

Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

The Official Publication of the Texas Philatelic Association

Volume 71, No. 1 February, 2023



Galveston and the surrounding district was a major hub of military activity during World War II, hosting units from the Army, Navy and Coast Guard, along with many prisoners of war. This letter was one of the many sent from the area. John Germann tells us more, starting on page 12.



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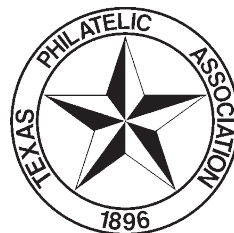
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Published four times a year by the Texas Philatelic Association Foundation, Inc. (also known as the "Texas Philatelic Association") and included with membership. The TPAF is APS Chapter #0632-49588.

Annual membership subscription for United States residents is \$18 (outside USA, cost dependent on place of residency) available by writing to the Secretary.

All non-membership-related correspondence (articles for publication, advertising inquiries, etc.) should be addressed to the Editor.

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February 2023
Volume 71, Number 1.



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Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

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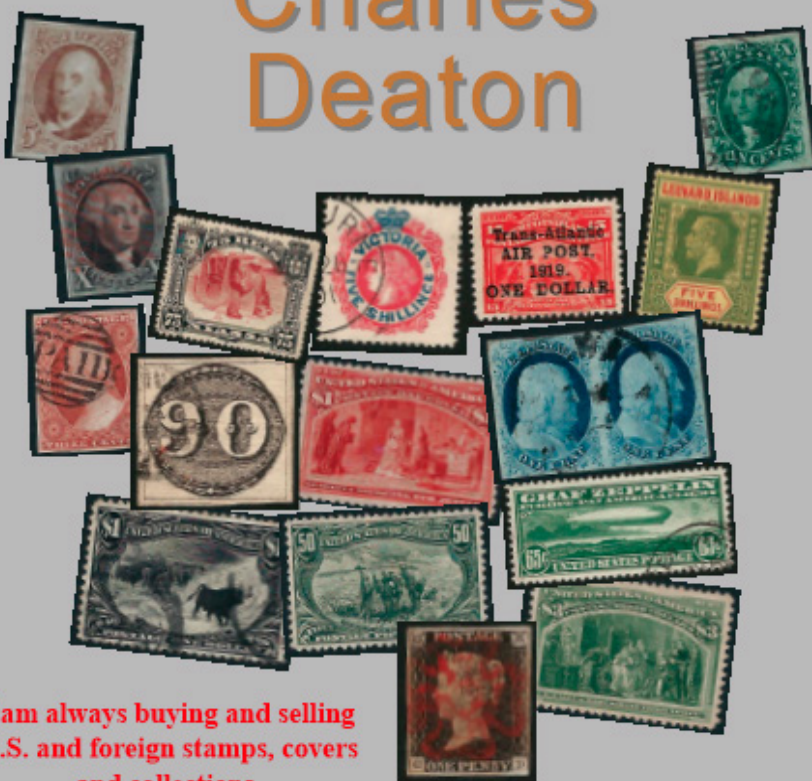


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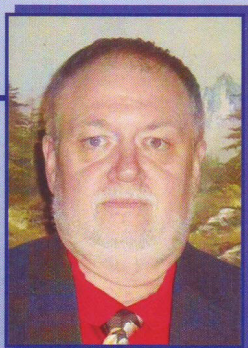
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President's Message

Jonathan Topper

I have exciting news for all of our members that are interested in our state's rich history, as well as Texas Postal History specifically.

The archives from the famous Moody Family are being transferred to the Rosenberg Library in Galveston for research and eventually to be open to the public. The Moody family was a major player in the historical and financial development of Galveston, and the archives contain thousands of letters, covers and memorabilia related to the era from the 1840s to the 1970s.

Most of you will recognize the Moody name as the residence is now called the "Moody Mansion" open to the public as a museum, and the Moody Gardens is a popular tourist destination on the island.

I had the privilege of appraising the collection and can report that it will be a treasure trove of new historical information about Texas. It includes documents regarding slavery from before the Civil War, covers to/from the Moody family involving business and recording historical events (including the example cover from Galveston to Monterrey, Mexico in 1892, shown below), as well as correspondence from important political figures of the time.



More information on these important archives will be included in the next TPA Journal.

Jonathan



Editor's Notes

Robert Conley

Greetings! This first edition of 2023 is, for a nice change, pretty much on-time. Not only that, it is fatter than usual. And it would seem that one's pleas for more stories have finally been heeded – not only has our cornerstone author, **John Germann** come through yet again, but we also see the return of **Ardy Callender** and welcome **Lisa Nicks**. Our esteemed president, **Jonathan Topper** has also rejoined the fray.

Ardy has been extremely busy of late, working to publish his own book, but he's found time to throw in a little story about a cover from itty-bitty Kyle, Texas that eventually made its way to Adelaide, South Australia, of all places. Your editor has been to the latter but one suspects that most readers have been to neither – or perhaps haven't even heard of them! In any case, with some luck, maybe Ardy will return with more soon, now that his book is about to hit the presses.

Old post office canceling devices aren't all that common, but our "JT" has found three of them from the one post office! Flick over to page 10 for that little story.

Most readers have probably visited Galveston once or twice, but your editor's only knowledge is by courtesy of the late, great singer, **Glen Campbell**. No matter, "JG" educates us all with his epic story of Galveston's importance to the war effort, back in the 1940s. The second half of his saga will be seen in the May issue.

Our fourth and final article is from Lisa, who attended a "LOVE" Forever stamp First Day Ceremony in Austin recently. Seems that there were some interesting people and activities there, and we are fortunate that Lisa has also provided several photographs. Looks like it was a dog day afternoon for all involved.

We then have the legendary **Vince King**, who reveals he is related to someone semi-famous, and then he showcases some Texan items recently sold at auction. Look for that on page 22.

Wrapping things up, a busy **Greg Cain** kindly shares a colorful Chapters in Action, and the usual Membership Report.

That's all we have time for right now. Don't forget to support all our terrific advertisers. Until next time, stay safe, stay well.

Robert



An Early Cover from Kyle, Texas to Adelaide, South Australia

By Ardy Callender

Early covers from small Texas towns posted to one of the Australian Colonies are something not frequently encountered. One such cover is shown here as Figure 1. Dated May 21, 1883, the cover was addressed to S.B. Labatt, Esq., Insurance Chambers, 96 King William Street, Adelaide, South Australia. It is docketed "via San Francisco" at upper left and is franked with two single 3¢ 1881-1885 American Bank Note Issue adhesives. Each stamp is struck "socked on the nose" by a black 4 ring target, the type cancellation 4th class post offices commonly employed during this time. The date stamp is well struck towards the center of the cover and an Adelaide receiving mark dated July 13, 1883 was applied upside down at lower left. The back flap is missing.



FIGURE 1.

As the Australian Colonies did not join the UPU until August 1891, two routes were available for sending this 1883 letter; British Mail, via Brindisi, at 15¢ per ½oz. or American Packet, via San Francisco, at 5¢ per ½oz. At that time, there were frequent regular sailings from New York City for British Mail, while far fewer were possible from San Francisco. The British route offered more expedited service, but was three times the cost. Although the sender of this letter chose the slower, less expensive route, the postage was overpaid by a penny; perhaps a 5¢ stamp was unavailable at the local Kyle Post Office.

The cover arrived at the San Francisco Post Office on June 1, 1883 (receiving mark on reverse). There, the letter apparently languished for 11 days, as the next likely steamship destined for Honolulu and Sydney, the *City of New York* did not sail until June 11, 1883 (Figure 2). However, the *City of New York* had been advertised, as early as May 21, 1883 in the *San Francisco Examiner*, as intending to sail on June 2, 1883 (see Figure 3). Could the sender have been expecting earlier date of departure?

Arrived.

Stmr Alex Duncan, Nicolson, 28 hrs fm West-port; lumber, etc, to L E White.
 Stmr Oregon, Poemann, 57 hrs fm Portland, via Astoria 46 hrs; pass and mdse to O R & N Co.
 Stmr Yaquina, Von Helms, 48 hrs fm Shelter Cove, etc; pass and mdse to Goodall, Perkins & Co.
 Stmr City of Chester, Wallace, 24 hrs fm Eureka; pass and mdse to Goodall, Perkins & Co.
 Br ship City of Hankow, Muir, 57 ds fm Sydney; 1730 tons coal to Balfour, Guthrie & Co.
 Schr W S Phelps, Nelson, 4 ds fm Mendocino; 125 M ft lumber to M L Co.

Sailed.

Stmr City of New York, Cobb, Honolulu and Sydney.
 Bark Vidette, Boyd, Port Madison.
 Stmr Orizaba, Johnson, San Diego.
 Bktn Makah, Thompson, Port Discovery.
 Brig J D Spreckels, Friis, Kahului.
 Schr Pet, Hey, Fisk's Mills.
 Schr Ivy, Gillis, Humboldt.
 Schr Lizzie Madison, Hansen, Cuffey's Cove.
 Schr Garcia, Gerdan, Point Arena.
 Schr Barbara, Johansen, Whitesboro.

FIGURE 2.

Pacific Mail Steamship Co.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL SAIL
 as follows:

FOR HONGKONG AND YOKOHAMA.
 Stmr City of Tokio.....May 31st
 At 2 o'clock P. M.
 Excursion tickets to Yokohama and return at reduced rates
 For NEW YORK, via Panama.
 Steamer Collima.....June 1st
 At 10 o'clock A. M.,
 Taking freight and passengers for MAZATLAN, ACAPULCO, CHAMPERICO, SAN JOSE DE GUATEMALA, ACAJUTLA, LA LIBERTAD and PUNTA ARENAS.
 Tickets to and from Europe by any line for sale at the lowest rates. Also for Havana and all West India ports.
 For HONOLULU, AUCKLAND and SYDNEY.
CITY OF NEW YORK.....June 2d
 AT 2 O'CLOCK P. M.,
 Or immediately on arrival of the London mail.
 \$10 additional is charged for Upper Cabin passage.
 For freight or passage apply at the office, corner First and Brannan streets.
WILLIAMS, DIMOND & CO., Gen. Agents.

FIGURE 3.

The addressee, Samuel Bell Labatt (1858-1944), was born and raised in Adelaide and worked as a solicitor (lawyer), often working with the South Australia Supreme Court. His offices were located at the Insurance Chambers, 96 King William Street, where as late as 1913, he still maintained his offices. In Australia, the term "chambers" referred to larger commercial buildings including the offices inside. The Insurance Chambers (Figure 4) was built in 1871, providing office space for merchants, land agents, solicitors, the Kadina and Wallaroo Railway Co. and, in 1879, the Australian Insurance Co. It is assumed the Kyle letter involved some type of legal matter.

As early as 1847, small agrarian communities existed in the lands surrounding Kyle. Nance's Mill, formed by Ezekiel Nance in 1850 on the Blanco River, was just three miles west of what was to become the city of Kyle. Over the next thirty years, the Nance community grew as a schoolhouse and church were built and Ezekiel Nance constructed and operated a series of cotton gins, saw and grist mills. However, when the settlement was bypassed by the railroad in the early 1880's, its population declined as residents moved closer to the new burgeoning town of Kyle, along the tracks of the International & Great Northern Railroad (I&GN).



FIGURE 4.

The I&GN Railroad Company (Figure 5) was formed on September 30, 1873 and began laying tracks in Texas shortly thereafter. Central Texas was an essential part of its expansion plans, providing the area access to both the beef and cotton markets. Thus, a line between Austin and San Antonio became one of the most crucial sections. I&GN steam engines required frequent water stops along the route and therefore the Company became interested in the Kyle area and the nearby Blanco River. Construction of the new line began in Austin during early 1880s and reached San Antonio by early 1881.

FIGURE 5.

Jay Gould, the owner and financier of the I&GN Railroad, proposed building a new town along the route on land owned by the David Moore and Fergus Kyle families. After negotiations with the families, the railroad acquired 200 acres of land sometime in early 1880. The land acquired by the I&GN was deeded to the Texas Land Company (for \$2000) except the track right of way and depot site which was retained by the I&GN. During the late summer, as the tracks passed through Kyle, an auction for town lots was held on October 14, 1880. The Company provided free rides to the auction. The auction was held under a twin trunked oak tree which later became known as the “Kyle Auction Oak” (Figure 6).



FIGURE 6.

Kyle was officially established on July 24, 1880 although development had started earlier. It was named for Fergus Kyle, the landowner who sold the majority of the land to the railroad. Judge David Moore, the other landowner, was the father of Fergus's wife, Anna Elizabeth Moore. Fergus (1834-1906) was born in Mississippi but moved to Texas in 1844. He served in the Civil War, receiving the rank of Captain after the Battle of Shiloh. After the war, he returned to Hays County to begin farming and raising cattle. He served in the Texas Legislature, becoming its oldest member before he died in 1906. Fergus and Anna had nine children, one of which was named Edwin Jackson Kyle. Edwin is probably of most interest to all you Aggies out there as Kyle Field was named after him.

Kyle's first postmaster was Nicholas C. Schlemmer who filed his application in late 1879. At the time, Kyle had a population of about seventy-five. The post office officially opened on January 5, 1880. By 1882, the population had grown to just over 500. Kyle had installed its third postmaster at the time of the letter was posted to the Great Southern Land. Without the contents, one can only wonder what the common thread was between Kyle and Adelaide.

Endnotes:

Wawrukiewicz, Anthony, S., and Beecher, Henry, W. *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996* (Portland, Oregon: Cama Publishing Co., 1996) Chapter 2., p. 11.

Greene, Daniel, P, "Nance's Mill, Tx." Texas State Historical Association, <http://tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/nances-mill-tx>.
 "The Historic Kyle Railroad Depot, A Train Stop that Built a Prairie Town" Hays County Historical Commission, <http://hayhistoricalcommission/kyle-railroad-depot.html>.

The National Archives: *United States Post Office Department: Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-September 30, 1871*.

The San Francisco Examiner, June 11, 1883, p4

The San Francisco Examiner, May 21, 1883, p4



Three Duplex Cancelling Devices from Livingston, Texas

By Jonathan Topper

Three duplex cancellers were recently discovered from the old Livingston Post Office. These items are relatively scarce as most postmasters destroyed the old cancelling devices when new ones were put into use.

Livingston is about 75 miles northeast of Houston, and is the county seat of Polk County, with a population of just over 5,500 people.

The cancellers are about 4.25 inches tall with hard wood handles and the duplex canceller itself made of metal. Each of the devices weigh between 6.5 to 7.5 ounces each (nearly a half-pound!).





The circular date stamps (CDS's) read "LIVINGSTON, TEX." However, the time and date field and the duplex obliterator in each canceller reads differently.

The cancellers were very worn down around the letters and the rims, especially the first example, such that clear impressions were impossible to obtain. Perhaps that is why they were taken out of use.

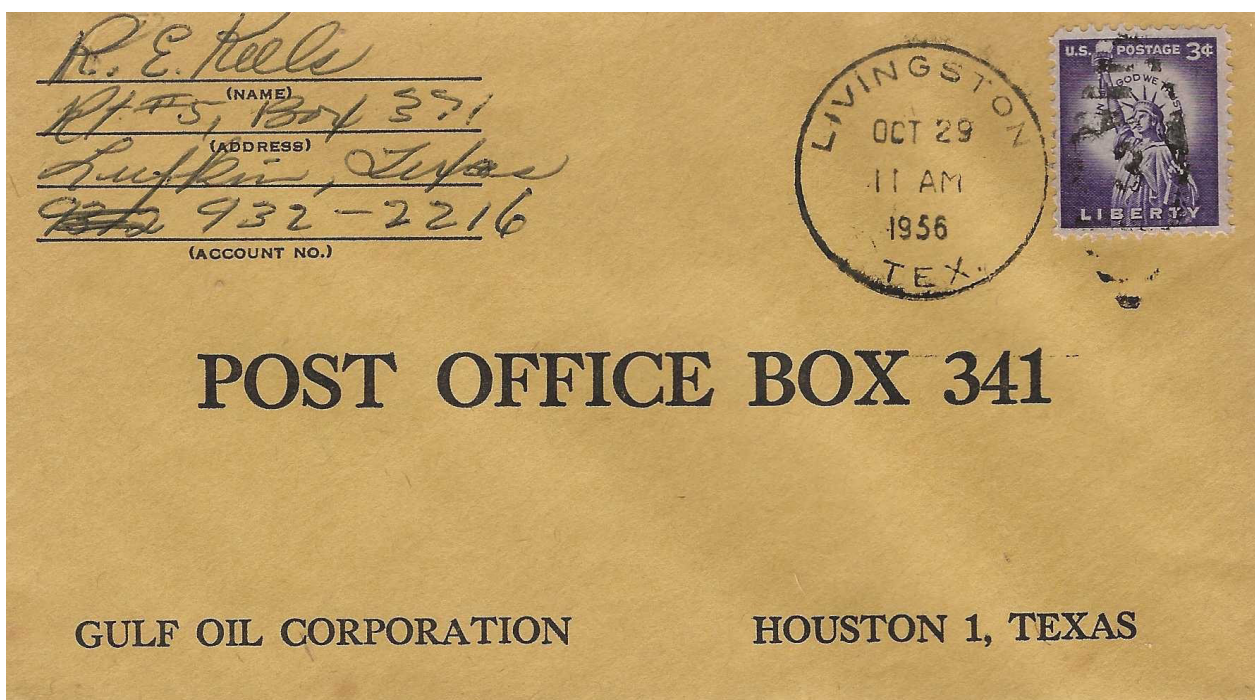
The first circular date stamp is 22 mm and reads "JAN 19" with no year date or time in the top slot. The canceller is the typical ellipse shape with one ring and a '2' in the center.

The second circular date stamp is 30 mm and reads "OCT 22/6 PM/1958" with the first line upside down. The canceller is a barred ellipse with an open '3' in the middle.

The last example is also 30 mm and reads "PM/DEC 24/1966" with a simple ellipse style and '1' in the middle, no circle.

The different numbers in the ellipses possibly refer to the different clerks at the post office handling mail, or to the different shifts during the day.

The time and date fields in the middle of the CDS's are in slots that were meant to be interchanged. However, these are stuck in place – perhaps a special tool is needed to remove and insert new fields in the middle of the circular date stamps.



The cover shown above displays the middle obliterator used on a commercial cover, dated October 29, 1956 from Livingston to the Gulf Oil Corporation in Houston. (Cover image courtesy of John Germann)



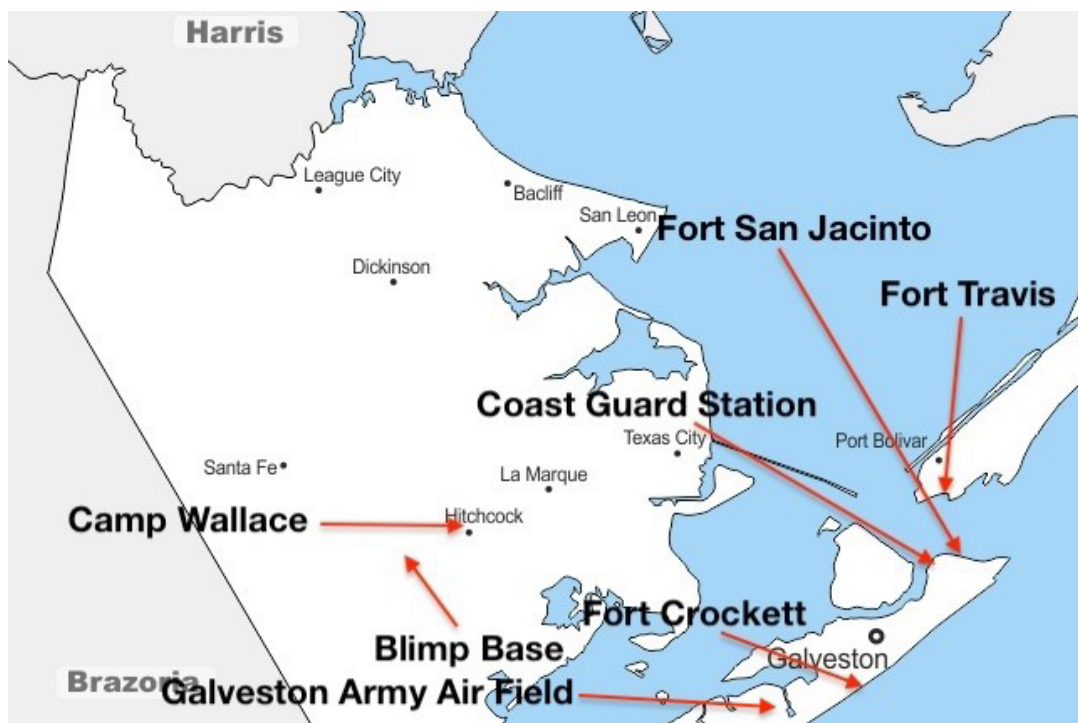
"FORTRESS GALVESTON" - WORLD WAR II

BY JOHN J. GERMANN

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, THE WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO WAS HARDLY THE CENTER OF ATTENTION FOR THE UNION NAVY. BUT MUCH OF THE ATTENTION THAT THE REGION DID RECEIVE WAS FOCUSED ON GALVESTON, TEXAS— THEN THE STATE'S NUMBER ONE PORT AND SECOND LARGEST CITY. A UNION BLOCKADE SOUGHT TO SEAL OFF THE PORT FOR MOST OF THE WAR YEARS, AND SEVERAL BATTLES WERE FOUGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE CITY ITSELF.

FAST FORWARD 80 YEARS TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR. ONCE AGAIN, THE ENEMY NAVY HAD MORE IMPORTANT AREAS ON ITS MIND THAN THE WESTERN GULF, BUT GALVESTON WAS VERY MUCH ON GERMANY'S MIND— THIS TIME DUE TO THE OIL TRADE RATHER THAN COTTON. BUT IT WAS NO LONGER GALVESTON PROPER WHICH WAS THE PRIME TARGET; NOW IT WAS HOUSTON, 40 MILES INLAND FROM GALVESTON, WHICH HAD MUSHROOMED INTO THE STATE'S LEADING PORT AND MOST POPULOUS CITY. AND THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, WHICH WAS THE LIFELINE OF HOUSTON'S VITAL OIL EXPORTS, EXITED INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO THROUGH GALVESTON.

ACCORDINGLY, BOTH THE GERMAN NAVY AND THE US ARMED FORCES WERE KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE STATE OF DEFENSES AT GALVESTON. IN MAY 1942, THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND DIRECTED 23 U-BOATS TO THE GULF OF MEXICO TO DISRUPT THE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS COMING FROM THAT REGION. OVER THE NEXT YEAR-AND-A-HALF THOSE SUBMARINES SANK 56 MERCHANT SHIPS AND DAMAGED ANOTHER 14. THE FEAR ALONG THE TEXAS COAST, AND IN THE UNITED STATES WAR DEPARTMENT, WAS PALPABLE. CONSEQUENTLY GALVESTON, THE CITY OF FUN ON THE BEACHES AND ON THE STRAND, BEGAN TO RESEMBLE AN ARMED CAMP AS ARMY, NAVY, AND COAST GUARD FACILITIES SUDDENLY BEGAN TO PROLIFERATE.



MAP SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE GALVESTON AREA DURING WW2.

THE ARMY

THREE UNITED STATES ARMY FORTS, ALL ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED TOWARD THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY BUT CONSIDERABLY UPGRADED, GUARDED GALVESTON ISLAND. **FORT CROCKETT**, ALONG SEAWALL BOULEVARD, WAS THE LARGEST OF THE THREE AND PROTECTED THE CITY ITSELF. ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED IN 1897, ITS GARRISON AND WEAPONRY WERE NOW PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO DEFEND AGAINST U-BOAT ATTACKS. FOUR BATTERIES, COMPLETE WITH CONCRETE ENCASEMENTS, PUNCTUATED THE SAND DUNES. ONE OF THOSE IS NOW A QUITE VISIBLE PART OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE SAN LUIS HOTEL. AT ITS LARGEST, FORT CROCKETT WAS HOME TO AROUND 3,000 MEN WHO MANNED THE BATTERIES, THE KITCHENS, THE WAREHOUSES, THE HOSPITAL, THE LAUNDRIES, THE RECREATION SITES (INCLUDING A BALLROOM), ETC. SOME ALSO GUARDED THE APPROXIMATELY 650 GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR WHO WERE “STATIONED” THERE TEMPORARILY. IT IS NEEDLESS TO SAY, PERHAPS, THAT THE FAMED SEAWALL BOULEVARD WAS BLOCKED OFF TO THE TOURING PUBLIC.



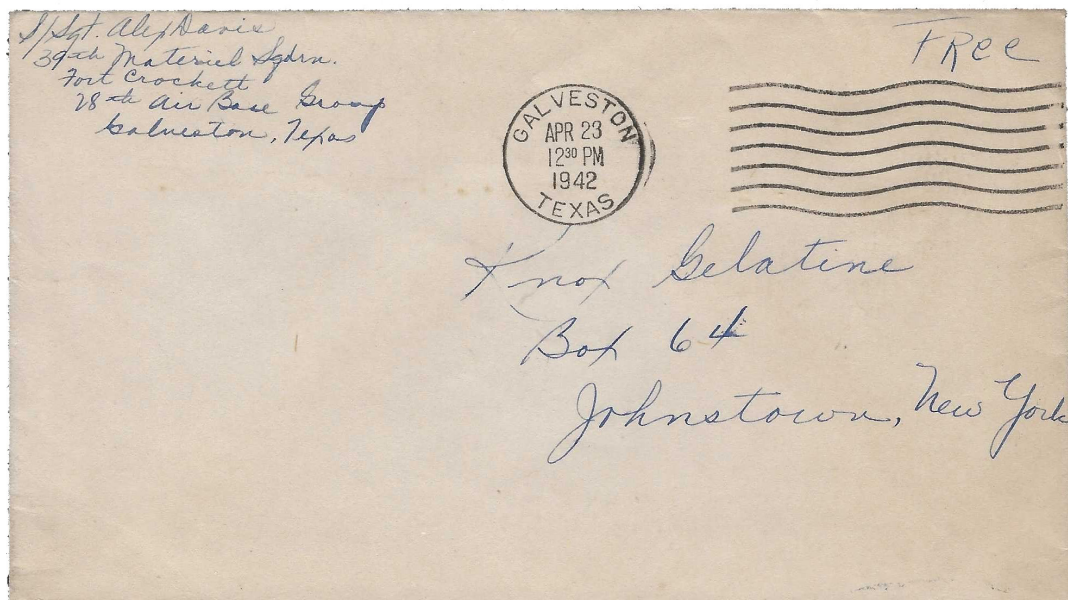
FORT CROCKETT LAYOUT.



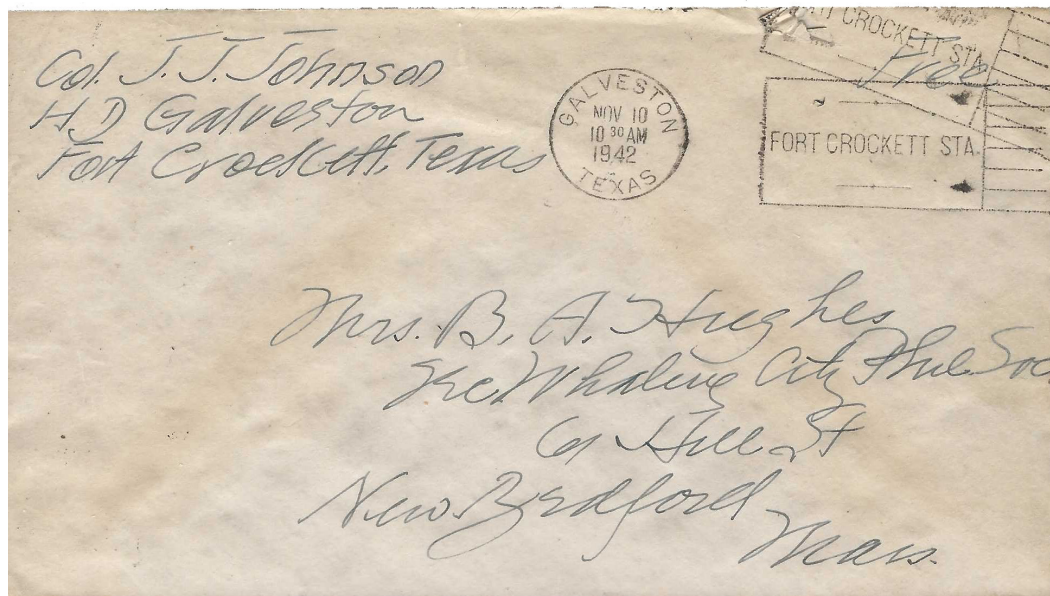
FORT CROCKETT ACCOMMODATIONS.



BATTERY HOSKINS PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE SAN LUIS HOTEL.



FORT CROCKETT - 39TH MATERIEL SQUADRON, 28TH AIR BASE GROUP (A MATERIEL SQUADRON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING AIRCRAFT).



FORT CROCKETT - HARBOR DEFENSE.

THE OTHER TWO FORTS STRADDLED THE BOLIVAR ROADS, THE NAME GIVEN TO A PASS AT THE NORTH END OF THE ISLAND THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE MAINLAND AND TO THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL. **FORT SAN JACINTO** WAS ON THE EASTERN TIP OF THE ISLAND ITSELF. FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1898, BY WORLD WAR II IT OPERATED THREE GUN BATTERIES. THERE WAS A SMALL COMPLEMENT OF OFFICES, QUARTERS, AND SHOPS ON SITE.

FORT TRAVIS WAS SITUATED ON THE MAINLAND (BOLIVAR PENINSULA) SIDE OF THE PASS AND BECAME OPERATIONAL IN 1899. IT BOASTED FOUR BATTERIES AND HAD OVER 25 BUILDINGS, INCLUDING A BARRACKS. THE HOUSING COULD HOLD 2,500 TROOPS; LIKE FORT CROCKETT IT ALSO WOUND UP HOSTING A CONTINGENT OF GERMAN POWS.



**FORT SAN JACINTO –
BATTERY CROGHAN.**

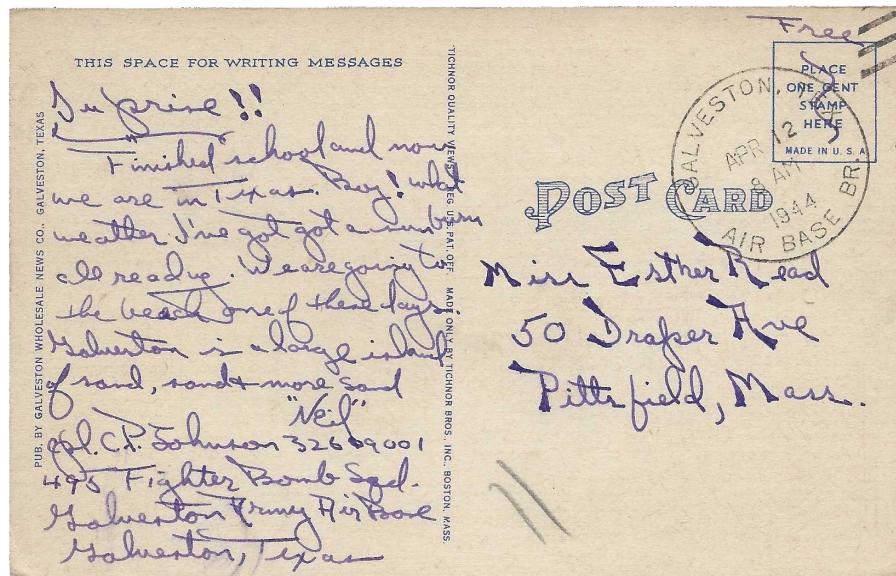


FORT TRAVIS – BATTERY KIMBLE.



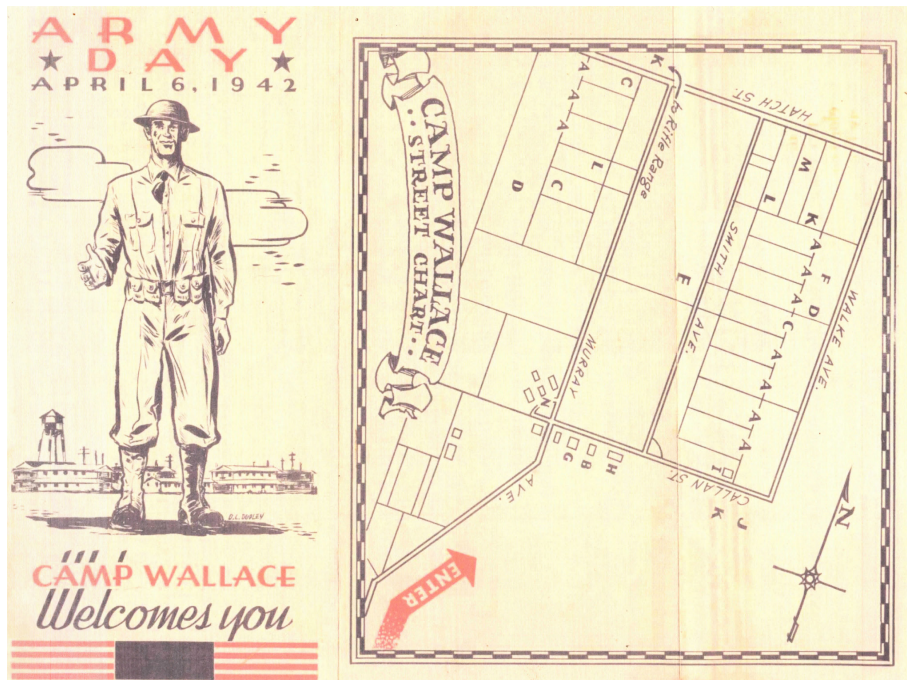
GALVESTON ARMY AIR FIELD – LAYING A NEW RUNWAY.

THE ARMY ALSO ESTABLISHED THE **GALVESTON ARMY AIR FIELD**, TAKING OVER THE GALVESTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. IN THE LATE 1930S, THE AIRPORT WAS KNOWN AS CORRIGAN FIELD, IN HONOR OF NATIVE SON DOUGLAS “WRONG WAY” CORRIGAN WHO, IN ATTEMPTING A FLIGHT TO CALIFORNIA, IN THE MIDST OF HEAVY CLOUD COVER “MISTAKENLY” WOUND UP LANDING IN IRELAND! THE ARMY ADDED THREE 6,000-FOOT HARD-SURFACE RUNWAYS. ACTIVATED IN JANUARY, 1943, IT LARGELY HOSTED ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRONS, AND ITS PLANES OFTEN TOWED TARGETS FOR REPLACEMENT CREW GUNNERY PRACTICE. AT ITS PEAK, IT WAS HOME TO SOME 2,500 PERSONNEL.



GALVESTON ARMY AIR FIELD – 495TH FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRON.

THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY COMPLEX OF THEM ALL WAS **CAMP WALLACE**, AN ARMY BASIC TRAINING CAMP ERECTED ON 3,300 ACRES ACQUIRED IN 1940. IT WAS NOT LOCATED ON THE ISLAND BUT RATHER ON THE MAINLAND NEAR HITCHCOCK, 14 MILES WEST OF GALVESTON. AFTER JUST THREE MONTHS OF FEVERISH WORK, THE CAMP OPENED IN FEBRUARY, 1941. ITS PRINCIPAL MISSION WAS THAT OF TRAINING ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS. IT ACCOMMODATED OVER 10,000 PERSONNEL, PLUS THE SEEMINGLY EVER-PRESENT GERMAN POWs. SEVENTEEN MILES OF ACCESS ROADS SERVED 399 STRUCTURES, INCLUDING THE LIKES OF 161 BARRACKS, A HOSPITAL, A SERVICE CLUB, AND EVEN A MORGUE.

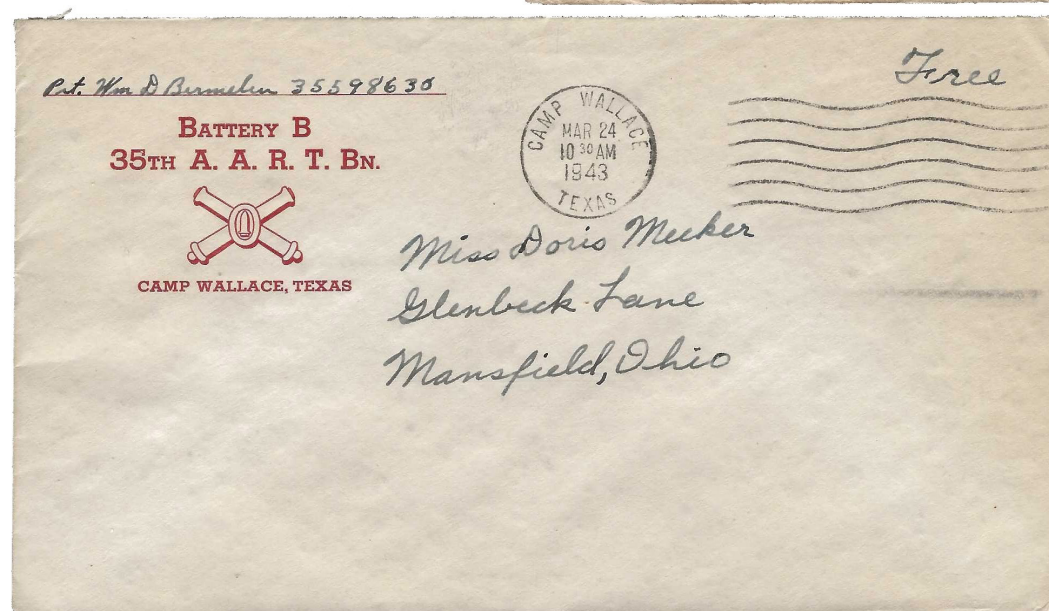
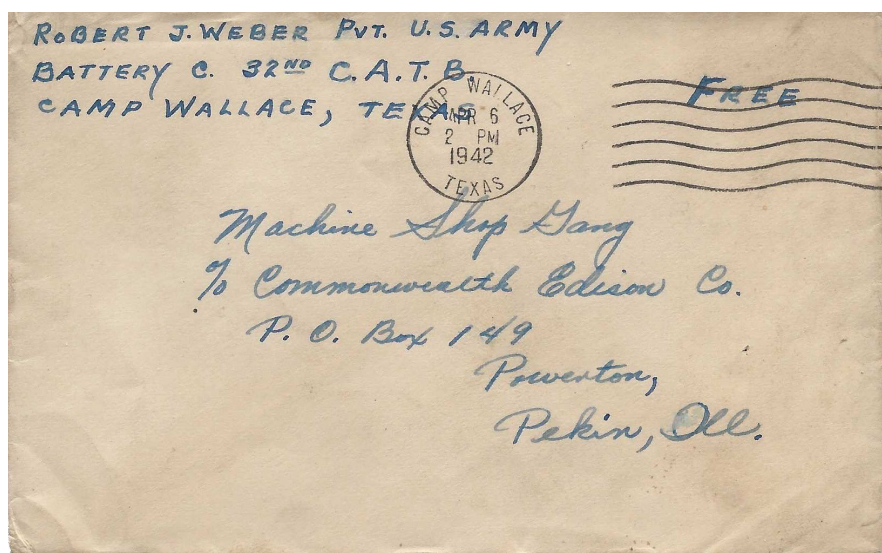


CAMP WALLACE – ARMY DAY WELCOME FLYER.

AS IT TURNED OUT, ALMOST ALL MOBILE HEAVY ARTILLERY ENGAGED IN THE ACTUAL FIGHTING OVERSEAS WAS OPERATED BY THE FIELD ARTILLERY RATHER THAN BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS. THEREFORE, IN LATE 1942 THE WAR DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO FREE UP MORE YOUNGER AND PHYSICALLY FIT TROOPS FOR THIS FRONTLINE FIELD ARTILLERY DUTY. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HARBOR DEFENSE AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES WOULD BE STAFFED PRIMARILY BY "LIMITED SERVICE" TROOPS WHO, DUE TO AGE OR DISABILITY, GENERALLY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO SERVE ON THE FRONT LINES.

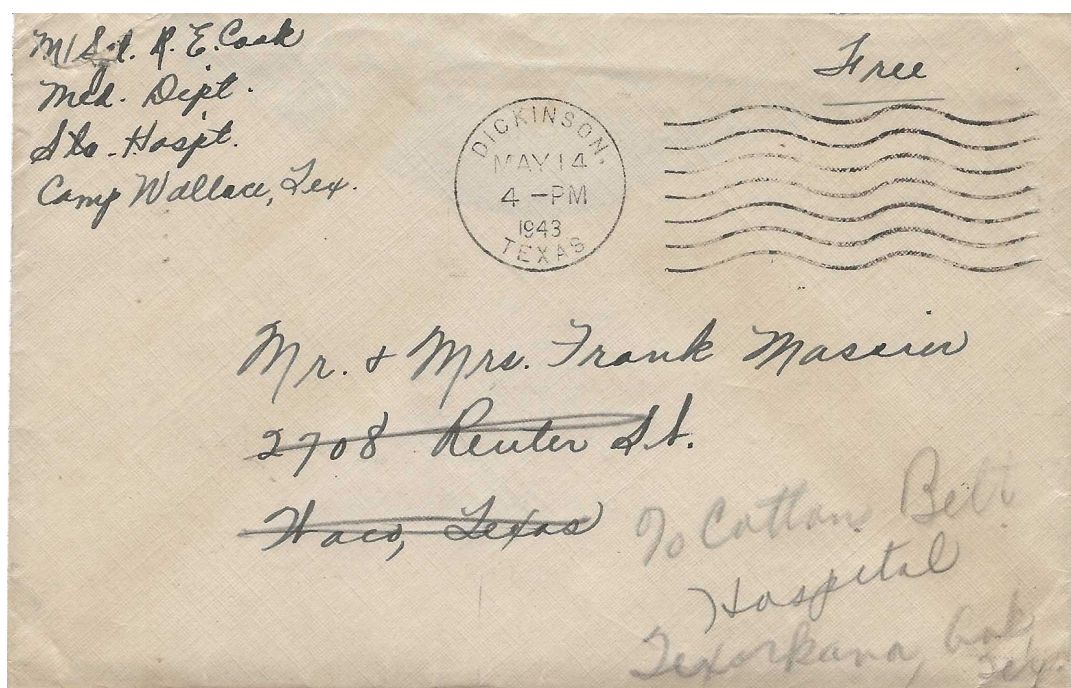


CAMP WALLACE—REVIEW OF TROOPS.



CAMP WALLACE – 32ND COAST ARTILLERY TRAINING BATTALION.

CAMP WALLACE – 35TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT TRAINING BATTALION (THE NAME OF COAST ARTILLERY BATTALIONS HAD BEEN CHANGED TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALIONS).



**CAMP WALLACE – STATION
HOSPITAL.**

INTREPID COVER COLLECTORS WERE AWARE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES POSED BY THE OPENING OF EACH OF THESE THREE MAJOR INSTALLATIONS, AND PREPARED COVERS TO COMMEMORATE THEIR INAUGURAL MAIL.



**CAMP WALLACE –
FIRST MAIL.**



**FORT CROCKETT –
FIRST MAIL.**



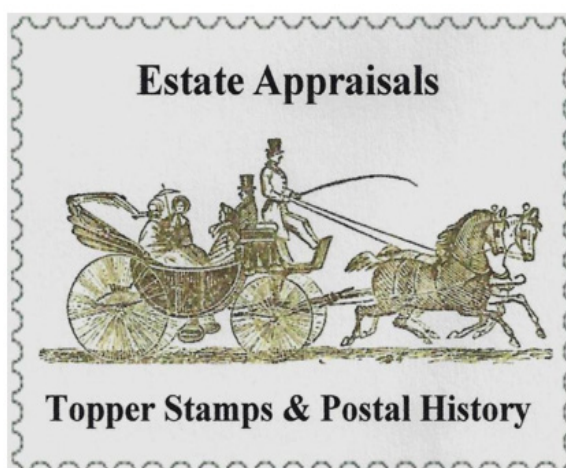
GALVESTON ARMY AIR FIELD—FIRST MAIL (SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANIES WERE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF AN ARMY OR BETWEEN LAND AND SEA FORCES BY SIGNALS, TELEGRAPH, AND OTHER MEANS.).

THAT CONCLUDES DISCUSSION OF THE ARMY'S ROLE AT "FORTRESS GALVESTON." IN THE SECOND PART OF THIS ARTICLE, WE'LL REVIEW THE OTHER SERVICES.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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"LOVE" Forever Stamp First Day Issue Ceremony at Austin Pets Alive

By Lisa Nicks

The United States Postal Service (USPS) and Austin Pets Alive (APA) shared the love on January 19, 2023 at the First Day Issue ceremony presenting 2023's LOVE stamp. In the words of artist, Chris Buzelli, the designs for "kittens and puppies" are a mix of realism and fantasy that evoke feelings of warmth and playfulness, and will add a bit of whimsy to valentines, as well as letters and cards throughout the year.

Since I began my week with a gathering of friends sharing a meal and pondering the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I approached Austin Pets Alive that morning with a feeling of "well, here comes the fluff" (pun intended). But the "fluff" that I, and all the other pet and postage stamp enthusiasts got, was genuine animal love, expressed beautifully in personal anecdotes shared by the special guests.

APA's Advisor for External Partnerships, Diaz Dixon, was a quick witted MC introducing each guest and providing humor along the way. Dr. Ellen Jefferson, President and CEO of APA gave opening remarks sharing two notable facts: First, with the largest no-kill facility in the US, Austin is the safest place for dogs and cats, and second, Austin's professional soccer team, Austin FC, is the only team in the US using rescue dogs as their mascot. Cool!



Dr. Ellen Jefferson



Judy de Torok



Austin City Councillor, Leslie Pool
& Diaz Dixon



Special Guest, Cleopatra



Phil Crabtree & Lisa Nicks

The other speakers were Judy de Torok, USPS Vice President of Corporate Affairs who did the official unveiling, Matt Beisner (CPDT-KA) from "Star of Dog: Impossible" on Disney +, Kelly Holt, Senior Manager of Cat Programs, APA, and Richard Scott, Volunteer Canine Behavior Specialist. Each in their turn gave us a moving tribute of the power of dog or cat love to heal life's wounds or change the trajectory of one's life. As they spoke I was reminded of many of my family and friends – singles, couples, and families – whose pets were a key element to maintaining sanity in isolation during the worst of the Covid pandemic.

Also worth mentioning were students from Akins High School AirForce Junior ROTC, Crockett High School Mariachi Band, and Austin High Schooler, Jaret Cole, who sang the national anthem a cappella.



Lyle Boardman & Lisa Nicks and their FDCs

Continued on Page 27

Seen at Auction

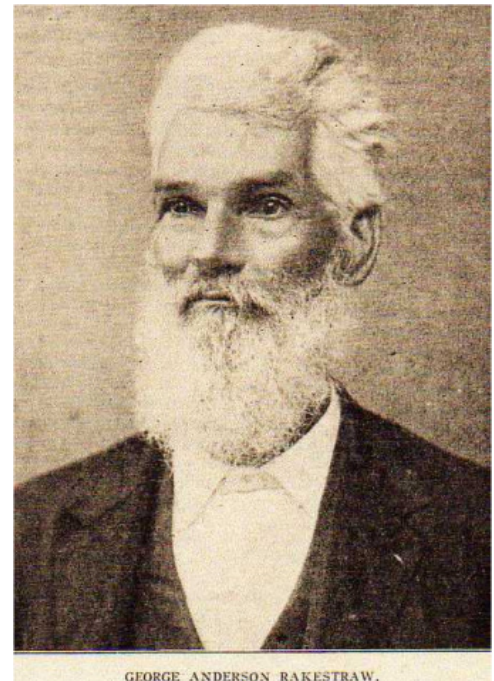
Vince King

One can discover scores of fascinating details when delving into postal history. In reviewing interesting Texas items that were sold in late 2022, my attention was drawn to the inbound Trans-Mississippi cover from Texas soldier G.A. Rakestraw to Mrs. D.R. Rakestraw of Fairfield, Freestone County Texas (cover illustration follows). I wondered why this cover was saved and who was the Rakestraw family? Cursory research of federal census records and a listing on Find-A-Grave led me to my answer.

George Anderson Rakestraw was born on November 7, 1824, in Lexington, Georgia, to Robert and Martha (Smith) Rakestraw. He was educated at Covington, Georgia, and Emory College at Oxford, England. He married Diana Rebecca Kirksey (the recipient of the letter), the daughter of Isaac and Mary B. (Connally) Kirksey in 1848. In the early 1850s, the couple moved to Texas and settled in Anderson County where George worked as a teacher. In 1858 he was made President of Fairfield Academy (Freestone County), a position he held until his admittance to the bar in 1860.

When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted under Capt. William Peck at Fairfield on August 1861. He served in Company G, 19th Texas Brigade under Col. Broxton, commanding officer. George was wounded nine times, four times within one minute. He participated in the battles of Raymond, Mississippi; Missionary Ridge; Port Hudson; Chickamauga; Dug Gap (GA); Resaca (GA); New Hope Church, Atlanta (two battles) and Spring Hill, Tennessee. The intriguing Trans-Mississippi cover sold in the Rumsey Auction was obviously sent to his wife from the 'far eastern front.' After the end of the war, Mr. Rakestraw returned to his farm in Navarro County, Texas, and resided there until his death in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Rakestraw are buried together in the Grape Creek Cemetery in Navarro County, Texas.

After learning of Mr. Rakestraw's occupation as an educator and lawyer, it made perfect sense to me why these covers were saved. It seems lawyers save everything! HOWEVER, the most fascinating fact I uncovered was that Diana Rebecca Kirksey Rakeshaw (George's wife and recipient of the letter) is my 2nd cousin 4 times removed. Her maternal grandmother was the sister of my fourth great-grandfather Thomas King of NC. Isn't there some saying about six degrees of separation?!?!?



GEORGE ANDERSON RAKESTRAW.



Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 107 Lot 2464

Confederacy, (Trans-Mississippi) Army of Tennessee, "Nov. 2, 1863" Date Handstamp, Field Cancel tying 10¢ blue (11) block of 4, on Trans-Mississippi cover to Fairfield, Texas with pencil manuscript "via Meridian, Miss." routing instruction and soldier endorsement at left, ex-Solomon; with clear 1982 C.S.A. certificate. Est. \$5,000 - 7,500.

Described as "One of the most important Trans-Mississippi covers extant. The combination of a block of 4 paying the 40¢ rated tied by the Army of Tennessee date handstamp on a Trans-Mississippi cover is a unique usage".

The Mississippi River and inland waterway routes were essential lifelines within the Confederacy. Early in the war, Federal naval strategy focused on control of the Mississippi and by the summer of 1863 they took control of the River. With the Southern states divided between East and West, the Confederate government was forced to devise special measures to maintain transportation and communication along the trans-Mississippi routes. By October 1863, CSA Postmaster General Reagan secured a contract to have mail carried across the Mississippi at the rate of 40¢ per half ounce. Meridian and Brandon, Mississippi, were chosen as the eastern terminal points. Shreveport and Alexandria, Louisiana, were chosen as the western terminal points. Realized: \$7,500.

**Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 106 Lot 987**

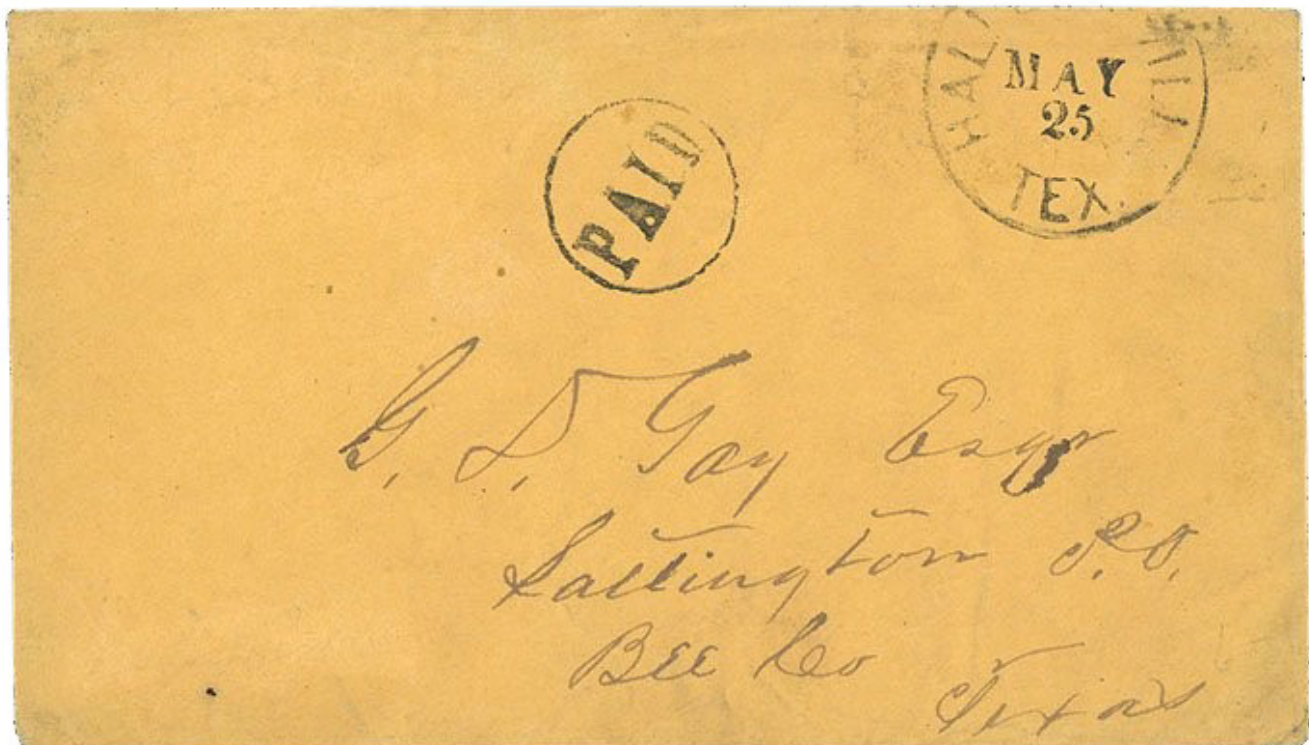
Confederacy, Alto, Tex., May "28", cds with manuscript day, matching "Paid" framed handstamp and pencil "5" rating on 1862 folded cover to Nacogdoches, Texas; central file fold, a Very Fine Texas use.

C.S.A. Catalog \$500. Realized: \$525.

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 106 Lot 1039 (Illustrated below)

Confederacy, 1862, 5¢ blue, stone 2, horizontal pair, positions 26-27, close to large margins, canceled by manuscript "1862", blue "Paris, Texas, Sep 16" cds on 1862 folded letter endorsed "G.W. Wright, Provost Marshal" at left to Hon. B.H. Epperson, Clarksville, Texas, letter from G.W. Wright concerning orders to regulate prices on leather, salt, and other goods to prevent what we would term "price gouging"; letter toning and pair with some gum toning, Fine and scarce Texas blue postmark use. Estimate \$200 - 300.

Captain George Washington Wright, the sender, was the Provost Marshal of Red River County, Texas, and was given the authority to regulate the prices in the county. Benjamin H. Epperson, the recipient, was a prominent lawyer, politician and personal friend of Sam Houston. Realized: \$725.



Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 106 Lot 990

Confederacy, Hallettsville, Tex., two covers, first with "Hallettsville Tex. May 25" cds and matching "Paid" in circle on orange cover to Saltington [sic Lattington] Tex. illustrated here, second with same "Paid" in circle rating handstamp boldly struck and ms. "10" rating on orange cover to New Orleans, F.-V.F. pair, first ex-B.D. Forster, Camina.

C.S.A. Catalog \$1,000. Realized: \$240.



Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 106 Lot 991

Confederacy, Jefferson, Tex., Oct 22, cds with matching "Paid" handstamp and blue crayon "10" rating on yellow cover to Nashville Tenn., Very Fine.

C.S.A. Catalog \$500. Realized: \$150.



Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 106 Lot 992

Confederacy, New Danville, Tex. Jul 26, bold cds with manuscript "Paid 5 Cts" rating on gray cover to New Orleans La.; reduced at top and right, bit of flap missing and bit of address erosion, F.-V.F.

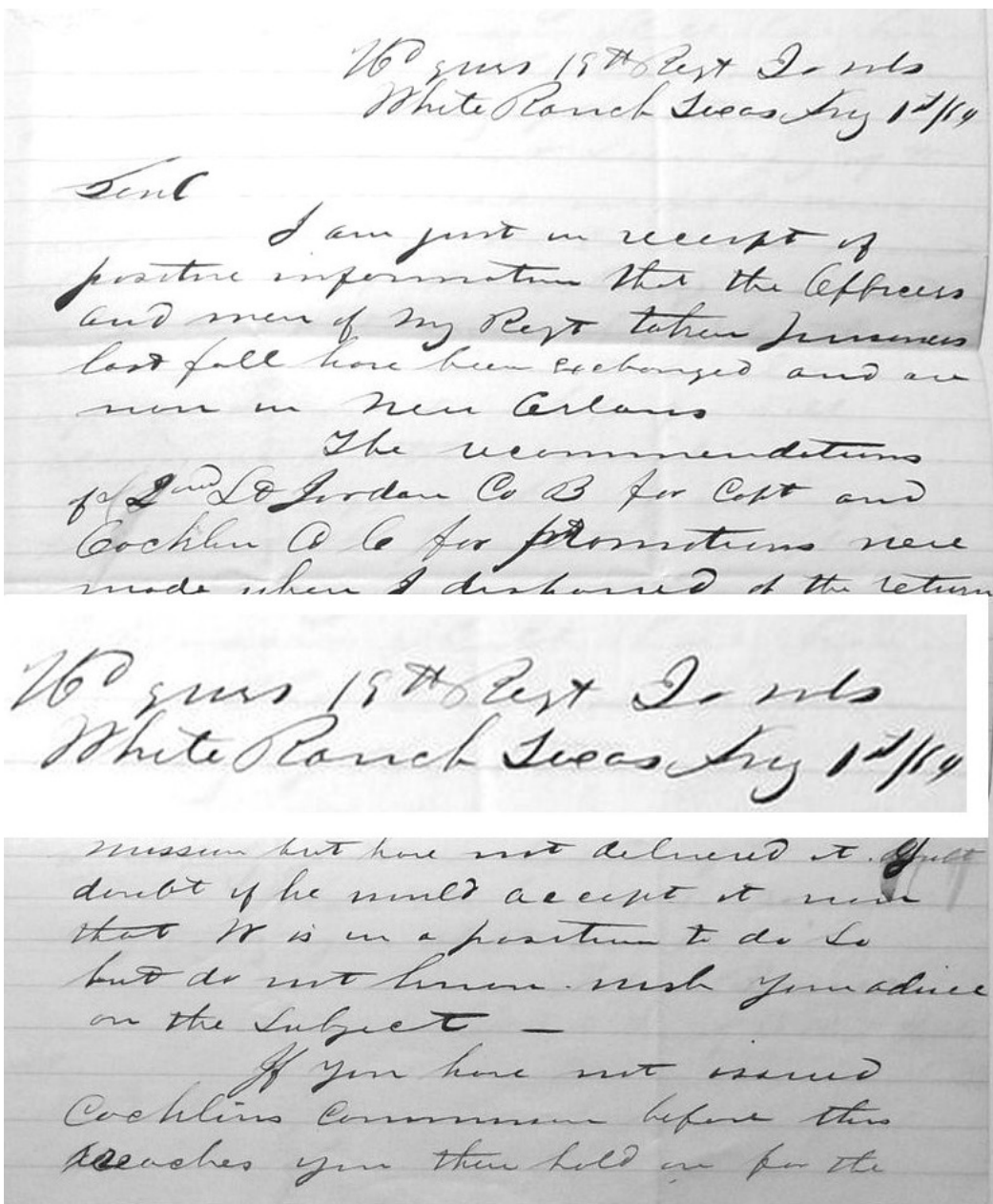
C.S.A. Catalog \$350. Realized: \$110.



eBay Item 314342212031

Civil War Confederate Cover to San Anders Texas Milam County DPO on invalid USA Star Die Envelope... from Washington, Louisiana. While indistinct, Washington is the only LA town marking that fits and was known to have been dateless during the period.

Sold for \$82.00 with 15 bids on eBay.



eBay Item 374444172601

Civil War Confederate Letter 1864 mentioning Prisoners in New Orleans date lined White Ranch, Texas.

This is actually a letter from a Union soldier who was in the occupation force near Brownsville, Texas from 1863-64] interesting content regarding prisoner exchange, etc. White Ranch along with Palmito Ranch were the site of the last battle of the Civil War between Union troops and Texas Confederate forces more than a month after the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Courthouse, VA.

Sold for \$81.00 with 20 bids on eBay.



eBay Item 125739332091

1887 Odessa Texas Cover to Hong Kong China – Very Scarce. Indeed a very rare destination for a Texas town.

Sold for \$260.88 with 2 bids (lot starting bid of \$255.99).



Continued from Page 21



The Official Unveiling!

After the ceremony, attendees were invited to take a tour of the Austin Pets Alive facility, which my husband and I did, and we were duly impressed.

Many thanks to their staff and volunteers for their care and work.

Ed. Note: Lisa Nicks is the president of the Austin Texas Stamp Club.
Postage Stamp Collage (www.postagestampcollage.shop)



Chapters in Action

Greg Cain

Members are encouraged to report recent Chapter activities. Send an email to me at greg.cain@comcast.net or regular mail to 1926 Brimberry Street, Houston, TX 77018-1730. Photos are very welcome!

American First Day Cover Society, Fred C. Sawyer North TX Chapter 56 (afdcscchap56.org) – The American First Day Cover Society, also known as AFDCS, is a nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement and collecting of first day covers. Meetings are held at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library (WPRL) at the University of Texas at Dallas, typically on the second Saturday of each month. The Chapter's annual holiday party was hosted at the WPRL and a spread of brisket BBQ and sides was enjoyed by all members and guests. Please see photo below. The presentation at the January meeting was the 1932 Washington Bicentennial issue, a set of twelve stamps and five stamped envelopes. Presenter, **Tricia Richmond** covered the history and origin of the series, a selection of Mellone listed FDCs – including multiple first cachets – and the additional subsequent stamps and envelopes issued to support a rate change and the need for booklet and coil stamps. The final tally was 15 stamps, plus a booklet pane and 6 stamped envelopes – with four separate First Days of Issue. One fun fact presented by Tricia: The Washington Bicentennials were the largest set of stamps issued on the same day (said record since superseded). Chapter 56 information, including a selection of chapter covers and other covers, is available on the web at afdcscchap56.org. – submitted by **D.A. Lux**



Austin Texas Stamp Club (www.stamps.org/austin-texas-stamp-club) – The club's first meeting of each month is held on the first Tuesday at the Lakewood HOA clubhouse, 7317 Lakewood Drive, Austin. The second meeting is held in person, rather than Zoom, and will feature **Mavin Lehr** on the topic of "Common Mistakes in the Identification of Bank Note Issues." The auctions have been shifted to the first meeting of each month. December's and January's auctions attracted 50 to 60 lots with most of them finding buyers. The club held its holiday party on December 20, and Santa posed for photos with everyone. The January Zoom meeting was a Show & Tell where members could share Christmas presents, philatelic or otherwise. Please see photo below. February's Zoom will feature **Gregg Philipson** presenting a talk centered around world fairs. The USPS held a First Day ceremony in Austin at the Austin Pets Alive animal shelter and adoption center on January 19. Two stamps were issued, both in the Love series. One features a puppy and the other a kitten. Club president, **Lisa Nicks** attended the ceremony and submitted the article seen from page 20 in this issue. Thanks, Lisa! – submitted by **Lyle Boardman**.



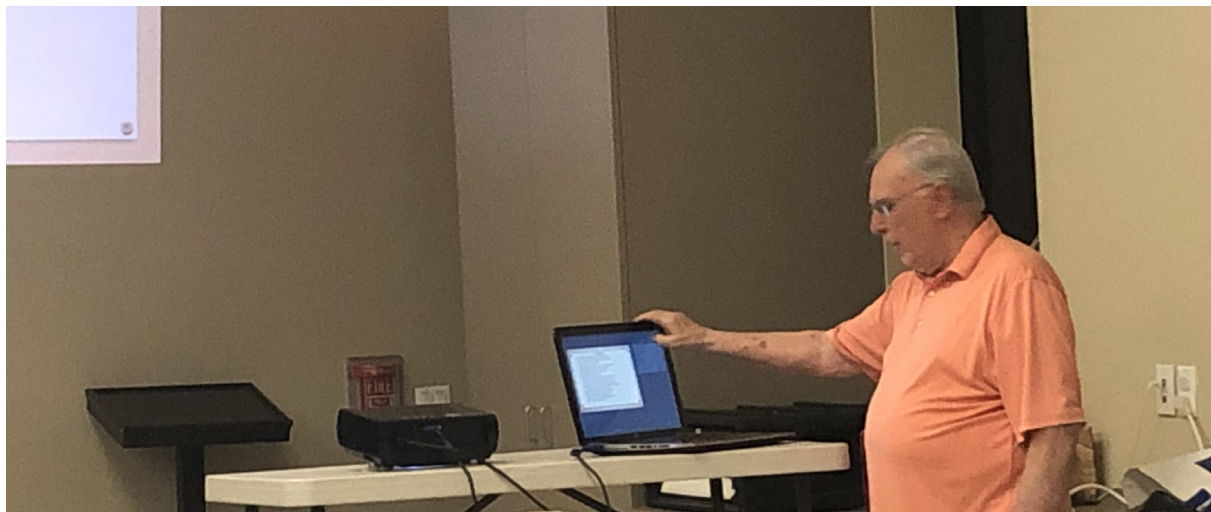
Collectors Club of Dallas – Club meetings are presently in hiatus.

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society (<http://stamps.org/Dallas>) – Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7:30PM at the Edgemere Retirement Center, 8523 Thackery, Dallas, TX. Membership is open to anyone of good character interested in philately and in learning more about stamps and related collectibles. Annual dues are \$12.00. The club encourages stamp collectors at all levels and ages to be its guest at a scheduled meeting. At every meeting, members may borrow club stamp albums in order to inspect and purchase stamps they need. Albums are also auctioned to club members. The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is a great way to learn more about collecting, socialize with fellow collectors and provide more opportunities to acquire new material. See dallasstamp.org for more details and info. Our formal meeting activities include: (1) presentations by members and guest speakers; (2) show-and-tell; (3) door prize drawings; (4) annual member bourse; (5) quarterly auctions of members' material; (6) club collections containing tens of thousands of mint and used foreign stamps sold individually at 20% to 25% of catalogue value; (7) quality U.S. stamps and covers available; and (8) buying, selling and trading opportunities with fellow members. The club is off to a strong start in 2023, with **Don Wolman** leading the way on January 11, with a reprise of his "Little Windows in a Big World," presented last fall to the American First Day Cover Society, Fred C. Sawyer North Texas Chapter 56 at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library in Richardson. At time of writing, this is to be followed on January 25, by Mid-Cities Stamp Club stalwart, **Ray Cartier** with "Bomber Warbirds of AF Plant #4," rescheduled from last fall, a fascinating story about a storied defense plant. – submitted by **Bill Laupus**.

Heart of Texas Stamp Club – Club meetings presently in hiatus, but the club maintains an active status with the Texas Philatelic Association.

Houston Philatelic Society (www.houstonstampclub.org) – The Houston Philatelic Society meets the first and third Monday of every month in the Drummet Room (around back) of West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd, Houston, TX 77005. The club has resumed in-person meetings at the regular first and third Monday and has decided to meet via Zoom on the last Monday of each month. The Houston club got off to a fast start to 2023 with an intriguing presentation by program chair, **Tom Herbert** titled "A Stamp to Commemorate an Unconstitutional Act." Please see photo below. Focusing on the 1933 commemorative National Recovery Act issue (Scott. 732), which was

released August 15, 1933, Tom pointed out that **FDR** had requested such a stamp and even, some believe, appears on the stamp as the businessman striding alongside a farmer, laborer and student in cap and gown. A few years later, the U.S. Supreme Court did not have such a high opinion of the law the stamp celebrates, declaring it unconstitutional in the famous “sick chicken” case, *Schechter Poultry v. U.S.*, 295 U.S. 495 (1935), finding the National Industrial Recovery Act to be an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority to an administrative agency. Other defeats for FDR followed, leading to his 1937 effort to “pack” the Court with six additional (and sympathetic) justices, which, of course, did not occur. Then, however, the Court began to see things more the way of the Administration (as **John Germann** quipped, “A stitch in time saved nine.”) For one interested in stamps, FDR history and constitutional law, it was an engaging evening. Two weeks later, club reliable **Rick Barrett** presented the fascinating story of **Ralph Kimble**, also known as “The Stamp Man.” This fellow tirelessly and ingeniously promoted the hobby for decades in the early to mid-twentieth century, including on the 50,000-watt Chicago radio station WMAQ from 1931 to 1934 with a program called Stamp Talk. Thereafter, this indefatigable winner of the Luff Award edited the *American Philatelist*, wrote books and took an extended “philatelic pilgrimage” across the U.S. to meet collectors and promote the hobby, while growing a philatelic library that eventually numbered some 7,000 items. Rick had the opportunity to meet this man’s son, which makes his remarkable life story all the more real. Rick continues to polish his presentation and will be giving it to other audiences in the future. I highly recommend it.



The January-March 2023 issue of the club newsletter, *The Perforator* (**Jay Stotts**, Ed.), brought news of several developments. The club announced a decision made with some reluctance to increase annual dues to \$10/individual (or \$15 for a family), which is still one heck of a bargain. Secondly, the club has approved a constitution that was drafted under the leadership of John Germann. New bylaws are next. And the club has announced the creation of a new position, Communications Coordinator, that will be tasked with the job of maintaining an up to date contact list of members for quick and comprehensive blasts regarding meetings and other events. HPS Board member, **Lucy Cain** has accepted an invitation to be the first CC and is off and running with it. Substantive contributions to this issue include an article by Rick Barrett about his postmaster grandfather. **Nelson Barrett**, an American, was appointed postmaster of Pickerel River, Ontario, in 1927 and served for two years. The post office was a natural extension of his activities in the area as owner-operator of Wahnapiatae Lodge, a hunting and fishing lodge. And frequent contributor, **Ardy Callender** furnished an article titled “A Cover to **General J.B. Kinsman**,” sent in 1889 to the recipient in Egypt and then on to France where it apparently caught up with the general. But Ardy gives the man’s fascinating back story – a Boston lawyer who, before the Civil War, worked in the law offices of **Benjamin F. Butler** (later to be known as “the beast of New Orleans” as occupying commander during the war), then later as aide de camp to General Butler, and, following the war, as an appointed judge in Egypt. Hence, the cover addressed to him in Egypt. Interwoven with General Kinsman’s life story is the saga of the ship *Gray Cloud*, which the man, still a lieutenant, helped capture from the Confederates. The ship was converted to a gunboat and eventually sank in 1863 on the Atchafalaya River where, despite recent efforts to locate her, she remains. – submitted by **Greg Cain**.

Longview Stamp Club – the club meets from 7:00 to 8:00PM, the second Tuesday of every other month, starting with January, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 906 Padon Street, Longview, TX 75601. Club contact is **Keith Parris** (parriskr@gmail.com; 972-989-7992 [cell]) and he suggests that anyone planning to attend a club meeting contact him first. – submitted by **Keith Parris**.

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) Stamp Club – Meetings are held at 144 Park Avenue (Blue Building) in League City on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Meetings nominally start at 7:00PM but many members come early. The first meeting of the month will normally include some sort of program plus a silent auction and the second meeting of the month will include a regular auction. The club started the New Year with a large turnout (21 in attendance) on January 9 to hear **Gary Walston** present on mail from prisoners of war in German WWII camps (stalags). Two new members joined – **Gay Plank** and **Louis Younker**. (Bob, share the club's copy of the Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History with them and invite them to consider TPA membership!) The January 23 meeting saw the club's first auction of the year. – submitted by **Bob Osman**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (www.mid-citiesstampclub.com) - Euless Branch – This branch of the club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM at the Central Station Marketing offices, 12750 S. Pipeline Road, Euless. Happily, the Euless bunch has found new meeting space, again hosted by member, **Evan Islam** at the same location but in a different room than before. Second VP, **Stanley Christmas** called the group to order for its January meeting where nine members gathered to hear reports, including secretary **Skip Ely's** membership update. Mid-Cities has gained six new members since November's EXPO show but fewer than two-thirds of the continuing members had sent in 2023 dues. (Hmm! A common problem for membership head-counters!) Among the Show & Tell items passed around was the new Book, *U.S. Fourth Bureau Issue 1922-1938*, jointly edited by the Houston club's, **Jay Stotts** and mentioned in last issue's Chapters in Action as a gold medal winner at the recent Chicagopex competition. – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Lake Granbury Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7PM on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, Granbury. On November 25, **Dave Stockbridge** opened with a welcome to 8 members and guests. Following Show and Tell, the evening moved on to announcements, where Dave asked for comments and observations about the recently completed EXPO stamp show. **Jim Myers**, who is a dealer that has participated in the show for several years, reported that his sales were good. **Jim Case** reported from the "Beginners" table and that only a few youths were at the show. Most of the Beginners activities involved active collectors who wanted to look over what had been donated with many selecting a few items for their collections. **Bob Coleman** was the raffle winner of U.S. #1 (used) that had been donated by one of the dealers. Dave reported that he was taking over the club sales and APS sales from **Skip Ely**. The group then discussed available program slots for the remainder of the year before moving into the evening's program, by **Gary McNamee's** Champions of Liberty Series, that set of stamps that grace our U.S. commemorative albums. The meeting concluded at 8:20 PM. – submitted by **Madeleine Myers** and **Dave Stockbridge**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Arlington Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center Street, Arlington. New club president, **Ken Aldridge** gaveled the Arlington branch to order on January 4 and installed the other four new officers: Vice President **Rick Howell**; Second VP **Stanley Christmas**; Secretary **Janet Moyer**; and Treasurer **Judy Christmas**. Please see photo below. Congratulations to all and a big thanks, for sure, for serving. Announcements included the news that the club's 50th anniversary will be celebrated, along with a retirement party planned for longtime members, **Karen** and **Ray Cartier**, on February 18. EXPO reports included announcement of the next planning session, word from Judy Christmas that the show finished in the black, and a report from Ray Cartier that, despite no exhibit fee, some frames were left unfilled. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. – submitted by **Janet Moyer**.

In addition to several engaging articles, replete with stamps to illustrate, the first two issues of club newsletter *Stamping Around* carried two items of particular note. The first is an article by **Rick Howell** recounting a trip he and his wife took to St. Louis in November. While there, Rick discovered and patronized a real, live brick & mortar stamp store in Kirkwood, operated by dealer **David Semsrott**. It sounds like he had a blast. The couple also did some antique shopping and Rick found and purchased a cover with some loose British stamps enclosed in the plastic that wrapped the cover. So Rick, did you see **Cary Grant** or **Audrey Hepburn** anywhere? It was a fun philatelic discovery. The other item



From left to right: Janet Moyer, Rick Howell, Ken Aldridge, Stanley Christmas and Judy Christmas.

of interest is the EXPO planning committee's decision to forego exhibits at this year's EXPO show. Perhaps that means more room for dealers and for an expanded display by the Texas Philatelic Association. We plan on attending and we will let you know. Thanks to **Peter Elias**

The San Antonio Philatelic Association <http://www.sastamps.org/> - SAPA meets every Friday evening at 7:30PM at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church, 2903 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, in building #1 (facing the road). Winter club meetings have included Show and Tell, auctions, and scheduled programs. On January 20, club president, **Chip Swinney** gave a presentation titled "Holiday Calling Cards." In his letter to members in the January-February issue of club newsletter the *Philatex*, Chip also shared the intriguing news that a local restaurant, Windmill Icehouse, has invited the club to change its meeting location from the church to their premises, gratis. (Of course, some BBQ and brews might be consumed about the same time.) Stay tuned! Elsewhere, editors **Lea Senghaas** and **Dora Roberts** reprinted "thank you"s from two club members who had received "get well" cards from the club. One member, 87-year young **Ted Wenk**, though slowed by the passing years, recounted the cruises and driving trips he and his family had undertaken in recent months – further proof that stamp collecting keeps you sharp and young at heart!

The SAPA-affiliated, San Antonio and South Texas Postcard Club meets at 7 PM on the third Monday of each month at the Dwyer Center of the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society, 903 Melissa Drive in San Antonio. Interested persons can contact **Nancy Mabie**. Nancy plans to present at the club's February 17 meeting on the postcard club and Hemisfair '68. – submitted by **Lea Senghaas** and **Dora Roberts**.

Prairie Beavers Regional Group – This regional group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., (BNAPS) usually meets twice each year (about March and October) in College Station, TX, at St. Mary's Catholic Center, 603 Church Avenue. All who are interested in the stamps and/or postal history of British North America are welcome and invited to attend. The Prairie Beavers met on December 17 at the usual venue, starting around 9AM with coffee and doughnuts and catching up since last summer's meeting. Please see photo below. Chairman **George Dresser** led the literature review activity by looking at the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society's recent issue and the Calgary Philatelic Society's pamphlet on its history. **Jay Stotts** discussed the 1983 Canadian Precancel handbook, leading to a review of recent updates and literature on the topic. **Ron Strawser** recommended the now out-of-print UPU rate book by Postillion. **Vic Willson** displayed the recent Siegel and Eastern Auction catalogs and showed a revision to the *BNAPS Handbook of Canadian Rates and Routes for North American Destinations 1859-1914*, with color instead of the black and white original publication, based on a CD with jpegs he found in his office. A discussion of recent and helpful websites for philatelic use was conducted, followed by a presentation by Vic Willson on Pre-Confederation Canadian Mail to the Maritimes. After a short trade-and-sell session, the day's clothesline exhibit was conducted. This activity is open to any philatelic material. **Denise Stotts** brought recently acquired material from her 22¢ poinsettia collection, including a likely unique sheet half-imperforate. George Dresser showed several illustrated King Edward VII covers and cards, and

Vic Willson showed a 15¢ Leaf trial essay proof and a 16¢ cover to France franked with a 15¢ Large Queen and 1¢ Small Queen. Jay Stotts showed and discussed an illustrated US cover selling men's neckties. It has been the subject of an article about the seller, pretending to be blind, but promoted that as a selling tool. Following lunch, George led a brief business meeting. A spring meeting is planned. The next presentation was on US precancels by Jay Stotts, followed by another on King Edward VII covers with 10¢ stamps on them. This led to an extended conversation about how to turn the material into an exhibit and a decision to focus on that topic at the next meeting as an exercise in creating a one-frame exhibit. A brief session on members' favorite philatelic items and a discussion of the Greater Houston Stamp Show of last September followed. After the wrap-up, most group members repaired to a local BBQ place for dinner and fellowship. George Dresser is the club contact; details available from **Greg Cain**. – submitted by **George Dresser**.



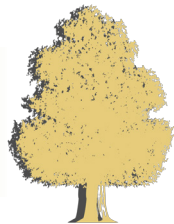
Front row, left to right, Denise Stotts, Jay Stotts, David Nickson; back row, left to right, Larry Ballantyne, Ron Strawser, Victor Willson, Louis-Philippe Bosse. Photo by George Dresser.

South Plains Stamp Club –South Plains Stamp Club – in Lubbock, TX meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Meetings are held at the Garden and Arts Center, 4215 University Avenue, Lubbock. As far as we know, we are the Philatelic Club for the Texas Panhandle. Meetings are informal and small, but full of conversation on stamps and philately as well as members sharing collections from time to time. We are always glad to see new faces! Contact: **Keith Young** on (806) 441-5809. – **Barbara (“Babs”) Noah**.

Texas Precancel Club – The one-day Spring Meeting will be held on March 11, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Center located at 603 Church Ave., College Station, TX 77840. John will have the many red boxes of precancel material available for your inspection and purchase. Precancel material will be the conversation topic of the day. Please make plans to attend and share your interests in Texas and United States precanceled stamps. – submitted by **George Dresser**.



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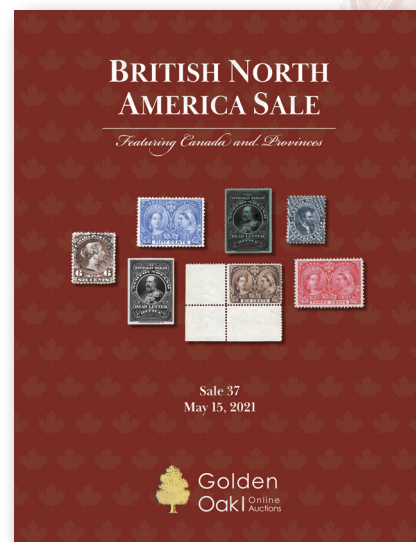
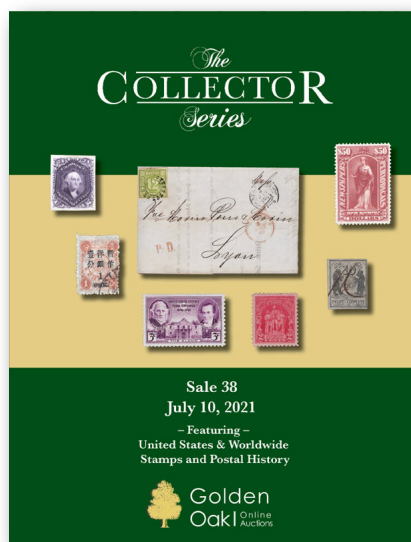
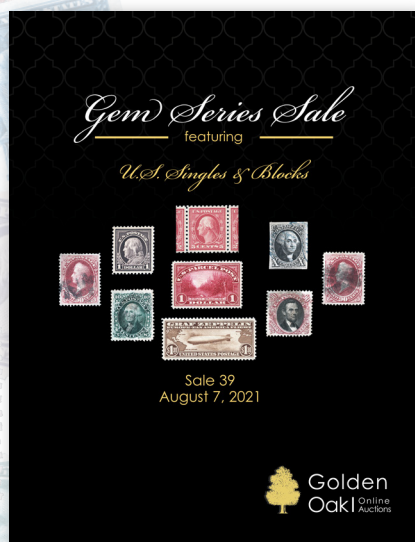
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Membership Report

Greg Cain

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

5216 Grace, Randall – Houston, TX
 5217 Pustejovsky, Dan – Missouri City, TX
 5218 Barton, Les – Granbury, TX

Resigned

5086 Moxley, Anne
 L-113 Von Reyn, Arthur P.

Deceased

L-081 Villar, Santos
 3043 Watz, Norma B.

Sponsor

8206 Fred C. Sawyer N. Texas Chapter 56, AFDCS
 L-161 Lera, Thomas

Publication Fund - Platinum

5011 McKenzie, Roland ("Kirk")

Publication Fund - Gold

L-104 Deaton, Charles F.
 5073 Termini, Dr. Ben

Publication Fund - Vermeil

8206 Fred C. Sawyer N. Texas Chapter 56, AFDCS
 LC-59 Heart of Texas Stamp Club
 3620 Lebow, Robert

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Membership as of December 12, 2022	284
New Members	3
Reinstated	0
Dropped for Non-Renewal	0
Resigned	-2
Deceased	-2
Membership as of February 7, 2023	283
Comprised of:	
Life Chapters	10
Life Members	69
Regular Chapters/Units	8
Regular Members	<u>196</u>
	283



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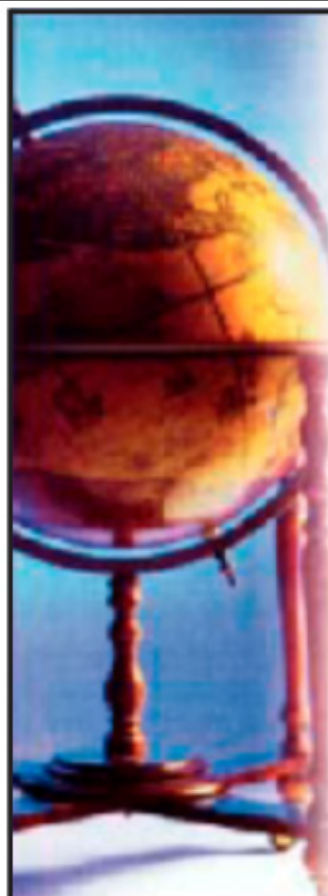
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