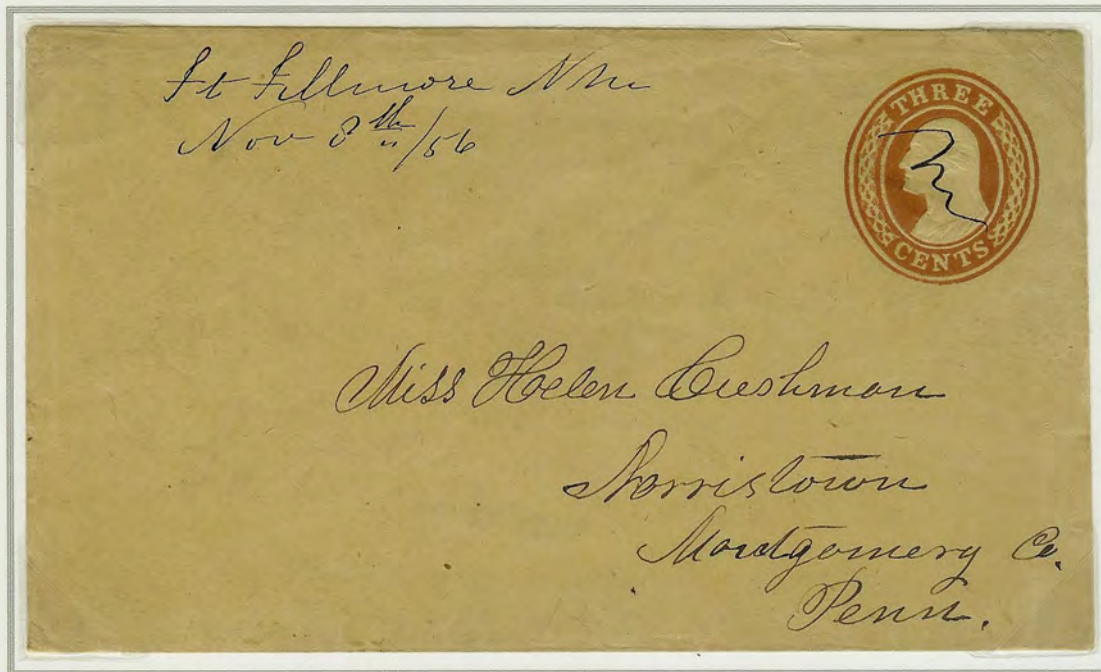
October 27th 1859

My Dearest Sister Cate

You will no doubt ere this have received the sad, sad news of our mother's death, of the loss of the best of friends in this world, alas how heavily is has fallen upon us so far from home, I among strangers who do not know her and can not therefore appreciate my loss although they are very kind. I tried as soon as I got the news to get a leave granted me to go to Albuquerque to be with Joe but our relations with the Indians are at present of such a nature that my presence could not be dispensed with by the Commanding officer, so that although we are separated but by a paltry hundred miles or so yet are just as much apart in this great sorrow as if it were a thousand miles. Joe seems to be in great affliction when he wrote and although he has many friends in Albuquerque

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Fillmore ~ November 3, 1856

A manuscript postmark on 3 cent red on buff entire letter addressed to Miss Helen Cushman at Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The fort was established in September 1851 located on the left bank of the Rio Grande River six miles north of Mesilla.



Fort Fillmore ~ August 16, 1857

A manuscript postmark on letter addressed to Mr. Daniel S. Halliwell, Frankford, Pennsylvania with three cent #10. The Union Army abandoned the fort to Confederate forces coming west invading New Mexico territory from Texas. The post office ceased operation in August 1863.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890

This military fort was founded in the fall of 1851 by Colonel E. V. Sumner who did not want his soldiers to close to the temptations of Mesilla. By January early in 1852 work was coming along very well with the soldiers contributing much of the labor themselves. This post was constructed to protect the entire area from Apache raids. This failed to stop the raids as now more horses and cattle were in the area ready to be taken.

In time the fort was completed with large officer's quarters, two barracks, quartermaster store house, cookhouse, hospital, and a large well built walled corrals for live stock.



Fort Fillmore ~ August 29, 1858 - 59

This postmark dated August 29th with 3 cent dull red # 26 to R. J. Burdge, Esq. at Beloit, Wisconsin and forwarded on to Syracuse, New York. The Fort was also a station on the Butterfield Overland Mail route and later abandoned by the military on October 10, 1862.

Fort Fillmore proved difficult to defend from the Confederate army rapidly approaching the area. It was located in shallow depression; commanded on three sides by low hills well within range of artillery. The water supply had to come from the Rio Grande river over mile away. The choice of this site for fort could not have been worse, which made defense all but impossible. The Confederate army marched rapidly arriving at Fort Fillmore in a few days.

The first encounter against Col. Baylor's forces resulted in six wounded and three killed. Then a quick retreat back to the Fort Fillmore. On the following day Union forces were in full retreat north to Fort Craig with wagons loaded taking all the supplies they could carry.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

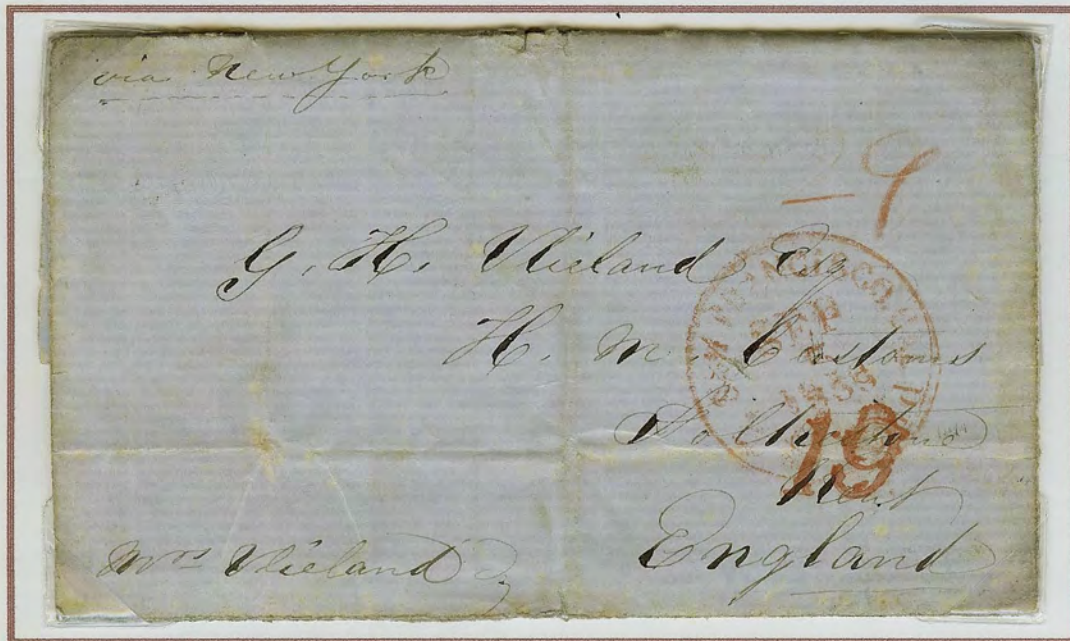
Fort Mohave

Fort Mohave, originally named Camp Colorado was established on April 19, 1859 by Lieutenant Colonel William Hoffman during the Mohave War. It was located on the east bank of the Colorado River, at Beale's Crossing by the recommendation of Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale. It was later renamed Fort Mohave nine days later by Captain Lewis A. Armistead.

The fort was established to protect emigrants to California traveling through the northern route in the New Mexico Territory on the Beale Wagon Road, and across the Mojave Desert on the old Mojave Road. It was also used as a base of operations against the warring Mohave Indian tribe.



Map of courier route to San Francisco



Soldiers Letter from Fort Mohave ~ July 31, 1859

Sent via New York to Folkstone, England carried by military courier to San Francisco arriving entering the mail on Sept. 5, 1859 as prepaid 59 cent rate, with Oct. 9, 1859 arrival postmark at Folkstone on obverse.

Walter Thomas member of Company F 6th Infantry writes to his mother about the very hot weather and life at the newly formed camp. The letter traveled many miles to reach San Francisco over a long and dangerous route in the southern desert and up the central valley of California.

"I am writing this now on a bunch of willows so you must make all excuses for it and remember I have little convenience. We will soon have an express running so that I shall be enable to write you regularly and let you how know I am getting on. The Indians here have broken the treaty and captured 15 mules which they consider very good meat and eat them. I will now light my pipe and have a little meditation for it is Sunday and I have never forgot your lessons for which I ever thank you."

Your ever affectionate Son, Walter Thomas

Fort Mohave July 31st, 1859

My dearest Mother,

No doubt you have been very anxious not having heard from me for 7 months but this is the first opportunity I have had to write you and it is only on account of a soldier being discharged and returning to San Francisco that I am enabled to let you know of my existence. I am happy to inform you that I am in good health and getting along as well as I could expect. About a month after writing my last letter to you we were ordered off on an expedition against the Mojave Indians on the Colorado River. Here and after 2 or 3 weeks steam boat travelling we arrived at Fort Juma about 200 miles from here and one of the chief stations of the California Overland Mail.

We started from Fort Juma (Yuma) with pack mules and were in full marching order with knapsack on our backs and all a soldiers accoutrements and this through a country which the newspapers describe as being much worse than the burning Sands of Arabia, that was exaggerated however the ground is decidedly the worst I have ever seen though comprising Sand and rocks. The Indians seeing a large force of 500 or 600 men coming through their country and well armed with Rifles, concluded it was advisable to make peace and consequently a treaty was made much to the dissatisfaction of the command who had all along calculated on having a brush and receiving a land warrant over the affair but we had worse troubles in sight the provision was getting short and for 21 days we were put on half rations which rarely happens in this army. I am happy to inform you that although sometimes greatly fatigued I went through cheerfully and did my duty with a good will.

We are now in shanties made of willows and have been living in them for the last 4 months and as I cannot say how long I shall stay you had better address your next letter here. I received one letter from you since arriving and am indeed glad to hear you are all so comfortable by the time you receive this I shall have 2 years of my time in so consequently in 3 more I shall be free and promise to come immediately to see you. The Indians here has broken the treaty and captured 15 mules which they consider very good meat and eat them. We are waiting for reinforcements when we will give them something better (a little lead). You may guess we are out of the world when there is not a single house nearer than 200 miles nothing but a desert country and a few patches of sandy soil on which we hope to raise a few melons and beans.

The Post however costs too much to be kept up long and I believe in the course of a few months we will be ordered away again I do not care how soon although having once enlisted it suits me better to be out in the wilderness than to be in a city where the fact of my being a soldier might be prejudicial to my future interests. I am sorry you told Uncle anything about it. I would not have told you if I had expected that but what is done cant be helped and I care very little what construction my friends put upon my action as I must be guided by circumstances and my own common sense. I do not know that I have disgraced myself so much after all there are many respectable men in the Army who after leaving it enter into business for themselves and do well. Their friends do not look down upon them as long as they are doing well and when they are not they are better amongst strangers. You may depend as long as I could have got on amongst citizens I should never have enlisted, but as I have made my own bed I must lay up on it and I cannot say I regret it much, it has made a man of me. Before entering the Army I was afraid to fire a gun off, could not stand by a cannon, was no shot. Now I do not fear most things and will have more to tell you of when I return.

I am writing this now on a bunch of willows so you must make all excuses for it and remember I have no convenience. We will soon have an express running so that I shall be enabled to write you regularly and let you know how I am getting on but do not feel disappointed if I do not write for six months at a time as the Army is a queer place. You would be surprised no doubt to see us laying down with our Rifles loaded by our side ready to catch at the first alarm. The Indians however are very cowardly and but poorly armed. They live principally upon a wild bean that grows upon the trees and wheat which they manage to raise. The weather here is very hot and mosquitoes are innumerable. There is not much wood here but we have a first rate supply of water so that is something.

I often think of you and how different my thoughts were when I left home to what they are now how much more I know of the good and the bad in the world. How many things I have seen that I have read of in books but never believed before. My paper will not allow me to say much more and as I cannot get another sheet to save my life I must wind up hoping that this will find you in good health and happiness. Show this to Mr. Vlieland as I cannot write two letters and give my best love to all my sisters. Remember me also to all my friends who you think would care to know of my welfare and believe me to remain, Your ever affectionate Son, Walter Thomas.

Direct your letter to Company F

6th Infantry, Fort Mojave, Colorado River, California

I will now light my pipe and have a little meditation for it is Sunday and I have never forgot your lessons for which I ever thank you.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890

Fort Stanton New Mexico
Wednesday July 9, 1879

Dear Sister

“Before you receive this letter, I much fear you will have suffered great anxiety on account of the event of my extreme ill-health on the Plains. It is true I have been extremely sick, but it is equally true I am now entirely returned to good health, except that my strength is not fully reestablished.”

Most affectionately yours. Wm Lane



Fort Stanton, New Mexico ~ July 9, 1879

A letter to Miss Jennie Bannon, Adams, Jefferson County, New York thin black "Type 1" circle date stamp with 3 cent green banknote tied with single line cancel. ex Meroni

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890

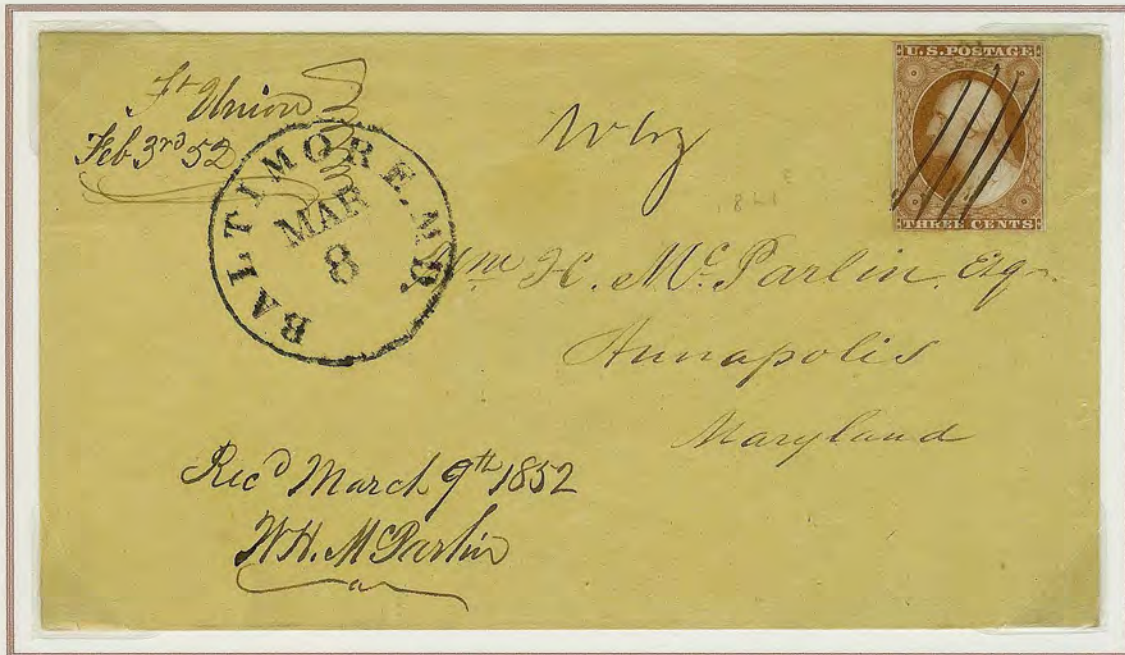
Fort Union, was located close to the Santa Fe trail in north eastern New Mexico. Its main functions was to provide military escorts to the monthly mails between Santa Fe and Independence, Missouri.



First Waldo, Hall Mail Contract

Three modes of Transport

1. By wagon: Fort Union depart 3 February 1852 via Independence, to St. Louis (arrive 26 February)
2. By steamboat: St. Louis depart 27 February, via Cairo and Louisville to Wheeling, Virginia
3. By railway: Wheeling via Harrisburg, to Baltimore arrive 8 March sent on to Annapolis



Fort Union, N. M. ~ February 3, 1852

3 February 1852 Fort Union, New Mexico Territory to Annapolis, Maryland. manuscript postmark and cancel applied by Postmaster and Post Sutler, Jared Folger. 3 cent rate with orange brown 1851 issue adhesive, sent by Assistant Surgeon Thomas McParlin. 8 March 1852 manuscript "Way" applied at Baltimore where it entered by rail, and was directed southward to Annapolis.

Earliest known full cover with an adhesive from New Mexico Territory

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

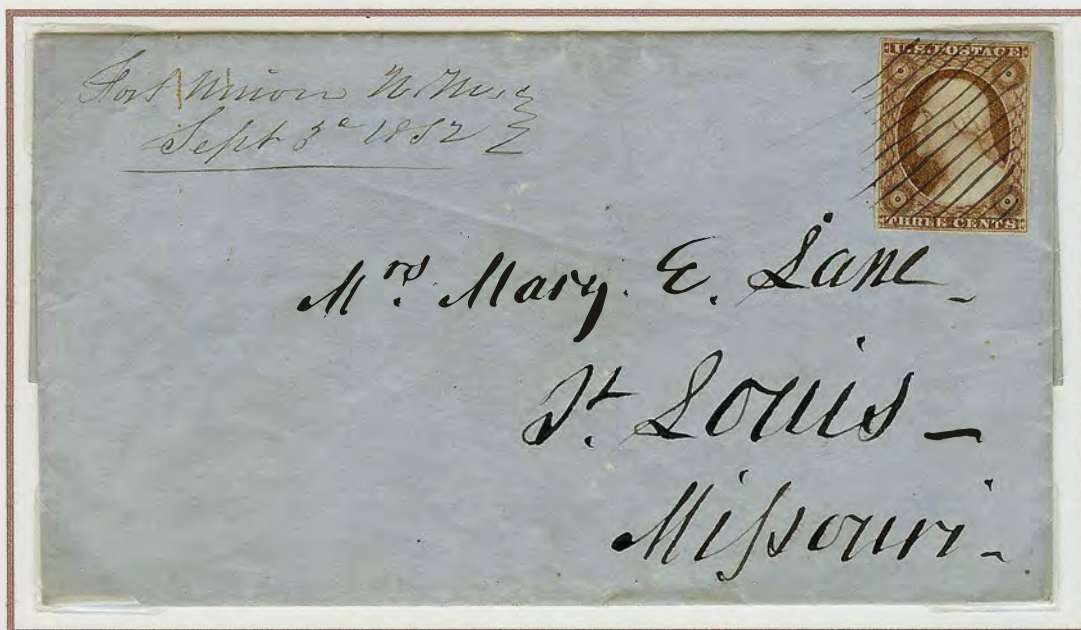
Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890

Fort Union, N. Mexico Sept 2' 1852

My Dear Mary

"Before you receive this letter, I much fear you will have suffered great anxiety on account of the event of my extreme ill-health on the Plains. It is true I have been extremely sick, but it is equally true I am now entirely returned to good health, except that my strength is not fully reestablished."

Most affectionately yours. Wm Lane



Fort Union, N. M. ~ September 3, 1852

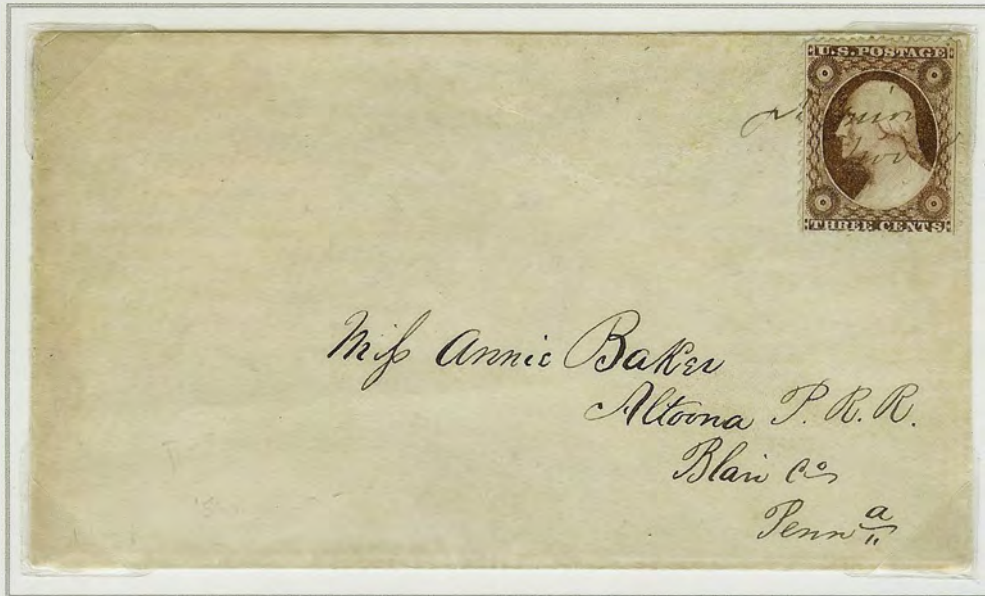
A letter to Mrs. Mary E. Lane at St. Louis, Missouri, with military manuscript postmark and 3 cent dull red #10 and multiple pen stroke cancels. ex Meroni



Fort Union, Mora County, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Union ~ November 16, 1857

Letter from Lt. James C. McKee to his dear sweetheart Miss Annie Baker in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Lt. McKee was commissioned Assistant Surgeon in the U. S. Army in August 1857 and took up his position at Fort Union for several years. The cover has the second type manuscript cancel used from 1855 to 1858 with dull red 3 cent adhesive.

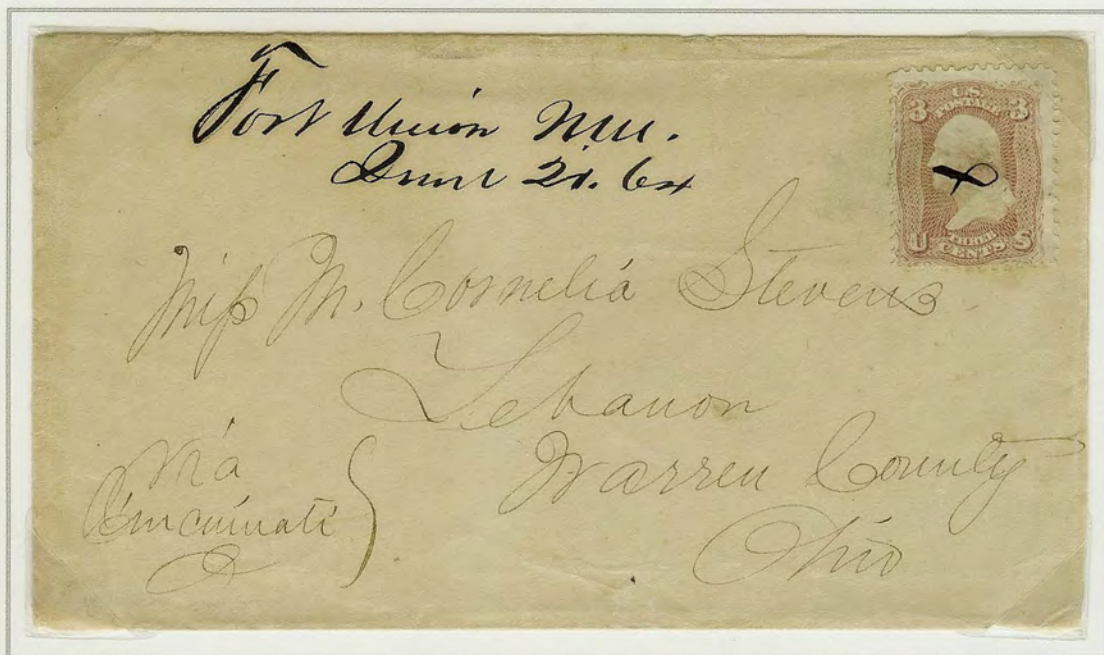


Fort Union ~ September 3, 1855

This cover bears an example of the first round date cancel used from Fort Union. The enclosed letter written by Mr. I. Mescure on dated August 31, 1855 at Santa Fe mentions a dear and good friend Don Manuel Alvarez a person of great importance in the early history of the New Mexico Territory at time of the Mexican War during 1846.

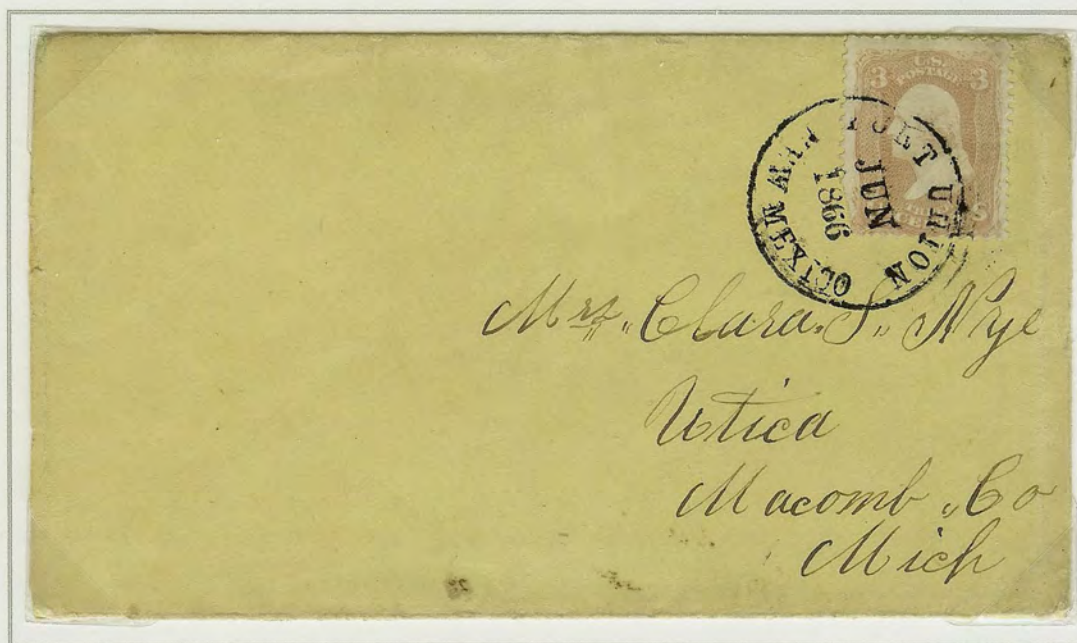
NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 -- 1890



Fort Union ~ June 21, 1864

This cover sent to Miss M. Cornelia Stevens, Lebanon Warren County, Ohio with notation "Via Cincinnati". This manuscript type cancellation is the latest known used at Fort Union in the mid 1860's, and bears 3 cent dull rose #65 with crossed pen cancel.



Fort Union ~ June, 1866

This cover sent to Mrs. Clara S. Nye, Utica, Macomb County, Michigan from Fort Union with black rounddate stamp tying 3 cent dull rose #65. The fort was the largest military post in northeastern New Mexico, where six companies of troops were stationed to protect travelers on the Santa Fe Trail during the many years of Indian uprisings in the 1860's.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Union ~ September 21, 1867

This cover Lieut. Ephraim Williams, 5th U. S. Infantry stationed at Fort Union. Cover forwarded to Fort Lyon, Col. and sent onto Fort Harker, Kansas. Rimless datestamp with pen cancel on rose pink 3 cent #65 with pen cancel.



Fort Union ~ November 23, 1867

This cover to Captain John B. Conningham, Commanding Post, Monument Station, Kansas with rimless datestamp used in 1867, and 3 two cent "Blackjack's" type #32, with crossed pen cancel.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Fort Wingate ~ November 14, 1881

The letter was mailed to Mrs. A. B. Fornace at Norristown, Pennsylvania. The cover bears star cancel on 3 cent entire. This cancellation was used between February 1880 and September 1884.



Fort Wingate ~ April 7, 1888

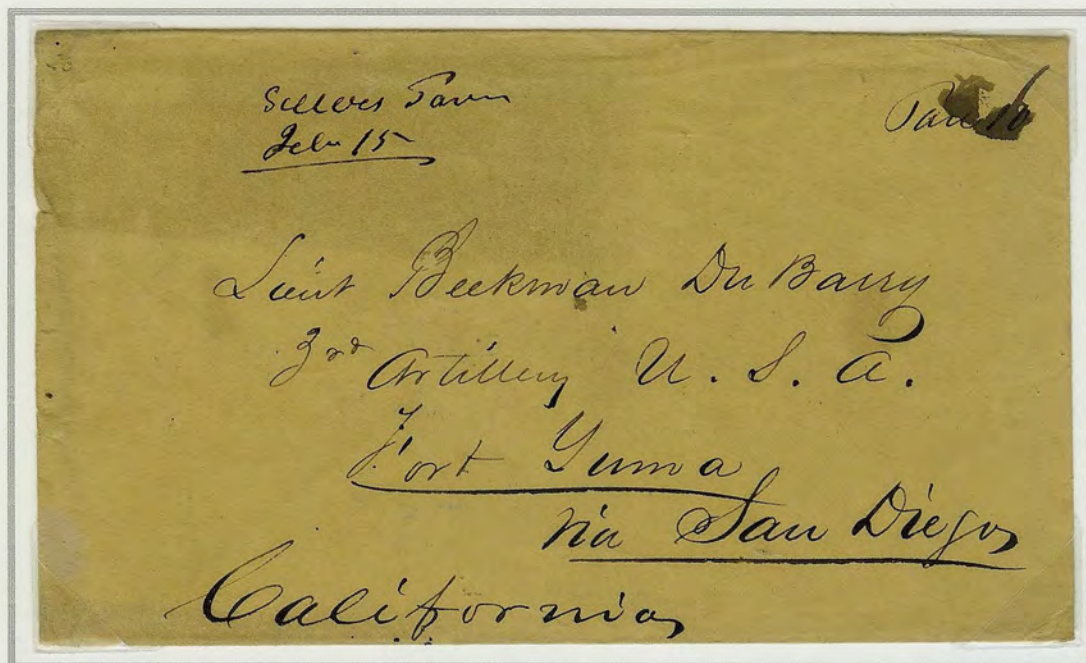
A registered letter mailed to the University Bank, Los Angeles, California carries two 5 cent stamps to make up the ten cent registry rate plus double 2 cent rate for postage. The letter was docketed April 9, 1888 in Los Angeles with purple datestamp taking only two days to arrive. A fine example of the large triple circle cancellation with heavy manuscript cancellations on the stamps.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890

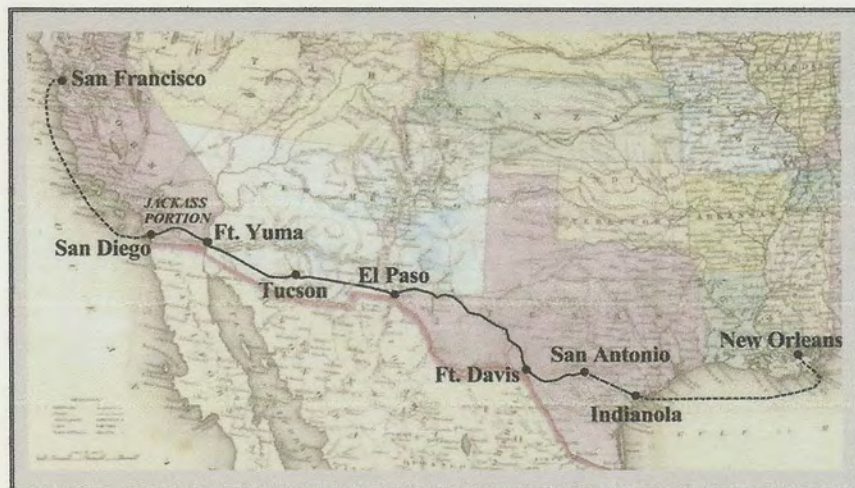
The first overland mail route to California was awarded under contract #8076 on June 22, 1857. The distance covered was 1,476 miles from San Antonio to San Diego. One section of the route over the desert region from San Diego to Fort Yuma required mules to carry the mail and was known as the "Jackass Mail" route.

This cover was routed by regular steamship mail from New York City to Chagres, over the isthmus of Panama to San Francisco. Then on by California Steam Navigation Company from San Francisco to San Diego where it was carried over the mule-mail route to Fort Yuma.



Fort Yuma, California ~ February 15, 1858

A letter with manuscript postmarked at Sellers Tavern, Pennsylvania to Lieut. Beekman Du Barry, 3rd artillery at Fort Yuma, California. Du Barry's 3rd artillery was re-posted from Fort Yuma in June 1858, military records of the period help in dating cover as 1858.



Mail Route San Antonio to San Diego 1857 to 1860

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Albuquerque, Bernalillo County

Albuquerque was one of early settlements south of the capital of Santa Fe founded in 1706 as a Spanish colonial outpost. The small town was a farming community, sheep herding center and military outpost along the Camino Real to Mexico City. Mexico stationed a army garrison there in 1821. The town built on the traditional Spanish village pattern with central plaza surrounded by government buildings, homes, and a church. In the war of 1846 the U.S. Army occupied New Mexico, and Albuquerque became a army supply depot for the southern part of the territory in 1846 to 1867.



Albuquerque, February 14, 1860

A letter to Mr. Daniel S. Hallowell, Frankford, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with large black rounddate postmark, and 3 cent #26 with two stroke manuscript cancel.



Albuquerque Plaza ~ 1860s

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Albuquerque, Bernalillo County

Albuquerque, N. M.

May 25, 1867

Dear Father Since I heard that your horse had died I have been intending to send \$100.00 toward buying another. It seems best however in my view of the unsettled state of the Plains, and the irregularity of the mails to wait for better times. And I shall therefore delay: Still as your convenience and comfort require horse I wish you to take a hundred dollars from the 7/31 note at home, belonging to me and use it for this purpose – do not hesitate to do this for be assured that I have the convenience and Happiness of your old age far above a few paltry dollars.



Albuquerque, May 25, 1867

Ephraim Williams Jr. was a soldier in Major Bidwell's Company "K" part of the group known as the New Mexico Volunteers. The Company was stationed in Albuquerque during a period of extreme violence and unrest among the Apache and Comanche Indian tribes on the Great Plains.

~ ~ ~ ~

The letter continues. It seem uncertain here if we are to go on to the Smoky Hill, It will be at least the middle of July or first of August before we can be relieved; as soon as we know definitely about the change I will let you know.

I have written you that I was to Comp "K" so that I shall not leave Major Bidwell.

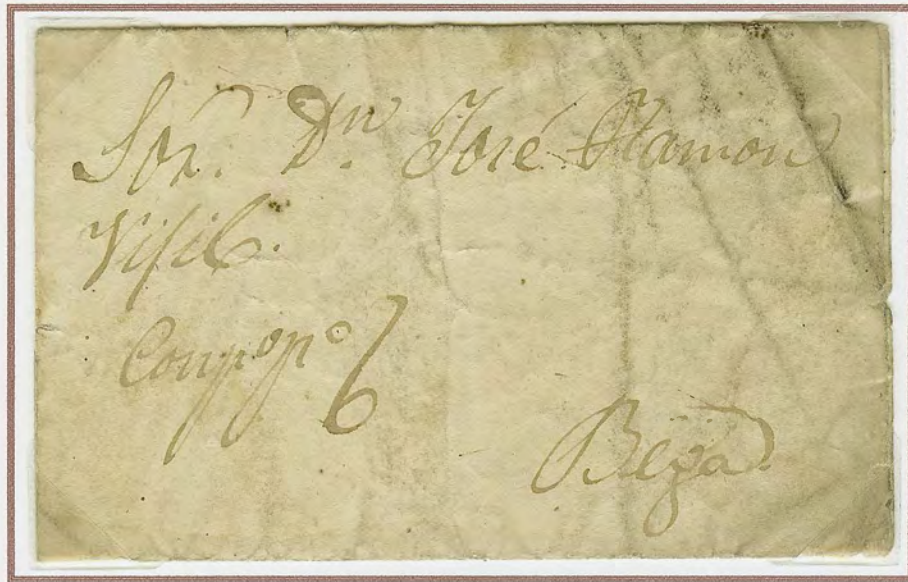
General Carson returned to Fort Garland, Colorado three weeks ago, he has been appointed Indian Agent, which I think he will accept, when he is muster out of this regiment! He is now Lt. Col. of a Battalion of New Mexico Vols. + Bvt. Brig. Genl. Vols. I send you his photograph with autograph.

I also enclose a Photograph of the Church here; I mount the Guard every morning at its right, the right of the line noting where you see the sun-dial with a soldier beside it ? - - -

With love to all, dear father
Affectionately yours
Ephraim Williams, Jr.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Chama



April 23, 1849 ~ 6 Reales Due

A folded letter to Tore Ramon at Begas (*Las Vegas*) sent by Diego Salazar from Chama.

"Esteemed and dear Godfather" " I beg from you the favor of coming this evening to this your house because I have to speak with you about some little things; I do not go there because last night I missed my sleep at a little ball and this morning, I woke up with my body a little pained, which is why I beg you to make sure to come this evening. Forgive the many inconveniences caused by your god-child who esteems you and remains attentively yours"

*Sincerely,
Diego Salazar*



Mesa and River near Chama

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Incoming Overland Mail

Butterfield's Overland Despatch

Office of
Butterfield's Overland Despatch

To all points in COLORADO, UTAH,
IDAHO, and MONTANA TERRITORIES, ON
THROUGH CONTRACTS
—AND—
BILLS OF LADING
From New York, Boston, Philadelphia,
Pittsburgh, Chicago, and St. Louis.



Principal Office: ATCHISON, Kansas.
New York Office: No. 1 VESSEY ST., Astor House.

St Louis July 25th 1863

Col Baker

Dr Sir

Enclosed please find
fifty dollars it being the amount I
agreed to send up this morn making my
Subscription to Genl Dodd One hundred dollars

Yours truly
D. A. Butterfield

New York Office No. 1 Vesey Street., Astor House

St. Louis July 15, 1865

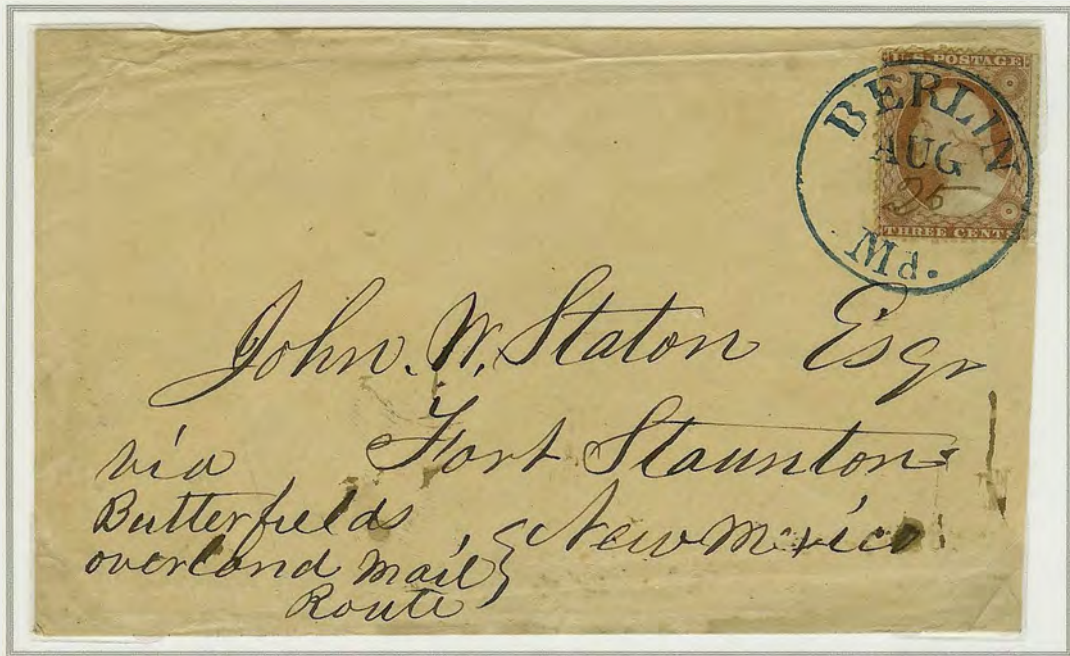
Col Baker Dr Sir.

Enclosed please find fifty dollars it being the amount agreed to send up this morning making my Subscription to Genl. Dodd One hundred dollars.

Yours truly, D. A. Butterfield

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

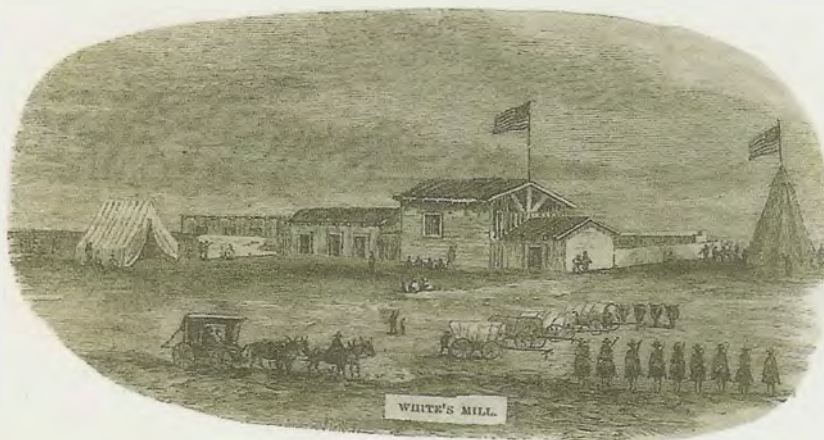
Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Incoming Overland Mail ~ Butterfield Overland Mail

This cover sent to John W. Staton bears the 3 cent rate #26 for under 3,000 miles cancelled at Berlin, Maryland addressed to Fort Staunton, New Mexico. The cover carries an excellent manuscript directive notation at lower left "*Via Butterfield Overland Mail Route*".

The drawing below of "*White's Mill*" was a trading post, and flour mill established by Ammi White in 1858 near the Pima Indian Village near the Gila River. The company operated this route from 1857 to 1861 using a small office located in trading post.



Ammi White's Store And Mill At Pima Indian Village

New Mexico Territory



Cimarron, Colfax County ~ October 31, 1864

Letter addressed to Frank Blum at Trinidad, Colorado Territory.

Letter contain instruction to Frank Bloom. Please find enclosed promissory note. Payable to myself for the sum of Sixty five (\$65.00 dollars) From Reynolds Paymaster of the Stage Company. Please collect the same and place to my credit. Yours Respectfully L. B. Maxwell (of Maxwell Grant Fame)



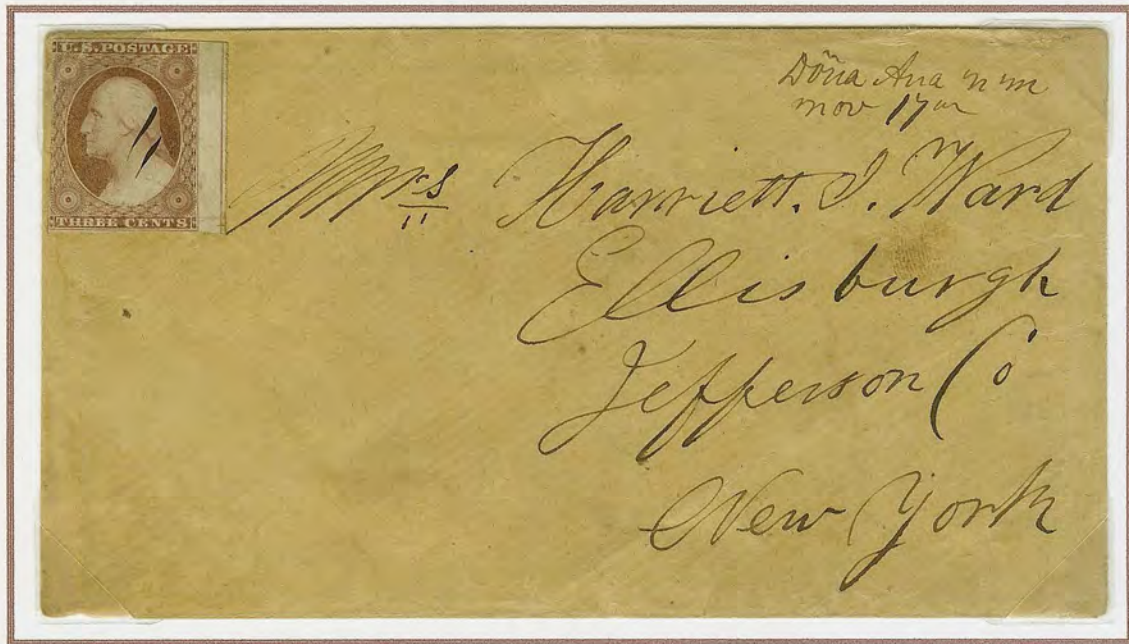
Las Vegas, San Miguel County ~ May 3, 1869

The town of Las Vegas was settled in the early 1820's and known as "Begas" at that time. It was few years later that Luis Maria de Baca petitioned the government for a land grant in the area. This was to be taken up by his family with his seventeen sons. This village of 300 families was the first place to be occupied when "The Army of the West" lead by General Stephen W. Kearny arrived in the territory.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Dona Ana, Dona Ana County

The town of Dona Ana had a post office in operation for a short period of time from March 1854 to fall of 1855. The main purpose was to handle military mail from the area of southern New Mexico. The western part of this large county extending into Arizona was acquired when the Gadsden Purchase was completed on December 30, 1853 for the payment ten million dollars. This large area of land in southern New Mexico and Arizona allowed for future railroad construction to the coast.



Dona Ana, November 17th 1854

This fine rare cover one of only two known bears a manuscript town cancel, with 3 cent (#11). The letter addressed to Mrs. Harriett J. Ward, Ellisburgh, Jefferson County, New York. The postal records for 1855 show that this small office reported only \$2.18 in postage sales for the year.

Ex-Jarrett, Longfellow and Birkinbine



Organ Mountains near Dona Ana, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY



Fernando de Taos, N. M.

This cover sent by Lieut. Ben F. Sloan stationed at Fernando de Taos to Miss Annie Maxwell at Pendleton, South Carolina. The cover has early cancellation with #26 stamp tied with black grid.



Fernandez de Taos, N. Mex.

This early use of the Fernandez de Taos cancellation on a cover mailed to France on December 20, 1871. It was routed via New York arriving January 6, 1872 through London with Red Paid markings on January 17th. Then forwarded on via Paris to Bordeaux, France, with Red Paid 6 credit. The cover bears clear Paris January 18, 1872, and Bordeaux January 25 1872 on the reverse.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY
GREGG & CARRINGTON STAGE AND EXPRESS LINE
LAKE VALLEY, HILLSBORO & KINGSTON

Kingston, N. M. January 8, 1888

To **Strouse Bros. Mora, New Mexico**

Quote me corn chopped feed and hay delivered on board cars at Watrous. **G. W. Gregg.**

Office of

GREGG & CARRINGTON,

DOING A—
GENERAL
Stage
and Express
BUSINESS.




AND CARRYING
United *
*** States**
MAILS.

STAGE AND EXPRESS LINE.

Kingston N.M. 1888

*Strouse Bros
Mora*

*and
Watrous*



LAKE VALLEY, HILLSBORO & KINGSTON
STAGE & EXPRESS COMPANY.
Principal Office, Kingston, N.M.
GREGG & CARRINGTON, Props.
G.W. GREGG, Superintendent

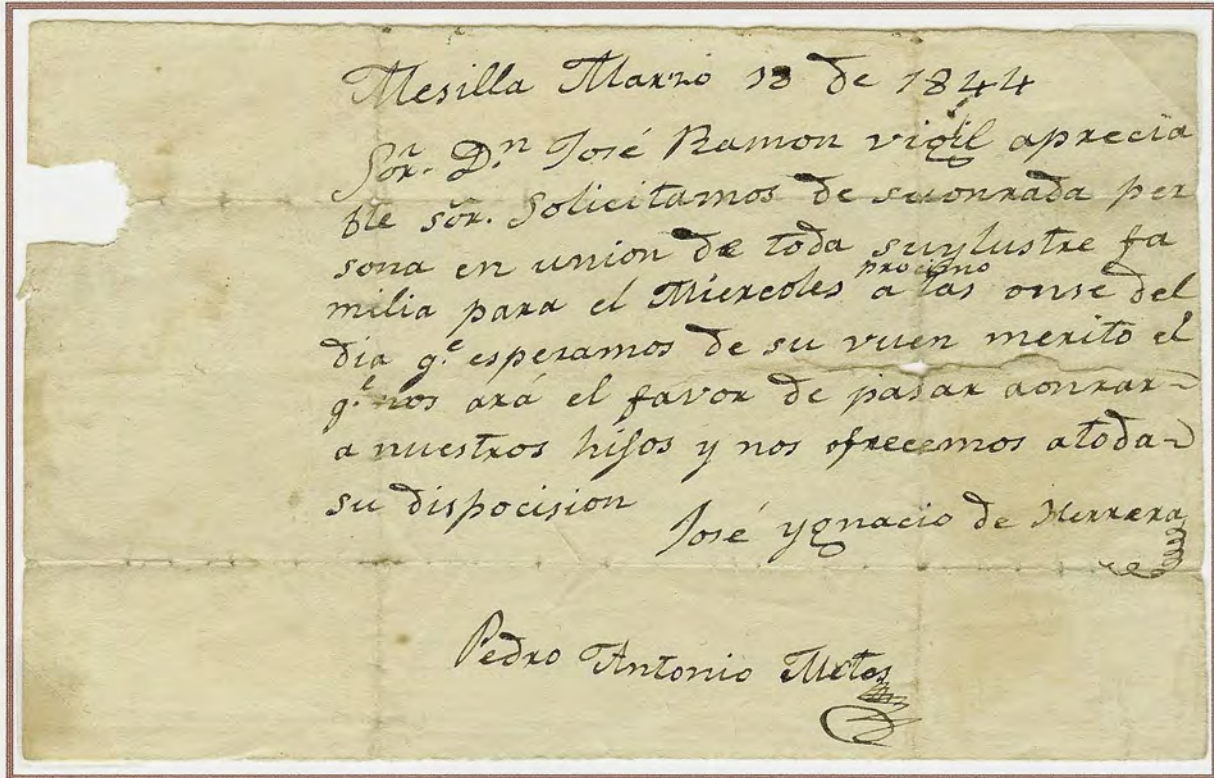
*feed
at*

*Strouse Bros
Mora
Mora Co
New Mexico*



MEXICO

Mesilla, Mexico



December 28, 1844

This small folded letter sent by Pedro Antonio Matos from Mesilla to A. D. Ramon Vigil at Las Vegas, Mexico

"Esteemed Sir, we sollicitate from your honoured person together with all your illustrious family for the next Wednesday at 11 a.m. kindly we await from your good merit it amiably does us the great favor of coming to honour our children and we are completely at your disposal".

José Ygnacio de Herrera and Pedro Antonio Matos



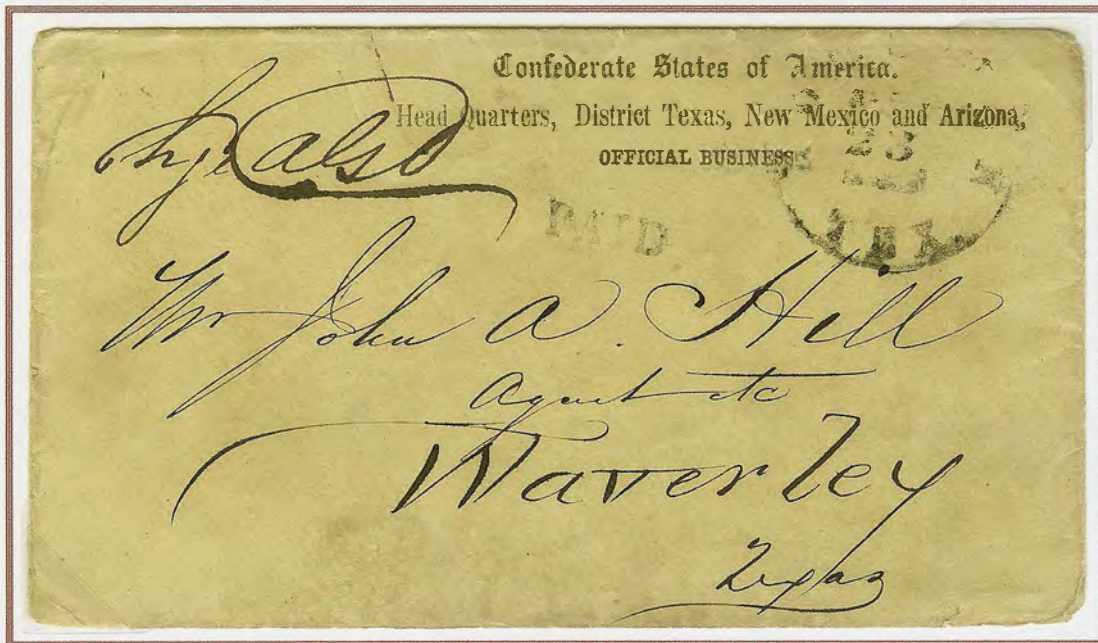
The First San Albino Catholic Church ~ Mesilla ~ Built in 1852

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Confederate States of America

Headquarters District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona

The Confederate forces from Texas operated for approximately one year in the U. S. Territories of Arizona and New Mexico. This is a little known part of the colorful past of the Confederate States of America which ended in 1865. The Confederate forces were made up of Texas volunteers under Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor who declared a large area south of 34° north latitude the "Territory of Arizona" in the name of the Confederate States and established a military government. Later in August the boundary was extended to 36° 30' by his decree. The town of Mesilla was named the capitol of the newly established Confederate Territory.



Houston, Texas May 23, 1862

Official Business imprint cover addressed to John A. Hill Adjutant at Waverly, Texas postmarked at Houston, with straight line "Paid", and manuscript charge notation. A scarce example from the Confederate Headquarters, District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Brigadier General Henry H. Sibley designated his far reaching command in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona as "The Army of New Mexico". Then moving further westward captured Mesilla and Fort Fillmore in southern New Mexico. His attempts to extended north to Fort Craig and Santa Fe lead to disaster as supply lines were over extended as well as large Federal reinforcements arriving from Colorado. The Confederate forces were beaten back and forced to retreated to Texas.



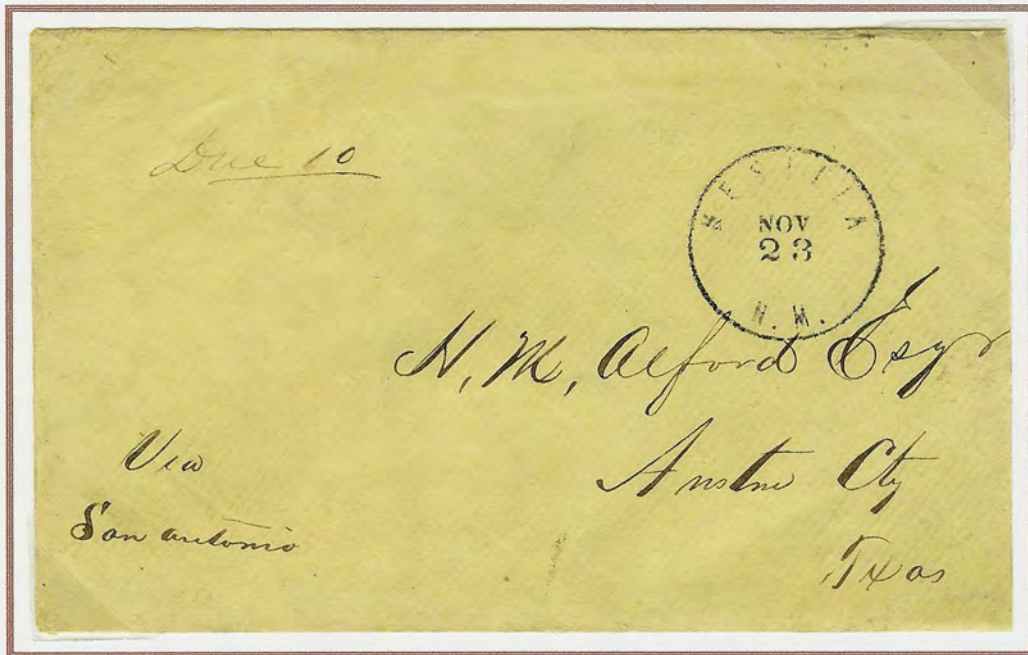
New Mexico Territory

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Confederate States of America

Mesilla, Dona Ana County

In July 1861 Lieut. Colonel Baylor raised the Confederate flag at Fort Bliss, and in a short time occupied Mesilla and Fort Fillmore in New Mexico. On August 1st he issued a proclamation establishing the Confederate Territory of Arizona, naming Mesilla as its capitol. Confederate President Jefferson Davis issued a presidential proclamation in January 1862 and signed the bill into law short time later. The Texas Mounted Rifles was organized in May 1861 and later reorganized in April 1862 as the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. The regiment was active in various actions in occupying Mesilla and moving on to defeat Federal troops and take over Fort Fillmore.



Mesilla, N. M. November 23, 1861

The cover carries a clear circular datestamp with manuscript "Due 10" sent to M. Alford, Esq., Austin City, Texas with routing endorsement "Via San Antonio" at lower left. A notation on the reverse carries the name of Pvt. A. N. Alford of Company "A" a member of the Texas Mounted Rifles, C.S.A. This is one a few known covers from the Confederate States western expansion district, that was part of the Trans-Mississippi Department.



The Confederate Occupied Territory In New Mexico

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

SANTA FE

The contracts for carrying the mail on the Santa Fe Trail were let by the military authorities in the Quartermasters General's Office at Fort Leavenworth to civilian contractors in 1848 and 1849. The mail service was very irregular during this period, with the cost of each delivery being carried under special contract at \$600.00 per round trip. The military maintained their own courier service to Fort Leavenworth were all letters would then enter the U. S. Postal service.



Santa Fe, N. M. February 24th, 1849

Westport, Mo. 26th March 1849

This three page folded letter written during the "Army of the West occupation period carries a military adjutant manuscript endorsement from Santa Fe addressed to Prof. Newton Bateman at St. Charles, Missouri. The letter carried by military courier up the Santa Fe Trail. The markings show both termini of Santa Fe trail trade route on the front of the letter with the entire journey taking only 30 days.

Dr. E. B. Bateman informs his brother Newton of life in Santa Fe, during a very dull winter season where, the main story seems to be about the tragic journey of Col. Fremont, including the death of many of his men during their journey to Taos in a severe winter storm. Fremont crossed from the Plains through La Veta Pass 9,382 feet into the interior valley west of the Sangre de Cristo range then on south to Taos.

This is the tragic story as written by Dr. Bateman:

Col. Fremont & men were here a few days since en route for California. They were compelled to put into Taos (Tous) for succor, having lost all their mules & ten men from famine & cold & besides nearly all else they possessed they suffered greatly & appeared like shadows of natural men, but in time American spirit, meek, submissive & determined. There is a great spirit here of emigration to the west, numbers have already gone & many more, probably to the number of 100 will emigrate from Santafe to the west this spring, highly bound for western California. I have recently been a trip 50 miles blow on the famous Rio Grande, it is a beautiful mountain stream meandering through scenery as Grottesque & lovely as beautiful as any in the world.

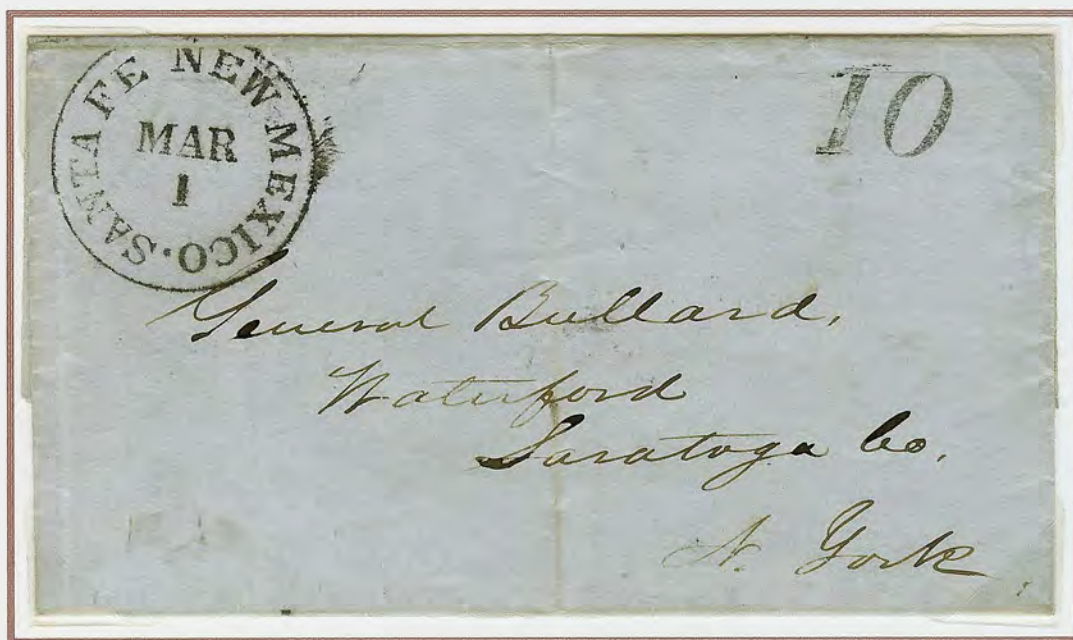
*Forever your devoted brother
E. B. Bateman*

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

SANTA FE

The first mail contract by the Post Office Department was known as Route 4888. The bid of Dr. David Waldo was accepted on May 11, 1850 for once-a-month service, Independence to Santa Fe, the cost was \$18,000 per year. Dr. Waldo's firm was known as Waldo, Hall and Co. The first mail delivery started from Independence on July 1, 1850, and was hailed by the newspapers of the day as a great success. The Waldo and Hall Company carried the mail until 1854 when the contract was given to Jacob Hall commencing August 18, 1854, for once-a-month service at \$11,000 per years. This was known as Route 8912. The new contract doubled the compensation, and service was increased to semi-monthly on July 1, 1855, and then set to expire in one year's time.

The increasing importance of the commerce in the early years needed much assistance from the military forces to quell the hostile attitudes of the general population as well as the powerful Apache and Navajo Indian tribes who were still raiding rural settlements.



Santa Fe New, Mexico March 1, 1851

A letter addressed to General Bullard at Waterford, Saratoga Co., New York, features a large well struck March 1st Type 2 postmark with large "10" rate fee used during the early months after the Post Office was established. A penned notation by Major Shepherd on the back of the letter sheet records the date written as 16th of February 1851. Major Shepherd was commander in charge of Fort Marcy during this period at Santa Fe.



A View of Santa Fe from Fort Marcy

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

SANTA FE

This cover addressed to Maj. Gen. M. Towson, Pay Master General, Washington, D. C. The letter was franked with manuscript "*Official Business*" posted with datestamp and large "5" rate marking crossed out as the cover was posted on official business.



Santa Fe May 1, 1852

Maj. Gen. W. Towson
Pay M. Gen.---

Sir

I inform you that I have sent by Col. Alexander to the paymaster in New York my accounts for Oct. Nov. & Dec-- 1851 & Jan. Feb, & March 1852 \$796.20 to be retained, until my other orders to pay any obligations in New York.

I am, Sincerely,
Respectfully
Your Obt. Serv.

Horace Brooks
Brevt. Lt. Colonel Comp, Adj.

P. S. I inform you, second, by the last mail, last sent my account per August, September \$298.15 by Office of New Mexico Paymaster in New York to be paid to my family.

H. Brooks

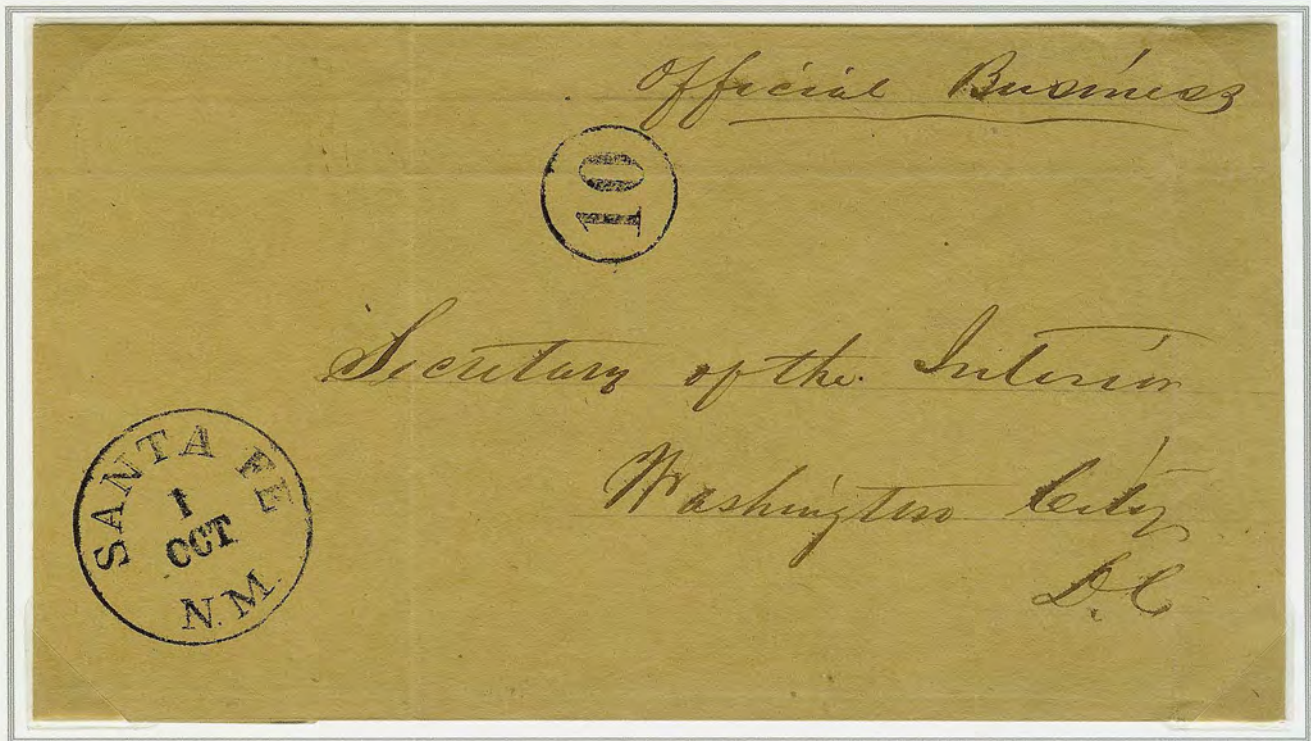
"Notice of Transfer"

Notice of the transfer of his account for Oct. Nov. & Dec. 51 & Jan. Feb. & March 1852 to New York. A small notation inside the folded letters in a different hand states the transfer was made to New York on June 7, 1852.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

SANTA FE

The letter addressed to Miss Mary E. Lane at St. Louis, Missouri carries a pen notation to be sent "Via San Antonio" the second mail serving the Santa Fe area. A small manuscript "Paid" noted in pen with the additional black circular "Paid 6", with large single circle "Type 5" February 17th postmark used from February 1852 to 1863.



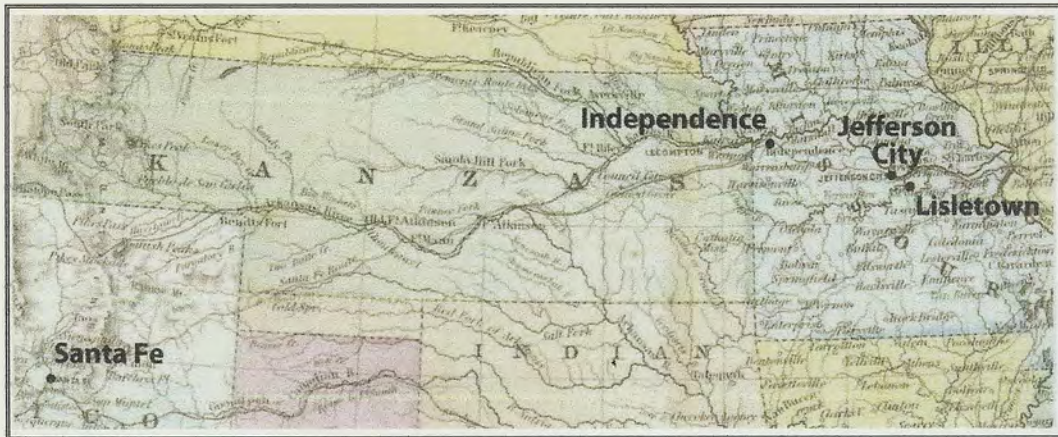
Letter marked "Official Business" addressed to Secretary of the Interior, Washington City, D. C. bearing large "Type 5" single circle postmark dated October 1st with small black circle "10" cent rate. The obverse has small pencil notation indicating use in 1853.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

THE SANTA FE MAIL ROBBED

--- On Wednesday night, the 24th, the Western mail was robbed at Lisletown, on the Osage river, ten miles from Jefferson City. The bag containing the New Mexico mail was cut and numbers of letter packages broken open. Next day the mail was found in the Marie River, close by. One Charles S. Gilbert, formerly stage-driver, was arrested on suspicion.

(from the Daily National Intelligencer of November 2, 1855)



Map showing the showing origin of the cover at Santa Fe, end point of the Hall Contract route at Independence point of the mail robbery Lisletown, and post office where recovered mail processed at Jefferson City.



Letter to Mr. James J. Webb at Kent, Connecticut, mailed at Santa Fe on September 25, 1855 with prepaid 10 cent adhesive. The was mail robbed near Lisletown, Missouri while enroute between Independence to St. Louis. Letter opened roughly and mail partially submerged in the Marie River. Later recovered and processed by postmaster in Jefferson City who wrote "Robbed Mail" at top.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

SANTA FE



Santa Fe, New Mexico August 9, 1858

To Monsieur Labbe Coudert, Puy-de Dome, with three 10 cent green type II, III, II overseas postage rate. Received at New York with red Sep 4 Paid 6, and boxed red PD. Received with Harve and Paris marking Sep 19, 1858. ex Noel, Walske



Santa Fe, New Mexico June 11, (1855)

To James Harrison, Esq., Saint Louis, Missouri care of Messrs. C. H & V. with 3 cent pink on buff entire, and Type 10 postmark in use from 1855 to 1864.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

1st Regiment of the Colorado Federal Volunteers

"Pikes Peaker's" or "Gilpin's Pet Lambs"

This group of soldiers were organized by William Gilpin at Camp Weld, near Denver on August 26 thru December 14, 1861. The three companies were then posted to Fort Wise, and then on to Fort Lyon, for duty until March, 1862. The regiment then marched south to Fort Union, New Mexico arriving in middle of March. Their duties then took them on toward Santa Fe where they had a major encounter against Confederate forces lead by Colonel Sibley at Apache Canon on March 26. Then another battle a later at Glorieta Pass also known as Pigeon Ranch on March 28th. The final major encounter was at Peralta on April 15 1862. This was a major defeat for the Confederate forces in the war in New Mexico, and they began the retreat to Texas.



Santa Fe, N. M. May 5, 1862

"A Soldiers Letter" to Dr. H. Coldwell at Huron, Erie County, Ohio The cover was endorsed by Captain and Adjutant Joseph C. Davidson of Company "C" 1st Regiment C. V. The cover postmarked at Santa Fe on the May 5, 1862



Union and Confederate Battlefields

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

SANTA FE

A letter addressed to Henry W. Diman, Bristol, Rhode Island from Charles H. Alden of Santa Fe mailed on May 26th 1861 just a shortly after the Civil War had been declared. The cover bears a *Type 6* postmark that was in use over a long period of time February 1853 to as late as 1863. This cover was in the Chase Collection with a pencil note on the back that it was sold on April 3, 1946.



A busy morning in the Plaza at Santa Fe

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

John S. Snyder to his dear wife Annie from Santa Fe New Mexico ~ September 5th, 1864

Santa Fe; New Mexico.
Sept. 5th - 1864

Annie;

Not a word have I heard from you since I left you on the boat at Quincy. I don't even know whether you got to Belleville or not. Only one mail has arrived here since I came - the one that left Kansas City the week after I did, but it brought me nothing. Another mail is due now, but there is no telling when it will get here.

I do not think I will remain here more than two or three weeks longer, so when you answer this letter direct it to me at Kansas City. I have not been right well since my arrival here: the weather is disagreeably cool to me, and it requires three or four blankets to make the night comfortable.

I have been pretty closely confined, since I came here, in the office, copying papers, &c., but after the arrival of the next mail I am going up to Laas, some eighty miles North of this - the trip may help me. I am very comfortably situated here at a first

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Socorro, September 11th 1861

A very fragile interesting folded letter addressed to Mrs. Susanna Bidwell at Penn Yan, New Jersey by the Postmaster's wife. She describes much about life in the small town of Socorro during the early days of the Civil War. The great smallpox epidemic in the town, and the on going movement of Federal troops from Fort Craig to El Paso. Mrs. Bidwell's three children enjoyed building a small mud fort and playing war games near their home. Mrs. Bidwell's husband was Postmaster.



Socorro 1861



Old Days In Socorro

Socoro Sept 10th 1861

My Dear Mother

The mail has just arrived & brought me your letter Aug 8th with Stillmans and Genettes. I am so glad to hear from you & it is a pleasure to see the mail arrive & pass on unmolested for it assures us that Uncle seems dominion here is not yet at an end.

We are all well for which blessing we have great reason to be thankful to our heavenly father. Small pox is raging now in Socoro but our children have all been vaccinated, two deaths have occurred very near us, one a child of one our nearest neighbor's children are running the streets completely covered with it & no more attention is paid to it that any common sickness. In Alimilla 10 miles north about 30 children have died with it. I got you vaccine matter and think I will have the children vaccinated again.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Taos



This folded address sheet is from the 1825 Mexican period used from Taos, sent to Santa Fe. The with manuscript "*del Al del ind de Taus*" (from the Alcalde-Mayor of Taos) to Governor D. Antonio Narbona, also bearing the endorsment S. N. at top signifying "*Servicio Nacional*". This cover was delivered by a paid messenger, and this entire bears an old pencil notation of 1825 on reverse which is consistent with Antonio Narbona being Governor during that time.

Several other similar items in this find bore the year notations. D. S. Martinez was the Alcalde of Taos in 1825. This is one of a very few usages from the early Mexican period that have been discovered, and the only known reported example from early Taos period.



Mission Church, Taos Pueblo

ARIZONA TERRITORY

Tubac, Santa Cruz County



Tubac, A. T. ~ December 9th

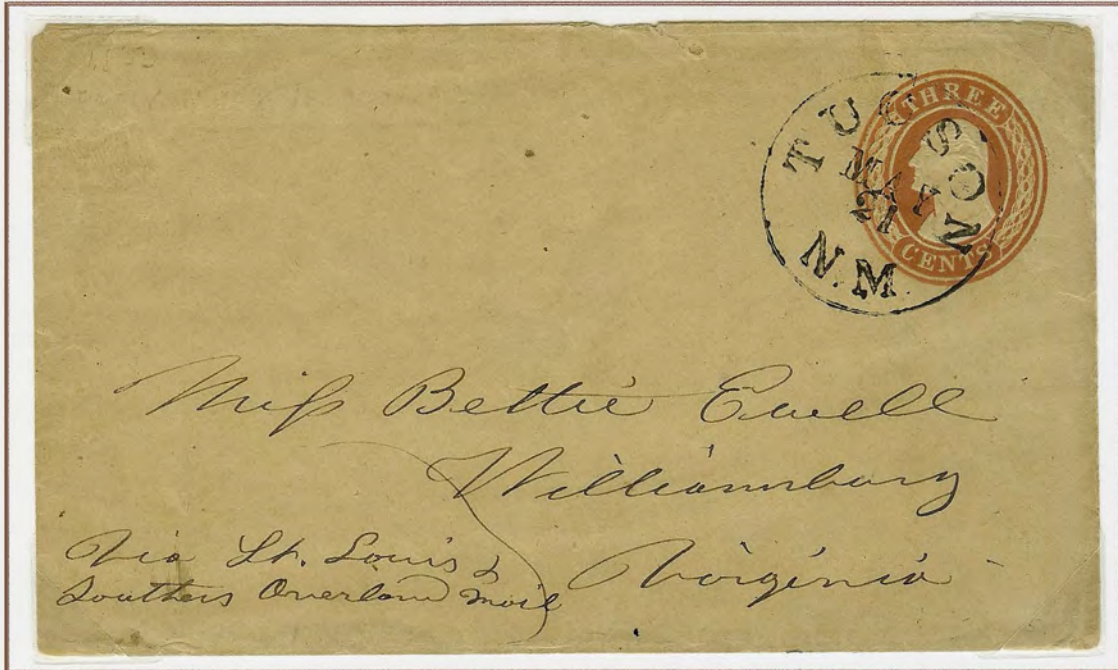
This Arizona Territorial postmark bears a manuscript cancel, and is noted at the left to be routed via Santa Fe on its way East being carried up the Santa Fe Trail on its way to Lima, New York. The Tubac Post Office was established on February 21, 1859 while then in Dona Ana County, New Mexico Territory. It became part of the Arizona Territory on February 24th, 1863. Tubac was an Indian village and was first garrisoned by the Spanish as early as 1752 with a fine Mission Church being built in those early years. During the history of Tubac four national flags Spain – Mexico - Confederate States and United States have flown over this small but important town. The area today has become one of Arizona's more important artist colonies.



Tubac Mission

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

TUCSON, N. M.

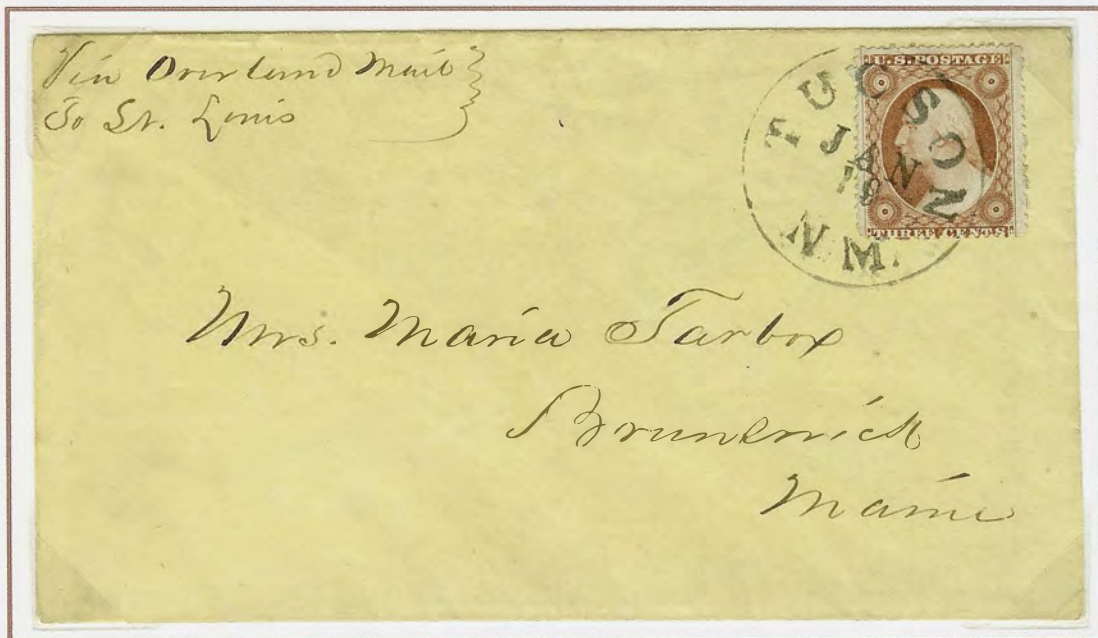


Tucson ~ May 21, 1859

Via St. Louis and Southern Overland Mail

This cover addressed to Miss Bettie Ewell at Williamsburg, Virginia posted from Tucson, New Mexico Territory. The cover carries a clear TUCSON, N. M. cancel tied on 3 cent Red entire.

The town of Tucson was a main time-table station for the Southern Overland Mail with the westbound mails due on Tuesdays and Fridays and east bound mails on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



Tucson ~ January 19, 1861

A cover sent to Mrs. Maria Tarbox at Brunswick, Maine. Tied to 3 cent #10 via Southern Overland Mail. The post office was established in 1857. On February 24th 1862 became part of the Arizona Territory.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Incoming Overland Mail



Letter to Lient Natt S. Wheeler, Adj. 125th U.S.C.T. Fort Union, New Mexico. from Nellie F. Stanley, Enfield, New Hampshire. July 11, 1866 postmark with Paid stamp on dull rose 3 cent #65 and pink manuscript "Fort Selden", pencil Aug 1st.



Letter to Lt. Col. Geo. M. McGill Asst. Surg. U S A care Med Director Dept of Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Postmarked at Albuquerque, N. M. on July 27, with dull rose #65 tied with target cancel. Received at Fort Leavenworth on August 14, 186-

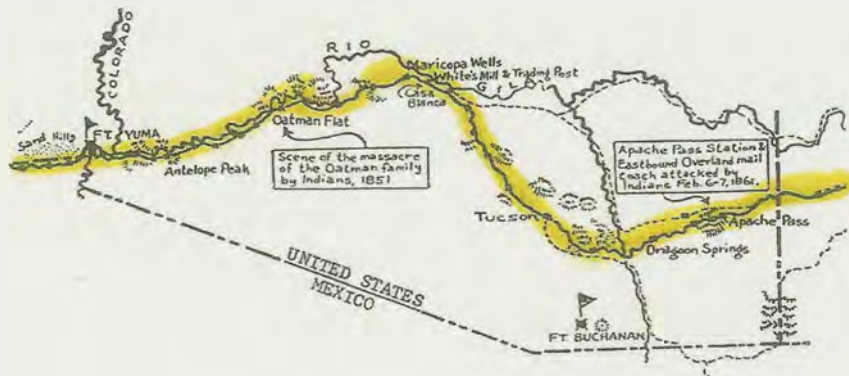
Notation to "P. M. please return this to Albuquerque, N. M. as Dr. McGill is Dead."

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Incoming Overland Mail



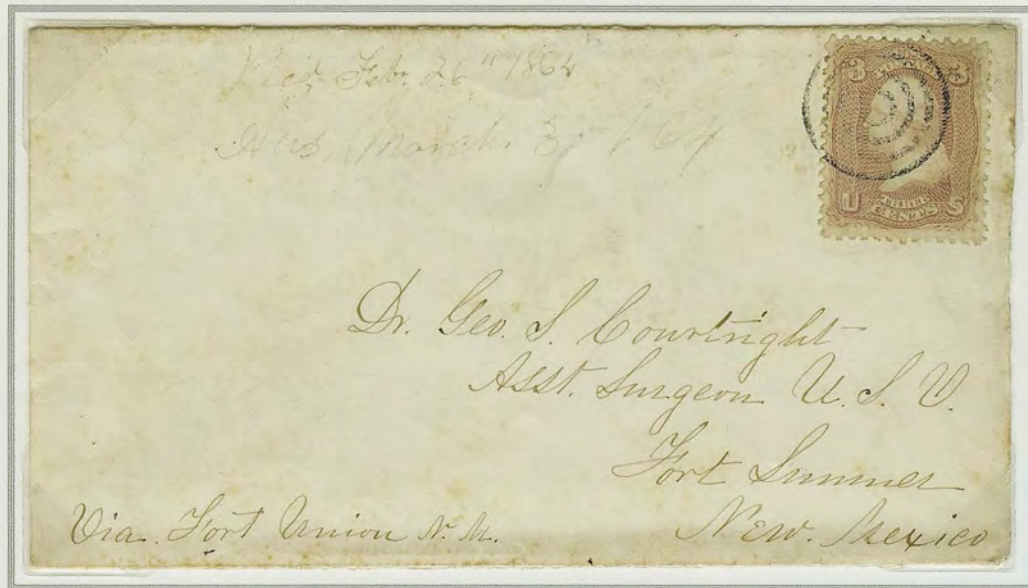
This cover was sent to Geo. W. McDonell at Fort Buchanan, Arizona\New Mexico, and originated from Hornellsville, New York. It is postmarked May 26th, about 1858-59, and was sent west via O. L. M. (*Over Land Mail*) via St. Louis. The fort was located in New Mexico Territory at this time. The Arizona Territory having not established till February 24th, 1863. It may well have been that Geo. W. McDonell was the mail agent for Butterfield at Fort Buchanan during this period. The two three cent stamps on this unusual cover indicate a double rate paid for under three thousand miles.



The Butterfield Route Through Apache Pass to Fort Yuma

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Military Forts 1852 ~ 1890



Incoming Mail to Fort Sumner

These two covers addressed to Dr. George S. Courtright, Asst. Surgeon U. S. Army had a small fragment of one letter that cautions him that mail may not be forwarded without a considerable time lag. Dr. Courtright had many duties to attend in his travels that took him to different forts in the New Mexico Territory. This letter arrived where he was stationed. The cover below tells a much traveled and different story being forwarded several times in an attempt to reach him.



Incoming Mail to Fort Bascom

This letter mailed from Lebanon, Ohio on January 24, 1865, to Fort Bascom, where it was forwarded onto Fort Craig arriving April 10, 1865. This journey took 76 days, and appears that Dr. Courtright had moved on as the letter carries an additional notation to be forwarded on to Santa Fe care of the Adjutant General's Office, arriving in Santa Fe on April 17, 1865.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Incoming Overland Mail



This letter sent from Lebanon, Ohio on March 8, 1865 to Dr. Courtright at Fort Sumner was then forwarded on to Fort Craig arriving on May 8, 1865. Then sent to Santa Fe with additional 3 cent postage added and stamped "Missent". A truly well traveled letter that hopefully one day reached Dr. Courtright in Santa Fe.



Fort Craig, New Mexico Territory Circa 1870's.

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Incoming Overland Mail



Letter sent from R. E. Champion Co. at Columbus, Ohio on April 15, (1863) with black date stamp on dull red 3 cent #11 to Capt. Theo. Jones via Overland Mail care of Santa Rita Silver Mining Co. at Tubac, New Mexico. The Overland Mail Route bears the 3 cent rate for under 3,000 miles.



Letter forwarded on 21 April, 1862 from Denver City, to Mr. Edwin C. Gould at Fort Union, New Mexico. Marked Missent and stamped Due 3 with "Care of Capt Cook, Co. F". Samuel Cook lead his Cavalry Troop in the battle at Glorieta Pass during the Confederates attempt to capture Santa Fe.