



Gravado por J. M. de la Cruz

Cuba del 11 de Oct. 1846

HURACAN DEL 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 1846 EN LA HABANA.

Vista de la fragata Modara y bergantín Mohawt, americanos, perdidos en las arvechas de la Punta, en los momentos de salvarse la tempestad y pasarse por los andarveles que echaron desde la mar alla

My dear Wife.

Havana Cuba / First day
3rd mo. 7th 1847 -

On the 5th mo I had the satisfaction of forwarding (by way of New Orleans) a lengthy document to thee containing a list of my daily sailings & windings since leaving home, & it is with much pleasure I now commence the second volume, which I think its probable opportunity will offer sooner than by the usual channel (myself having one passage in) for New Orleans to send to thee. Having rec'd an invitation our friend St. Guth to take an early ride this morning we embrace it. I the horse with Charles & Guth accompanying on the backs of another, we rode 4 miles to a place call'd Puente Grande which I suppose means head or grand point - its command a fine view of the city of Havana - Harbor. Sea & the most beautiful country seats of Counts & the dwelling formerly occupied by General Santa Anna. - 2nd day morning Domin. part 6. 3/8 - Had reach'd the above Pt. Anna, when the bell announced, de immediately after which Chs & self rode to Campo Santo (burial ground) upon entering they were just covering the sun

the which he speaks. It seems to me there is a blight, a withering doom
on this fertile Island, that will some day burst with fierce violence
we are put in the result. than any yet experienced & I earnestly hope
be out of it - this Evening or tomorrow morning -
Mr. (Charles myself) went about 5 P.M. yesterday to the Strait of the
to what is called the Passage - a beautiful road - very wide with
rows of trees - where all the elite & the Spanish hunters ride in
in Valientes - amid thousands of Spectators - there is one continuous
in of vehicles - no one pushing another. but up one side & down
the other looking rising looks at. till the shadows of the Evening
is the hour. - I should have mentioned that in the Country
effects of the storm are very striking - but all Coconuts & Distilled
by kernels as well as the tough Palm attending helpless shepherds
the stripped spars of the ship, so completely did it destroy the
ation that I have not seen an orange or Pine apple - growing
either town or Country - Fruits of some kind (the Banana) for
times appear plenty. but they have that manly sweet soft
surfacing - My friend Steph Simons is here was on board this
at where they were taken off by a rope (see the picture) Two or three
ings being when taking some Pine apple water in a (I don't know
but a public house of great resort - Drinking - joined us - he left
leave the next day for Matanzas - his health appears good -
his place appears like one great pit - very much I believe having
a window of glass - but heavy iron bars - perpendicular horizontal -



Main Plaza San Antonio, Texas

July 12th 1866,
 Friend Potts

I received your very
 welcome letter of the 28th May,
 and have also to acknowledge receipt
 of certain newspapers printed in
 Central New York, all of which
 proved interesting as even the
 advertisements are read with avidity
 being many of them made by old
 acquaintances from whom I hear
 in no other way. I hope you get
 the Texas newspapers, I send you
 I only hope they may prove equally
 as interesting as those you send me.

I have delayed replying to your letter
 from day to day in expectation that
 something would turn up in relation
 to that National Bank scheme that
 would interest you. I have not heard
 from J.C. French directly but I learned
 from Mr. Morison; his agent here that



THE WESTERN MAILS



SPANISH TEXAS 1807

BAHIA (now Goliad, Texas) to **Bexar** (now San Antonio). The finest reported example of an intact letter by Jos Ogante, commander at La Bahia, to Governor Don Antonio Cordero of Coahuila under date of August 11, 1807. The letter is on official business as per manuscript notation "R1. Serv." (Royal Service).

In 1521, when Mexico fell to the "sword & cross" of Hernando Cortez, Texas as well as California, Arizona & New Mexico, became part of the vast Spanish Colonial Empire in the Americas. This all ended in 1821 when Mexico gained its independence, because the King of Spain was more interested in gold and converting the natives to catholicism than developing the country.

Fifteen years later Texas became a republic by defeating Santa Anna at the battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836 and with the annexation of Texas by the United in 1845, it lead directly to the Mexican War in 1846. To this day Mexico has never officially recognized the Republic of Texas.

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REMEMBER THE ALAMO!

Colonel James Morgan describes the massacre at the Alamo as told to him by the only surviving male - a negro known as Joe, and the heroic deaths of William Travis, Jim Bowie and the renowned Davy Crockett. Written about one month after the fall of the Alamo and nineteen day before the battle of San Jacinto.

"New Washington 2d April

"New Washington 2d April 1836

My Dear Doctor

I have not failed to write you by every oppt. that has offered since my return to Texas, but have never recd. but one letter from you - that, the other day dated 8th December. Since I last wrote,, about 20th Feby., we have had high times here. St. Anna at the tail of a consirable force, some 4 or 5 thousand men visited the Alamo - a kind of fortification at Bexar containing within a wall of some 7 or 8 feet high - 4 or 5 acres of ground & requiring at least 500 men to defend it. Travis [William B.], with only 150 effective men, sustained the siege for some 2 or 3 weeks under a constant Bombardment & was, finally, when wore down by fatigue taken, rather by surprise; on the morning of Sunday 6th ~~or 13th mar~~ - March - The Mex. [icans] was actually scaling the walls before discovered - being only 2 men in the Alamo awake at the time - The sentinels, inside, probably asleep - Yet, the men were soon aroused from their slumbers & fought like tigers to the last - dealing death & destruction in every direction until all were finally kil'd. I have the particulars from the only male survivor - a black serv. of Travis, who fought by his masters side until he fell. Bowie [Jim], poor fellow was in bed sick - He got out the bed when the Mexicans got in the house & fought with his pistols & knife to the last - dispatching many of the yellow skins before they dispatched him. Poor Davy Crockett "went ahead" among them in great style. Tis said he kept a lane clean before him for a long time - No man could have acted with more bravery than he did. He is known to have kil'd 25 Mexicans prepitory to the Storm! I regret that I have not time to give you all the particulars of the affair as related by Jo [Travis' Negro slave known only as Joe] - But having much to say on other subjects will cut that matter short. Since the affair of the Alamo, the whole Country has been aroused, and all able to bear arms have turned out, except those who have, & are running off - More, I am sorry to say, was anticipated wou[ld] leave. But there are many stout hearts left who are determined to die to the last ditch, rather than surrender the country - We are all, who do stand up, determined on selling our lives dearly, if we do have to fight, rather than be driven out & are making our arrangements accordingly - I sent my vessel, the Kay. off to N. Orleans for supplies & not leave any chance of escape that way. I fear nothing, however, believing our cause too just a one to fail. I need not tell you how acceptable a little aid from N. York wou[ld] be just now - particularly in coming to me through the channel of our asso[ciates]. We want means - Munitions of war - men - heavy ordinance - Muskets, & bayonets - powder - provisions - Bombshells - Howitzers &c &c &c. If a small vessel could be chartered & sent to me at Galveston Island with the above articles I need not say how acceptable it woud. be; & the effect it woud. have in favor of the N.W.A. [See below] But, Dr., we are neither Greeks nor Poles, therefore, cannot inlicit the sympathys of Americans I fear! Without aid from any quarter we shall come out - I have no fear for the worth of the Struggle - But, help will be acceptable - The sooner it comes the better - Mexico must go down & Texas will be free - determenation by all engaged in this War, as soon as our forces are sufficient, to carry it to the walls of Mexico & then dictate terms to. St. A. [Santa Anna]. The volunteers cannot be restrained once they get a going and all who join our standards seem rejoiced in the prospect. If some of the leading [news] papers in the U.S. will only come out, openly, & in courage the project, thousands - Ney tens of thousands would

See 6 Dec 38

#26

March 1836

350

New Washington 2^d April 1836.

My dear Doctor,

I have not time to write you by my opp^y that has offered since my return to Texas, but show you rec^d but one letter from you - that, the other day, dated 8th December. Since I last wrote, which was of Feb^r, about 20th Feb^r, we have had high things had. An Alarm at the tail of a considerable force, some 4 or 5 thousand men - mounted the Alarm - a kind of fortification at Pecos containing within a wall of some 7 or 8 feet high 4 or 5 acres of ground & requiring at least 500 men to defend it. Travis, with only 150 effective men, sustained the Siege for some 2 or 3 weeks under a constant Bombardment & was, finally, when worn down by fatigue taken, rather by surprise, on the morning of Sunday 5th or ~~12th~~ March - The Am^{rs} were actually scaling the walls before discovered, being only 2 men in the Alarm awake at the time - The others, intended, probably, asleep - Yet, the Am^{rs} were soon aroused from their slumber & fought like Tigers to the last - dealing death & destruction in every direction until all were finally killed. Among the parties from the only male survivor - a black serv^t of Travis, who fought by his master's side until he fell. Bonito, poor fellow was in bed sick - He got under the Bed when the Mexicans got in the house & fought with his pistols & knife to the last - dispatching many of the yellow skins before they dispatched him - poor Davy Crockett "went about" among them in great style. He said he kept a lance clean before him for a long time - No man could have behaved with more bravery than he did. He is known to have killed 25 Mexicans preparing to the storm! I regret that I have not time to give you all the particulars of this affair as related by So - But having much to say on other subjects will omit that matter short. Since the affair of the Alarm, the whole Country has been aroused and all able to bear arms.

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flock in immediately. Volunteers are to be rewarded, with land, for their services and the same pay of the troops in the U. States - _____.

I had sent off part of my men to the Navy, & intended to have gone, myself, with another squad soon after, when the Cabinet sent an express for me to meet them at Harrisburg. The members would hear to my leaving Galveston Bay - A place of more importance now in Texas - I had to yield to their importunity, to take Charge of that post, with a commission in the Army as Colonel; & ordered to repair their with all the volunteer aid I could get, & fortify it at once - Indeed, they offered to clothe me with plenary powers, to fortify, & furnish, & act at discretion as my judgement will direct. I cannot but feel flattered with the very great confidence placed in me by the Cabinet; but it is taking a responsibility upon myself I did not aspire to. I can assure you. But, as my man is bound to serve his country in any & in every way his services can be most useful - I dare not hold back. Galveston is indeed a place of importance - particularly to a certain

Well fortified & well protected we shall be safe at N.W. [New Washington]. I have all my business well arranged here & being here at home, all the time, at a delightful situation - healthy &c. You will at once see the importance of my late appointment to the N.W.A.* I am a "lobby member" at the Convention during its whole Session - Went there to effect four important objects - as well as some unimportant ones - 1st To be released from duties unjustly demanded of me on my arrival in December. 2d'ly to prevail on the Convention to have Galveston Island Fortified - 3d'ly to have a finger in the pie about appointing president &c. 4th'ly to have a contractor appointed for the troops at the Island - And 5th'ly last not least to have the seat of Govt. fixed at N. Washington! How far I succeeded you can judge - The Committee to whom my Act was referred, for a release of duties, reported "that the Act of the Council levying a ~~duty~~ on duties on import & Tonnage was "null & void" & that the S[ai]d J Morgan [the writer] be relieved from all duties demanded of him - as well as all others - and all Moneys [held] by Collectors, under that decree of the Council be refunded - "Which report was concie'd in by the Convention - By which I send to the N.W.A. [New Washington Association] some 3 or 4 thousand dollars! - Galveston Island is ordered to be fortified - Dr. Patrick who is in my employ, is appointed Contractor & will have to remain at N.W. The seat of Govt. would have been at N.W. but I had no accommodations for the Cabinet & others who wished - But it was fixed at Harrisburg, within 20 miles of me! All the Cabinet are now disposed to move to N.W. at once; & nothing but want of houses keeps it away - So much for these matters - Whether I had any hand in the appointment of Pres[iden]t & Vice P. and whether it was my wish, or to my interest, to have D.G. Burnett [David, first president of Texas] my friend & near neighbor Pres[iden]t - & Gov. Zavala vice [Pres.] - and whether these appointments was not the best that could have been made for Texas I leave you to guess at - (being a good yankee).*

Now, my dear Doctor, having been placed in a very variable situation under Govt. and a very important one - And desirous of making Galveston show out, a little, I want your aid in procuring some smart fellow to help me along. I believe I stand fair enough with the Cabinet to get any clever fellow an appointment under Govt. whom I may recommend - Engineer - drill officer - soldier - artificer &c &c. are greatly wanted - But above all, Doctor, try & send me out a small band of Musicians - if only 6 or 8. The band might be easily picked up in N. York, I shd. think among the laboring class - Mechanics & that will be employed here at once - And I shd. think woud. come willingly, & pay their passage to get here - But if 6 or 8 good Musicians can be had on reasonable terms for 12 mos. - Their passage may be paid out in any vessel coming here - provided it does not exceed \$20 each - If a vessel shd. be sent stores &c for Texas they cld be out in that... [missing words caused by cutting out Morgan's signature on opposite side of page] ... One or two good bands woud. be employed immediately - One must be had for G. Island & I shall

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rely on your sending a small one, at least, out. I wish that John had come out as expected, he could have stepped into a situation, at once, through my influence. Any persons you send out, please be cautious how you speak of them, unless well known to you - Stanly, whom you gave a letter to for Fisher has turned out a diff. man from what you thought him. The affair at _____ has ruined his reputation, which, by and by, he don't seem to care much about. His men caused him to be expelled from the Company and he has found much difficulty to get noticed at all. I have helped him out a little - He has recd. the Commission of Capt. & is now under my command & out on duty. He will be at the Island with me. The men who came out with him - the volunteers he enlisted in N. York, have joined the Army - but created such a prejudice ag[ain]st him that he was not retained with Houston [Genl. Sam] at Head Qrs - but sent back to Hsburg [Harrisburg] on some trifling errand - nearly to get clear of him. I am fearful I shall have to send him off - He offered to volunteer as a private in the Army, but not recd. ! There is some unpleasant reports in circulation in regards him. I am thus particular, because, Col. Fisher [William S.] excited himself much to serve him in consequence of yr letter - F. however has not much influence in this country. The Texas flag, which I send a design of, you will see - Tis rather unique. Gov. Zavala's suggestion to the convention caused this Flag to be adopted. Regret that I have not a copy of the Constitution adopted to forward to N. Y. with this - It is not in print yet. I am thinking you could find many Poles & other foreigners that would be willing to come out from N. York here just at this time - Those who have seen service - Come out as emigrants - We want Colonists.... you know! Physicians for the Army & elsewhere might do well - We have had some hard characters of that class here - But, in case some few genteel young men, well educated, & of good standing in their profession shd come out their services might soon be brought into [recognition]. Since writing the foregoing I have heard that Col. Fanning [James Fannin], who was ordered to blow up the fort at Goliad & join Genl. Houston had been attacked & cut off not without making a grand fight however. [See Lavison letter, On the Road to San Jacinto, in this collection] Major Ward [William - later Lt. Col., was killed in the Goliad massacre Mar. 27, 1836 - six days before this letter was written], had been sent out before with 150 men....."

Apparently this is the end of the letter as James Morgan's signature has been neatly cut out.

JAMES MORGAN, 1786-1866. The writer of this letter, went to Texas in 1830 and opened a mercantile business. In 1835 he laid out the town of New Washington and organized the New Washington Association. Morgan was very influential in the affairs of the republic and state of Texas. In 1836 he became commandant of Galveston Island with the rank of Colonel. Under his direction the Island was fortified. He supplied merchandise for the army and his ships were often used by the Texan Navy, such as the **KAY** which is mentioned in the letter. Santa Anna burned New Washington on April 20, 1836, the day before the battle of San Jacinto. Later, he built a home on the site of New Washington, where he died on March 1, 1866.

*The doctor, to whom the letter is directed, was Dr. Ashbel Smith, the Surgeon General and Secretary of State to the Republic of Texas .

ONE The Treasurer of *No. 3314* Printed & Published New Orleans

1

ONE

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Will pay **One Dollar** in Commission
 Notes of the Government when presented at the Treasury Office in
 accordance with an act of Congress, Aug. 20, 1841

W. W. Mumma Sec. of Treas. *A. S. Parry Pres.*

ONE

No. 2724

50

Twelve months after date

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Committed to pay **FIFTY** Dollars to the bearer

TREASURY DEPARTMENT *Jan 1841*

Receivable for all  Government dues.

Chas. A. Swan Sec. of Treas. *Arthur R. Canby Pres.*

50

No. 1289

500

Five Months after date

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Receivable for all  Government dues.

Committed to pay **FIVE HUNDRED** Dollars to the bearer

TREASURY DEPARTMENT *Jan 1840*

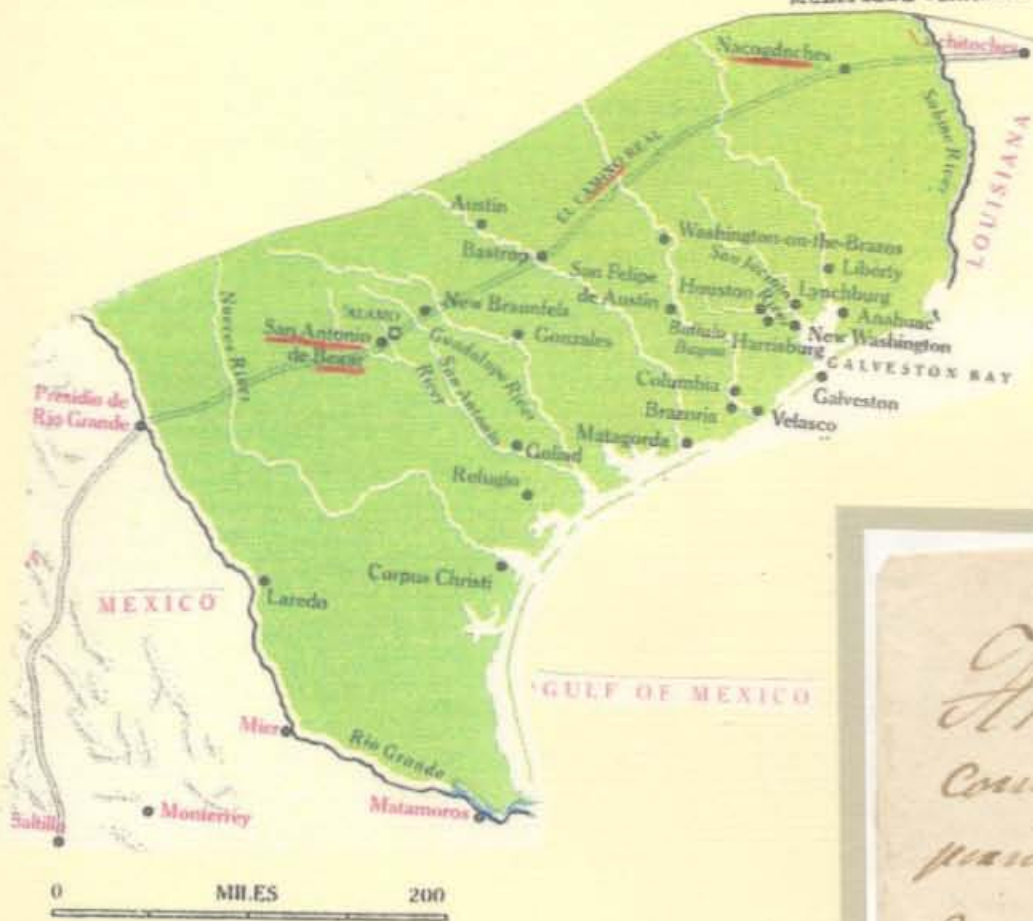
Chas. A. Swan Sec. of Treas. *Arthur R. Canby Pres.*

500

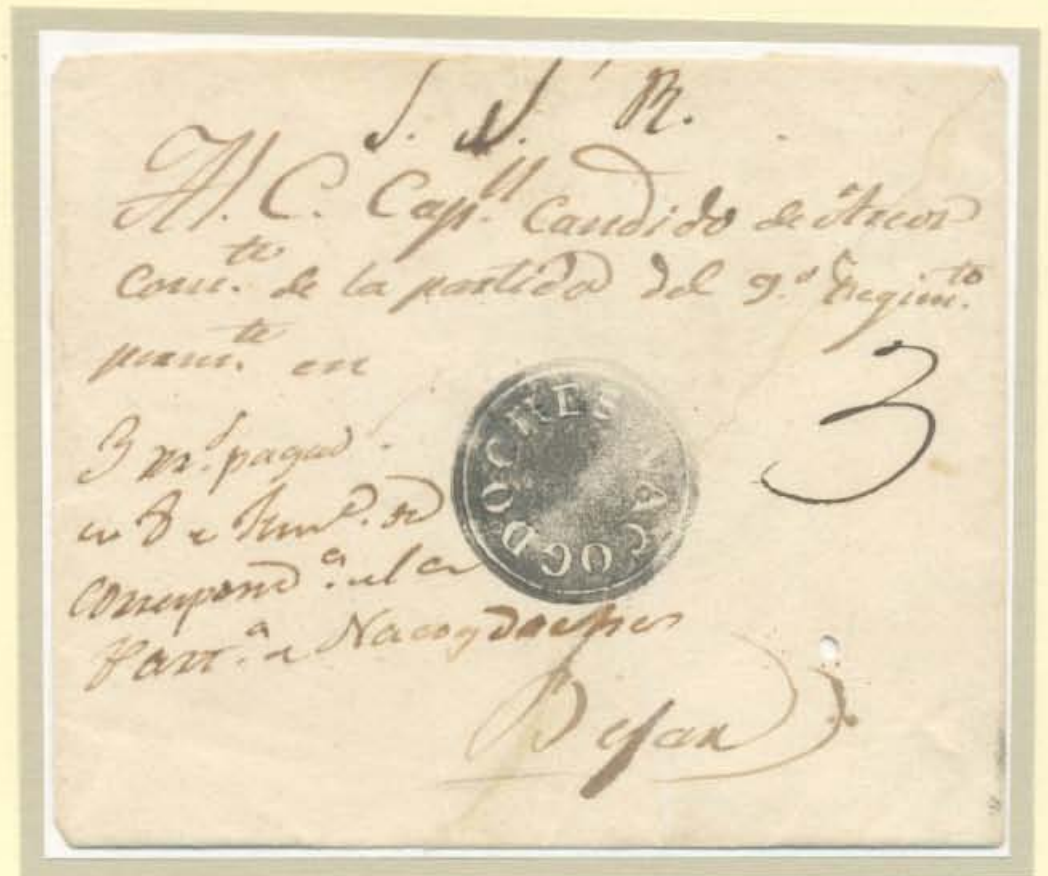


Main Plaza San Antonio

The Plaza at San Antonio de Bexar as it looked during the Mexican period. 1822/36. Note the Post Office on left and the church, as center-piece, as always in Catholic Mexico.



Map above shows the El Camino Real (Royal Road), From the Sabine River to the Rio Grande on the west, thence south to Mexico City. This southern portion of Texas is where most of the action took place during the Texas revolution. Most of the American settlers entered Texas from Natchitoches, Louisiana, crossing the Sabine on a single ferry, down the El Camino Real.



MEXICAN TEXAS 1829

NACOGDOCHES, Cover originated at NACOGDCHES on June 8th - no year, but about 1828/30. Addressed to Captain Candido de Arcos, commandant of the Soldiers of the second regiment stationed in Bexar, now San Antonio. "3 Reales paid on June 8th, corresponding to the postage from Nacogdoches." The initials at top have not been determined, but may refer to official service or business? No date available on the establishment of the post office, but it could have been during the Spanish period.



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Austins Colony Texas

In 1820 Moses Austin received the authority from the Spanish government to settle three hundred families in Texas. He died soon after but his son Stephen assumed the task and by 1831 had brought in fifty six hundred Anglo-Americans. In 1824 the Mexicans adopted a constitution

which denied trial by jury and religious freedom. It was inevitable that a civil rights problem would strain Texas-Mexican relations. As Texas grew it wanted to be separated from Coahuila to which it was joined in a political union giving Mexicans control of Texas affairs. Conventions were held In 1832-33 and Stephen Austin went to Mexico City to present his plea for civil rights. He was imprisoned for over two years which increased the tension between province and national government which brought on the revolution.

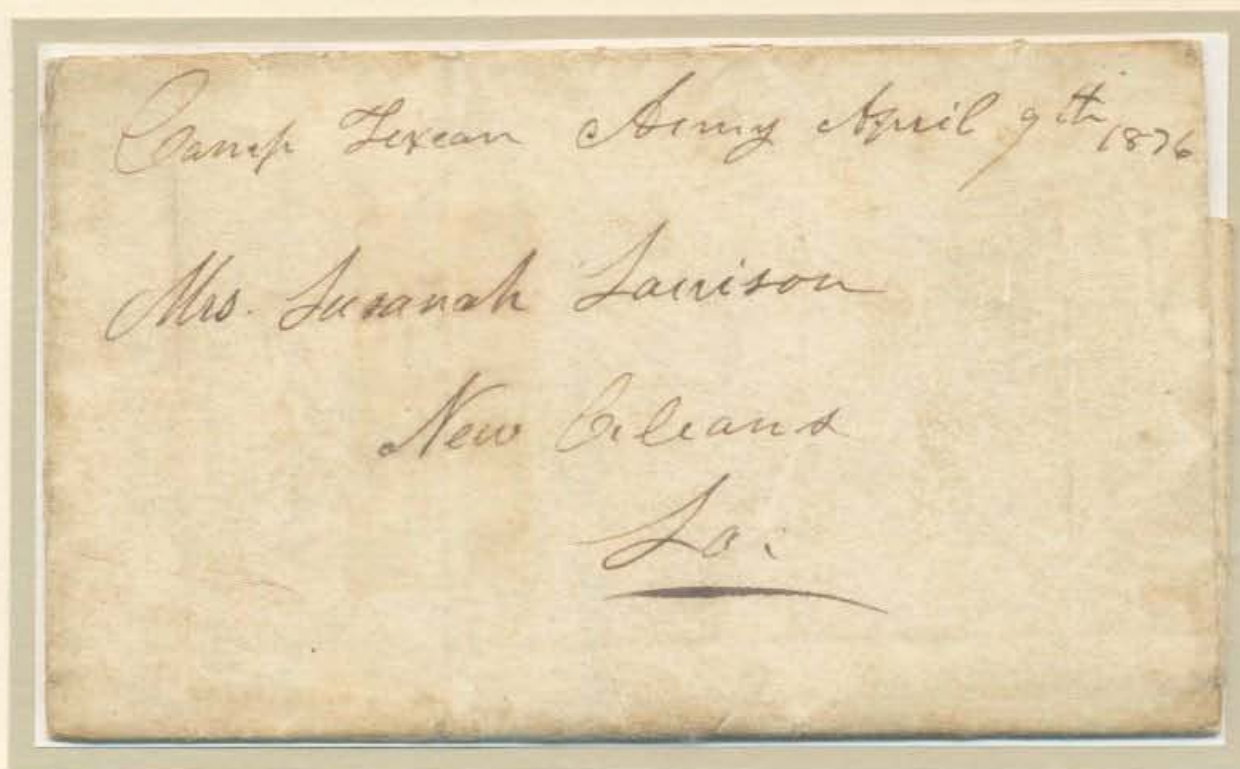


**Forwarded by
WILLIAM BRYAN,
Genl Ag't for Texas.**

The letter shown above originated and is postmarked at "Pleasant Grove, Geo/March 12, 1836." It was sent "Free" under the franking privilege by postmaster James Harper Starr via Fort Jessup, Louisiana. At New Orleans it was delivered to William Bryan, the agent for the Texan post office, who then forwarded it to Texas as indicated by his handstamp. The writer states that he and several others are getting ready to leave for Texas and wants the "plan of the route" as well as "all information on the subject of traveling which you think we need. He then adds "PS—We have noticed in the papers some of the late proceedings of the Mexican Government. Some are much frightened & think Texas will be crushed in the conflict and the 'rebels treated as pirates' - I guess not." Both brothers played important roles in the history of Texas. Franklin died of fever, while leading an expedition against the Indians, on July 7, 1837. James served as secretary of the treasury and later as a land commissioner. On the outbreak of the Civil War he followed Texas out of the Union and in 1863 became the Confederate agent for the postal service west of the Mississippi River. He died on July 25, 1890.

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Camp Texan Army April 9th 1836



ON THE ROAD TO SAN JACINTO

On March 6, 1836, the Alamo at San Antonio de Bexar was overwhelmed and its garrison massacred by Santa Anna. Thus was born the battle-cry "Remember the Alamo" that was to end in victory in the screaming and gunfire at San Jacinto. On March 20th Col. James Fannin with an army of 400 was forced to surrender to Genl. Jose Francisco Urrea at Goliad with the provision that they would all be freed on parole to the U.S. Santa Anna countermanded the order and on March 27th (Palm Sunday) they were marched out of Goliad and executed with the exception of 60 who were either spared or escaped in the gunfire and confusion. In the meantime Sam Houston, with about 800 men, had arrived at Grose's plantation on the Brazos River and set up headquarters. By this time there was no postal service in Texas. Santa Anna had marched to Harrisburg but was too late to capture the Texas government which had fled. He then burned the town and moved on to New Washington where once again he applied the torch. The Texans had burned San Felipe de Austin to keep it out of the hands of the Mexicans. On April 13th Houston left Grose's plantation for Harrisburg and the plain of San Jacinto. At 4:30 P.M. on April 21st, in a "vengeful slaughter," the Texans defeated and captured Santa Anna and his army of 1250 men. The battle lasted less than twenty minutes with only the loss of nine men killed and twenty six wounded. The Mexicans lost over 600 killed and all who survived were captured.

The folded letter shown was written by Allen Larrison, from "Headquarters Brazos opposite Grose's/ April 6th 1836," to his wife: "If I should outlive the war I will see you as soon as I can go either by land or sea — and if you should never see me it will be because I am dead and if so do not fail to contend for my lands in Texas which will be a fortune to you some day for Texas will be free ... April 9th ... The enemy is now at San Felipe with some over our numbers — there is battle contemplated soon — we trust god and our valour for victory. Direct your letters to headquarters of the Texan Army ... I am in good health and spirits — all troubles me is you my dear ..." Because the postal service had been suspended by the actions of Santa Anna, this letter was probably carried to New Orleans by Texas agents or military express.

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REPUBLIC OF TEXAS AND THE SLAVE TRADE

DURANT H. DAVIS, dealer in slaves, writes a detailed letter on his operations in the slave trade and his intentions to move to Texas. The following extract is from the letter:

"...after having left Mobile & Orleans - I was with Genl Houston [Sam] in Nashville. I presume you have seen him before this as he was to have left very shortly after I did for your Republic [Texas]. I purchased whilst in Ten' a very likely lot of Negroes and at very fair prices - say from \$600 to \$800 - there are fifteen in No. besides I have several others that I bought in this section of Country - all of them very likely - such as would be considered No 1's in the N.O. [N.Orleans] market - consisting of young men, Women, Plough Boys & Girls. I have had a large advance over cost offered me at Home for them - but I think I can do better with them either in Mobile or Orleans. I am unable to keep all of them as it would completely stop my trading or I would not offer one of them for sale - but take them to Texas & settle a farm immediately - it is just such a lot as I would have selected for you & myself to have purchased jointly for the purpose of farming or any other way that would have been most profitable to us - and as you spoke so indefinitely whether or not you would be willing to raise sound funds for such a purchase this winter - I am afraid to risk the Texas market with so much capital (that is to me) in so valuable a lot for I shall be compelled to raise a certain amount on them this winter as it was a cash transaction & compelled me to Borrow a part of the money and on short time at that - say March next - therefore unless I have more favourable accounts as regards the sale of the Negroes in Texas before I leave I shall dispose of them (or leave them to be disposed of) in N Orleans - and only bring on with me some few that if I can not sell will be of very little consequence. I shall not leave here before the 15th of Dec and shall be with you by Christmas if Possible - if you feel assured that I could sell my Negroes in Texas say 25 or 30 - all very likely and such as should command the height of the Market - let me hear from you in New Orleans - direct your letter to me there care of Marr, Brown & Co. Com. Merchts - and I will then be able to decide whether or not it would be advisable to bring them. Write me fully on this subject as soon as convenient. I wish you would sell Esther [Negro], her child & Anderson for cash in good funds before I get there - "if you can" (which I expect is a very necessary addition to the request) if an opportunity offers sell them for any amount that you would feel willing to take (were they yours) and I shall be perfectly satisfied and be under many obligations to you, for what I consider rendering me almost an indispensable assistance, as I would feel no hesitation in assuring any man that purchased them (that is after he had bought) that he might consider himself a Slave holder for life unless he out lived them. I shall start Williamson in a week or two with a few very fine thorough bred Mares of the first class and perhaps two or three saddle horses in order that they may meet me soon as I arrive. I wish you would have an eye on the crops of Cotton & Corn that are Mortgaged to me by Dr Hunter & Jarvis & see that no disposition is made of them (unless it is to you for the relinquishment of said Mortgages until I get there - I know very little about Jarvis, but I have no faith whatever in Dr Hunter and am very well satisfied that he will take any advantage that he can - if you have an opportunity inform Mrs Bell that I shall certainly expect to be paid in January hope she will not disappoint me, as I should have to disappoint

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others on account of it - if you see Johnson tell him that I shall be on by Christmas, and know of him if he still wishes me to bring him that "Tip top likely Yellow Girl" that he told me to be sure and bring for him this Winter - if he does I have four as likely as any in this Country and just say to you whether he wishes her & inform me of it in N.O. as I come on - or any one else that wants two or three real fancy articles of the kind - as I am a pretty considerable dealer in that way. I could supply any one that would buy - I have two that is much likelier in every respect than Mary, and two others that are very little inferior in regard appearances. I have turned Mary out to Grass - have'nt seen her in 4 or 5 months. I have given her to herself [freedom] - but I wish you to understand particularly that should I bring any of my Girls over with me, they are for sale, and neither of them are a Mary. I am done with my old tricks and shall class myself henceforward as strictly a Moral Man, as my occupation station in life & circumstances will permit. If I can make all my collections in Texas this Winter at an early period of the season - I shall be able to join you in any arrangement that we can willingly enter upon for the purchase of Negroes in time to make a crop the next spring - however we can arrange any thing of the kind when I come. I shall expect a letter from you in N.O. - and state to me what is best to be done &c - it may be later than I expect before I get there so you will have plenty of time to write. Durant H. Daves"

Doctor Ashbel Smith was born at Hartford, Ct. in 1805. He went to Texas in 1837 where he became the Surgeon General and Secretary of State to the Republic of Texas.



Letter shown above originated at GREENSBORO ALABAMA NOV 26, 1839 and was intercepted and forwarded at New Orleans by Wm BRYAN AGENT OF THE TEXAN POST OFFICE as per his hand-stamp on reverse of cover.

We went to the battle with a determination not to be
conquered - we thought of nothing else than victory,
And it gives me additional pleasure to know that
about half of us were ¹⁷Leinstermen. M. W. G.

the night

John P. Hart
Columbus
St. Louis

ST. LOUIS
MAY 18
T.C.

the rem
to

1836

Battle ground of Independence, near
the mouth of the San Jacinto river,
Galveston Bay, April 20th 1836.

Dear Brother - My anticipations in regard to the
State of Col. Fannin and the volunteer Army under
his command have been confirmed. He with
about 500 troops was attacked in a large prairie
by about 2500 of the enemy - fought bravely
for three hours - killed a great many of
the enemy with the loss of only 8 or 9 men.
Night came on, the battle ceased - the next morning the
the Enemy proposed to capitulate - Fannin
finding himself surrounded, surrendered on
condition that his whole army should within
eight days be put on board of a vessel and sent
to New-Orleans. But the arch fiend Santa Anna
after they were disarmed ordered them in viola-
-tion of the stipulations to be butchered; and a
few only have made their escape. But thank
a Good God, we have again shewed Tyrants &
slaves of Tyrants "what mighty deeds of daring
valor Freemen can and will do in defence
Beauty and Bosty of their country when
by a foreign foe." We have gained a Victory, when
when the resources of the contending parties and the
consequences to each are considered is unparallelled in
the records of history. Texas is free.

THE WESTERN MAILS

SAN JACINTO APRIL 21, 1836

Battle ground of Independence, near
the mouth of the San Jacinto on
Galveston Bay — April 26th [1836].

Dear Brother: My anticipations in regard to the Fate of Col. Fanning [James W.] and the volunteer Army under his command have been confirmed. He with about 500 troops was attacked in a large prairie by about 2500 of the enemy — fought bravely for three hours — killed a great many with the loss of only 8 or 9 men — Night came on, the battle ceased — the next mo[rning] the **Enemy** proposed to capitulate — Fann[in] finding himself surrounded, surrendered on condition that his whole army should within eight days be put on board of a vessel and sen[t] to New Orleans. But the arch fiend Santa Anna — after they were disarmed — ordered them in violation of the stipulations to be butchered; and a few only have made their escape. But thanks to a just God, we have again shewed Tyrants [about the] slaves of Tyrants "what mighty deeds of dari[ng] and valor Freemen can and will do in defenc[e of liberty] — Beauty and Booty of their country when attacked by a foreign Foe". We have gained a Victory whic[h] when the resaurces of the contending parties and the consequences to each are considered is unparalleled in the records of history. Texas is free.

We with drew from the enemy untill we reached the Brasos [river], there we made a stand. The Enemy did [not] attack us, but Santa Anna with a division of seven hundred advanced to this place with the [i]ntention of crossing the San Jacinto [river] and moving on to Annahuae. We pursued him with between seven and eight hundred men. We reached there on the 20th Inst. after a forced march the night preceeding and took a position about a mile to the north of the Enemy — they in a short time commenced a firing upon us with their cannon; and continued it for several hours without ho[wever] doing any damage than wounding [th]ree or four slightly. We waiting very impatiently on the 21st for an attack but finding they would not make it, we made a brisk march across the prairie about 5 O'clock P.M. and in about fifteen minutes the enemy were routed — we were in possession of their encampment — we were victorious.

I wrote to Mr. Duncan on the 22nd Inst. I now write [with sa]me accuracy as regards the result of the battle. We had [on]ly seven killed and a few slightly wounded amongst [the wou]nded were Genl. Houston, Col. Neil, and J.S. Edgar. [There we]re between five and six hundred prisoners and the remainder of this division of the Enemy amounting to about the same number were slain on the field of battle. But it is not the **number** of prisoners and of the slain that gives this battle its great importance. Santa Anna with his invincibled, Genls. Cos & Almonte, were there, and are now in our power and our **Prisoners**. Genl. Almonte was taken on the field, Genl. Santa Anna and Cos attempted to make their escape, but were pursued and overtaken. We now dictate to the **Dictator** of Mexico. He acknowledges [the Independence] of Texas and has sent orders to all officials in Texas immediately to withdraw beyond the Rio Grand [river]. The possession of these three personages [Almonte, Coss & Santa Anna] is of more value to Texas than ten thousand of the Enemy slain.

N.B. Now indeed is an opening to make fortunes in Texas. I think it is probable I will be able to meet my drafts in [New] Orleans, although I have spent nearly all my time in the service of my adopted country. I will write again in 8 or 10 days. Write & direct to Washington on the Brasos or Army of Texas. Assure my relatives [and] friends of my kind remembrance — I would [write to] them but know not when I will be [home]. Tell Ma all is well and a fair prosp[ect] for [peace] and Prosperity.

Your friend & Br[other]
W.W. Ga[nt]

The money and property taken from the Enemy it is proberable will not exceed \$50,000. We went to the contest with a determination not to be conquered — we thought of nothing else than victory, And it gives me additional pleasure to know that about half of us were Tennessians. W.W.G.

Addressed to: John D. Gant, Columbia, Tennessee.

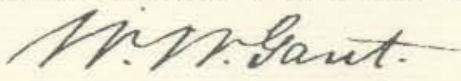
Postmarked: MEMPHIS/MAY/Te. No rate.

Letter was probably carried by a private party to Memphis were it was placed in the mails. It is worm eaten on the right side with the loss of much text as indicated above. However the missing words have been reconstructed so as to fit the train of thought and are contained within brackets.

THE WESTERN MAILS

IN THE WAKE OF SAN JACINTO

"Santa Anna and the prisoners are yet in custody"

W.W.GANT, one of those who fought for Independence at the battle of SAN JACINTO writes to his brother under date of "Columbia, Texas, Oct. 30th 1836... The First Congress of the Republic met at this place on the 3rd Inst. and that morning I found myself frustrated with a high fever.... I was confined to bed for two weeks, but am able to take my seat in the House regularly every day, though quite feble.... I have declined establishing a Printing Establishment - having lost Walker [Jacob] in the massacre of the Garrison of the Alamo and also Green, for I have not heard what has become of him: and what is worst than all Messrs McKinny & Williams, with whom I made an arraignment to procure the materials, are interested in these large and unjust & lawful land claims which they knew I would appose - they therefore always had some excuse ready for the delay of the arrival of the Press..... Nov. 6th 1836..... I have been waiting the action of Congress on several Bills of importance; it has not yet finally passed them, but will in a few days. One is to authorize the President [Sam Houston] to negociate a Loan on the Bonds of the Republic to an amount not exceeding \$ 5,000.000 and to bear an interest of ten per centum per annum. and redeemable in thirty years - I am apposed to the passge if this Bill; because the length they are to run is too long and the amount too large. Texas does not owe two millions of dollars. Another Bill is to grant to all volunteers whether Texans or Foreigners and all those who have arrived in Texas since the battle of San Jacinto as well as those who were here before a bounty in Land. The bounty in Land is 320 acres for every three months service. There will consequently be a great many Land warrants of 320 - 640 - 960 & 1280 acres for military services. Here is a good opportunity to increase rapidly capital by purchasing these warrants at their present low price - another good opportunity is in the purchase of Treasury - drafts, which can be had at half their nominal value, and if I am not much deceived the Government will be enable to pay them off in less than twelve months. Merchandizing is, however just as fast a way to make money as any other and if you and Mr. Pope come here I think you would do well to bring Goods with you - coarce clothing, shoes, Hats, domestics & Groceries are the prime articles. This is the most beautiful country I have ever seen - where you live, "take it all in all", is the best. Competition where you are is very great - This is a new country and if a man will try he can make property much faster here than in Tennessee. I advise all my friends that wish to come to Texas that the sooner .. the better, for I am of opinion we will not again be invaded by the Mexicans. Santa Anna and the other Prisoners are yet in custody of the Govt - W.W.Gant" 

"Sam Houston was elected President with an almost unanimous vote - M.B. Lamar (formerly of Georgia) vice President - Stephen F. Austin has been appointed Secretary of State - Henry Smith (first Governor)* Secretary of the Treasury - Genl T.J. Rusk of War and S. Rhoads Fisher of the Navy - William T. Thompson is an engrossing clerk to the House of Representatives." W.W.G."

WILLIAM W. GANT, one of the heros of San Jacinto, was born in Tennessee January 1809. He moved to Texas February 21, 1835 and settled in Washington County. He was a member of Capt. Peyton R. Splane's company and fought, at the battle of **SAN JACINTO**. For his service in the Texan Army, Feb. 27 to May 29, 1836, he was awarded a bounty grant of 320 acres. Gant was in the First, Second and Fourth Congresses and died in October of 1840. SEE his letter written from San Jacinto, on the "Battle ground of Independence" April 26th 1836, in this collection. 90

STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN died December 27, 1836. SEE his letter to General John M. McCalla under date of Nashville Feb. 25. 1836, in this collection.

SANTA ANNA was released shortly after Houston's inauguration.

HENRY SMITH had been Governor under the "Provisional Government", before the organization of the "Republic of Texas".



COLUMBIA, TEXAS 1836

Cover on left dated Oct. 30 was most likely carried by a private party "via New Orleans" to NASHVILLE T., where it arrived on AUG 2 as per the GREEN postmark. It was then rated "10" cents in Blue and forwarded to Columbia. SEE copy of letter on opposite page

NOTE. The election of the officials mentioned in the letter took place on Sept. 5th and the first Congress convened Oct. 3.



WASHINGTON, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, 1837.

Gant writes to his brother: "No news from Mexico for a month. No late Indian depredations....I need a surveying compass very much when you come. We had a very pleasant party on the evening of the 4th....We also have about a dozen of very fine girls coming upon the carpet...the Lnd offices will not be opened before October, and possibly not then, and that the Law granting lands to Emigrants will cease after the first of October....Congress has levied a pretty heavy tax on importations, with the exception of coffee, salt, & breadstuffs.....I will be a candidate for reelection in September, and have no fears of a favorable result... Oh the girls!...Tell me, are the misses Russells yet single? W.W.GANT"

Folded letter originated, as per postmark, at "Washington Texas/July 8th 1837. It was routed via Nacogdoches, Texas and Gaines Ferry, on the Sabine River, to FORT JESUP, La., where it arrived AUG 2, as per the blue postmark of that office. Thence to its destination in Columbia, Tennessee. Rated "Paid 25" with the Paid crossed out, so it must have gone collect?

FROM TAMPICO TO THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

Letter written by the "Father of Texas", Stephen Fuller Austin, from Nashville, Tennessee just ten months before his untimely death on December 27, 1836. He had been back home to recruit men, money and support for Texas in its revolution with Mexico to gain Independence.

81

Nashville Feb. 25, 1836

Gen. John M. McCalla,

My friend, I have been detained here by an attack of plurisy, but have recovd. & shall leave tomorrow. I shall pass through Lexington, but cannot stop more than one or two days.

I know not what your intentions may be towards a removal to Texas. That you are at heart an enthusast in favor of our cause. I have no doubt your known character for patriotism and devotion to liberty insures it. But I wish to see you there, sword in hand, family property and all.

A more glorious field never presented itself - That country is in fact superior to any part of the U.S. in point of climate & soil, and local advantages. Much better lands, than the Mississippi & Louisiana, choice lands can be had there now at from one dollar to five dollars an acre, near the coast. Say from one mile to forty. Above that, the land is as good and better watered, and may be had at from 25 cents to one dollar. Besides, emigrants who go now will all get lands as settlers for little or nothing. The bounty for volunteers is 640 acres.

We need a Brigd. Genl. - Raise a brigade of Kentuckians and go - Glory & fame & fortion call you - take your family, your all, and rise with the country. No rise will be so rapid that even the visionary will be astonished. I repeat there never was such a opening.

I have for fifteen years been a dray horse laboring to take materials for a solid and permanent foundation - American and Anglo-Saxon materials - a foundation well laid of these materials I know would contain the great temple of Liberty which I always expected to see reared in Texas. My occupation has not been one to shed around me the gliters of military pageantry, or dazzle the eyes of a multitude, for it has been the occupation of the Philanthropist - of a builder, & not a distroyer. He who caused a spear of grass to grow where none grew before ecology of Dean Swift. But he, who like Napoleon or Ceasar caused the blight of war over kingdoms & countries, has lived in a blaze of glory. My ambition has been and is of the first discription. The foundation I wished for is laid - it cannot be broken up - nothing now remains but to elevate the Temple of Liberty upon it. Come to "the raising" - come & help us to build up this glorious temple - bring 2000 Kentuckians with you families & all - make a settlement in a body - form a New Kentucky of your own. What is to prevent? I see nothing. Col. T.D. Owings has engaged to raise one or two regiments - have an understanding with him & no interference, we have made an engagement with him, but you & him can unite.

The truth is we shall have very little fighting - perhaps none. Mexico is too weak and distracted at home to attack us. Now then is the time - our land will soon rise. Mississippi and Arkansas lands sell now for 50 dols. pr acre - wild lands sickly & overflown - ours are better in every respect for they are both cotton & sugar lands. Texas as an Independent Nation will go far west & N.W. as we plan to take our limits. The first is unbounded & is richly bespangled with rich soil, salubrious climate, diversity of levels & undulations & hills & rivers & mountains & silver mines & Iron ore & stove coal and every thing.

The Pacific ocean terminates the prospect on the North west - a line from Tampico to the gulf of California on the S.W. Where can ambition or avarice find such another field?

Don't think I am wild & partake of the rambling quallites of the Buffalo - from the quantity of their marrow bones I have sucked, or of the wandering savage, where wood life I have led in Texas - or that I am too much so, & not as sanguine as I ought to be, because I have offord precipitancy or premature movements in Texas. The time has now come. The foundation is laid. This I wanted to see before we began to raise the super structure. I now wish to get up the new fabric as quick as possible & see Texas step forward as a new & independent nation. In this work I wish to see you engaged. It is worthy of great minds - sound heads & pure hearts. The timed may shrink, the wealthy may pay their gold & stay at home, but bold spirits & philanthopic hearts enough will be found who go to Texas & "do or die". In that number I wish to see you & Chivalrous Kentucky take a part., Tennessee has so far taken the lead. She is in motion, almost in masse.

Farwell



S.F. Austin

THE WESTERN MAILS

You knew our friend the noble brave Milam [Benjamin R.] - he was an honor to Kentucky - he intended to have gone to his native state and raise a regiment - his glorious patriotic spirit calls upon his countrymen to arm for liberty & Texas & avenge his death. I hope the call will be responded to & that 1000's of Kentuckians will soon honor the grave of Milam by their presence in Texas.

.



Colonel Benjamin Milam led the attack by 300 Texans on San Antonio which was defended by General Martin Perfecto de Cos and 1,400 Mexicans in 1835. Milam was shot in the head and killed, but Cos surrendered to the Texans.

Austin in writing to a friend said in part "I am nothing more than an individual citizen of this country, but I feel a more lively interest for its welfare than can be expressed ... The prosperity of Texas has been the object of my labors, the idol of my existence. It has assumed the character of a religion, for the guidance of my thoughts and actions, for fifteen years." A few weeks before his death he wrote the following because of a report that some volunteers from Kentucky had complained that they had not been treated fairly: "I do not merit this. I have no house, not a roof in all Texas that I can call my own ... I make my home where the business of the country calls me ... I have no farm, no cotton plantation, no money, no comforts. I have spent the prime of my life and worn out my constitution in trying to colonize this country ... All my wealth is prospective and contingent upon the events of the future. What I have been able from time to time to realize in active means has gone as fast as realized, and much faster where my health and strength and time have gone, which is in the service of Texas, and I am therefore not ashamed of my present poverty."

Austin never married. He died on a pallet on the floor of a two-room clapboard shack. Although he did not live to reap the fruits of his labor in the vineyard of Texas Independence he did see its achievement. His last words were "Texas recognized ... Did you see it in the papers?"

Nashville Feb. 25. 1836

Gen. John M. McCalla.

My friend, I have been detained here by an
 of plaining, but ~~have~~ ^{will} ~~leave~~ ^{return} tomorrow, & shall leave tomorrow,
 shall pass through Lexington, but cannot stop more
 than one or two days -

I know not what your inclinations may be
 towards a removal to Texas - That you are ~~at~~ ^{an} ~~enthusiast~~
 an enthusiast in favor of our cause, I have no doubt
 your known character for patriotism and devotion
 to liberty insures it - But I wish to see you with
 sword in hand, family property and all -

A more glorious field never presented itself.
 That country is in fact superior to any
 part of the U.S. in point of climate & soil, a
 local advantage - Much better lands, & ^{than}
 the Mississippi & Louisiana choice lands
 can be had there now at from one dollar
 to five dollars an acre, near the coast, say
 from one mile to forty - Above that, the land is
 good and better watered, and may be had
 at from 25 cents to one dollar - Besides, emigrants
 who go now will all get lands as settlers for
 little or nothing - The bounty for volunteers
 640 acres -

We need a Brig.^d Genl. - Raise a brigade of
 Kentuckians and go - glory & fame & fortune
 call you - Take your family, your all, a
 rise with the country, As we will be so rep

Huntsville Aug 15th 1856
To General Hood.

Dear Uncle.

The glorious news of our
liberty triumphing over despotism reached this place
yesterday night Santa Anna Genl. Cof and all of the
principal Officers being taken prisoners by the Pen-
sylvanian army Genl Houston commanding in person.

The movement of Santa Anna would have been a death
stroke to Texas if he had succeeded he detached
Cof with 500 men to attack Houston when he
was to come upon the rear and give them no chance
to retreat but thank Heaven his orders were not
obeyed by Cof on the 30th April Houston came on
Cof and they had a slight skirmish on the 31st was
that day that Santa Anna of the Yalle of Santa
and attacked Cof. cut his whole army to pieces
and took him prisoner. Houston who had about a
month before Santa Anna reached his

located his army and took him prisoner.
Mexican Army 1100 strong Texan 600
Mexican lost 500 killed 500 taken prisoners
Texian lost 200 killed 20 wounded
Was there ever such a battle fought

22

Wood
Wm Gladstone
Fingert



THE WESTERN MAILS

" Huntsville May 13th 1836

To Franklin Wood Dear Uncle The glorious news of civil liberty tri-
umphing over despotism reached this place last night - Santa Anna Genl
Cos (Martin Perfecto de) and all of their principal Officers being
taken prisoner by the Texian army Genl Houston commanding in person The
movement of Santa Anna would have been a death stroke to Texas if he had
succeeded - he detached Cos with 500 men to attack Houston when he was to
come upon the rear and give them no chance to retreat but thank Heaven
his orders was not obeyed by Cos - on the 20th April Houston came on Cos
and they had a slight scermish on the 21st was that day that Texas threw
off the yoke of bondage and attacked Cos - cut his whole army to peices and
took him prisoner. Houston wheeled about and was ahead Santa Anna
attacked him routed his men and took him prisoner. (Houston routed his men) *
Mexican Army 1100 strong Texans 600 Mexicans loss 600 killed 500 taken
prisoner Texan loss 6 Only killed 20 wounded - Was there ever such a batt-
el fought before. I will answer not, history cannot show in its annals of
such a battle. The news was greeted by the citizens of this place like all
others in the South with the roaring of Drums fifes musketry an cannon at
night The citizens all luminated their houses and (enjoyed themselves)
by having a splendid band of music and marching through the town there
was men wiminen & Children. I will close on this subject by saying
that Samuel Houston the brave bateling Patriotic commander has reathed
laurels around his head that never will fade. Brother have returned
from Texas he marched to that country on the 6th November last (1835) under
Col Payton S. Wyatte of this place with 60 others. served his time out as a
Leutenant of the company and returned home. There is another company on the
eve of starting to that country to fight for the people that is Strugling
for liberty against Despotism Tennessee Kentucky Mississippi & Louisiana
determined never to let the people in Texas be conquered by them dastar-
dly Mexicans & cold blooded murderers. James H. Hood
P S. Since the above the Intelligence of the death of Santa Anna Cos and
all of the principal officers have reached this place A court martial was
held Santa Anna was sentenced to be shot with all of his officers except
Cos he was sentenced to be hung as it was a more degrading death then the
other the reason of this was that he had brok the parole of honor I think
he never will brake another. J. H. Hood"



Folded letter addressed to New Glasgow, , Virginia, rated 25 cents from Huntsville, Alabama, as per postmark illustrated. **NOTE** The battle referred to was **San Jacinto**, April 21, 1836, just 23 days before this letter was written. Some reports give the Mexican army 1,250 men and the Texans at 800 men. The Mexican loss 600 killed, 650 wounded & captured, Texans only 2 killed and 23 wounded, although 6 eventually died from their wounds. Santa Anna escaped, but was captured the next day.

Santa Anna and Cos were later released and went back to Mexico to fight another day - the Mexican War 1846/48. San Jacinto was more like an ambush and a slaughter like massacre than a battle.

* What Hood means is that Houston captured Santa Anna and what was left of his army.

W.W.Gant writes to his brother John about the exciting events in the second year of independence of the Republic of Texas - March 2, 1836 to 1845, when she was annexed to the United States. The following extracts are from the letter.

"Houston Texas June 4th 1837.....I have seen the Best from the Brasos since you left who informed me that your horse was at his house; and promised to take care of him untill Congress shall adjourn. I will dispose of him as well as I canfor you. Congress will adjourn in about a week .We have not done much; but what we have and will do is what should be done - Yes John Truth is intellectual gold as durable as it is splendid and valuable - time is the test of Truth ; and give it that test and it will be sure to triumph. I was opposed to that speculation that prevailed in the Congress at Columbia and was then in a bare minority; but time and thePeople have placed me in the majority. The President [Sam Houston] ,by virtue of authority given him in the Land Law, has issued his proclmation closing the land office. The Congress have just passed a supplimentary act to the Land Law, which provides that the land offices shall open on the first of October next at which time it also provides that the Law granting lands to emigrants shall cease after that time (first of October).....to impose a severe penalty (fine and imprisonment) upon any one that shall refuse to deliver up all the books, papers, &c, in their possession relating to the land titles of the country. Congress has authorized the raising of 600 men for the term of six months to go against the Indians. I think it probable I may go with them. The greatest difficulty with me is to know what to do with the army. We are not able to clothes, feed, or pay them as we should - they are unemployed and dissatisfied - to move across the Rio Grande is hazardous - to furlough them upon the country is dangerous. The Government is pursuing the latter course; but in a gradual manner. We still hear of disturbances in Mexico - I am still of opinion that we will not be invaded from that quarter. I am happy that I can inform you that Dr Booker and another Gentleman have just returned from Matamoras [Mexico] and report that our vessel of war, **Idpendence**, which we had feared had been sunk by the Mexicans, was not sunk; but had been taken by the Mexicans into Matamoras, and that Wm H. Wharton, J.W. Bunton and all others on board were safe, but detained in Matamoras. The Hon. [Ro]bert J. Walker, Senator from the state of Mississippi, arrived here a few days since and was very warmly and cordially received; for we understand he was a warm friend of Texas in the Congress of the United States. We understand that all the Banks of the United States have suspended "specie" payments....I will write again in a few days..... W.W.Gant"

P.S. Congress will adjouran in about a week and it is not impossible that I may come to Tennessee after the adjournment. W.W.G. "

Houston Texas, May June 4th 1837

John - I have been very busy since you left, and have not written to you before this, and have not heard from you since you started. I hope you ever by this time reached home sound & safe. I have seen Mr. Best of the Brazos since you left, who informed me that your horse was at his house; and I intend to take care of him until Congress shall adjourn, so I expect to get him as I go up to Washington. I will dispose of him as well as I can for you. Congress I expect will adjourn in about a week. We have not done much; but what we have and will do is what should be done. Yes, John, Truth is intellectually ^{gold} as durable as it is splendid and valuable - time is the test of Truth; and give it that test and ^{it} will be sure to triumph. I was opposed to that spirit of speculation that prevailed in the Congress at Columbia and was then in a bare minority; but time and the censures of the People have placed me in the majority.

The President, by virtue of authority given him in the Law, has issued his proclamation closing the land offices - The Congress have just passed a supplementary act



John. C. Smith.

Columbia

Orlando



Camp Atkinson
near Natchitoches Louisiana
5 April 1836.



Letter postmarked **NATCHITOCHEs La APR 7 FREE**, just 31 days after the **massacre of the ALAMO** and death of **DAVY CROCKETT**, March 6, 1836. Writer questions ability of **SAM HOUSTON TO COMMAND THE TEXAN ARMY**.

LIEUT. GEORGE H. CROSSMAN, seeks political aid in getting a promotion in the army. He tells congressman Geo. W. Jones, "I have reason to know, political influence has more effect at Head Quarters than Military merit". Apparently he was successful because he was promoted to Captain in 1837. Crossman fought in the Black Hawk and Florida Indian wars as well as the Mexican and Civil war. He was promoted to Major General in 1865 and died May 28, 1882. The following is from the letter to Jones:

"Genl Gaines [Edmund P.] arrived here day before yesterday and we are making preparations for the summer's campaign. Not a word has transpired to give us the least idea of what is to be done; the Genl has his instructions, no doubt but as yet they are kept secret from us. The papers will have informed you, err this, of the state of affairs in Florida; and of Genl. Gaines' sweep over the Indians &c. &c. The massacre of the garrison of "San Antonio in Texas, amongst whom was David Crockett, by the troops of St. Anna, is unfortunately confirmed: - a list of the names is published, and if I can will procure a copy and send it to you. - The Mexicans have succeed in defeating some small parties of the Texans; but, as yet, nothing decisive or very important has occurred between the belligerents. Houston [Sam], with his small army, has retreated back upon the timbered lands of the Colorado; where he has fortified his position, and waits reinforcements; to enable him to act on the defensive: - various opinions are entertained of his fitness for command - what a field for Dodge [Col. Henry], and such kind of man, is now presented in Texas!

G. H. Crossman"

G. H. Crossman



Letter was carried by ship to **NEW ORLEANS La** as noted by **SHIP** and manuscript **FREE** markings. Letter is dated "29 Dec. 1836", arrival date docket note "Recd Jan 24" at Washington, D.C.

*Fort Brooke Tampa Bay
West Florida
29 Dec. 1836.*

"The war in Florida is not yet ended, and God only knows when it will be. Large forces have been marching and countermarching thro' and over the country since since last December, at an enormous expence to the public, and with much sacrifice of life and health to the troops, and yet the enemy is not subdued, and, in fact, with the exception of some small losses which he sustained, during the several skirmishes had with the Genls. and Governors yet in the field against him, is as far from being whipped as ever, - Now scattering into small parties and hiding away in the distant swamps and Hammocks, before the advance of our armies; and then, suddenly, reappearing in force at unexpected points and committing all sorts of depredations, or falling upon weak places, and attacking and pillaging in Indian style. We have just returned from Volusia, where we had accompanied Genl. Jessup [Thomas S.] to relieve Gen. Call [Richard K.] in command of the Army; which was done on the 8th - On the way over here, we captured at an Indian Village, 41 Negros, who had been left by the retreating enemy. - we also took an Indian prisoner, who with some of the negroes, have given us very important and useful information about the country - This information has been hitherto needed for there are nobody to be found capable of giving such intelligence, as no one knows the country. Genl J. is using every possible effort to terminate the war, and I am satisfied will do all which can be done by any man. We march in a day or two into the interior in search of Powell [Lt. Levi N., U.S. Navy] * and our Depots are not so fixed as to enable us to keep the field a long time if necessary: and we are all in strong hopes of success. G.H. Crosman"

G. H. Crosman

This was the second **SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR - 1836/1842.**

*Powell was in charge of 85 sailors assigned by the U.S. Navy to assist the Army. The above is from the last part of the letter. the first is in regards to getting an appointment to the newly reorganized Corps of Topographical Engineers.

THE TREASURER OF

No 1583

3

3

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Will pay THREE DOLLARS in Promissory

Notes of the Government when presented at the Treasurer's Office in conformity with an

act of Congress

Austin

May 1st 1841

Samuel Sharpe

Comp. S. Raymond, Secy. Treas.

MINERIM

No 992

THE GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS

20

Promises to pay 20 to the Bearer

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

in One Year from date, the sum of Twenty Dollars

and Interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent per annum, by virtue of an Act of Congress

dated 9th June 1837.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

April 1st 1838

Henry Smith, Treas.

Sam Houston, Pres.

20

No 3912

THE GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS

50

50

Promises to pay to the Bearer

at the TREASURY DEPARTMENT in One Year

from date, the sum of Fifty Dollars, and Interest thereon

at the rate of ten per cent per annum, by virtue of an Act of Congress

dated 9th June 1837.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

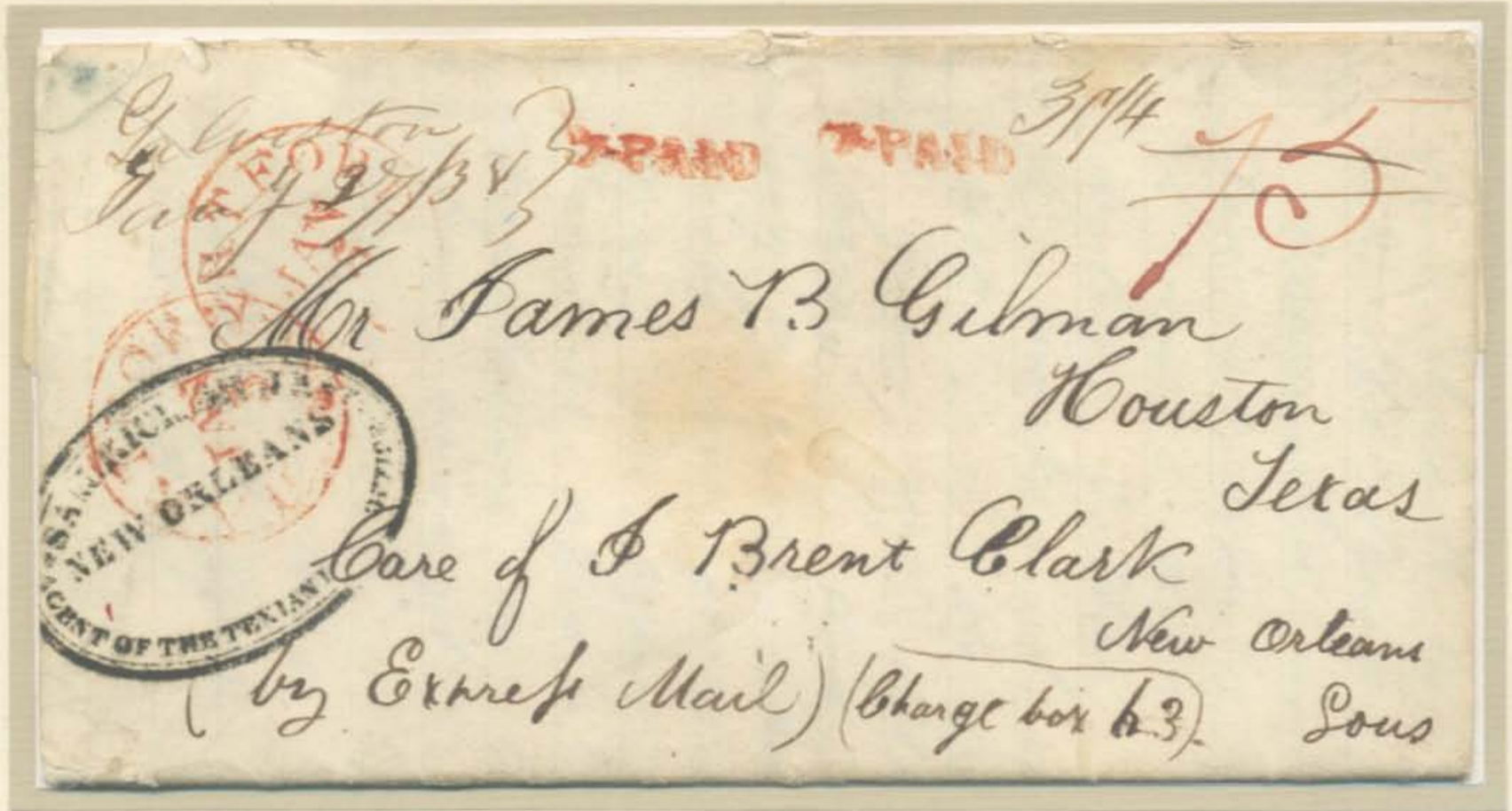
Dec 10th 1837

Henry Smith, Treas.

Sam Houston, Pres.

50

THE WESTERN MAILS



EXPRESS MAIL TO TEXAS This was a special express of the Post Office Department between New York and New Orleans. It was performed by post riders on horseback and is often called the **Eastern Pony Express**. The rate was 75¢ per single sheet for over 400 miles. The cover shown originated at Hartford, Ct. on January 5, 1838 and was carried by the express to Mobile where it was placed onboard a steamboat for New Orleans. At New Orleans it was turned over to Sam Ricker Jr., the Agent of the Texan Post Office, and forwarded to Galveston, Republic of Texas, where it was postmarked "Galveston/Jan 27, 38". The express rate of "75" was crossed out and it was rerated "31¼" to Houston.



TEXAS

Vol. 2.] "GO AHEAD!!" [No. 1.
THE CROCKETT ALMANAC
1839.



An Unexpected Ride on the Horns of an Elk. See Page 56.

Containing **Adventures, Exploits, Sprees**
& **Scrapes in the West, &**
Life and Manners in the Backwoods.

Nashville, Tennessee. Published by Ben Harding. See Page 2.

A DAVY CROCKETT RARE 1839 ALMANAC

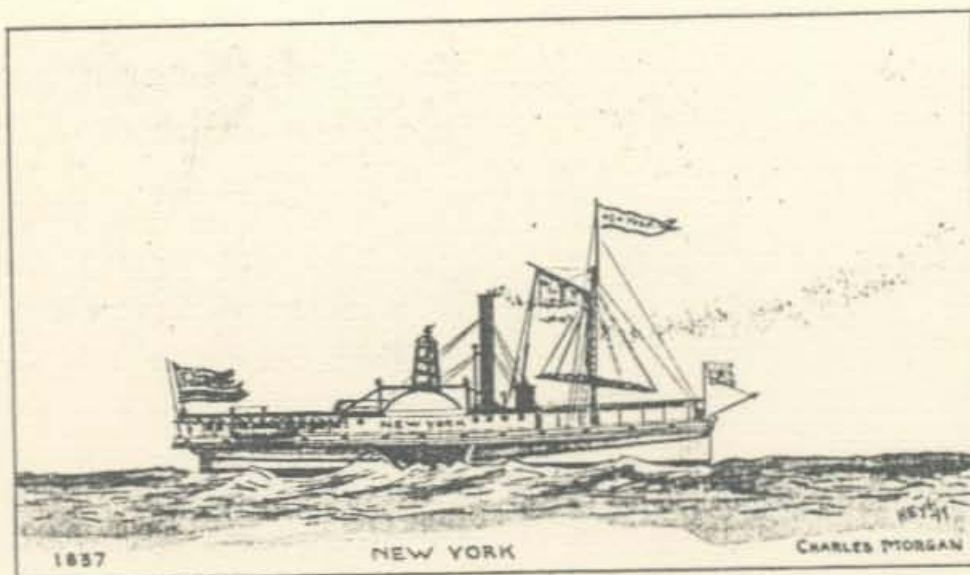
Crockett, Davy. The Crockett Almanac for 1839. Containing Adventures, Exploits, Sprees (!) and Scrapes in the West, with life and Manners in the Backwoods. With 20 Wonderfully Quaint & Realistic, Early American Wood-Engravings. 8vo. original self wrappers, within contemporary outer wrappers. Nashville, Tenn. Published by Ben Harding, 1839. Extremely rare

\$ 300.00



A SCENTORIFEROUS FIGHT WITH A NIGGER. SEE P. 18.

THE WESTERN MAILS



S P NEW YORK.



STEAM PACKET NEW YORK REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

The S.P. NEW YORK was a sidewheeler of 365 tons, built at Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1837 for the Southern Steam Packet Co. In 1838 the company was dissolved and Charles Morgan, one of the partners, bought the NEW YORK and the COLUMBIA and transferred them to the NEW ORLEANS/GALVESTON trade. The NEW YORK left Galveston on her first run on February 3, 1839. The cover shown must have been on her second trip. On September 5, 1846 the NEW YORK ran into a hurricane about fifty miles off of Galveston and foundered with the loss of 17 lives.

The cover above originated, as per postmark, at Galveston, Texas. March 18th, 1839. It was carried by the NEW YORK to New Orleans, where it arrived on March 27th, as per postmark and "SHIP". Being sent to the postmaster at Newark, N.J. it went "Free".

THE WESTERN MAILS

In June of 1841 about four hundred armed Texans left Austin to establish trade relations with Santa Fe, as they later claimed. However, the Mexican government thought otherwise — that the real objective was to occupy Santa Fe and annex New Mexico to Texas. Mexico had never recognized the Republic of Texas and at that time New Mexico was part of the Republic of Mexico. This was one of the events that lead to the Mexican War. Almost from the beginning the Santa Fe Pioneers, as they called themselves, were doomed to failure. Starvation, illness, errors in command and the elements reduced their strength and ability to resist the hostile Kiowa Indians and the Mexicans. On surrender, they were forced on a death march of two thousand miles to Mexico City where they were imprisoned as prisoners of war. General McLeod's command was imprisoned at Puebla and Perote. Those who survived the death march and imprisonment were eventually released.

Robert D. Phillips was a sixteen-year-old boy when he joined the Pioneers. He gives a fair and accurate description of the disaster that befell the expedition. The records describe him as follows: "Hair and complexion chestnut, eyes olive-colored, nose regular, no beard, many freckles on his face, small forehead, height five feet. New York. 1st Corp., Co. Cor D." Phillips was captured on October 5th and released at Puebla on June 13, 1842, just six days before he wrote this letter. As of August 12th he was still at Puebla.

THE TEXAS - SANTA FE EXPEDITION



This folded letter is dated at *City of Puebla/Mexico/June 19th 1842*. It was probably carried outside of the mails as there are no Mexican markings. On arrival in New Orleans it was placed in the post office as per "NEW ORLEANS/La/SEP 5/SHIP" and rated 27 cents. At New York it was forwarded with an additional rate of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ for a total of 45 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents postage collect. See content of the letter on opposite page.

THE WESTERN MAILS

THE TEXAN - SANTA FE EXPEDITION

"City of Puebla
Mexico June 19th 1842

Dear Uncle: After 8 months & some days of imprisonment & slavery I am, now at liberty... I suppose you know the intentions of the Santa Fe Expedition, which by the by is more than we knew when we started.

In the first place through the ignorance & drunkenness of the Comisary Genl & the Cmd Genl of the Expedition, we had too small a stock of provisions & ammunition, the want of which was not discovered until we got to Little River 50 miles when it was too late to procure a supply, so that only a month from then we had but two pounds of beef a day (the other provisions having given out) & two or three weeks after that 1½ pound a day & near half a bone - at that time there was nothing left of a beef but bone, horns, hoofs, hair, & d-g.

At the time that Cook* (Wm. G. Cooke) left us, in search of Santa Fe, there was scarce a man in the command strong enough to walk 100 yards without sitting down & a short time afterwards, when the indians ran off our horses & cattle, we had not sufficient strength to run out & stop them, although they came close to the camp & almost through it - were it not for some horses that we had staked close by, (ready saddled) we would have lost all our cattle, but some of our men mounted & gave chase & by hard riding saved ourselves from starvation - after laying at the camp 17 days (& having some of our men killed by the indians) we heard from Col. Cook, who wrote that he was a short distance from San Miguel, & that he would meet us in a few days with provisions - The next day we took up the line of march, with some Mexican Spys as guides, & ascended, what appeared to be a mountain, but proved to be the grand Prarie - After 7 or 8 days Capt Caldwell (Mathew)* was sent on with ten men & an Interpreter in search of Col. Cook, (we have heard nothing more from him).

On the 4th of Oct. (not yet having heard from either from Cook or Caldwell) we met 2 other Mexican Spys who appeared to be very friendly, & the Genl (Hugh McLeod) very improvidently allowed them to ride round our lines & ascertain our strength &c - when they immediately put spurs to their horses & rode off at full speed.

The next day we laid down our arms on condition that we should receive them again whenever we wished to return, (to Texas) or if we wished it, at San Miguel but before we arrived at San Miguel we were tied together in fives, tens &c. Three Four men that were shot, & 2 others that died from fatigue on the road - our marching 12 & 15 leagues per day, & in one place where there was no water our marching 35 leagues in 36 hours, I think shewd very plainly our treatment as prisoners of War.

On our arrival at this place we were thrust in a common Prison among felons, robbers, & murderers, & then heavily ironed, & chained in pairs, & sent through the most public streets nearly a mile, in company with the convicts to work at carrying baskets of dirt, &c & some villians armed with clubs set over us as drivers.

I have concluded to remain in this city until fall, for two reasons, viz: On account of the yellow fever at Vera Cruz & at N. O. (New Orleans) - 2d Should I now go to N. O. I will not have the necessary means to take me home, consequently would be obliged to return to Texas, & then my only chance would be to join the army. On the other hand by staying I will probably raise sufficient by the coming fall or spring to take me to N. Y. address your letters to

Snr Roberto D. Felipe (Tejano)
Ciudad de Puebla Mexico
your Nephew Robert D. Phillips."

A. Lincoln
HIS LIFE AND TIMES

Fort Quitman Texas

January 29th 1861

My very dear friend Lydia,

I was going to add arms, but as you do not admire it, and no one calls you so but me I won't do it. It is now ten minutes past nine

P.M. here which ever you are at bed and else I might think knowing you act as at home last and consider you have once when my arms? I wish I fast asleep, I would
1861
would hardly know where you were, I'll bet a cent that



Miss Lydia A. Price

Jackson

R. D.

FIRST DAY OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF TEXAS

FORT QUITMAN, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 1, 1861. The writer states "that Texas was going out [of the Union] on the 28th of the month [January]." Texas seceded on February 1, 1861 and was not admitted to the Confederate States until March 6, 1861.

Historical letter including a description of Fort Quitman: "The dust on the parade ground in the winter is about 6 inches deep, in the summer it is all dust." It was a stage station on the Overland Mail route.

I commenced the letter by requesting you to consider yourself spared, for I think you deserve it; for if any one should read your letter they would think you were the worst mortal that ever lived, and that

Dear Lydia,
 I shall be very
 sorry, and be
 almost afraid to
 send this. I have
 on now that grey
 coat that you proposed
 to buy I had, and
 when I see it
 I always think
 of you I suppose
 I shall have on
 the pants that came
 with it. But the better
 part of them are
 left on the rock
 at the big pond.
 Do you remember
 how you laughed -
 Oh - these happy times
 are over.
 Chapter 10
 Good bye, with love
 accept a kiss from your friend
 R. I.

Fort Quitman Texas
 January 22nd 1860

I have commenced three or four
 letters to you since I arrived at this Post, but have
 not finished one, I was so much disappointed
 in not finding any here from you that I have
 felt very gloomy, and could not feel like writing
 though I tried ever so much. As soon as I
 commence writing I think of that letter that you
 received from some unknown source, and it makes
 me so mad that I can't write. I should like
 to know who the person was, whoever he is he
 is certainly beneath the notice of any white-
 man.




 Lydia A. Pierce
 Johnston
 R. I.

I hope this letter will find you in good spirits, and enjoying yourself more than you ever did before in your life I expect a mail in being, and if it does not bring a letter from you I shall be very sorry, and be almost afraid to send this. I have on now that grey coat that you proposed to buy I had, and when I see it I always think of you I suppose I shall have on the pants that came with it. But the better part of them are left on the rock at the big pond. Do you remember how you laughed - Oh - these happy times are over. Chapter 10 Good bye, with love accept a kiss from your friend R. I.

think of
 we may
 or find
 that it
 all false
 account
 on my
 so badly,
 the
 are you

the devil as anything I have seen lately. They are going to try and surprise the Indians in their camp, but I don't think they will, for there is no head to the party, and there has to be some discipline with a party of that kind. I wonder if you hear as much about secession as I do, that is the only thing talked of in this country, and if the south secedes I shall be in a bad box, for though my sympathies may be with the south in some respects, and I do not like the people of Johnston over and above well, still I don't want to fight against my native State. It looks now as though everything was going to burst up, if they do there will be plenty of work for soldiers. When you write direct to
1st Lieut Z. W. Miller U.S. Army Fort Quitman Texas
via Overland Mail, I could not write to you on your birthday though I wanted to very much, but I wrote two or three days before, I wished you lots of Merry Christmas and Happy New Years, and thought of you a thousand times on those days, the first thing I thought of when I saw the Indians the other night after I knew they were A. D. S. was that I would have something new to write to you. It don't seem that anything new is necessary for my thoughts run on much faster than my pen will move. I must close this long letter, and am sorry to say that I never wrote one to you before that I did not think would be acceptable, but 'twas' been an' smile. I wish you could see me now for I am blushing up to my eyes, for that sentence, you know what I meant to say

THE WESTERN MAILS

FORTS QUITMAN & DAVIS ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER.

FORT DAVIS, TEXAS. The post was established Oct. 7, 1850, in the Davis Mountains, near the town of Fort Davis. It was a stage station on the San Antonio-San Diego and Butterfield mail routes. The post office was established at the fort on Mar. 19, 1855. During the Civil War the post was temporarily occupied by Confederate troops and later by Indians and Mexicans who partly destroyed the buildings. It was reoccupied by Federal troops in 1867 and rebuilt.

Cover below originated at Fort Quitman, as per the manuscript postmark, on "March 19th 1861". On arrival at Fort Davis it was again postmarked FORT DAVIS TEXAS MAR 21 1861 and forwarded via the Butterfield stage. Apparently it was overweight and the postmaster crossed out the Fort Quitman postmark and charged the letter "Due 3¢".



Following the secession of Texas from the Union on Feb. 1, 1861, Fort Quitman was abandoned. According to this letter Lt. Z. R. Bliss was ordered to reoccupy the fort. On Mar. 11th he wrote to his future wife: "...as soon as I left the Post the Mexicans came in and took everything they could lay their hands on. They tried to open my safe, ...but they could not do it, so they contented themselves with stealing the brass knob." They probably stole the brass handstamp for the postmark, which might be the reason the cover is postmarked in manuscript? Near the end of the letter he writes: "....there goes the mail horn [stage] and I must run..." Apparently the stage did not stop long enough to permit Bliss to mail the letter and as he says "....it will have to rest here a few days...." SEE letter and typescripts on opposite pages.

THE WESTERN MAILS

"FORT QUITMAN, TEXAS"

March 11th 1861"

I suppose you will be surprised to receive another letter from Fort Quitman since I told you in my last that I was about to abandon this gay and festive scene - I did leave but received additional orders and had to regarrison the Post. I was of course very much pleased at the idea of coming back to this beautiful country especially as I had thrown away every thing not absolutely necessary for the road, but such is life - My first order was to abandon the Post - The next to wait till the Commissioners on the Part of the State of Texas come to receive the Property. Then last to abandon the Post as soon as Transportation arrives, and I expect the next mail will bring orders to do something else. Certainly a very pleasant state of affairs. Sometimes I get disgustid and vent a little of my anger in words - Then I get so I don't care a dam whither school keeps or not. I don't hear any news from the States more than once a month and when it gets here tis so old that we take no interist in it. I suppose in about a fortnight I shall learn that Old Abe has taken his seat. I see hes been making speeches, I don't know what the people think of them but I should think with Artemas Ward (writer news critic), that making speeches & playing horse wasn't his fort. I suppose you know all about the movement in Texas better than I can tell you for I am nearly seven hundred miles from any settlement and hear nothing excepting orders. The troops are all to go out of the State via Indianola. Whar to is more than I can guess - I think we shall march down to the coast and after staying there a few days have to come back. I have received two letters since I wrote to you - last one dated the 31st of January and the other the 13th of February. If you knew how glad I was to get them you would want to write to me every day. I don't expect to get an answer to this for I cannot tell wher I shall be in three weeks from now, and if I didn't think you a prety poor little girl I shoundn't take as much pleasure in writing to you when I expect to get no letter in return. How manu hours I have passed in the last five years reading your letters and writing to you. There have been several new things here in the last week to tell you about, which are a little out of the common course of events. In the first place as soon as I left the Post the Mexicans came in and took everything they could lay their hands on. They tried to open my safe, which had nothing in it, but they could not do it, so they contented themselves with stealing the brass knob, They would soon have demolished everything about the Post, and I believe that six weeks after the troops leave this Part of the State there will not be a settler in it for fear of the Mexicans and Indians. A few days ago three Mexicans came here, said they were from the Interior of Mexico, one of them was a queer looking specimen and we made him take off his coat, and after a very slight examination concluded that he had mistaken his calling and had better put on petticoats, he is rather a good looking girl of about twenty winters & summers and I suppose is a runaway peon from some Mexicn Ranch. I am keeping a pretty sharp look out for them, for fear they may be connected with the Indians. Last night about twenty Indians tried to get the mules out of the yard, they took down the bars to the cattle corral, and tore down part of the fence where the mules were, but were frightened off by the sentinel, A Mexican saw them and shot at them but did not hit any. They were encamped on the other side of the river about two miles from here all day yesterday, and killed two oxen and roasted them there. I expect them back tonight and have doubled the sentinels. I have one of the arrows picked up near the corral, it is about twenty six inches long. I will try and trace the outline of it.

Those two blots here
nothing in particular to do
with the arrow.

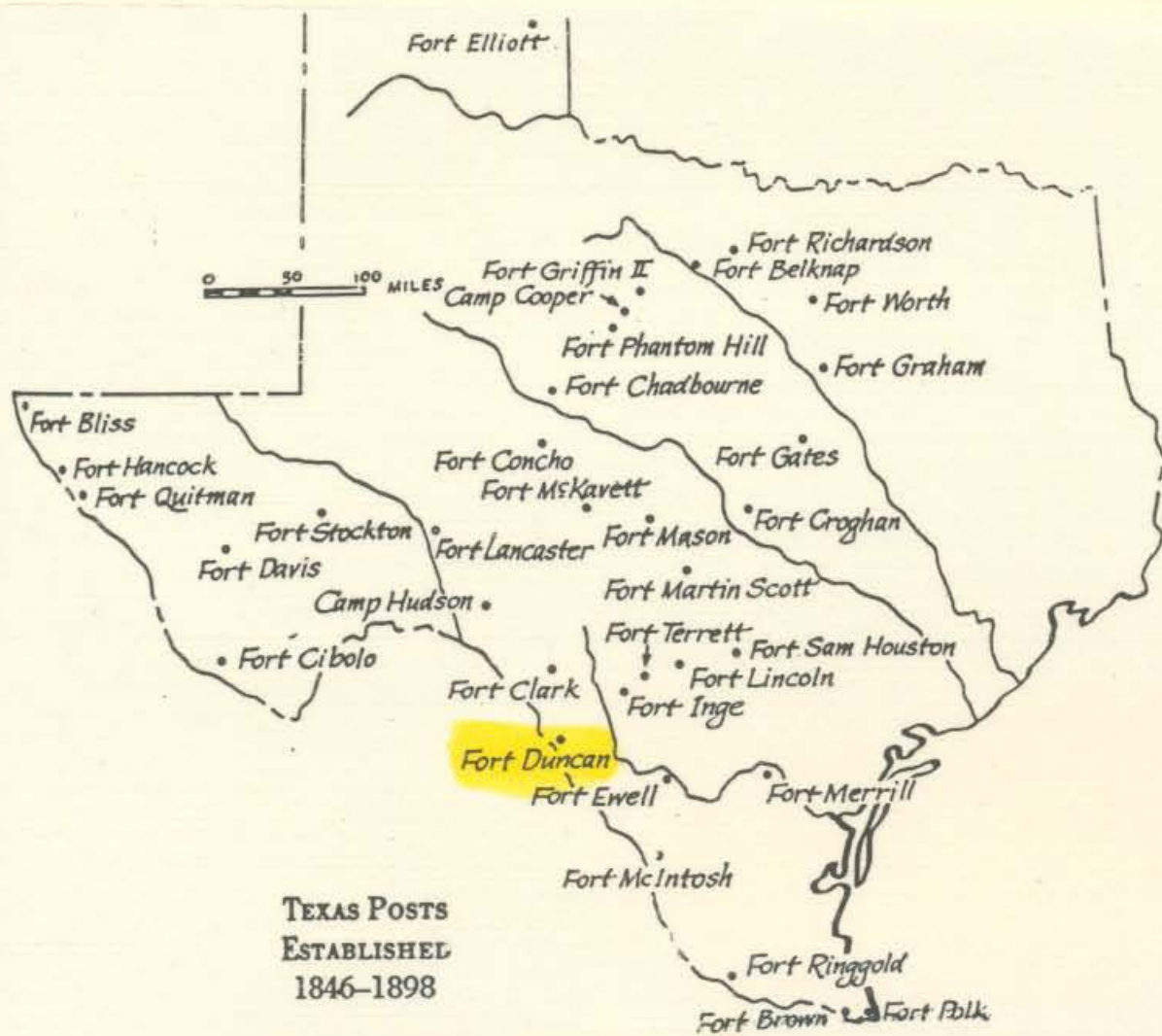


The stick is dog-wood, and the head of iron tied on so that when it becomes wet it will come off the stick and remain in the body. An uncomfortable thing to run against in the night. Night before last Jack Woodland - you know him don't you ? -

THE WESTERN MAILS

came down and staid till this morning with me. We had a long talk last night about every thing you could think of. He went home about two years ago after an absence of fourteen years, and when he came back to Texas brought the daguereotype of a girl that looked something like Mary Maria Zucker.....said he was going to make enough to go home and marry, that he was not going to have anything more to do with those Mexican girls - he has stood it pretty well two years, last night he told me (he) had sent for Pancha, a girl that had lived with him a good while, but not since he came from the States, and says he believes she is "just as good as any of em" - He didn't like to say much about his sweetheart in the States. I guess she has forgotten him. There is something singular about the people who have tried living in this country. They don't swear, and when they sit down to talk almost always talk about getting married or dying. The two most important subjects to every every body I suppose but apparently it is all they think about. I did not finish your letter the other night, and not much has transpired since to write about. Last night the mail from the West arrived, with two passengers - both officers who have resigned on account of the Disunion movements. I expect six or eight of my regiment will resign which will make me pretty near to a captaincy, but I would gladly give up all promotion if the difficulties could be settled and every-thing arranged amicably. Fighting is not a very agreeable occupation at any time or under any circumstances, and much less so when our enemies were and are personal friends. I expect the mail tomorrow and expect some news in relation to the movements of the troops here, as yet I know nothing definite. If there is any truth in the saying that "Misery loves company", I ought to be well satisfied for everybody seems to be in the same blissful state of uncertainty as myself. I received a letter last night from Colonel Reeses of my Regiment asking me what I intended to do under existing circumstances, and asking me to go with him down country. I shall try & do so, but I never saw things mixed up as they are now, and cannot tell what a day may bring forth. He, an old and experienced officer is perfectly at a loss what to do as much as myself. The orders are quite distinct now compared to those issued by General Twiggs (David E. commanding the Department of Texas surrendered all the troops, forts and equipment to the state of Texas and in turn was dismissed from the U.S. Army. He joined the Confederate cause and was rewarded with a commission as a Confederate major general.) who I suppose you know is relieved from the command of this Department, but the means of carrying out the orders do not exist. I have three wagons.....to take forage & provisions all the way from this post, each team of mules will require about twenty five hundred pounds of corn, which is as much as they can draw, The men will require ten thousand pounds of rations and where I put them is more than I can see. I dont think any army ever started on a march of eight hundred miles before without some intermediate station for provisions & forage. If the mules cannot draw what they want to eat themselves how can they take ten or fifteen thousand pounds more? I expect the answer will be found in the next number of the New York Ledger. How I wish I had a wife and fourteen small children to look out for, just at present. Nearly all the officers from the South are resigning their commissions - Major Rhett will be here tomorrow on his way out, but I suppose you have had enough army news for one letter and I will try to think of something else. I was setting on the door step of my house with a Mexican when he broke out with, Mira que bonita luna - Look! what a pretty moon, and then I thought of you, and always shall when I see a new Moon, for once a good while ago, you said you had been looking at the "New Moon not larger than a horsehair", and every new moon I have seen since reminds me of that letter and its sweet writer. Brackenbuss the clerk at Fort Lancaster got off a good thing on the new moon once - he said earnestly "Texas is the greatest place for new moons I ever saw, they have one here every month and in the states they do not come more than once in six weeks". Bliss rambles on for over five more pages of personal thoughts of very little historical interest. The following quotes are from the remainder of the letter: "The mail brought no important news. The Commissioners are at Camp Stockton and will probably be here in about a fortnight and then I shall know what to do....there goes the mail horn(stagecoach) and I must run...." Apparently the stage did not stop long enough for Bliss to mail this letter and as he says "it will have to rest here a few days....."

Z.R.Bliss"



A. Lincoln
HIS LIFE AND TIMES
CONFEDERATE STATES
OF AMERICA



EAGLE PASS, TEXAS. Located on the east bank of the Rio Grande River directly across from Piedras Negras, Mexico. It was adjacent to FORT DUNCAN which was built in 1849. The first post office was established under FORT DUNCAN in 1850 and changed to EAGLE PASS in 1852. The fort was permanently abandoned in 1916. Texas seceded Feb. 1st and joined the Confederacy March 6, 1861. After that date the fort was garrisoned by Confederate troops until the end of the Civil War. On March 23, 1868 it was reoccupied by Federal troops. The cover shown originated in Mexico and was put in the mails at EAGLE PASS TEX OCT 28 [1862] where it was prepaid by a pair of five cent Confederate stamps. A blockade run cover as Mexico had no relations with the Confederate States.

L. M. Thomas
Dorm & University
Don't write on glass or waxed paper or paper of any kind, holding this note
I must be your good night - again, by the way, holding this note
Fort Clark Texas May 29th 1856

Dear Lydia

Last Sunday I returned from a little excursion, and was very happy to find a good long letter from you, one left here for you on the same day.

About fifteen days ago a party of Indians came into the settlements below here and stole some horses, Lieut. Hazen of the 8th Infly. went in pursuit of them, and surprised a party of Indians on the Nueces River and killed four, he then came into this post, and told me of the deed. I would tell you all about it; but I can tell you so much better than I can write it; that I will wait till I come home, while he was here, some Indians came in near this Post and I took six men and went in search of their "tray," but as they were all on foot you can imagine that it was impossible to follow them. I went fifteen miles the first night, and camped on the prairie near a creek where I hoped to find the Indians in the morning, we did not make camp till nearly dark, and by the time we had watered our animals and staked them out to graze, it was pitch dark. I had a young fellow along with me who generally accompanies me on all my excursions, his bump of don't-care-a-darnation is remarkably large even for this country, and as recklessness likes carefulness we make quite pleasant

June 3rd / 57

We had no mail last Sunday, and hereafter shall only have two a month. The mail came in this morning with lots of news. The Posts on the Rio Grande are broken up and the troops ordered to other Posts. I, with my Company are ordered back to Camp Hudson

where I was a year ago. I wonder where they will let me rest. I am as full of business as possible as I

one her daughter type, she looked a little like Mary Morris, and told me what a fine girl she was, could play on the Piano cook, wash &c, and could appear well in the parlour, besides she could write a first-rate letter, which was more than any of these Mexicans could do, he told me all about the whole arrangement how he popped the question, and she said and he kissed her &c &c, the same old story, that we all know - Nine tenths of the Mexican Men & women that pretend to be married, are not, they can not raise money enough to pay the Priest, so they give a fundango and have a little whiskey, and that is the marriage, which lasts as long as agreeable to both parties, Jack thinks that would hold good in the states, so he is going out with me in the spring and get married, so he says, but in six months he will be head over heels in love with some little senorita, then a Dios to his sweet heart in the states - Direct your letters to me at Camp Hudson Texas
Via San Antonio

asked her if she thought she would know her son, he said she commenced crying and I looked at me very hard, I couldn't stand it, and said to her, you see your son now, mother he told us about it dinner with me, there were two other

Bryan, Guy Morrison. Guy Morrison Bryan, son of James and Emily (Austin) Bryan, was born at Herculaneum, Jefferson County, Missouri, on January 12, 1831. He came to Texas in 1831 with his mother and stepfather, James F. Perry.⁹⁷ They lived at San Felipe and at Pleasant Bayou until December, 1832, when they located at Peach Point Plantation⁹⁸ in Brazoria County. In March, 1836, Bryan was boarding with Josiah H. Bell⁹⁹ to attend a school taught by Thomas J. Pilgrim¹⁰⁰ when he was selected as courier to carry the William B. Travis¹⁰¹ letter written at the Alamo from Bell's Landing to Brazoria and Velasco. Bryan accompanied his mother on the Runaway Scrape¹⁰² and after her return home visited the battlefield at San Jacinto and enlisted in the Texas Army as orderly for Alexander Somervell.¹⁰³ Bryan attended school at Chocolate Bayou in 1836 and 1837 and in May, 1837, entered Kenyon College, where he graduated in 1841. He returned to Texas and studied law in the Brazoria law office of William H. Jack¹⁰⁴ until failing eyesight ended his law studies. Soon after the outbreak of the Mexican War, Bryan enlisted in a Brazoria volunteer company and was in service under John C. (Jack) Hays¹⁰⁵ east of the Rio Grande until he had to return home with his brother, Stephen S. Perry, who had become ill.

In 1847 Bryan was elected to the Texas Legislature and served six years in the House (1847-1853) and four years in the Senate (1853-1857). In October, 1858, he married Laura H. Jack, daughter of William H. Jack who accompanied him to Washington, D.C., where he represented the Western District of Texas in the Thirty-fifth Congress, 1857-1859. His testimony before the House probably caused the collapse of the impeachment case against John C. Watrous.¹⁰⁶

Bryan moved to Galveston in 1860 and operated ranches in Galveston and Brazoria counties. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1860 and as chairman and spokesman for the delegation led in the split from the convention.

A leader in the movement for secession, Bryan associated himself with O. M. Roberts, George M. Flournoy, John Marshall, and W. S. Oldham¹⁰⁷ in calling for the election of delegates to the Secession Convention.¹⁰⁸ During the war, early in 1862, Jefferson Davis sent Bryan to visit the governors of the Trans-Mississippi Department to reconcile the clash between civil and military authorities. When Bryan requested active field duty in May, 1863, General Edmund Kirby Smith¹⁰⁹ made him confidential adjutant general. Later Bryan helped organize the Texas Cotton Bureau. He was offered a place on Davis' staff and was later appointed by Pendleton Murrah¹¹⁰ as Texas representative at the headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

After the war Bryan lived at Galveston except for a time spent in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1873, 1879, and 1887, serving as speaker of the Fourteenth Legislature in 1874. In May, 1873, he was a charter member of the Texas Veterans' Association¹¹¹ and was president of the organization from 1892 until his death. He was also a charter member and vice-president of the Texas State Historical Association.¹¹² He moved to Austin in 1898 and died there on June 4, 1901. He was buried in the State Cemetery.¹¹³

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Guy M. Bryan Papers (MS., Archives Collection, University of Texas Library); Fannie B. Sholars, *Life and Services of Guy M. Bryan* (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1930); George P. Garrison, "Guy Morrison Bryan," *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, V (1901-1902); E. W. Winkler (ed.), "Bryan-Hays Correspondence," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, XXV-XXXI (1921-1928).

Bryan, John Neely. John Neely Bryan, founder of Dallas, was born at Fayetteville, Tennessee, on December 24, 1810, son of James and Elizabeth (Neely) Bryan. After some years of varied experience as farmer, lawyer, and Indian trader, he set out with a Cherokee¹¹⁴ companion in 1839 or 1840 to explore the Caddo¹¹⁵ lands to the south and west. Deciding to settle in Texas, in 1841 he built a cabin on the east bank of the Trinity River in what became Dallas. Soon a few other settlers joined him; and on February 26, 1843, Bryan married the daughter of one of these, Margaret Beeman. In this period Bryan dressed in a buckskin suit, broke his land with a plow made of a bois d'arc fork, and crossed the river in a cottonwood dugout. The family lived mainly on game and corn. As more settlers came, Bryan took up cattle raising, practiced as a lawyer, operated a ferry, and helped scout Indians. For years he gave a lot to every newly wed couple in the village. His home served as the first post office and the first courtroom in Dallas. In 1849 he joined the gold rush to California but returned soon. In 1855 he shot and wounded an intoxicated man who had affronted his wife and, mistakenly thinking the man dead, fled on horseback to the Creek Nation north of Fort Arbuckle. From there he drifted to Colorado and California, where he worked in the mines. On his return to Dallas in 1861, he enlisted in a Confederate cavalry regiment but was discharged in the next year because of his age. Following the Civil War he served as a Dallas alderman and was a leader in movements to return rights to the states and to promote railway construction. He died in Austin on September 14, 1877.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: John Henry Brown, *History of Dallas County* (1887); Philip Lindsley, *A History of Greater Dallas and Vicinity* (1909); Lucy C. Trent, *John Neely Bryan*, I (1936); Frank M. Cockrell, *History of Early Dallas* (1944).

Wayne Gard

Bryan, Lewis Randolph. Lewis Randolph Bryan, son of Cora (Lewis) and Moses Austin Bryan,¹¹⁶ was born in Brazoria County, Texas, on October 2, 1858. He graduated from Baylor University¹¹⁷ in 1877, took a law degree in 1880, was admitted to the bar on April 9, 1880, and established his practice in Houston. He became president of the Texas Bar Association on July 3, 1902, and was president of the Houston Bar Association in 1911. Bryan married Martha J. Shepard on October 15, 1891; they had three children. Austin College¹¹⁸ conferred the LL.D. degree on him in 1925. Bryan died on February 11, 1938.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Who Was Who in America* (1943); *Houston Post*, February 12, 1938.

Bryan, Moses Austin. Moses Austin Bryan, son of James and Emily (Austin) Bryan, was born in Herculaneum, Sainte Genevieve County, Missouri, on September 25, 1817. After the death of James Bryan, Mrs. Bryan, sister of Stephen F. Austin, married James F. Perry,¹¹⁹ and the family moved to Texas in 1831. Bryan was employed for a time in the store which belonged to W. W. Hunter and Stephen F. Austin and then went to Saltillo, Mexico, as Austin's secretary. In 1835 Bryan

ADDRESS

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS.

The situation of the State of Texas, in the present unhappy exigencies that press on the country, is different from that of her Southern sisters. The perpetration of a wanton and gross outrage by a strictly Northern sectional vote—insulting as it is to the honor and menacing as it is to the welfare of the slaveholding States—demands of them all alike, a stern and prompt resistance. Recognizing this fact, and sympathizing with the people of the South, the Governors of nearly all of the Southern States, have convened their Legislatures, where a call was necessary to assemble them, and given to their people the use of their regular and lawful means of expressing their sense of the importance of the emergency, and of consulting as to the mode of meeting it. Gov. Houston's studied silence in this juncture, not only deprives us of our right to use the machinery of the State Government, for the public safety and defence, but it also subjects the people of Texas to the suspicion abroad of culpable indifference to their rights, if not a complicity with her enemies. The spontaneous indignation against Lincoln's election in so many counties of the State, is a sufficient vindication of our citizens from such a charge at home; but the immediate assembling of the Legislature, under the call of the Governor, would have refuted our enemies in the North, and encouraged our friends in our sister States of the South. When this exigency and its results, whether for good or evil fortune to the State, shall have passed, and its history comes to be written, it will be found difficult, if not impossible, to account for the course of Gov. Houston, as a friend of

the South. Patriotism and loyalty to Texas could not have suggested it, and we are painfully driven to the conclusion that he is despotically refusing to call the Legislature to express the public indignation and protect the State; and endeavoring to divest that indignation from himself, and tire out the people by a pretended preference for a Southern Convention, which he well knows will be most promptly attained through the agency of the Legislatures of their States.

Forced then as we are, to the conclusion, that the Governor will not call the Legislature together, and that the spontaneous effort of the people, in virtue of their own sovereignty, needs some acceptable means, for giving expression and effect to their will, we, the people of Galveston County, hereby express our preference for the plan suggested by our sister County of Harris, and recommend it for adoption by all the Counties in the State. This plan, as set forth by the following resolutions, appears to be as free from objection as any that can be devised; has the merit of being substantially the same with the one presented by some of the distinguished citizens of Travis county; and is preferable to the other projects which have been suggested, in as much as it alone, clearly defines the purposes and powers of the contemplated Convention, and provides that the result of its actions shall be submitted to the people for ratification.

Deeply impressed, therefore, by the necessity of some uniform plan of action being adopted by the people of the whole State, as speedily as possible, we urgently appeal

to them to join with us in electing delegates to a Convention, at the time and in the mode recommended by the good people of Harris county.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That a Convention of the People of Texas is expedient and necessary, to consult upon and devise the best mode, and the measure of resistance; and to procure the sanction of the sovereign State of Texas thereto.

Resolved, That the following plan for the election of Delegates to a Convention, be adopted for Galveston County, and recommended to our sister counties, unless a different plan and time for election be proclaimed by the Governor or Legislature, viz:

1st. That the Convention be held at the city of Austin, on the 4th Monday of January, A. D. 1861.

2d. That each Representative District established by the apportionment act of 1860 elect double the number of delegates that it is entitled to elect Representatives to the Legislature under said act.

3d. That the officers specified in said act, for ordering and receiving returns of elections, (or if they refuse or fail, then any Chief Justice or County Commissioner of the District) be requested to order the election, to be held on the 8th day of January, 1861, and to receive the returns and give certificates of election, as prescribed in the act regulating elections for Representatives; and that in any District which may not be able to elect its delegates at the time named, said officers be requested to order and hold an election on a more convenient day.

Resolved, That James P. Cole, the Chief Justice of Galveston County, be and is hereby requested to order an election of Delegates to represent this District in the proposed Convention, in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions.

By order of the Committee of Safety and Correspondence.

GUY M. BRYAN,

Corresponding Secretary.

THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT CLARK TEX APR. Post Office established August 8, 1861 in Kinney County. Discontinued May 5, 1873. The fort was established June 20, 1852, located at the present town of Bracketville. It was occupied by the Confederates in 1861 and reoccupied by the Union troops in 1866. Finally abandoned by the military in 1947.

CAMP HUDSON TEXAS March 19th 1860 Post Office was established August 8, 1857 in Kinney County. Discontinued November 5, 1866. The fort was established June 7, 1857. Located near the town of Del Rio on the San Antonio-El Paso road. Abandoned April 12, 1868.

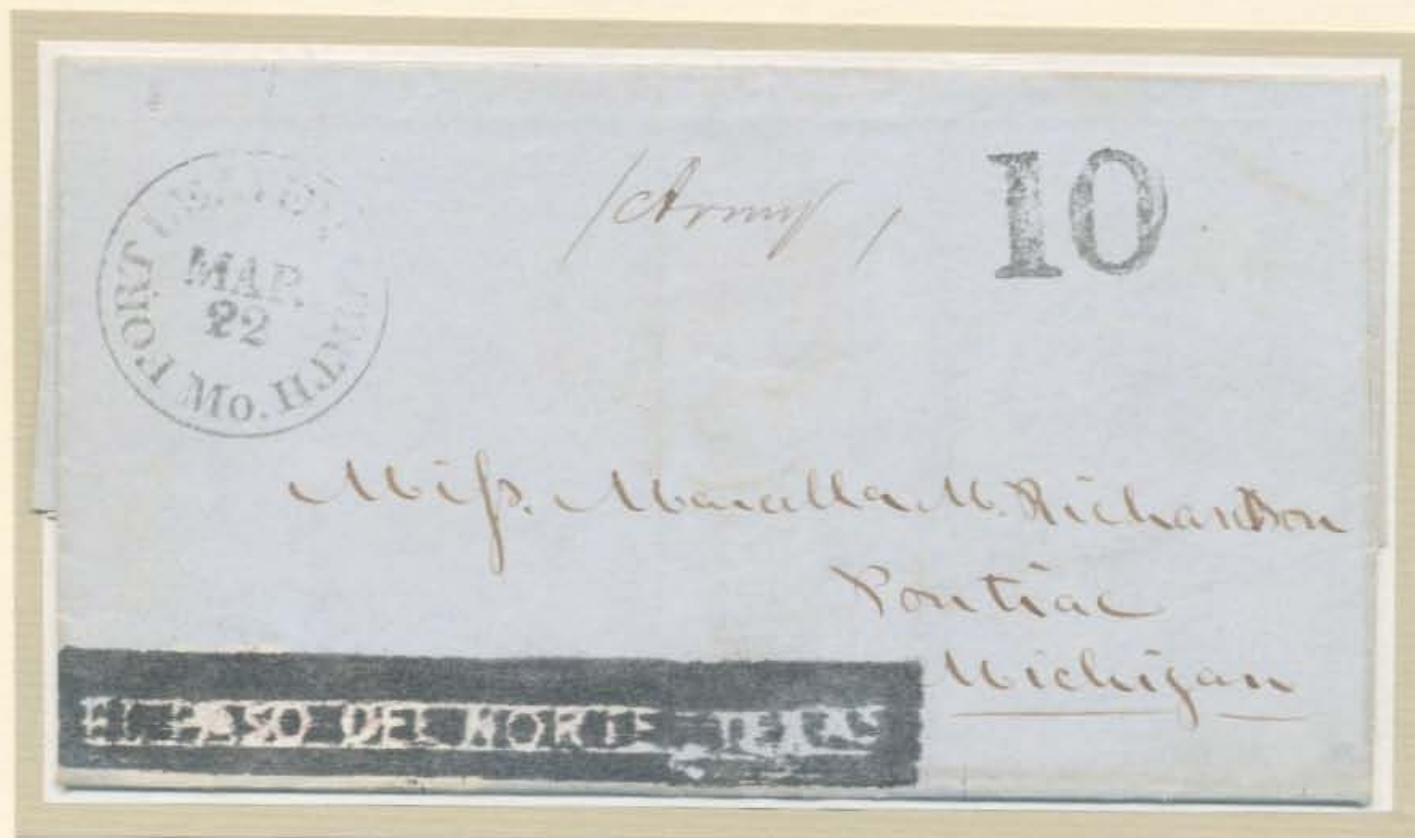


THE WESTERN MAILS

POST AT EL PASO DEL NORTE

TEXAS

The Post at El Paso was established on February 11, 1848, and garrisoned by about 200 regulars until they were moved to Fort Fillmore, New Mexico Territory, in August, 1851. On March 8, 1854, the Post was re-established and renamed Fort Bliss.



A fascinating letter dated January 1, 1850, from Captain I. B. Richardson, 3^d Cavalry (later a Major General). He tells of an expedition under his command to the copper mines near the Gila River against the Comanche Indians, which consisted of 30 dragoons, 20 infantrymen, 5 howitzers, and a party of 30 Mexican Lancers from the force in El Paso. A remarkable example of international coöperation so soon after the Mexican War.

The letter was probably carried by military courier to Fort Leavenworth. At that post it entered the mails with the townmark FORT LEAVENWORTH/MAR/22/MO.

The cover bears a bogus marking - EL PASO DEL NORTE TEXAS - put on by someone who wanted to enhance its value and interest.

San Antonio
Feb 11 - 59

Fort Mason Texas

February 7th 1859

Dear Lydia

Here they come, thicker and faster.
"Heaps upon Heaps with thee" - pen of steel" I have
written you two letters, with out an answer, in two
days. well you must excuse me for piling on
the agony quite so thick. there is no controlling
the passions of the young and inexperienced heart;
oh! - if I could not find some outlet for my feelings
my gentle heart would pine in sorrow like the
mild and tender dove in its cruel cage - oh!

seem
answer
please
tempor
whilst
Head
to me
broken
emanc



Miss Lydia A. Pierce
Johnston
N. J.

miles north of this Post. for other operations
against the indians in the coming summer.
I am going to Fort Clark, where I hope to remain
some time, as it is considered one of the most

Lycia I know I have no right to send this letter until I have received an answer to my last. but trusting to your kind disposition I here write and shall probably send it. if it is not received as friendly as I intend it. I can only say I am sorry and most humbly beg your pardon. Please never show my letters. for you might not only cause me to feel very badly. but lose me some of my best friends. for I feel like writing to you just as I would talk. for I am positive that noone that writes such good letters as you do, could possibly take any advantage of what might be said in jest.

I tell you sincerely I am a little afraid to send this letter and if you do not answer it soon I shall certainly think you are offended.

A me parece que te amo pero todavia no puedo decirlo.

There are lots of pretty señoritas at Fort Clark such pretty hands and large liquid black eyes you seldom see in the states, when one of them turns those eyes on me and tells me a few pretty things in Spanish I immediately surrender and remain captive as long as possible. I wish I were with you to night I would tell you many a tale of the dangers of the sea.

Good night? Many blessings attend you
don't be angry
Your Valentine

THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT INGE, TEXAS. The post was established Mar. 13, 1849 on the Leon River near UVALDE, TEXAS, at the point where the San Antonio-El Paso road branched off for Eagle Pass. It was occupied by the Confederates during the Civil War and reoccupied by Federal troops in 1866. The post office was established in 1853. The name was changed to UVALDE in 1857 although the fort was not abandoned until Feb. 28, 1869. The cover above was postmarked at "Fort Inge Tex/ June 23/54". Cover below at "UVALDE TEX OCT. 6 [1859] Uvalde was a stage station on the San Antonio-San Diego mail route which was commonly know as the "Jackass Mail"



THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS. Post Office established as CAMP STOCKTON in Bexar County - later to Pecos County - May 19, 1859, Changed to FORT STOCKTON January 14, 1879. The fort was established March 23, 1859 at the present town of Fort Stockton, Abandoned by the military on June 30, 1886.



THE WESTERN MAILS



CAMP RICE - FORT HANCOCK TEXAS

This post was established as **CAMP RICE** on June 9, 1882, on the Rio Grande River in El Paso County. It was abandoned by the military on June 12, 1895. The Post Office was established as Camp Rice on April 15, 1884 and changed to **FORT HANCOCK** on May 26, 1886. It is now the town of Fort Hancock and still operating under that name.



THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT GRIFFIN, TEXAS. The post was established July 31, 1867, near the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, in Shackelford County. It was abandoned by the military May 31, 1881. The Post Office was established Mar. 17, 1867 and finally discontinued October 23, 1943.

FORT ELLIOTT, TEXAS. This post was established on February 3, 1875. It is located near the present town of Mobeetie close to the headwaters of Sweetwater Creek in Wheeler County. It was abandoned by the military on October 1, 1890. The Post Office was established on January 16, 1878 and discontinued April 19, 1880. Cover below was used July 13, 1878. Only 3 covers reported from this fort.



THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT MCKAVETT was established March 14, 1852 on the San Saba River in Menard county, Texas. The post office was established at the post in 1854. Abandoned on March 22, 1859 and occupied by Confederate troops during the Civil War. Reoccupied by Federal troops on April 1, 1868. It was rebuilt by Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie and then abandoned June 30, 1883. Post Office operates today as the town of Fort McKavett. Cover bears the 3 cent stamp of the 1869 issue, postmarked by the type I handstamp - Mar 15 - no year date - 1870's.

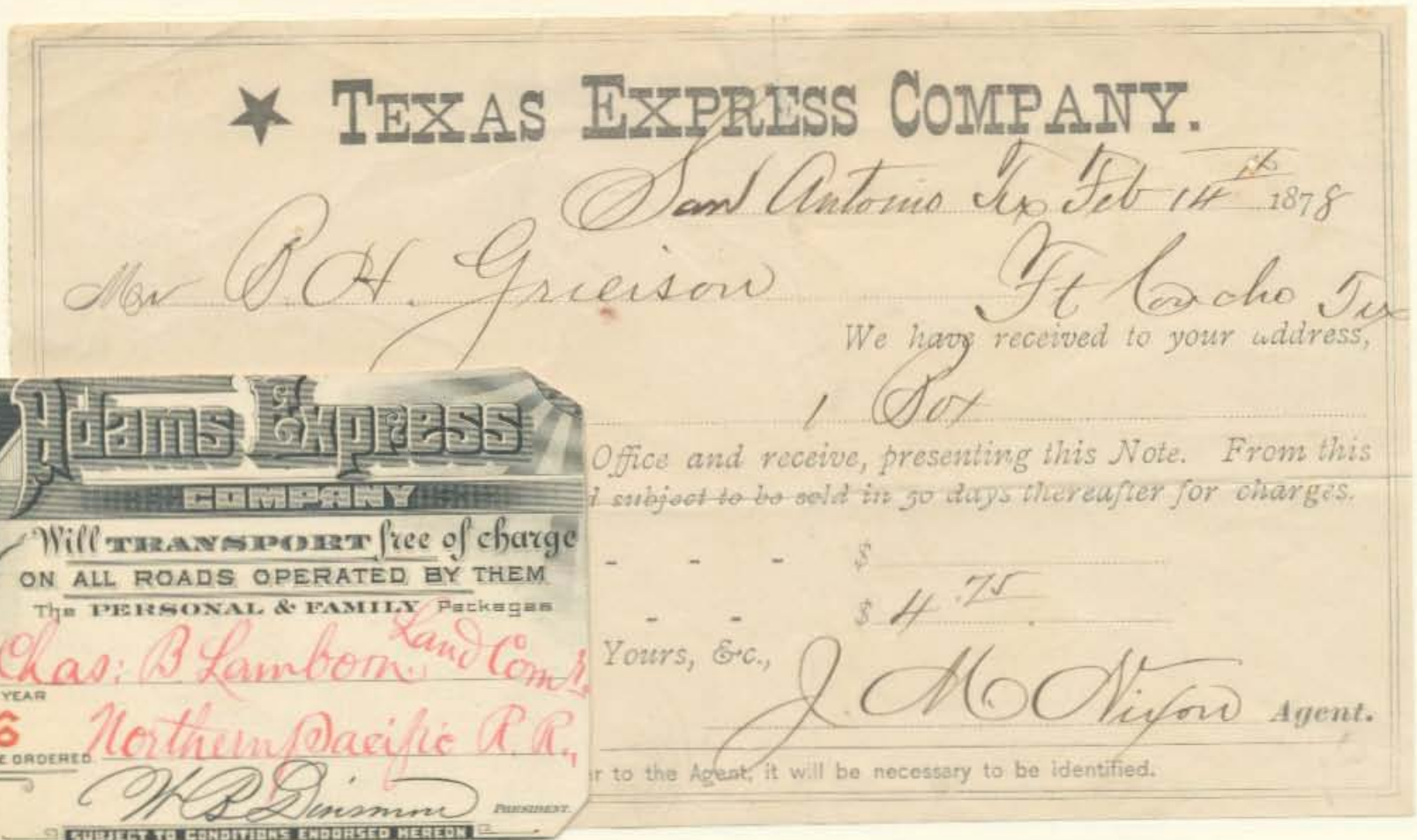
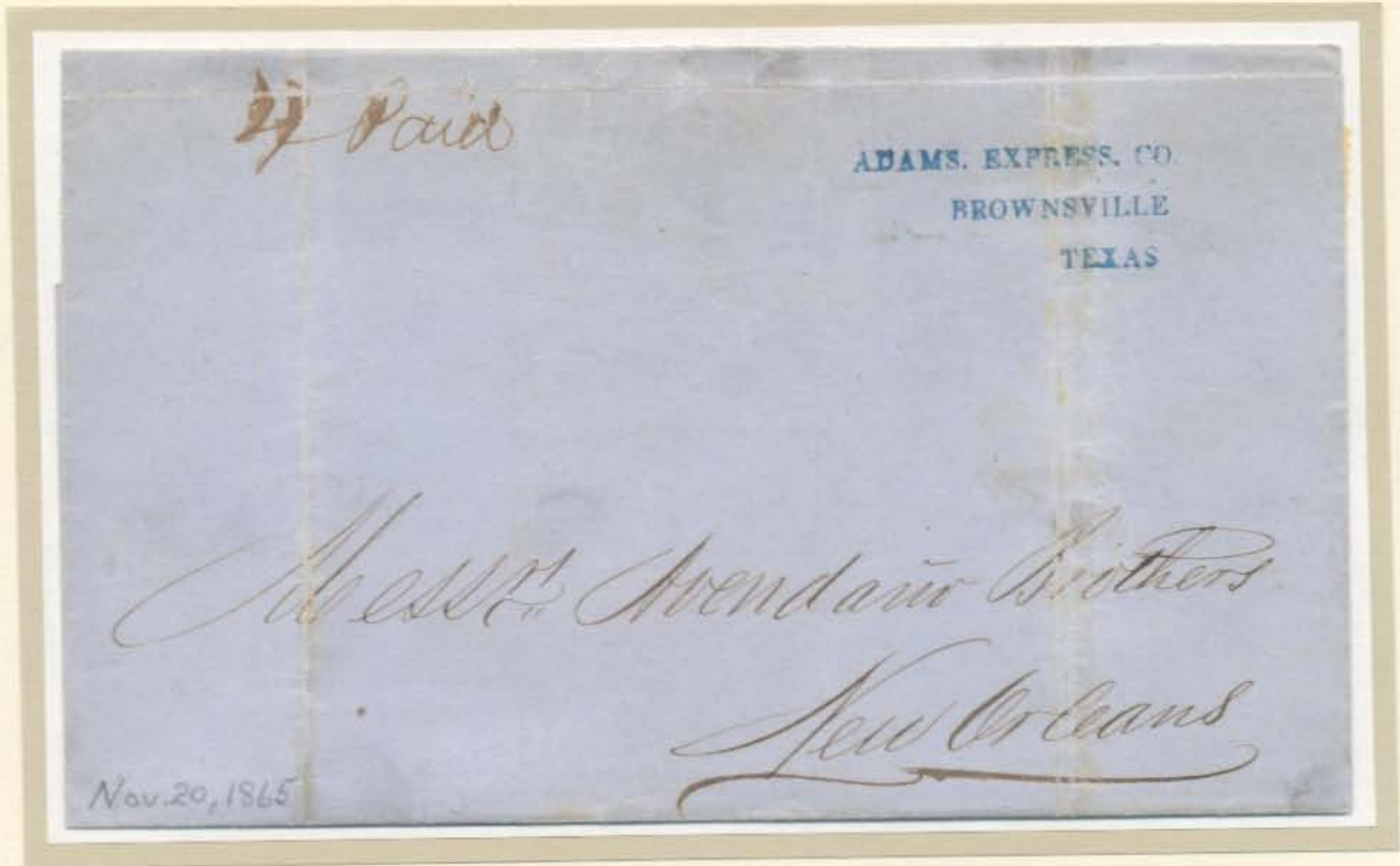
THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT DAVIS, TEXAS

The cover above was carried by WELLS, FARGO & CO. from San Antonio, Texas to FORT DAVIS in October 1887.

THE WESTERN MAILS



ADAMS EXPRESS CO./BROWNSVILLE/TEXAS [NOV. 20, 1865. This was the original express that Alvin Adams started in 1840, operating in the eastern states. Not to be confused with Adams & Co's California express, which failed and went out of business 1855. Following the Civil War Adams expanded into the Trans-Mississippi West. The cover above originated at Matamours, Mexico.

TEXAS EXPRESS COMPANY was owned by the SOUTHERN EXPRESS CO. and operated in Texas. The B/L is fot 1 box delivered to Maj. Genl. Benjamin Henry Grierson, commanding the 10th U.S. Cavalry, which was stationed at Fort Concho, Texas in 1878.

W. M. & C. W. P.

\$100

Adams & Co.



EXPRESS AND BANKING OFFICE

No 100

San Francisco

Nov 20 1852

PAID BY THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. G. B. ... has deposited with us ... payable at our Office in San Francisco on return of this ... appropriate property returned and ... unpaid ... Adams & Co.

PAGE & BACON, ST. LOUIS, MO.

SECOND



Page, Bacon & Co.

EXCHANGE & BANKING HOUSES

San Francisco

Dep 30 1852

\$1000



No 19506

Exchange for ... of Exchange (first unpaid) pay to the order of ... Adams & Co. ... American Ex. Bank ... New York

RECEIVED

Page & Bacon