

THE WESTERN MAILS



HINCKLEY & CO.'S EXPRESS

This express was established by C.S. Hinckley and John A. Sowers early in 1860 - probably April. They operated between the mining camps in the gold region and Denver. At Denver they connected with the WESTERN STAGE COMPANY as well as THE CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA & PIKES-PEAK EXPRESS COMPANY. They continued to operate until about 1867. The cover above was picked up by Hinckley in one of the mining towns and carried into Denver where they turned it over to the C.O.C.&P. EXP. Thence via stage to SAINT JOSEPH where it was placed in the U.S. mails on June 9th as per postmark.



WESTERN STAGE COMPANY

This express and stage company originated in Ohio and gradually moved west into Indian, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. They operated into the 1880's. See complimentary pass for 1866, above.



Cover below originated at GEORGETOWN, CAL. FEB 3 (1861) and was routed "Overland via Central route". It was carried by via the Chorpennig route to Salt Lake City and thence to Denver via the J.M. Hockaday Company, both of them had the mail contracts at that time. On March 25, 1861 Hinckley picked up the letter at the Denver Post Office and delivered it to Cyrus Carpenter in one of the mining towns.



THE WESTERN MAILS

"MOUTH OF CHERRY CREEK
Nov 18th 1858"

"Gov Denver

Dear Sir, Our party arrived here day before yesterday having been detained by poor cattle and now a fortnight beyond the time I anticipated. It is by far the longest and worst route we could have come and I would never advise any one to try the route by Bents Fort. The settlers before we arrived had elected a Representative and Delegate to Congress and at the upper city (Auraria ?) there is some talk of not recognizing the Officers appointed by you but I think that with caution and prudence all trouble will be avoided. The trouble will arise if any from the Lawrence crowd here. I wrote from Bents Fort requesting your assistance in having a treaty made at once with the Arrapahoes and Cheyennes and the settling of the question of Indian titles. That Gold exists in sufficient quantities to pay.....? and that the emigration will be great is now beyond a doubt. The position of the Indians is now semi hostile and unless something is done this winter I fear that we shall have trouble. The surveys of the country as soon as bought (from the Indians) ought also to be forced along as fast as possible and a Land office established. There is a large quantity of good land near the mountains - some very fine indeed.....But one thing is certain that this country will within the next year require more attention than any other portion of the Country.....There is now at least 500 people on the Platte - perhaps more. No work doing for it is too cold to prospect and very few claims are opened. But all unite in saying that the Gold is here beyond a doubt and I shall try & send you a specimen of it. Old John S. Smith the mountaineer is here settled and says that prospects are as good as they are here for one hundred miles north. On the Arkansas near Puablo (Pueblo) - I have prospected and found good color on the surface of the Bars. On the whole the view for the future is very favourable for the commencement of a new country. The people and the country are rough but the class of emigrants is much better than it was in California and very little drinking and no gambling perhaps for want of money but I think not. Please remember us about the Indian treaty. It is needed very much indeed. The bearer of this - Mr Parkinson (William) of St. Louis will give you much information about matters.... Please forward any letters I may have under envelope to Fort Laramie - to care of Express Messenger to Cherry Creek.....H.P.A. Smith."

H.P.A. Smith was one of three "county officers" sent out by James W. Denver, Governor of the Kansas Territory. Smith was a member of the "Leavenworth party" which arrived at the mouth of Cherry Creek on November 16, 1858, two days before the letter was written and four days before the Denver City Company adopted its Constitution on Nov. 22nd.

The "Lawrence crowd", mentioned above, had come out from Kansas and organized the St. Charles Town Company on September 25, 1858. Most founders returned to Kansas before winter set in and left only three members in charge of the site - Charles Nichols, Wm. McGaa and John S. Smith. On the arrival of the Leavenworth party in November they organized the Denver City Town Company and jumped the St. Charles claim. Previous to this the Auraria Town Company had staked out their claim on the opposite bank of Cherry Creek on November 1st. On April 3, 1860 Auraria became part of what is today the City of Denver - named after General James W. Denver.

John Simpson Smith was a Mountain Man, fur trapper, Indian trader and interpreter. He entered upon the fur trade about 1826 by joining a party of trappers and going to the Upper Missouri for beaver. However, most of his life was spent in the Indian trade, having married an Indian woman and having several half-breed children. Because of this he became very conversant in several languages of the plains Indians and was in much demand by the Indian Agents and the military as an interpreter. Smith was an officer and member of the Auraria and Denver City Town Companies as well as the St. Charles Company. He was born at Frankfort, Kentucky in 1810 and died on an Indian reservation June 29, 1871.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Nov 18th 1858

Mouth of Cherry Creek

Gov Denver

Dear Sir - Our party arrived here
day before yesterday having been detained by
poor cattle and snow a fortnight beyond the
time I anticipated - It is by far the longest and
most route we could have come and I would never
advise any one to try the route by Bent's Fort -

The settlers before we arrived had elected a
Representative and Delegate to Congress and at
the upper city there is some talk of not recog-
nizing the Officers appointed by you but I think
that with caution and prudence all trouble
will be avoided - The trouble will arise if any
from the Leavenworth crowd here - I write you
from Bent's Fort requesting your assistance
in having a treaty made at once with the
Arapahoes and Cheyennes and the settling of
the question of Indian titles - That Gold ex-
ists in sufficient quantities to pay is uncertain
and that the emigration will be great is
now beyond a doubt - The position of the

THE BEGINNING OF THE CITY OF DENVER

H.P.A. Smith and the Leavenworth party started for the Gold Region and the "Mouth of Cherry Creek" on October 1, 1858. On October 10th, James W. Denver resigned as Governor of the Kansas Territory. Smith, not knowing this, sent the above letter by Mr. Wm. Parkinson to Leocompton, K.T. where the acting Governor, Hugh S. Walsh, forwarded it, along with one other letter, to Denver who had assumed the position of Indian Commissioner, which he had formerly held, in Washington. See second letter, as well as the transmittal letter by Walsh.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Genl Denver

You will receive by Capt
Parkinson whom I wish particularly to
recommend to your consideration - a small
specimen of the dust here that is presented
to you by John S. Smith of this place - Mr
Smith has lived here among the Cheyennes and
Arapahoes for 30 years and has great influence
with them and in case of your coming
out to treat with them you might find
him of great service to you - He
desires his particular regards to you per-
sonally -

Yours H. P. A. Smith



Executive Department, K. T.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Honl James W. Denver
Commissioner Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

A SPECIMIN OF GOLD

H.P.A. Smith sends James Denver a sample of GOLD from Cherry Creek as a gift from John S. Smith much like the example shown. The original specimin had been removed and is no longer with the letter. The EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, K.T. envelope contains Gov. Walsh's transmittal letter relating to the transfer of the governorship from Walsh to Sam Medary, under date of "LeCompton K.T. Dec. 29, 1858". Smith's letters are shown on this and the opposite page.

October 28, 1858 (envelope entered mails at Pacific City Iowa on Dec 4)

South Platte Near the Rocky Mountains (now Denver)

My Dear Woman (future wife Maggie),

Again I have the pleasure of meeting with an opportunity of sending you a few lines. An officer of the army at Ft. Kearney, who came out with us returns tomorrow and will take our letters there & mail them from which place the mail runs once a week to the states.

We reached our place of destiny yesterday, and our little party of nine met with a very favorable reception. We were more highly favored than any parties who came into the country you will probably wonder who was here to honor us so much. Wells tis two old mountaineers who have lived in the mountains for 27 years & traded with the Indians (William McGaa, aka "Jack Jones" and John Smith) After we had camped near them they came over and invited us all to come over and invited us to come over to their lodges (of the Indian stile) and eat a rib with them we readily assented and about dusk all went over and found every preparation in readiness for us. The Lodge door was raised and we politely shown seats around the fire which was in the center of the lodge. There one of his squaw wives (Wenona) was called and after a little conversation between them in Indian She withdrew & appeared with a large tin vessel containing a warm whiskey toddy sugared & spiced to the highest flavor. Of course we all partook, some more & some less (suffice it to say I didn't get drunk) after spending near an hour listening to our hosts history of themselves and enjoying an interesting conversation. Wenona again appeared at the Lodge door & spoke a few words in Indian we were invited to step into the dinning lodge which we did and were seated around a round table spread on the carpet of dressed skins headed off & placed in the in the center of the lodge, we were then asked if we would be helped to some of the dog to which as a matter of courtesy we all consented. Our friend then helped our plates stating that it was a young dog & noble fellow but that he had met with no parties for whom he had so much respect as he had for us and this animal he had prepared for our reception feast. And Mag much to my astonishment it made a fine dish. Our plates were also served with Antelope & Buffalo but the Dog was really the best of the 3 dishes (enough of this).

We are located on the South Platte near the point (8 miles) from where the stream comes through the Mountains. The principal Range of the Rocky Mountains is about 25 miles from us but the range is called the Black Hills is from 6 to 8 miles from where we are camped the tops are now covered with white caps of snow and the higher peals are constantly encircled with clouds you can have no idea of the picturesqueness of the view. The tops of some of the peaks seem to reach almost to the skies. I seen the mountains over 100 miles before we reached here and now what is called pikes peak 80 miles distant doesn't look to be more than 10 or 15 miles off. It is one of the highest peaks. I intend going up into the mountains prospecting during the winter if it don't get too cold. Haven't mined any yet and there can't be much done at this winter on account of the water freezing up. I regret now that I did not return to Ohio as intended and came out in the Spring. For that will be as soon as any mining can be done to advantage and Mag you

cant imagine how much I want to see you and have a long conversation for writing is but a poor answer at best. Tomorrow I start out on a prospecting tour will be gone 4 or 5 days will follow up cherry creek into the mts. Probably you can see our locality on the map yet I don't know as tis laid down by that name. I will send you a specimen of the gold found here it is said to be the virgin gold & worth \$20 pr ounce, the coarse gold or quartz rock has not yet been discovered. Well may visit my parents frequently I know ma will always be glad see you and your presence will fill the place of vacancy caused by my absence she now frets over my absence but ere long I expect to return to you all more independent in circumstances than when I left.

Our man cries out for letter & am forced to close. Mag write often and direct your letters ½ to Ft. Kearney and ½ to Ft. Laramie Nebraska Ter in order that I may get some of them with a tear in my eye I bid you goodby and remain

Thine & Thine only, Pink (E.P [Pinky] Stout)



OCT 28th 1858

South Platte near the Rocky Mountains
 My Dear Roman

Again I have the pleasure of meeting with an opportunity of sending you a few lines. An officer of the army at Ft Kearny, who came out with us returns to-morrow and will take our letters there & mail them, from which place the mail runs once a week to the states.

We reached our place of destiny yesterday, and our little party of nine were met with a very favorable reception. We were more ^{highly} favored than any parties who came into the country. You will probably wonder who was here to honor us so much. Well 'tis two old mountaineers who have lived in the mountains for 27 years & traded with the Indians. After we had camped near them they came over and invited us all to come a-voor to their lodges (of the indian stile) and eat a bit with them. We readily assented, and about dusk all went over and found every preparation in readiness for us. The Lodge door was raised and we politely shown seats around the fire which was in the center of the lodge. Then one of his squaw wives (Memona) was

Putting Together Colorado Territory

Home ▶ [Pre-Colorado Territory](#) 1861 - 1875 [Colorado Expresses](#) [Contact](#)



Kansas Territory Cherry Creek 1859 (Denver)

Cherry Creek was a location rather than a specific settlement. It referred to the area encompassed by the Denver City and Auraria town sites.

Letter and envelope from E.P. "Pinkie" Stout. Stout had arrived in Denver on October 26, 1858. He was one of the original stockholders in Auraria Town Company and the first president of the Denver City Town Company. A street in downtown Denver was named after him in 1859. The location of his home until 1861 is highlighted on map to the right.



Other covers in this section:

Select...



26 February 1859 Cherry Creek, **Kansas Territory** to Cherry Fork, Ohio

Carried privately to Council Bluffs, Iowa where it entered the mails more than a month later.

[Click to see larger version](#)

Original letter of E.P. "Pinkie" Stout mentions:

"Miners are making from 3 to 10 dol per day and speculators like myself are making two or three times that amount..."

The emigration is coming in continually and our town is building almost like a San Francisco. It already contains one church building, one theater, an opera or ball room, any amount of liquor and gambling saloons and one or two HHs [whore houses] or assignation houses which are to be supplied from Mexico and St. Louis and Cincinnati.

Enclosed please find a specimen of [gold] dust which I give to sweet little Cora and tell her Pinkie sent it. There is about enough to make her a ring - just one dol worth I took from a few pans of dirt a few days ago while trying my hand washing."

<<PREVIOUS | NEXT>>



The cover above bears the second earliest type I handstamp of the LEAVENWORTH CITY & PIKE'S PEAK EXPRESS CO./APR 30 (1859). It originated at Stouts, Ohio on April 15th. Although the cover is routed "By way of Fort Larimia, it was carried by the L.C. & P.P. EXP., via the Republican River route. SEE MAP. Auraria and Denver City were located on Cherry Creek and what is now the City of Denver. E.P. Stout, to whom the cover is addressed, arrived at Cherry Creek with a party from Omaha on Oct. 26, 1858 and he became the first president of the Denver City Town Company. Cover below bears the type II handstamp, which replaced the type I, sometime in June or July 1859. It contains the names of the owners - JONES & RUSSELL'S PIKE'S PEAK EXPRESS CO./DENVER CITY DEC 29 1859. It was carried to Leavenworth City via the Platte River route where it arrived Jan. 5, 1860. Thence via the regular mails to Springfield, Vermont.



THE WESTERN MAILS



ILLUSTRATED MAP cover shows the routes from the Missouri to Cherry Creek and the Pikes Peak Gold Regions in what was then the Kansas Territory. Cover contains letter under date of Oct. 3, 1859 and was carried outside of the mails or in another envelope.

NEBRASKA TERRITORY

NEBRASKA CITY, N.T. Post Office established as Table Creek and changed to NEBRASKA CITY on March 14, 1855. Founded by S.F. Nuckolls in 1854. It became an important trading center on the Missouri river in Otoe county. Illustrated map cover bears the corner card of Hawke & Nuckolls who were second in overland freighting only to Russell, Majors & Wadell. Cover below contains a letter asking Nuckolls to "get Russell to pay one of them notes....send me the other with his (Russell) objections so I can collect it from J.H. Russell (son of Wm.H.) when he returns from the Pikes Peak Gold mines." Wm.H. Russell was noted for signing notes but not for prompt pay!



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1858

THE WESTERN MAILS



WARSAW. Stern-wheeler of 457 tons. Built at Madison, Indiana in 1858. Operated in the Upper Mississippi trade for the Keokuk Packet Company until she was lost in 1866.

Cover is from the Fleming correspondence and was postmarked at Warsaw, Illinois on July 11, 1860. It is addressed to Denver City, Jefferson Territory, where it was picked up at the Post Office by HINCKLEY & CO'S EXPRESS on July 24, and delivered to Fleming who was prospecting for gold.

At this time Denver was in the Kansas Territory and the people were seeking separation and the establishment of Jefferson Territory.

THE WESTERN MAILS



WARSAW. Cover used by Fleming, from the mines in the vicinity of Denver, to mail a letter back home. It was picked up by HINCKLEY & CO'S EXPRESS and delivered to the CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA & PIKES PEAK EXPRESS COMPANY in Denver on June 28, 1860. Thence via the Central Overland to Saint Joseph, Missouri where it entered to U.S. MAILS.



THE WESTERN MAILS



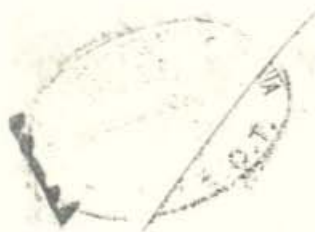
TYPE I



TYPE II



Cover was carried by the C.O.C. & P.P. Express from Central City, via Denver where it was backstamped and forwarded to ATCHISON KAS/NOV 18, 1862, where it entered the U.S. mails as per postmark.



Cover shown bears the only recorded example of Type II of THE CENTRAL OVERLAND AND CALIFORNIA & PIKES PEAK EXPRESS COMPANY/DENVER. C.T. and it is not a modification of the CALIFORNIA DENVER CITY K.T. handstamp, because that device survives at the Colorado Historical Society. In Type I there is no "A" in California. In Type II it has been added. Although the marking has been faintly struck, the letter before the C.T. is the "R" of DENVER, which is followed by a period. This spacing arrangement would not permit the word CITY K.T., which apparently was dropped. The latest recorded use of the DENVER CITY, K.T. Type I is "September 12, 1861" - almost two months before the use of Type II. By this time the C.O.C. & P.P. was on the verge of bankruptcy and on March 21, 1862 it was sold at auction to Ben Holladay, who was the largest creditor and owner of the OVERLAND MAIL CO., which held the U.S. Mail contract between Atchison and Pacific coast.

Central City November 10. 1861
S. F. Tickolls Esq
Nebraska City

Dear Sir

The Judiciary Bill assigning
Judge Armor to this District and appointing the
3rd Monday in this month for a term of Court
passed both Houses of the Legislature and was
approved by the Governor last Thursday 8th Inst.
All of which I had Judge Bradford to Telegraph
you. I also wrote you about same time requesting you
to be here at that time, as I am somewhat fearful
that we will have trouble in getting security sufficient
in case we get a Receiver appointed as the rules of
the Court requires a man or surety to testify to his
responsibility which must be double the amt of
the Bonds. It may be possible that Judge Armor
will not hold in surety cases like Judge Hall
but I am fearful that he will. In which case
P. M. Martin could not sign bond named on the

Letter written from Central City, Colorado Territory "November 10, 1861"
which mentions a house that was bought "back of C. O. C. & P. P. Ex Co office"
and then goes on to describe the fire that burned Nevada City and threat-
end to burn Central City.... "We have had a very destructive fire in Nevada
City. The fire originated in the Pineries on head of fall river and from
thence it extended to the Hill on North side of Nevada Gulch. It caught in
the heart of the Town and burnt every House except two on North side of Nevada
Gulch that is from two buildings above Morton's Hall down to nearly the mouth
of the Gulch. It also burnt up 65000 or 70000 feet of Lumber for you. The fire
than run over towards Eureka Gulch and down "Capital Hill" nearly to Central
City. The fire fell like rain in Central City for about 3 Hours. Every person
thought that our Town would burn....." C.W. Wyan"

THE WESTERN MAILS



COLORADO GOLD RUSH

SPANISH BAR C.T. Post Office established December 13, 1860 in what was then the Kansas Territory. Name changed to FALL CREEK, CLEAR CREEK CO. in 1933 and discontinued in 1943. The cover above bearing the manuscript postmark "Dec 23d 64" is from the SHAVER Gold Rush correspondence. Cover below bears the Type I handstamp - no year date, but about 1866 or later.



THE WESTERN MAILS

Auraria K T
June 15 1859



AURARIA KANSAS TERRITORY

AURARIA The post office was established January 18, 1859 while in the Kansas Territory. Its first postmaster was Henry Allen who was an officer of the Auraria Town Company. Although the Post Office Department established the post office they did not establish a mail route. This was left up to the postmaster. The cover shown above is postmarked in the hand of Henry Allen as far as this editor is concerned. What mail he handled was taken to the express office in Denver City. It is known that the express company charged 25c per letter plus the U.S. postage, although this writer has never seen a cover which indicates this additional charge. Auraria became part of Denver City on Feb. 11, 1860. Cover above bears the earliest recorded postmark of "Auraria K.T. June 15 1859".



AURARIA K T
 AUG 23, 1859

THE WESTERN MAILS



If you don't catch him in days, return to
Lock Box 1943,
DENVER, - COLORADO.

DENVER, COLO., FEB. 18, 1884.

To the Members of the Rocky Mountain Detective Association:

Your special attention is hereby called to the necessity of prompt and efficient service in the discovery of the class of criminals known as horse and cattle thieves.

The President and Superintendent of the Association has been appointed as the detective for the Colorado Cattle Growers Association, and will make a specialty of that department of detective work, and will expect the members to do the same, and upon receipt of any evidence or facts going to prove a criminal case to at once report the same to the Superintendent, D. J. Cook, and act with him in perfecting the circumstances and evidence for court purposes. Shall also secure the names and description of such men in your district as are suspected of crooked work, and as soon as possible report the same to headquarters: also make reports speedily of any information



THE WESTERN MAILS



COKEVILLE, LINCOLN COUNTY, WYOMING.
Post Office was established October 12, 1877. Located in southwest Wyoming about 8 miles northwest of the intersection of the Wyoming, Idaho and Utah state lines. Real photo post cards of the village used December 10, 1910. The way it was. It is now a town of over 500 population.



Office of **Gilmer & Salisbury,**
STAGE LINE,

Saw Lasa City, July 28 1869

Received of Genl G. M. Dodge One hundred
and Ninety Dollars in full for 2 coaches from
Musas to S. Lasa and return

Gilmer & Salisbury

C. F. Smith Apt.

1871

Winn & Laboratory

Rec for Singapore

W. R. S. S. S.

Obstacles -

R. 47-

W. R. S. S. S.

THE WESTERN MAILS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS & COLORADO REPUBLICAN.

The opposition papers in the Territorial DAYS of Denver. Cover above postmarked at BOULDER C.T. about 1861 in red. There is one other cover bearing the same corner card and same 3 cent 1857 stamp. The R.M. News was established by W.N. Byers in 1859, when he brought the first printing press to Denver.

Thomas Gibson, who had formerly worked for Byers, established the COLORADO REPUBLICAN in May of 1861. It was the first daily paper in Denver. Both were Republican papers.



Rocky Mountain News' office, second story of Wason's Building, 1859.



The lower cover is a fine usage of a commercial patriotic from DENVER C.T. DEC [1861]. The following is extracted from the enclosed letter:
 "There has been no fighting in this Territory with the exception of a company of Secish [Confederates] who were on their way to the States to join

Secession forces - they came across a government supply train and undertook to capture it,, [but] the train was well guarded...and they were captured.... The Editors of the two papers have for a long time been eating one another through their papers ...the News getting the worst of the game."



THE WESTERN MAILS

Office of
Butterfield's Overland Despatch

Run to all points in Colorado, Utah,
Texas, and Nevada Territories, as
THROUGH CONTRACTS
BILLS OF LADING
From New York, Boston, Philadelphia,
Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis.



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

St Louis July 25th 1865

Com Baker

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find
fifty dollars it being the amount I
agreed to send up this morn making my
subscription to your Docs one hundred dollars

Yours truly
D. A. Butterfield

Butterfield's Overland
Despatch Co. Atchison
Atchison, Mo

A. C. S.

Monument Station
Lamar



EDWARD M. BEUGHER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

GRINNELL, KANSAS

September 26, 1961

Mr. Lee Cornell
 Petroleum Geologist
 Orpheum Building
 Wichita 2, Kansas

Dear Lee:

Was certainly glad to receive the Monument station cover. To my knowledge this is the earliest letter received by a settlement or post in Gove County, Kansas. Or rather what is now Gove County, Kansas.

The Initials in the address on this letter are not the initials of any individual but are the initials of the title of the officer responsible for the Post Commissary and mean "Acting Commissary Stewart".

The first post return of Fort Monument was made in August of 1867 and under remarks Capt. John B. Connyngham, Company I. 38 th Infantry, Commanding Post and Company A.A.Q.M. and A.C.S. (meaning Company Acting Assistant Quartermaster and Acting Commissary Stewart) had this to say. "There are no post returns showing the date of the

establishment of this post. The present commanding officer arrived July 14 th, 1867, relieving 1 st Lt. D.I. Ezekiel then commanding Company I 38 th Inf. 1 st Lt. Ezekiel with his company relieved Lt. Nolan 7th Cavalry, who had previously occupied the post with his troop.

This post is situated on the Smoky Hill stage route in the State of Kansas Ninety(90) miles west of Ft. Hays and Forty-seven(47) miles East of Ft. Wallace.

No Post office has been established at the post Communications addressed "Monument Station, Kansas" are received with some regularity by the way packet which is carried upon the Coach of the United States Express Company."

I would judge due to the fact that the letter states Care of Overland Despatch Company, that this letter was mailed in the latter part of 1866 or the 1 st part of 1867 since Butterfield Overland Despatch sold out to Holiday in the fore part of 1867 or latter part of 66 and evidently the line was still going under the name of Butterfield Overland Despatch when this letter was written. In 1867 while Holiday operated the stage route he called it United States Express Company and then Wells Fargo and Company purchased the route and stages from him and it was known as Wells Fargo Express Co. This letter evidently came over the route while the route was owned by D.A. Butterfield and while it was known as Butterfield's Overland Despatch.

My guess is that Lt. Nolan of the 7 th Cavalry who was stationed there at the time was the recipient of this letter. He was the 1 st commander of the post. It could have been Lt. David I. Ezekiel, who preceded Connyngham as Commander and A.C.S. at the post. Wish there was a date on the letter we could tell exactly.

Ft. Monument or Monument Station was abandoned in July of 1868 and the troops under Connyngham were sent to Monument Station (On the Railroad) just west of

... to assist the workers on the Union Pacific Railroad

Office of Butterfield's Overland Dispatch



To all points in Colorado, Utah,
Idaho, and Montana Territories, OR
THROUGH CONTRACTS
BILLS OF LADING
From New York, Boston, Philadelphia,
Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis.

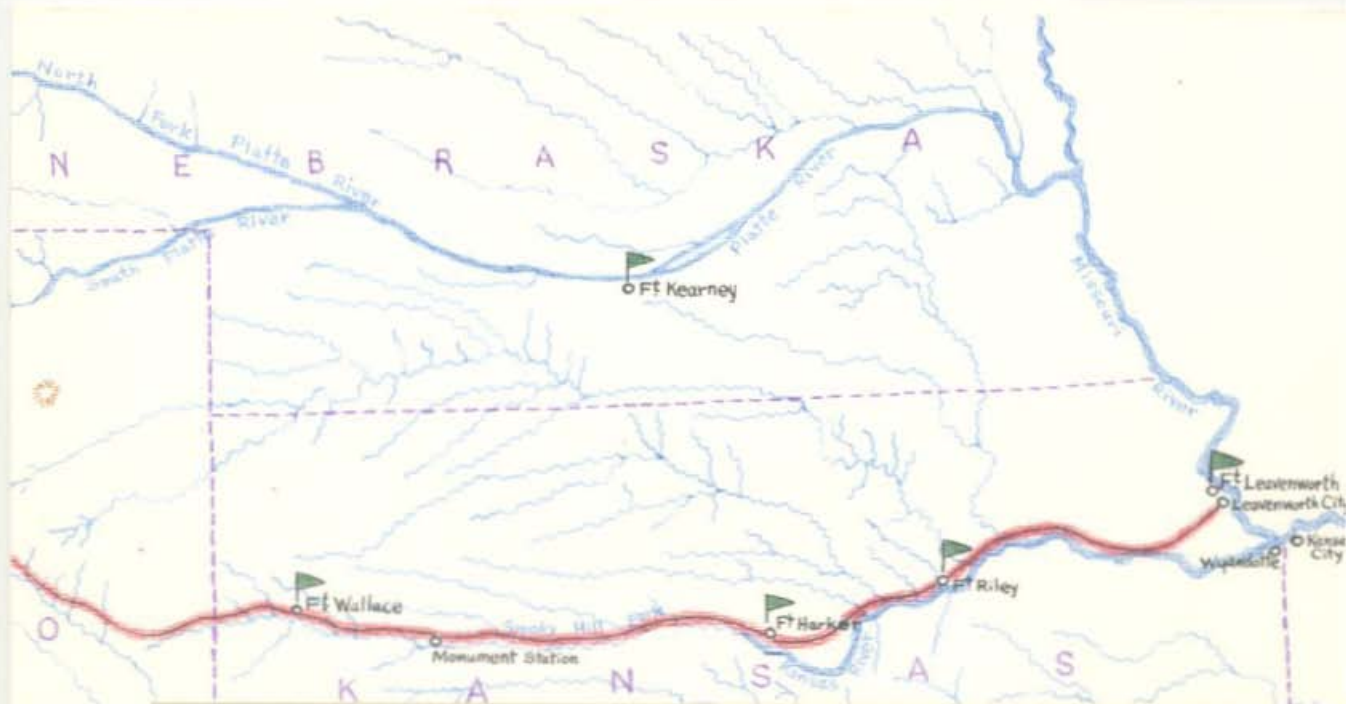
Principal Office: ATCHISON, KANSAS.
New York Office: No. 1 VENEY ST., Astor House.

St Louis July 24th 1865.

Maj. Estlin }
Dr. J. }
} Committee

I was placed on the
Committee to collect funds to purchase a
fund for Gen. Dodge - who is well worthy
of this distinction, but my time is so limited
that I could not leave my office my
young man being absent. I very cheerfully
signify to enclose five dollars on my own
ac -

Yours truly
L. A. Strong & Co.
Butterfield's Dispatch



BUTTERFIELD'S OVERLAND DESPATCH

This freight and forwarding company was organized by D. A. Butterfield in 1864. It rapidly developed into major competition with Holladay's Overland Mail and Express Company, carrying mails as well as freight, although it did not have a U.S. Mail contract. The route was from Leavenworth along the Kansas and the Smoky Hill rivers to Denver. It was short lived as Butterfield sold out to Holladay in March of 1866. The cover shown on the opposite page is the only known example bearing a manuscript directive carried over this route - viz "Care Overland Despatch Company" - from Fort Riley to Monument Station. Cover shown above originated at Fort Union, New Mexico. It was probably carried over the Santa Fe Trail to Kansas City and thence to Monument Station via the Smoky Hill route.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Butterfield's Overland Despatch Company.



General Agent's Office,

68 Broadway,



D. E. BUTTERFIELD, General Superintendent.
W. E. MARTIN, General Agent, New York.

New York, Sept 23 1865

Wm. C. Sharp Esq
Dir



the
the
will
to
you
of

in
of
long
or
all
time
fixed

Letterhead and illustrated envelope of the Butterfield Overland Despatch used from New York on September 23, 1865.

Box 5606 P.O.
N.Y. City

Theo. Q. Ayull

Circular
sent Sept 27.

THE WESTERN MAILS

GOLD IN THE BLACK HILLS!

On August 3, 1874, Army Scout*Charley Reynolds, road into Fort Laramie with startling news that gold had been found in the Black Hills by the Custer exploring expedition. The news swept like wildfire and started the stampede to the Black Hills - the hills held sacred to the Indians. The land that had been set aside by two treaties for the red man's hunting grounds forever.



TREASURE EXPRESS

CHEYENNE & BLACK HILLS EXPRESS was organized by F.D. Yates in 1876. The first run was on February 2, 1876 from Cheyenne, W.T. to Custer City, D.T. via Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska. Ten days later Yates sold out to Gilmer, Salisbury and Patrick, who extended the route to Deadwood, D.T. via Fort Laramie, W.T. On October 1, 1878 Patrick withdrew from the partnership and on May 15, 1883 Gilmer and Salisbury sold out to Russell Thorpe Sr., who continued to operate the line until they closed and went out of business. The last stage left Cheyenne on February 19, 1887. Cover above used from Deadwood May 5, 1877. Below from Rochford, D.T. to Custer City.

* "Lonesome" Charley Reynolds killed at the battle of The Little Big Horn June 25, 1876.

THE WESTERN MAILS

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS HOUSES OF CHEYENNE, D. T.

Z. WATERS, DEALER IN DIAMONDS & PEARLS, Rings, Watch, etc. 101 1/2 and 103 1/2 St. Louis, Mo.	L. W. FRENCH & CO., 101 1/2 and 103 1/2 St. Louis, Mo. Storage & Commission MERCHANTS. SIXTEENTH WAREHOUSE.	DONWELL & TAYLOR, 101 1/2 and 103 1/2 St. Louis, Mo. DRUGGISTS (Opposite to "Sugar" Block). EDDY, SMITH & CO. DEALER IN CRAN, McDONALD, DEALER IN Groceries and Liquors Cor. 10th and 11th Sts., CHEYENNE, - - DAKOTA.	A. F. SICKOLLS, Dry Goods, CARPETING, QUINCY AND GROCERIES AND HARDWARE. No. 101 1/2 BLDG.	GLENN & TALP, DEALER IN General Merchandise, and gro. Retailer's Supplies. Cor. 10th and 11th Sts., St. Louis, Mo.
SOUTHERN HOTEL, Cor. 17th and Thirteenth Sts. CARD BROTHERS, Fashioners.	J. R. INNES, M. D., 17TH AND MEDICATED BATHS, Cor. 10th & Thirteenth Sts. CHEYENNE, - - DAKOTA.	J. CUPPER & CO., DEALER IN GOLD & SILVER, WATCHES, GLASSES, ETC. EDDY STREET, Next door to "Sugar" Block.	E. BLOCK & CO., WINE & SPIRITS LIQUORS Cor. 10th and 11th Sts., St. Louis, Mo.	H. W. KERR, DEALER IN TOBACCO & CIGARS, Cor. 10th and 11th Sts., St. Louis, Mo.
R. M. GREEN & CO., Western News Depot, P. O. Building, General assortment of Foreign Books always on hand.	CITY BATH HOUSE, HOT & COLD BATHS THIRTEEN STREET, Between 10th and 11th Sts.	JONES & GRAY, DEALER IN Groceries, Provisions, and LIQUORS.	F. X. CAVALLI, California Cigar Store, Cor. 17th and Eddy Sts., Cheyenne, - - DAKOTA.	FORD HOUSE, 101 1/2 and 103 1/2 St. Louis, Mo. R. L. FORD & CO., 101 1/2 and 103 1/2 St. Louis, Mo.
A. B. CONYERS, DEALER IN Optical Glasses, FURNITURE, 101 1/2 and 103 1/2 St. Louis, Mo.	W. D. CORBETT, DEALER IN CLOTHING and Gentlemen's Goods.		W. H. PAEPE, Watchmaker & Jeweler 1007 STREET.	SALTIER, BARNETT, Land & Mining Agents 17 1/2 West Street, St. Louis, Mo.



CHEYENNE "MAGIC CITY OF THE PLAINS."

CHEYENNE, Laramie Co., Wyoming Territory, was selected as a site for a terminal and supply base for the building crews of the UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD on July 4, 1867 by Grenville M. Dodge. He named the camp after the Cheyenne Indians and almost over nite it became a town of 4000 people. The rails reached Cheyenne on November 13th and by the spring of 1868 the population had dropped to 1500 as the railroad pushed its way west, with the establishment of Wyoming territory July 29, 1868 it became the capitol and by 1881 the population was 4500. CHEYENNE was a UNION PACIFIC CITY FROM THE DAY OF ITS INCEPTION.

There are no year dates on the two Dakota covers, letters or postmarks. The one with the blue postmark, to Mrs. Post, bears a penciled date "5 - 3 - 68" is most likely taken from the letter - not present. This is about 3 months before Wyoming became a territory. The cover to Mr. Guy has a letter, but no date. However the following extract, under date of "Cheyenne June 26" helps year date it: "...every one is on the move... Cheyenne has plade out and all most every body left now - the front of excitment is farther west so goes this country - built a City one month and abandon it the next... Ransom". The discovery of gold in the Black Hills and the railroad contributed to the regrowth & the Cheyenne/Deadwood was the beast route from the gold fields to the Union Pacific Railroad.

THE WESTERN MAILS

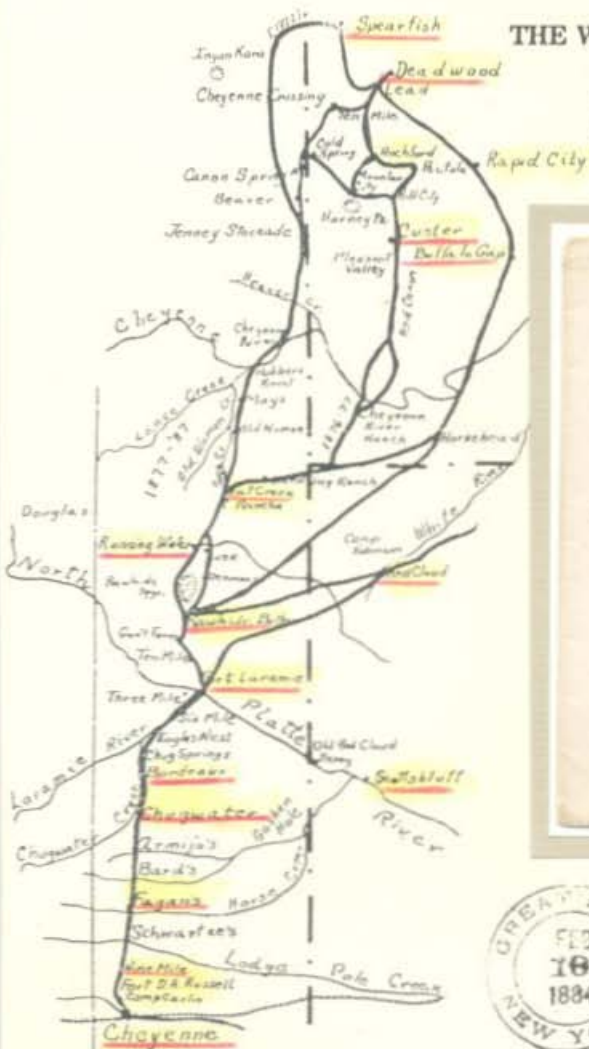


POST OFFICE was established on Aug. 22, 1867 in Laramie Co., Dakota Territory as **CHEYENNE CITY**, but the word CITY was not used in the first postmarks as shown here. After Wyoming became a territory July 29, 1868, The second postmark, shown here did use CITY - "**CHEYENNE CITY WYO JUN 20**" 1878. In 1888 the CITY was again dropped and became CHEYENNE as it is today



THE WESTERN MAILS

CHEYENNE & BLACK HILLS STAGE & EXPRESS ROUTES
DURING THE TERRITORIAL DAYS OF DAKOTA & WYOMING.
MAP SHOWS THE STAGE STATIONS WITH POST OFFICES.



CHUGWATER FEB 8 1884 WYOMING. P.O. established June 12, 1872 in what was Laramie Co. - now Platte Co.



BORDEAUX, WYOMING
Post Office was established Feb. 16, 1877 in what was then Laramie Co. Now in Platte Co. It was a stage station on the Cheyenne/Deadwood route, built by James Bordeaux in 1867 as a trading post and ranch, 14 miles north of CHUGWATER. P.O. was discontinued in 1939. Cover shown was used to ENGLAND in 1883.

THE WESTERN MAILS

PLATE 8



RUNNING WATER STAGE STATION
From a sketch by E. E. Stevens.

CHEYENNE & BLACK
HILLS STAGE &
EXPRESS ROUTES.

GOODWIN'S RANCH
SEP 30 1881 WYO-
MING. P.O. estab-
lished May 16,
1879. Discontin-
ued Oct. 24, 1884.
Same as FAGANS
on map. Located
in Laramie Co.



DAVIS RANCH WYO
JAN 19 1883. P.O.
established Nov.
3, 1873, in Laramie
Co. Same as NINE
MILE as shown on
map. Name changed
to HORSE CREEK on
Jan. 21, 1908.



THE WESTERN MAILS

PLATE 9



HAT CREEK STATION ON SAGE CREEK

A reproduction of an original water color by William H. Jackson for the Russell Terry collection, now in Denver public library, Western collection.

HAT CREEK Post Office was established at the stage station on Feb. 2, 1877, on Sage Creek in Laramie Co. The site is now in NIOBRARA CO., as of Feb. 14, 1911. Cover is postmarked Hat Creek 9-19-77.

CHEYENNE AND BLACK HILLS STAGE ROUTE

Almost from the beginning the Cheyenne & Black Hills Express used Abbot & Downing Concord coaches, pulled by a six horse hitch, carrying the U. S. mails, passengers and gold from the Hills.

"Cheyenne river Sep 15th 1877" William Scott writes to his wife in faraway Maryland: "I left Deadwood Sunday and we are laying over at a point where the road agents have been the worst... we watch our stock all night... I am taking all the stock [cattle and horses] with me to Colorado There is nine of us in the party... I will hand this to a stage driver I hope it reaches you.. William" This was the crossing of the Cheyenne River 10 miles north of the Robbers' Roost stage station. Most of the stage hold-ups by "route agents", was between Hat Creek and Deadwood. The letter was dropped off at Hat Creek station and postmarked on "9/19/77".

Cheyenne river Sep 15th 1877
My Dear Dearest wife
you will see in this that I have left Deadwood this is Sunday and we are laying over at a point where the road agents



THE WESTERN MAILS

Hat Creek, Wyo May 20/80
Thomas Rogers Esq
Friend Sam *MT. Lead*
your letter with at hand was glad
to hear from you and that things
were booming in and around



HAT CREEK WYO. LARAMIE Co MAY 21 1880.

The name was first spelled by two words, then changed to one word, as per this postmark and later, back to two words and finally discontinued 1971.

CHEYENNE & BLACK HILLS STAGE ROUTE

HAT CREEK STAGE STATION was erroneously named, although it was located at the crossing of Sage Creek. It was an important station with a large log hotel, to which were attached the stage office, telegraph and post office, brewery, bakery, butcher and blacksmith shops. Also grocery provisions, grain and hay and good stabling for horses. It was on the edge of of the most dangerous section of the entire Cheyenne to Deadwood route in which occurred Indian raids and stagecoach holdups.

The following extracts are from the letter of the telegraph operator under date of: **Hat Creek Wyo May 20/80** " I am still Running the Telegraph office at this place at a Salary of Nine hundred & Sixty dollars \$960.00 pr year - Rather Good wages for a Plug - My wife and boy arrived at Fort Laramie May 11th - I hired a Team and went after them a distance of Sixty Miles - Took me 4 days to make round Trip - Hired a man to Stay in office During my absence....Yours James Egen"

THE WESTERN MAILS



GOLD IN THE BLACK HILLS

CUSTER DAKOTA MAY 14 1888. Post Office established March 14, 1877 in Custer county Dakota Territory, in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It was on a branch of the Cheyenne/Deadwood stage route, from Hat Creek, via Red canyon to Deadwood. SEE MAP. It was a stagecoach station.

BUFFALO GAP DAK AUG 21 1888 Post Office established July 9, 1877, in Custer County, Dakota Territory, in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It was on a branch of the Cheyenne/Deadwood stage route, from Rawhide Butte, via Horsehead and Rapid City, to Deadwood. It was a stagecoach station. SEE map.



THE WESTERN MAILS

FORT FRED STEELE WYO
JAN 2 1881. The fort was established June 30, 1868. Located on the North Platte River 15 mile east of Rawlins Wyoming. Post Office established July 10, 1868 and discontinued April 7, 1967. The post was abandoned by the military in 1886. War Department stamps used from forts and Indian agencies are scarce.



FORT WASHAKIE WYO. Jul 20 1893. The fort was established in January 1871. Ordered abandoned in 1899, the 90 years old, Chief Washakie, objected, and the order was revoked. On March 30, 1909 the post was turned over to the Shoshoni Indian Agency. Post Office established on May 7, 1879 and continues to the present time. Located at the town of same name.



THE WESTERN MAILS

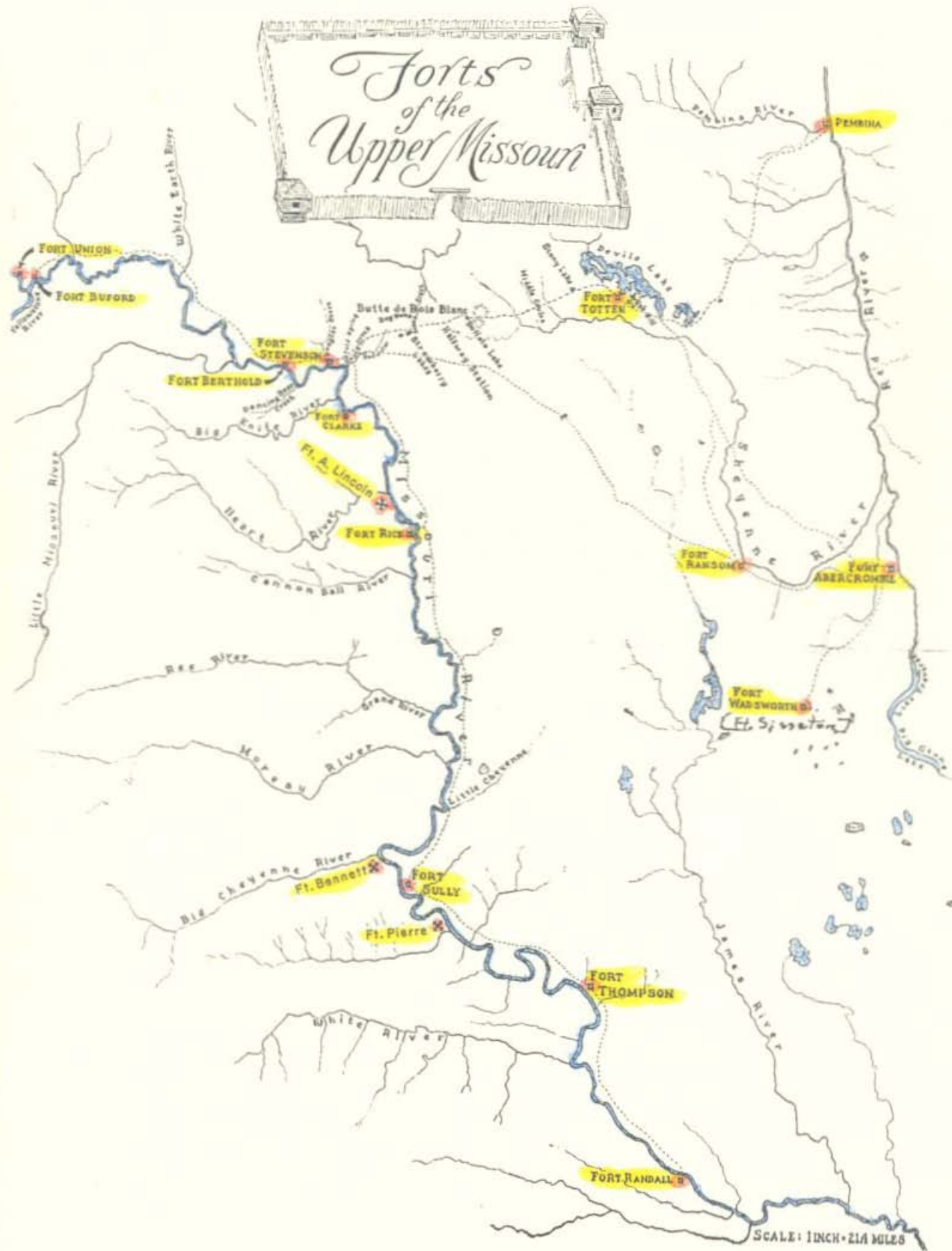


DAKOTA TERRITORY

WILLIAMSPORT D.T. Post Office was established, in what is now EMMONS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, on September 7, 1883. Daniel Williams was the first postmaster. The P.O. was discontinued December 15, 1903. The two covers shown were used in 1884 and 1885.



Forts of the Upper Missouri

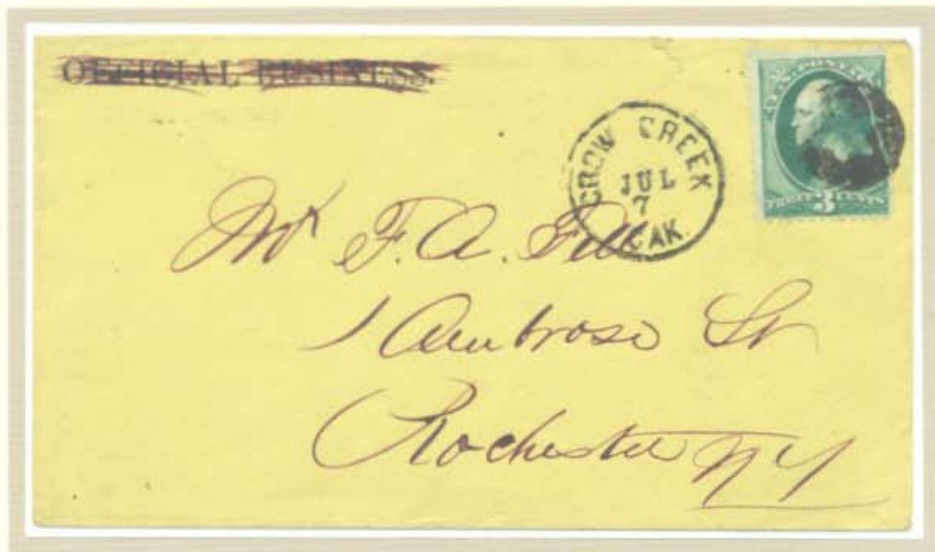


SCALE: 1 INCH = 2 1/2 MILES

THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT THOMPSON, DAKOTA TERRITORY. Established in September of 1864 by Captain Nelson Minor, Dakota Cavalry. Located on the Crow Creek Indian reservation, on the left bank of the Missouri River, about 20 miles above Chamberlain, S.D. The post was abandoned by the military on June 9, 1867 and the garrison transferred to Fort Sully. At the time there was no official post office and the mail was handled by the quartermaster at the fort. The cover above bears one of three postmarks of the military period - "Fort Thompson D.T. May 1 67" - and then forwarded down river to **FORT RANDALL, DAK**, where it entered the regular mails on May 6. Fort Thompson was also the headquarters of the Crow Agency. On February 14, 1870 the Post Office Department established a post office under the name **CROW CREEK, D.T.** See cover below. On August 23, 1916 the name was changed to **FORT THOMPSON, S.D.** as it is today.



THE WESTERN MAILS



DEADWOOD, DAKOTA TERRITORY. The post office was established in Lawrence County March 14, 1877. Cover above was used April 9, 1878. Deadwood sprung into existence with the discovery of gold in Deadwood Gulch in 1875. The nearby Homestake Mine is still operating after 100 years

Cover below was used about five months after the formation of South Dakota on November 2, 1889. The post office was still using the territorial post mark DEADWOOD DAK MAR 12 1890. Corner card of the DAILY PIONEER illustrates a gold mine in the Black Hills - Homestak Mine?



THE WESTERN MAILS



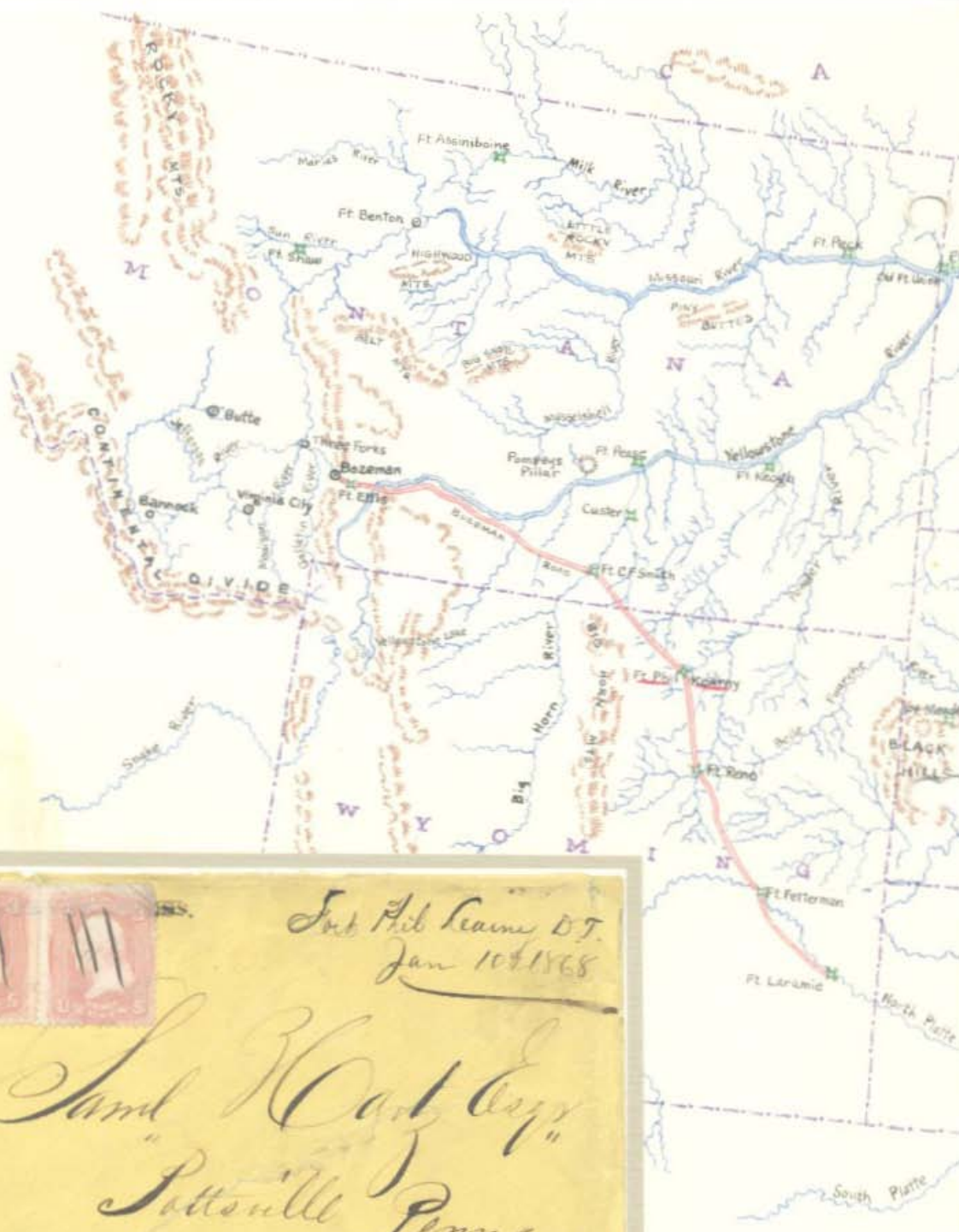
Fort Phil Kearney, as drawn by Antonio Nicoli, 2nd Cavalry Bugler
U.S. SIGNAL CORPS, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FORT PHIL KEARNEY ON THE BLOODY BOZEMAN

The Civil War caused the reduction of the garrisons of the western forts. This, along with the great Sioux uprising in Minnesota, inspired the Plains Indians to wage war on the overland trail. The Army had held a great treaty council with the Indians in 1851 at Fort Laramie. By this treaty the Indians were to have exclusive rights to a vast area north of the Platte River from the Black Hills to the Yellowstone. Then in June 1866 held another treaty council to open up the Bozeman Road, which passed through the Indian country, to the Montana goldfields. By this treaty the government was given the right to construct three forts - Reno - Phil Kearney - C. F. Smith - to guard the trail and protect the Indians and the travelers. Although some of the Indians signed this treaty, Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses, and their bands refused to sign. With the establishment of the forts, the Sioux under Red Cloud began a reign of terror on the road, and laid siege to Fort Phil Kearney, which was the headquarters fort under command of Colonel Henry B. Carrington. On December 21, 1866 Captain William J. Fetterman and 80 men were ambushed and all were killed by the Indians. This left what remained of the garrison in danger of being overwhelmed. The nearest reinforcement lay at Fort Laramie 236 miles to the south. A trader and scout, named Portugee Phillips, managed to get away on Col. Carrington's favorite horse in a raging blizzard. In one of the greatest rides in American history, Phillips made his way, through the ever present danger of hostile Indians and the snow-swept plains, to Fort Laramie in four days. He staggered into a Christmas party at the fort and asked for help while his faithful mount lay dying on the snow-covered parade ground.

By 1868 the road had become known as the "Bloody Bozeman" and travelers were finding safer ways to reach Montana. That same year another treaty council was held and the government agreed to abandon the forts and close the Bozeman road. The garrison left Fort Phil Kearney on August 18, 1868, and before the last wagon was out of sight, the Indians reduced the fort to ashes.

There is no record of a post office at Fort Phil Kearney, but three covers are known, including the one on the opposite page, which bear postmarks. The cover shown was sent by Captain Edward L. Hartz who was the quartermaster at the fort. In view of this the marking is considered to be a military postmark. Hartz died November 11, 1868.



FORT PHIL KEARNEY was in Dakota Territory from its establishment in 1866 to the formation of the Wyoming Territory on July 29, 1868. Less than a month later it was abandoned and burned.

THE WESTERN MAILS

GOLD AND BAD MEN.

The letter transcribed below and shown on opposite page was written during the stirring days of the Montana gold rush . Gold was discovered on Grasshopper Creek in August of 1862 and shortly thereafter Bannock City became a gold rush town. By 1863 it had a population of over 800. It was the heyday of the Plummer gang of outlaws and the vigilantes. Justice was handed out with little more than a "vote" - 24 were hanged including Sheriff Henry Plummer As the letter says - the whites were more dangerous than the Indians. The hangings took place in January 1864.

"BANNOCK CITY IDAHO TERR. MAY 23/63"

"We had considering the season of the year a very pleasant trip. We see but one small party of Indians and they were friendly... I don't think there will be many depredations committed by the Indians in this part of the country this season. I consider the whites more dangerous than the Indians. And it is thought by many that they have done as much murder and stealing as the Indians. A man started the other day from this place for Fort Benton, got about 100 miles, was robbed of all he had, three thousand dollars in money mules wagon &c. One man started for that place about 6 weeks ago with about \$8000. and has not yet been heard of. It is generally supposed that he has been waylaid. About 800 Bannock Indians came in here about four weeks ago. After remaining about one week in peace and quiet, some reckless fellows commenced shooting at some that were walking in the street. They killed two which scared the rest so that they pulled up their wigwams and fled. They killed one old [Indian] that had a stiff leg and scalped him. The other was a young man and they scalped him and took his arm off at his elbow. I was at work within a few paces of where the shooting commenced, and the Indian that they were shooting at ran towards me. The balls came whistling by and I dodged behind a cabin some what awakened up: There were four of us at work there and it was a wonder that we were not all killed. There were about 100 shots fired, only two Indians killed and about two wounded but got away. The old man that was killed ran into a house when the shooting commenced, but undertook to come out and get on his horse (which was standing at the door), when a man came up and shot him. It looked cruel even if it was an Indian. The reasonable part of the community was very much dissatisfied with the affair: but the gamblers and outlaws thought it was "bully". There was a shooting affray took place a few days since between some gamblers. One man (though a gambler) was sleeping upon a table in the room was shot dead, two wounded, one of which has since died. So that they kill no one but gamblers it doesn't make much difference. The mines are not yet very extensively discovered here, and it is hard to tell whether they are very extensive or not. There are some very rich claims here.... I am afraid that the north is not going to be able to conquer the south. And it seems as though they were making fools of themselves in the way in which they are working to do it. If they do not conquer the south the United States government is of no value at all. Any state or states can drop out at pleasure..... Direct your letters Bannock City Express Idaho Territory via Great Salt Lake City, care of Bannock City Express..... A.W. Pillsbury."

Bismock City Idaho June May 23/83

My Dearest Marion

Time still rolls on, and it seems that with ^{it} I roll away further from you, and write less often. When I think to myself, why am I here? I hardly know the influence that directs me. It is not for pleasure, but satisfaction: if I could get that I would leave here tomorrow morning.

Thinking that all

if I could have

every thing different

The express had

been, but I was

to have got back

it but was delayed

April. He had

a very pleasant

of Indians and

He from the Indians but was happy. He appointed

I don't think there will be many depredations com-

mitted by the Indians in ^{this part} of the country this season.

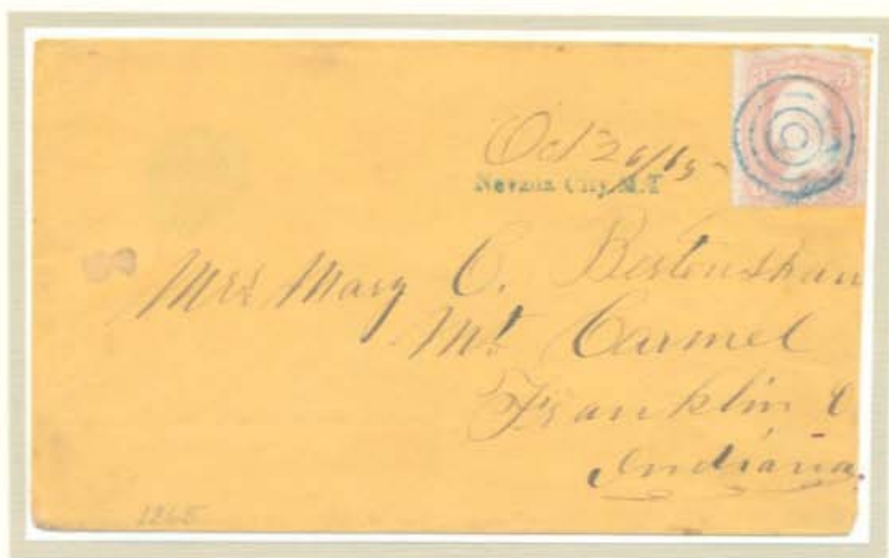
I consider the whole more dangerous than the

Indians. but it is thought by many that they have



done as much murder and scalping as the Indians.
(what laughable mistakes)

THE WESTERN MAILS



NEVADA CITY M.T. Oct 26 1865, Madison County. The post office was established March 6, 1865 and the name was changed to ADOBETOWN Dec. 16, 1875. This is a very fine example of a very scarce postmark.

PRICKLY PEAR, M.T. DEC 11 - No year date. The post office was established May 21, 1866 in Jefferson County. Another fine example of a rare postmark.

Both towns played a part in the Montana gold rush and the heyday of the Vigilantes and the Plumer gang of outlaws.



THE WESTERN MAILS

^{PC}
Bannock City Express^{SS}
July 9, 1863

Bannock City, Dakota
Tue Feb 6th 1863
Dear Sir
as of
from Salt Lake

^{PC}
Bannock City Express^{SS}
July 9, 1863
Miss Ann, M. Woodruff
Brigham City
Utah
1863
Stouton
Jasper Co Iowa

BANNOCK CITY was established shortly after gold was discovered on Grasshopper Creek in August 1862. At that time it was located in the Dakota Territory until the formation of Idaho Territory March 3, 1863. Thence to Montana Territory May 26, 1854. The post office was established November 21, 1863 while in the Idaho Territory. Previous to this the **BANNOCK CITY EXPRESS** carried most of the mail via Salt Lake City. Cover above was carried by the B.C.E. to Brigham City, U.T. as per manuscript postmark "Brigham City July 24" 1863.

The following by Mr. Woodruff is from the letter: "I have heard the Ex [Express] by which the last one [letter] was sent was killed by the Indians... Our first work was to build a cabin... Since then I have been engaged in mining... prospects so far are flattering... The next claim below us will probably yield Ten Thousand dollars Those owning claims who are washing with rockers are making from 5 to 50 dollars per day... I have seen as high as 21 dollars panned out of one pan of dirt and from 4 to 10 dollars is is not uncommon....."

THE WESTERN MAILS



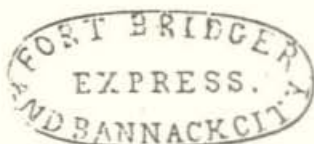
MONTANA GOLD RUSH EXPRESS

The BANNOCK CITY EXPRESS was organized by A. J. Oliver, E. A. Conover and Ed House in 1863/64, operating under the name of A. J. OLIVER & COMPANY. They ran a line of stages, carrying the U. S. Mail and passengers between Salt Lake City and Bannock City, into the mining camps of Southwestern Montana. The line was sold to The Holladay Overland Mail & Express Company in 1867.

Cover originated at St. Louis on Oct. 31, 1863 and was carried to Salt Lake City in the U. S. Mails, where it was turned over to The Bannock City Express. However, the letter it contained originated at Washington, D. C. . It was written by Thomas Adams who was one of the early pioneers, and had prospected for gold. In May of 1858 he was with James and Granville Stuart, when they made the effective discovery that started the gold rush in Montana. In the letter, Adams wants Granville to write and give the news about their friends and the "prosperity of the country. . . . I shall defer my trip [to Montana] until spring when I shall come up the [Missouri] river in a boat, the Sioux [Indians] to the contrary notwithstanding. . . . When you write turn the letters over to Tom Pitt and he will pay the Express fees. . . . I would be glad to pay the highest rates for the sake of a letter. . . .". He says he will enclose this letter "to St. Louis so that Seaman who is to leave on Monday next may take it to Bannock". Apparently M. Seaman did not go, but placed the letter in the envelope shown above and dropped it in the Post Office as per postmark. Seaman spelled Granville's last name Stewart instead of Stuart.



THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT BRIDGER & BANNACK CITY EXPRESS

Organized in 1863 by Frank Lowe and was operated as a PONY EXPRESS. The route was from Bannack City, Idaho Territory (now Montana) east to Virginia City, thence south across the Continental Divide to Fort Hall, thence southeast via Soda Springs and Bear Lake to Fort Bridger, Utah Territory (now Wyoming). The following is from the *Daily Rocky Mountain News* of July 23, 1863:

Fort Bridger & Bannack City Pony Express.
Through in seven days. Leaves each place every Monday. Letters in stamped envelopes fifty cents each. 150 miles nearer than Salt Lake City. Direct letters by mail to Fort Bridger, Utah, to go, by Pony Express care W.A. Carter, Postmaster.

Fort Bridger, Utah, June 10, 1863.
Frank Loew, Proprietor.

Lowe was the rider from Fort Bridger to Soda Springs and Jim Roupe from there to Bannack City. Note the "C.O.D. 75¢" charge for this letter. So far it is not known whether this express operated more than the summer of the year 1863.



C.O.D. 75¢



This is Sitting Bull's sign made on
 on be. ch. Given me at the camp on
 Thunder Hawk Creek - Dakota
 (near Fort Yates, Standing Rock Agency)
 1885.

TATOUKA-YOTAKA (Sitting Bull), an Utesopua Sioux,
 was born on the Missouri near Grand River, in 1835. In
 early life he was somewhat noted both as a hunter and war-
 rior, and in early middle age gained prestige as a medicine
 man (the Sioux order of priesthood) and counselor.
 Although destitute of hereditary claims to chieftainship, by
 shrewdness, diplomacy and force of character he gained
 both influence and followers, while by his pronounced and
 bitter hostility to the whites he earned notoriety throughout
 the United States. When Custer was killed on the Little
 Big Horn, in June, 1876, Sitting Bull was the consulting head
 of five thousand warriors. After that massacre, the huge
 camp was broken up, and Sitting Bull with a thousand or
 more retreated into the British territory whence, until 1881,
 he made frequent raids upon American soil. His band
 constantly suffered depletion until, in the summer of 1881,
 he had but one hundred and sixty followers remaining.
 These he surrendered to Lieut.-Col. Brotherton at Fort Ran-
 dolf, and with them was sent as a prisoner to Fort Ran-
 dall, Dakota. Here he remained until May, 1883, when he
 was released and sent to his present home, among his kin-
 dred, at Standing Rock Agency, seventy miles south of
 Bismarck, on the Missouri River. He has had ^{two} wives
 and ^{eleven} ^{seven} children.

Two lines to Allen Jurgens

Photographed and Published by

PALMQUIST & JURGENS.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

COL. SEYMOUR AND ROBERT BIR.

Sitting Bull





RAIN IN THE FACE.

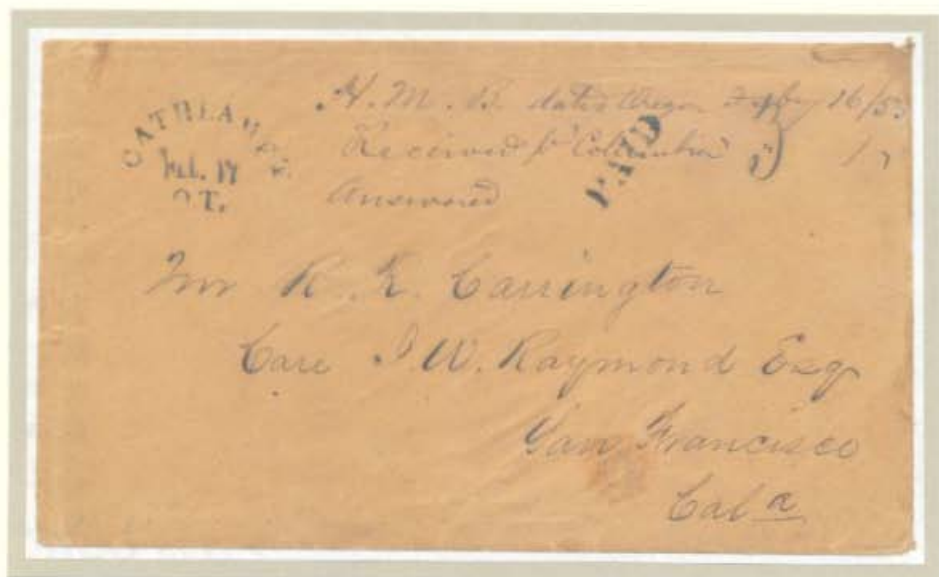
Copyrighted by G. F. Berg, 1885.
BISMARCK, DAKOTA.

THE WESTERN MAILS



SAINT HELEN OREGON FEB 13, 1855. Post Office established November 4, 1850, in what was Washington County and now Columbia County. Now spelled SAINT HELENS. A double rate cover PAID 6.

CATHLAMET O.T. Feb. 17 1853 - PAID 3. Post Office established August 8, 1851 in Lewis County, Oregon Territory. Changed to Washington Territory when formed on Mar. 2 1853, just thirteen days after this cover was postmarked.



PAID

3

THE WESTERN MAILS



YUMA, ARIZONA TERRITORY This post office was established as Colorado City in what was then the New Mexico Territory on December 2, 1857. It was the fourth post office established in what became the Arizona Territory. On March 17, 1858 the name was changed to Arizona, New Mexico and finally to YUMA, Arizona Territory on October 1, 1866. The cover shown **below** bears the first handstamp of YUMA A.T. Oct 29 (1868). The post card is postmarked as illustrated on the right.



THE WESTERN MAILS

DONEHOGAWA (ELY PARKER) THE FIRST INDIAN COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Official letter of instructions, by E. S. Parker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, regarding the establishment of Agencies for Red Cloud's and Spotted Tail's bands of Sioux Indians, under date of "August 11th 1870". Gentlemen: It having been arranged by your Board that you are to visit Red Cloud's and Spotted Tail's bands of Sioux to accomplish certain objects desired both by the Indians and the Government, the following instructions are submitted for your guidance in the discharge of the duty thus imposed upon you. It would be well for you to first visit Red Cloud's people. Through their Chief they ask to be established upon an agency to be located either at Fort Laramie or Fort Fetterman. It is not desired that either request should be granted as to either of the points named. For obvious reasons it is deemed best that the Agency should be located in their own country, and it is thought the most suitable point for the purpose will be found at the Raw Hide Buttes. You will therefore endeavor to prevail upon them to assent to the establishment of the Agency with a trading post in that country, at such place as may be most desirable on account of timber, water and land for agricultural purposes. Red Cloud should be given to understand that the Government will expect him to exercise his influence and power to protect the Agent, who may be placed in charge, and his employis, from all harm by his people. This Chief having asked that Messrs. Ecoffey and Bullock should be their traders, you will inquire into the character of these men and ascertain if they are willing to risk themselves in the heart of the country of these Indians; also inquire about Mr. Mills, whom the chiefs desire shall be their Agent. Should Red Cloud's people not be able to come in at once to meet you, Spotted Tail's people could be first visited, and afterward a second trip be made to Laramie to meet those under Red Cloud. Spotted Tail desires a location somewhere upon White River within the bounds of the reservation. Disposed as he and his people are represented to be, to follow agricultural pursuits, in the selection of a place for them due regard must be had to an abundance of timber good water and lands for agriculture. There will perhaps be no trouble in making a satisfactory arrangement with this chief and his people in regard to their future home, but with Red Cloud it may be otherwise, as you may find it to some extent difficult to overcome his preference for and choice of the country about Laramie or Fetterman; it is however hoped that you will succeed in inducing him to yield and cheerfully accept the country which the Government prefers should be the home of his people hereafter. The Commanding Officers at Forts Laramie and Fetterman have been telegraphed to send word to Red Cloud to come in to meet you. Subsistence Stores will be purchased at the post where the council shall be held and certified vouchers given for the same will be paid at this office.

Very respectfully/Your obt. servant
E. S. Parker/Commissioner

Robt. Campbell Esq./St Louis Mo.
Hon. Felix R. Brunot Prest./Pittsburg Pa.
Indian Commissioners.



P. S. I enclose herewith copies of orders from War Dept. for Escort and Subsistence Stores - "

Ely Samuel Parker, whose Indian name was DONEHOGAWA, was a full-blooded Seneca/Iroquois Chief. Born in 1828 at Indian Falls, N. Y. and educated at the Baptist mission school on the Tonawanda reservation. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a civil engineer. He met and became the friend of Ulysses S. Grant while working on government projects at Galena, Ill. In the summer of 1863 he was commissioned as a captain of engineers with the XVII Army Corps. On Sept. 18, he joined Grant at Vicksburg and on Aug. 30, 1864 he was appointed Lt.

Department of the Interior.
Office of
INDIAN AFFAIRS.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 11th 1870

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at Fort Saramia or Fort Fetterman. It is not desired that their
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place as may be most desirable on account of timber, water and

choice of the country, about Saramie or Fetterman; it is however hoped that you will succeed in inducing him to yield and cheerfully accept the country which the Government prefers should be the home of his people hereafter.

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Your obt. servant
E. S. Parker
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THE WESTERN MAILS



Ely Parker, or Donehogawa, Seneca chief, military secretary to U. S. Grant and Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Photographed around 1867. Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.

Col. and military secretary to U. S. Grant. Donehogawa was present when Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. It was Donehogawa - Ely S. Parker who wrote out the official terms of capitulation that Grant and Lee signed, which led to the final end of the Civil War. Parker resigned from the army as a Brigadier General on April 26, 1869. On April 13th 1869 he had been made Commissioner of Indian Affairs by one of president Grant's first appointments. As commissioner of Indian Affairs he made many changes in the system, by which he incurred enemies. In February 1871 he was tried by the House of Representatives for defrauding the government. Although he was cleared of all charges, he resigned in February of 1871. He had a successful business career and died in New York City on August 31, 1895, as DONEHOGAWA, Keeper of the Western Door of the Long House of the Iroquois.

RED CLOUD was a chief of the Oglala Sioux. He opposed the construction of Forts Reno, Phil Kearny and C. F. Smith in the Powder River country, between the Platte River and the Montana gold fields. Ft. Phil Kearny was laid siege to during the winter months of 1866-67, by Red Cloud's warriors. On December 21, 1866, Captain Wm. J. Fetterman and eighty men were ambushed near the fort and all were killed. In April of 1868 a peace commission met at Ft. Laramie with the Sioux, but Red Cloud stayed away. He refused to sign the treaty until all the forts on the Bozeman Trail (Montana Road) were abandoned and the road closed. On May 19th the military was ordered to abandon the three forts. Red Cloud had won his war and everything he had fought for. It was the first time in history that the United States Government had negotiated a peace treaty, conceding everything demanded and getting nothing in return. On November 6, 1868 Red Cloud signed the treaty and through the next decade the Powder River country would belong to the Indians. However, on June 25, 1876 the power of the Indian reached its zenith on the heights above the Little Bighorn, in the most complete disaster ever suffered by U. S. troops. The day of the Indian and the buffalo would come to a climax Dec. 29, 1890 at Wounded Knee.

ROBERT CAMPBELL had been a partner with Wm. L. Sublette in the Missouri Fur Trade.

Copy

Department of the Interior

Office of
INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Aug 5th 1870

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 25th ultimo, in which you are pleased to ask early instructions from this Department, concerning your duties under the appointment of Col Campbell and yourself to visit the Sioux band of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail. In the same communication you express the fear that to delay your departure on this mission, in order to suit the convenience of Col. Campbell, will prevent the accomplishment of all the objects desired; at the same time you make known your readiness to start immediately

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C. July 22nd 1871.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, inclosing for payment accounts in favor of A. & Shapleigh ^{Aud} Co., for \$146.38, and ^{and} E. D. Hall for \$134.95, being for articles purchased by you for the Navajo Indians, according to request from this Office of the 28th ultimo.

In reply I have to say that the accounts have been examined and allowed by this office and are this day referred to the 2nd Auditor of the Treasury for settlement, - payment to be made to the claimants, to your care, St. Louis, Missouri.

Very respectfully,

Department of the Interior
Office of Indian Affairs
April 21st 1856.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th received at this office on the 11th inst. relative to surveying and marking the boundaries in connection with the public surveys, of the several Reserves set apart for the use of the Indians by the Treaty of September 30th 1854 with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, and of February 22nd 1855, with the Chippewas of the Mississippi.

In reply I have to say that I accede to the proposal contained in your letter, to pay, in the first instance, for such of the surveys of said Reservations, as shall be made by the Deputy of the Surveyor General of Wisconsin and Iowa, out of the general surveying fund, said fund to be ultimately reimbursed by appropriation, to be estimated for by this Office. I do not consider this to be the most economical mode but in view of the difficulties suggested by your inability to raise from the employment by this Office of its own agents, to perform this special service, and to avoid even the appearance of encroaching other branches of the public power, I am induced to concur to the proposed arrangement. Under this arrangement the whole work of surveying and marking the various lines of said Reservations will be given over to the Surveyor General to be done in connection with the public surveys, excepting the survey at Rabbit Lake and Gall Lake, for the survey of which as you were informed by my letter of 14th inst. this Office has contracted with Mr. H. C. Troy.

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C. April 1st, 1872.

Sir:

It being necessary to furnish additional provisions for the Indians in the Indian Territory for the balance of the present fiscal year, I have the honor to request that you will purchase in St. Louis and forward as early as possible the following articles, viz:

For the Cheyennes ^{and} Arapahoes—

20,000 pounds Coffee, 22 1/2

30,000 " Sugar 10

3,000 " Salt, 2.15

2,400 " Soap, 5 3/4

For the Kiowas ^{and} Comanches—

100,000 pounds Flour.

Superintendent Hoag reports to this office that bacon clear sides can now be

Indian Territory.

Those for the Michitas to Jonathan
Richards, U. S. Agent, Michita Agency, In-
dian Territory.

All the articles should be shipped by
the L. L. & G. Road from Kansas City.

Please advise Superintendent Herg at
Lawrence, Kansas, as the goods are shipped
from St. Louis.

Very respectfully,
your obedient servant:

F. Walker
Commiss^{rs}

Hon. Robert Campbell,
Board of Ind. Commiss^{rs}
St. Louis,
Mo.

Francis A. Weston

To the Asst. General &
U. S. Army.

Head Qrs. 1st Infy.
Fort Cameron, Aug. 23. 1833.

Sir/

I have this moment rec^d. Order No. 62. dated Washington 19th of July 1832, your which I believe that I was promoted to the Command of the 1st Regt. of Infy. & regret to say, as it respects the essential qualities of harmony, instruction &c. it is very deficient; to correct which, as well as some other irregularities, as far as possible, I calculate on having the entire support of my Superiors -

That portion of the Regt. stationed here had been constantly employed for the last three years, except while on the late Campaign against the Indians. I will continue to be so, for the next term provided they continue here, & go on to complete the quarters, store houses &c. &c. which has been commenced for eight Companies while a portion of the same Regiment, stationed in its vicinity had had no fatigue comparatively to perform, other than what was connected with their proper military duties; while those of the Companies from this post (a portion of the men without instruction even in the duties of the Soldier, were attached in a Campaign which for dangers, fatigue & privations of every kind, had been surpassed by few during its continuance (which was their month that had ever taken place in this Country) -

In order therefore to equalize duty among the several Companies of the Regt. as well as to do justice to the several Captains in the way of commands, I would respectfully ask permission to be vested with the authority so long as the Regt. garrisons several posts contiguous to each other as at present, to change a portion of the

AND SHELL PROTECTOR IMP. 12

AND SHELL PROTECTOR

44
 Fuel had been supplied here for several years on Contract
 by the W. Dept., yet the troops have been in the habit of
 getting an additional quantity, & disposing of it, or a portion
 of what they drew, to different persons in one or more instances
 & to the individual who had the contract at the time.

I shall get a copy to like occurrence until the decision
 of the Genl. in Chief in relation to these matters can be had,
 & shall be governed not only by them, as well, ^{as} by his
 views on other subjects which had been referred.

It is not my intention, or wish to criminate or reflect on any
 one, for the employment of soldiers; but to call the attention
 of the Comdy. Genl. of the Army to the subject, in order that he
 may apply the proper correction if he seems any necessary,
 otherwise they can continue as they are, & have been.

That the decision of the Genl. in Chief of the Army
 might be had in time, for me to send an old Capt. and with
 his Company to Fort Snelling, before the Mississippi was
 closed with ice, should be approved my doing so, (which could
 not have been the case had I forwarded through Dept. of the Army)
 I have communicated direct to Genl. of the Army, at the same
 time furnishing the Acty. Asst. Genl. of the W. Dept. with a
 copy and informing him of the course I had taken.

Very respectfully
 Sir
 Yr. obt. Servt.
 Z. Taylor, Col
 1st Regt U.S. Infy.

Head Quarters 1st Infan^y
Fort Vancouver Mar 24 1858

Sir

On the 16th Inst he reports by this place & 34 for
 Prof Snelling arrived here under the command of Capt G.
 Hanson of the 2^d Infan^y & all turned over to me. The former
 have been inspected equally to the provisions of General Order No
 21 of the 8th Sept 54 & the balance \$200000 by attached to company
 U. S. A. Co. The only objection from present appearances which
 can be made to them, who have been attached to companies is a want
 of head & muskets some being rather slender & full & too large a
 portion for the number being barely above the height required
 by Regulations for good will & saved by referring to the description & ad
 just of 4 recruits who were sent under march for this place from the
 General Depot (there were only 11 of the number & just 9 inches high &
 above of the prescribed height by measurement) out of which num
 ber one has been rejected & one declined before they ^{arrived} ~~leaving~~
 leaving only 8. Consequently as the Grenadier Company belonging to
 the regiment is ^{what} stationed here wanted 24 men to fill it 16th equalize it with
 the other companies, I had to attach 8 men to it who were under the re
 quired size which was the case when the last detachment which
 was ^{rec^d} ~~sent~~ by Capt Hawkins in May last was distributed.
 I would therefore suggest the propriety of breaking up the Grenadier
 Company as it appears to me that an attempt to keep it up is but

Gunnison, J.W.
Report of Exploration of the
Great Salt Lake

(603-0)

11507

406-

Washington April 18th 1854

Sir

I beg leave to state to you the follow-
-ing State of facts in relation to my coming
from the City of Great Salt Lake in the
Winter, the Report of Capt Gunnison and
Capt Morris, touching their Survey
& Command, with Maps & other
papers, as they could not be sent
by mail, & that they did not state
any given Compensation for my services,
which I did not at the time think
of charging any thing for. neither do
I at this time make any charge
on the Government, only to state,
that in crossing the Sierra Nevada
in order to save the Maps & other papers
of interest to the Government, lost a Box
of Colts Eight inch Revolvers, which
floated from my Saddle while attempt-
-ing to keep the Maps & other papers
dry, as I have to return across the
Plains, through an Indian Country

1149
Hon. A. S. Riddle

Washington

April 1954

In answering the above from
my notes to you the steps
other than that of Capt. Wimmer
Capt. Lewis which he was
carrying to Washington, under
Orders of Capt. Amundson,
which he reported among the
references. We make no
charge for this service.

\$ 50 - *April 20/54*

Respectfully submitted to
the chief of base. Mr. Lewis
brought a large package of
equipment to you, to then
prepare from Capt. Wimmer
for this office, with
the necessary ~~of~~ of this
copy of the report. Enclosure
to the chief of base. 1954

Just - ^{my} ~~that~~ could not have
been returned for a
week or more, if not,
in any other way.
Mr. Barrett has de-
cided to make out
an account against
the office for the
service thus pre-
sented, but as
he lost his receipt
in receiving the pack-
age, contact, including
the invoice, he asks
only that he be
pleased in the condition
he would have been
in had he shown

Area Office

No. 9th Army of the South
Fort Frank Church, S. C. near Cay
31st Dec. 1838.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that immediately after my communication to you at Fort Church, I left that place with one Coy of Dragoons for Fort Jennings which I reached on the evening of the 14th inst. having passed four days on the way examining the sweeps and landmarks for the Enemy, without observing any, or in fact any recent signs of them, from every appearance they have abandoned that section of country.

I found at Fort Jennings two Companies of the 5th Regt of Infy which had marched thither some few days before from the Fort, and having searched in my former post that the Indians had stopped a Train of four Wagons belonging to Citizens near Waccamilla, and collected the several Regiments of their clothing and baggage, and departed, without committing any other act of hostility. I determined to proceed to that place with the Infantry and Dragoons ordered to visit these the country between the Savannah and Tallahassee completely secured and the Enemy driven from it before I left it, having procured transportation I left Fort Jennings on the 15th and reached here on the 17th where I found four Companies of the 5th Infy under the command of Lt. Major Cook, and where a small fort work had been constructed, and a road laid out to intercept the Indian road near Fort Jackson. Several reconnoitering parties had been sent out by Major Cook on various

333. 7. 1838

Post Family Books

Nov: 21. 1838

Grand A. Day 17

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John

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Sta. Dis. Quar. Mil. Dept.
Fort Smith, April 12, 1849.

Sir,

I respectfully inclose a communication received a day or two since from Captain Armstrong, Choctaw Agent and Acting Superintendent, in relation to the importance of a post on the False Warlike. I beg leave to direct the attention of the General-in-Chief to this letter as a strong confirmation of the views put forth in my report of March 29th on the same subject.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.

J. Taylor, Major Gen,
U. S. Army

The Adjutant-General
of the Army,
Washington,
D. C.

W. Dr. Cas Mail call
Boston, June 12, 1843.

L. Taylor
Boston, June 12, 1843

Business communication.
This journal's secretary, we
attend to banking of the
Washington.

From the night we
of the location of the
to say - the part of
our original capital of the
interest of the location
where we have
within of our
by the
of the
May 9, 1843
cont

only have before the
Adjutant - that on the 3^d
of Feb 1843, Gen Taylor was
my time, by the location of
then, to improve the
progress of the
and still further
on that occasion, I
the purchase in
March 1843, in
being the
Adjutant / Gen Taylor, will
take care to
will be lost, unless it be
the same
to. Being
we had
to England,
location of
Gen Taylor
effect.

Adjutant
Winfield
May 11, 1843.
Approved
Wm. B. W. W. W.
May 11, 1843
an order to
May 11, 1843

Choctaw Agency

April 8th 1823

Sir,

When on Wed. week a few days since, a report was in circulation that Fort Washita was to be abandoned. The principal men of the Choctaws and Chickasaws called on me, they regretted very much, that there was such a report. I promised them that I would write you on the subject. Permit me to remark, that I consider Fort Washita as a Military Post for one in that vicinity, as calculated to give greater protection to the Indians, that the Government by Treaty have promised to protect them. The Shawnees, Delawares, Kickapoo and Caddos, with other scattering bands had for some years before the Choctaws moved higher up in their Country, than some twenty miles west of Stemschoes, visited or rather occupied the Blue, Boggy and Washita, and on best as a common hunting ground. Since the Emigration of Chickasaws that portion of the Country was assigned them, the small Post of Washita has given protection to three people, against the Scattering bands referred to, and also against Texas many of whose Cows are usually disposed to depredate upon the Choctaws and Chickasaws. It is a well known fact that Texas is unable to protect herself against the Indians in her own limits much less to prevent them from crossing over into the Indian Country, and plundering the Choctaws and Chickasaws many of whom are wealthy.

I am fully aware that you are familiar with this subject, and disposed to divide the small force under your Command, so as to give the best protection, thus

The
Highgate Express

Capt. W. A. A. A. A.

Chatham's agents

+

Highgate's agents

May 20 1843

Chatham's

Chatham's agents

June 8. 1843.

May. 9. 1843